

# Remarks at the Seoul Digital Forum 2005 and World ICT Summit

Thank you for inviting me to this significant event. First, let me congratulate you on the Seoul Digital Forum and World ICT Summit and wholeheartedly welcome all of the participants from abroad.

Business leaders in the field of global information and communications, prominent academics and government leaders have all gathered here, making this a true digital forum in the IT sector.

In particular, I know that former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, who is with us, has been pioneering the development of the Internet through an information superhighway initiative. We pin high expectations on the keynote speeches coming up soon. I believe that this meeting will reap substantial achievements.

Distinguished guests,

You will have in-depth discussions about the present and future advances in information capabilities. I am thus going to speak about the Korean endeavors to become an advanced nation in information and communications.

As you are aware, Korea is ahead of most countries in the world in keeping up with the digital revolution, a major transformation of the time in where we live.

As a result, more than two-thirds of Korean citizens are using the Internet, and Korea is unrivaled in broadband Internet subscriptions. Memory chips, CDMA cell phones and other diverse IT products from Korea are leaders in the world market. For the first time in the world, hand-held Internet technology, WiBro, has been developed as a result of extensive development of core technologies. And not too long ago, we opened the age of DMB.

Rapid progress has been made in establishing an e-government to enhance efficiency and transparency. Cheong Wa Dae, where I do my job, has been completely transformed into a digital-friendly environment. The presidential staff and I are engaged in unreserved discussions online, and all reports and records are managed digitally. This does not simply eliminate paper, but changes the working method altogether.

Now the Republic of Korea is recognized around the world as a dynamically developing information and communication powerhouse.

However, there will be continual challenges. Korea's pursuit will gather speed on the strength of the high motivation for achievement, the state-of-the art IT infrastructure and the broad base of consumers continually searching for the latest novelty.

Preparations have already been made for the age of ubiquitous computing, a theme of this meeting.

The project to build the next-generation information infrastructure including a broadband convergence network is in full swing.

Next year, an intelligence service robot priced at about one million won will be completed. The robot will perform household chores for impaired persons, employed spouses and senior citizens; it will also protect against theft and provide various kinds of information.

We will pursue innovation in the Government operating system by linking such areas as the Administration, national defense, education and medical services with ubiquitous technology.

Through such endeavors we seek to greatly enhance national competitiveness and become a benchmark in the age of ubiquitous computing. I look forward to your active interest and cooperation.

Distinguished participants,

Korea will by no means ignore the dark side of the information age such as the wide information divide and the infringement on personal information. We will breathe warmth into the cold digital environment by realizing a digital society guaranteeing the welfare of all.

We will actively join in the endeavors to enable all people in this global village to enjoy the benefits of the information revolution evenly. As part of such endeavors, the ICT training center of UNESCAP will be established in Songdo in Incheon to provide information education opportunities to those in charge of information and communication policies and engineers from every country.

I hope that this occasion will serve as a valuable opportunity to share the vision of the new ubiquitous age and to pursue a more convenient and prosperous world.

Thank you.