

**BLUE SKIES
&
NETZERO
2050
CAMPAIGN**

BLUE SKIES & NETZERO 2050

in the Republic of Korea



Blue Skies & Net Zero Campaign Round Table, September 7, 2020

COVID-19 and Climate Change



We, the Campaign Secretariat, highly appreciate the announcement by President Moon Jae-in on October 28, 2020 to commit to achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. With strong support from GGGI's President and Chair Mr. Ban Ki-moon, the 8th Secretary General of the United Nations, we have offered to support the Government of Korea to meet its net zero emissions pledge.

We are also delighted with the support and interest from our 40 partner organizations and the government. The Korean Green Deal, announced by President Moon Jae-in earlier, is a unique opportunity to green the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic and accelerate climate action, demonstrating the path to achieving the net zero pledge. The challenge for the Korean government now is to develop and implement solid policies and measures to demonstrate that the Net Zero 2050 target can indeed be achieved. That is what we propose to focus the Campaign on in the coming months leading up to the P4G Summit on May 30-31, 2021.

With the leadership demonstrated by the ROK government on the Green Deal and NetZero2050 pledge, President Moon Jae-in's invitation to host a head-of-state level P4G Summit in May 2021 has become an important milestone for the international community to come together to ensure a green recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that can be combined with ambitious nationally determined contributions to the Paris Agreement, ahead of COP26. Together with our Campaign partners, we are ready to prepare a successful civil society and business event prior to the P4G Seoul Summit in May.



Dr. Frank Rijsberman
Director-General of GGGI

Ms. Sohee Kim
Secretary General Climate Change Center (CCC)

1. Blue Skies & Net Zero Campaign Round Table, September 7, 2020.

2. Dr Frank Rijsberman, Director-General of GGGI; at the Blue Skies & Net Zero 2050 Campaign Round Table, September 7, 2020.

3. Dr Yoo Young Sook, Chairperson of the Board of the Directors of the Climate Change Center; at the Blue Skies and Net-Zero 2050 Campaign Round Table, September 7, 2020.

4. HE Ban Ki-moon, President & Chair of GGGI and Ms Esther Juhee Chung, Reporter for the Korea JoongAng Daily; at the Climate Talk and Net Zero 2050 Seminar: New Zealand and Pacific Island Countries, August 4, 2020.

Climate change and COVID-19 are two different international challenges, but they do have areas of common ground. Both are global - they do not respect national boundaries - and both require the world to work hand-in-hand to find solutions. Recognizing that like COVID-19, greenhouse gases respect no boundaries, no country can succeed alone. We need to act together now.

The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the landscape of our day-to-day lives. We are all practicing social distancing and staying away from large social gatherings. Amid COVID-19, let's not forget climate change.

While COVID-19 and the subsequent lockdowns and travel restrictions have had a positive effect on the environment, it remains to be seen whether such momentum can continue beyond the pandemic. According to a new report by GGGI, although global emissions decreased by 1% following the 2008-2009 financial crisis, they rose by 5% in the following years due to recovery investments.

For developing countries, mobilizing money, finding money from development aid to add in with public sector money and finding opportunities to mobilize private sector money is probably the largest challenge. Many governments plan to make their post-COVID recovery "greener" to simultaneously address climate change yet the biggest thing standing in their way is finance. For example, in Korea, the government has announced a Green New Deal, as part of its COVID-19 recovery package. While this is a large step in the right direction, ramping up climate action as well as creating green jobs, is an area in which the country could make further progress through setting a clear net-zero target.



