

차관님 말씀자료(11.30.(금), 장관급회의)

Your Excellency, Tabo Mbeki, President of the Republic of South Africa,

Honorable Mosibudi Mangena, Chairman of GEO Ministerial Summit,

and distinguished delegates from all members.

It is a great pleasure for me to join the GEO Ministerial Summit as head of the Korean delegation.

I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude to the GEO secretariat and the South African government for their commitment to the success of the GEO plenary and the Ministerial Summit.

I am pleased to witness strengthened international cooperation towards the establishment of GEOSS, which is very timely given the climate change and other global problems.

I think it is of great significance to adopt the Cape Town Declaration at today's Summit because it is another step taken for putting GEOSS 10-Year Implementation Plan into practice.

The Korean government has been participating in GEO's activities since 2003. We have devised short- and long-term GEOSS strategies, which include the nation's GEOSS 2-year detailed implementation plan and 10-year implementation plan.

In 2005, in order to implement aforementioned strategies for GEOSS, a national strategic committee for GEOSS was organized consisting of high level officials from relevant ministries and administrations, and an interagency working group on GEOSS was established under this Committee. We have also established a secretariat for GEO at the Korea Meteorological Administration for efficient collaboration with GEO and other international organizations.

Korea is willing to contribute to GEO trust funds and continues to support them by seconding experts to GEO secretariate.

With respect to an integral part of GEOSS, space-based observation, the successful launch of the Korean multi-purpose satellite, Arirang-2, in July 2006, enabled us to acquire the remote sensing capability for global earth observation through the satellite with high-resolution. We plan to launch communication-oceanography-meteorology-satellite in 2009 and Arirang-5 with synthetic aperture radar (SAR) in 2010.

Through these efforts, we expect to establish an observation system for meteorology, environment protection and disaster mitigation, which will contribute to the welfare of the mankind.

Korea will actively participate in international cooperation and the Ministry of Science and Technology will facilitate orchestrated efforts within the government for optimal decision making.

Again, I believe that the establishment of GEOSS through scientific and technological approach on global challenges including climate change is essential for promoting sustainable development.

I would like to reiterate my gratitude to GEO secretariat and South Africa for hosting the GEO Plenary and Ministerial Summit. I would like to conclude by encouraging my fellow GEO members to make utmost effort for the establishment of GEOSS.

Thank you.