

Speech on the occasion of the Asia-Pacific Water Forum launching ceremony

Excellencies,

Mr. Yoshiro Mori (요시로 모리), New President of the Japan Water Forum

Mr. Haruhiko Kuroda (하루히코 구로다), President of the Asian Development Bank,
Distinguished guests, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon!

It is my great honor and privilege to be here and to have this opportunity to convey the speech as a representative of the sub-region to the Asia-Pacific Water Forum Launching Ceremony. Let me express my sincere appreciation to the officials for establishing Asia-Pacific Water Forum and for the excellent arrangements made to ensure its successful launching. Korea Water Forum has and keeps to passionately support these efforts.

Modern society faces a very serious water and sanitation crisis, which is increasingly getting more critical over time. All water problems recently raised from every corner of the world, boil down to worsening water shortages, devastating damage from floods and droughts and severe water pollution.

If natural disasters may be unavoidable, we should emphasize making essential pre-condition for disaster preparedness through effective early warning and alert system, precise information delivering system to the public in strong regional co-operation. Moreover, increasing local capacity and public outreach programs will be an important component of the systematic strategies for the public to understand key water trends, issues and solutions.

Water issues cannot be dealt with by itself. We must assume the responsible position to achieve beneficial results.

Therefore, it has been quite a while we, without doubt, realized that an Asia-Pacific Water Forum needs to be established to identify and adopt solutions in the region in complete unity.

I firmly believe you can imagine the activities of APWF will be taught us fruitful lessons to share with other countries, regions and be as a remarkable landmark of water history.

As one of the sub-regional coordinator, of North East Asia, I would like to declare that the Korea Water Forum assures overwhelming support the accomplishment for the 3 priority themes and 5 key result areas of Asia-Pacific Water Forum.

I hope the Asia-Pacific Water Forum that officially starts today will expand into an association that contributes to the resolution of issues and problems related to water resources.

It must draw more active response on various backgrounds and policies of countries in Asia-Pacific region as well as all over the world.

In closing, Once again my thanks to the Japan Water Forum, as the organizers for the APWF launching.

Thank you.

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