A series of Climate Talk and Net Zero 2050 events



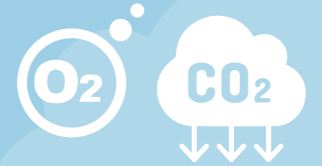
5. HE Einar Jensen, Ambassador of Denmark to the ROK; HE Federico Failla, Ambassador of Italy to the ROK; at the ECCK-GGGI Energy Environment Seminar, July 16, 2020.
6. HE Gloria Cid Carreño, Ambassador of the Embassy of Chile to the Republic of Korea; and Dr Frank Rijsberman, Director-General of GGGI; at the GGGI Seoul headquarters, September 23, 2020.
7. Climate Talk and Net Zero 2050 Seminar: New Zealand and Pacific Island Countries, August 4, 2020.
8. HE Joanne Doornwaard, Ambassador of the Netherlands to the Republic of Korea; and Ms Kwon Si Hyeon, MOWA Community member; at the Climate Talk & Net Zero 2050 Event, June 9, 2020.

Since launching the Campaign in early 2020, the Campaign partners have co-organized a number of Climate Talk and Net Zero 2050 events to raise public awareness of the importance of climate action here in Korea and to share the experiences of other countries in the transition to a net zero target. GGGI hosted a series of Climate Talk and Net Zero events in hybrid format aimed to raise climate ambitions despite the COVID-19 pandemic. [The first of these workshops](#) was held in collaboration with the Kingdom of the [Netherlands](#) and featured speakers from European Embassies. [The Embassy of New Zealand](#) co-hosted the second of these workshops, featuring discussions on [climate action](#) in New Zealand and the Pacific Island Countries, with Member representatives delivering presentations to highlight their government's climate action plans.

Moreover, GGGI and the ECCK held the [ECCK - GGGI Energy & Environment Seminar](#) in July 2020 to collaborate on ideas for Green New Deals and green recovery from COVID-19, with participation from the Ambassador of Denmark and Ambassador of Italy.

We started the year on a high note despite challenges caused by COVID-19. GGGI and the [Embassy of Chile](#) in Korea co-organized a [virtual event](#) participated by high-level representatives, including [Mr. Ban Ki-moon](#), President & Chair of GGGI and COP25 President [Carolina Schmidt](#), Environment Minister of Chile.

Blue Skies and Net-Zero 2050 Campaign Round Table



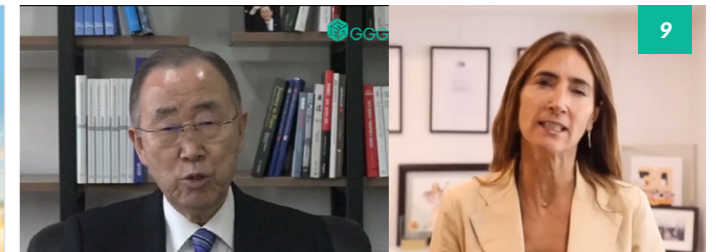
GGGI and CCC co-hosted the Blue Skies and Net-Zero 2050 Campaign Round Table to raise awareness of the twin air pollution and climate crises and build support for ambitious action to tackle these challenges.

President and Chair of GGGI, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, delivered the opening remarks of the event sharing, "We need to build stronger public awareness of both the air pollution and climate crises and demonstrate support for ambitious, bold action. I would be very proud if the Korean Government can find more ways to ramp up climate action, create green jobs, & set clear targets—such as Net-Zero 2050."

H.E. Simon Smith, British Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, delivered the Welcoming Remarks of the Round Table, sharing that "Climate change is everyone's business. As we have seen in the UK and elsewhere, climate leadership can and must come from all sectors of society. It is in everyone's interest to care," shared Ambassador Simon Smith. "It's no longer a question of whether green and economic growth can go together. For the sake of all of us, and that of future generations, they simply must."

The 2nd session of the event featured a panel discussion for participants to share diverse best practices to achieve net-zero emissions, including experiences presented by representatives from national and local governments, private sector organizations, and civil society groups.

9. HE Ban Ki-moon, President & Chair of GGGI; and HE Carolina Schmidt, Minister of the Environment of Chile; at the Role of Oceans in the Global Climate Discussion and the Integration of NDCs and Ambitious Climate Action event, January 19, 2021.
10. Blue Skies and Net Zero 2050 Campaign Round Table, September 7, 2020.
11. Mr. Jaeshin Park, Vice President of KOICA; HE Philip Turner, New Zealand Ambassador to Korea; HE Ban Ki-moon, President & Chair of GGGI; HE Yoo Yeon-chul, Ambassador and Deputy Minister for Climate Change of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Korea; and HE Hyeon Jenny Kim, Deputy Director-General of GGGI; at the Climate Talk and Net Zero 2050 Seminar: New Zealand and Pacific Island Countries, August 4, 2020.



GGGI-CPE Seminar on Green New Deal



12. HE Ban Ki-moon, President & Chair of GGGI; at the CPE-GGGI Seminar on Green New Deal, November 3, 2020.

13. CPE-GGGI Seminar on Green New Deal, November 3, 2020.

GGGI and the Korean Parliamentary League on Children, Population and Environment (CPE) co-hosted a seminar on Korea's Green New Deal. Key speakers from international organizations, embassies, academia, & policy makers gathered in person and virtually to share policy challenges and necessary international cooperation to establish sustainable development in the Era of the New Normal

The keynote speech of the event was delivered by H.E. Ban Ki-moon, GGGI President & Chair and Eight UN Secretary-General, during the opening session. "Climate change is too big, too great, and too urgent to delegate governments and public institutions alone. Yes, change can be uncertain and hard at times. There is always a learning curve, but we will all have to adapt, evolve, and pivot our ways sooner or later, and those who make the change first will be the ones leading those that join later," explains H.E. Ban Ki-moon.

"If we work together, we can make 2020 the year where we look back, where future generations look back, and say we seized the opportunities hidden in the challenges and turned the tide for climate change and green growth."

The keynote session of the seminar highlighted key challenges for overcoming COVID-19, focusing on economic recovery. To begin the session, GGGI Director-General,

Dr. Frank Rijsberman, emphasized the importance of renewable energy for job creation, sharing statistics from a recent study that indicate how green jobs from renewable energy projects greatly outnumber jobs from fossil fuel projects by a factor of 2-5.

Following this opening note, Vice President of Climate & Economics at the World Resources Institute, Helen Mountford, delivered a keynote presentation on Overcoming COVID-19: Sustainable Action – Positive Impact, sharing "In South Korea, it is cheaper to invest in new renewables than build new coal and will be cheaper to invest in new renewables than to operate existing coal in 2022". Also, during her presentation, Ms. Mountford thanked and congratulated the Republic of Korea on their recent climate change ambitions, "The Net-Zero target by 2050 reflects the Republic of Korea's climate leadership".



"As the President of the Assembly and Chair of the Council of GGGI, I was very pleased to hear that GGGI and the Climate Change Center are serving as a joint secretariat for the Campaign for Blue Skies and Net Zero 2050 in the Republic of Korea.

We need to build stronger public awareness of both air pollution and climate crises and demonstrate support for ambitious, bold action to tackle these crises. Active collaboration among government agencies, embassies, civil society groups, and international organizations are key to reducing air pollution and tackling climate change."



Mr. Ban Ki-moon
President and Chair of GGGI



HE Simon Smith
UK Ambassador to the Republic of Korea

"Climate change is everyone's business, so I'm delighted that we are taking part in this meaningful campaign. In November 2021, the UK will host the UN Climate Conference, COP26. When Parties come together in Glasgow, it will represent one of the last real chances for the international community to mitigate the most damaging risks of climate change. Five years on from Paris, it is clear that we are not doing enough. Ahead of COP26, we will be asking all nations to set out plans for a carbon neutral world by 2050. Korea is a top ten global emitter, with an industrial base reaching into the growing economies of South East Asia. A Korean 2050 net zero declaration would be incredibly powerful in raising global ambition in Glasgow next year."

Campaign Members

(As of Q1 2021)



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