

Keynote Remarks by
Governor Hee-ryoung Won of the Jeju Self-Governing
Province
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Good morning, ladies and gentlemen!

I am Won Hee-ryoung, governor of Jeju Special Self-Governing Province.

I would like to express my warmest welcome to all of you coming to Jeju, a treasure island of nature and culture for this Expert Group Meeting on Green Economy for Sustainable Development Goals.

Let me ask you one thing, how can we all guarantee a decent and sustainable life? Well, I think it is not an overstatement to say, it really depends on how we respond to climate change.

To tackle climate change, we have to transform our paradigm for energy policy and also consider what would be our future energy sources.

The Industrial Revolution gave us a gift of convenience and abundance in life, but at the same time it has tasked us with the homework of climate change and environmental conservation.

Low-carbon green society is the core global issue and the common challenge of human beings.

With the advent of the 4th industrial revolution, we are preparing for a transition towards a new society.

In this era, Jeju is determined to take a lead to bring about changes and innovation for protecting nature and creating an ecosystem where energy and resources can establish a virtuous cycle.

Jeju has been trying to tackle the climate change by building an eco-friendly industrial structure, taking advantage of the natural environment of Jeju, such as wind and solar power and connecting them to increase inter-operability among the related industries as well as technologies, which is the essence of the 4th industrial revolution.

And that's what I call Jeju Green Big Bang

‘The Carbon Free Island 2030’ (CFI 2030) project is a strategy to transform Jeju into a carbon-free by generating all electricity with renewable energy, such as wind and solar power, and replacing all the cars with EVs.

This project has been gaining attention from the international community. Since it is not limited to Island, but it is replicable to 2,400 cities all around the world.

When I took the office in 2014, the renewable energy supply stood at 6.4%, but it has increased up to 13.6%, more than double last year. Also, last September, Jeju started to operate the first commercial offshore wind farms in Korea.

Earlier this month, March 2nd, Jeju has entered ‘the era of 10thousand EVs’ for the first time in Korea. Half of the national total EVs are registered in Jeju and we are very keen in building an infrastructure to support.

Thanks to the expansion of such industries, new jobs have been created such as maintenance of EVs, charging facilities, EV call center and battery recycling.

Upcoming September, a recycling center for used EV batteries will open in Jeju for the first time in Korea.

The carbon-free island that Jeju has been envisioning is not just a simple transition to one with renewable energy and EVs.

It is about creating new jobs and establishing an ecosystem for new industries, based on interoperability among related industries and cutting-edge technologies

I think Jeju is the best place to become a test-bed for various technologies and policies that needs to be converged. Moreover Jeju is not only focused on elements of Green Big Bang itself such as renewable energy, EVs, smart grid and ESS but by actively introducing state-of-the-art technologies such as smart center, IoT and 5G, Jeju is going to build optimized environment for energy big data.

We have been pushing forward policies to improve the quality of life for citizens, trying to cure the growing pains including issues of housing, water supply and sewage treatment, traffic, and waste due to increases in population and development.

Detailed strategies for sustainable development have been drawn up based on the clean environment that we are striving to conserve, since it is the most important value of Jeju.

Through sweeping changes in the mass transit system, a transportation system has been put in place that focuses more on pedestrians and users of public transportation.

Also, the scheme of “discard different types of recyclable waste on each day” has paved the way

to achieve a resource circulation society.

Jeju is trying very hard to become an innovative city as well as regional model that has not existed before. And to spread the Jeju Green Big Bang to around the world by starting it from here in Jeju.

I strongly believe Exchanges, dissemination and expansion will occur with Jeju at its epicenter.

Since Jeju was nationally designated as the Island of Peace in 2005, we have been continuously pursuing achieving peace in a various ways and types. In regard this, I would like to talk about “energy peace” as my last point.

I believe energy peace means that the whole process from energy production to consumption will be carried out in a peaceful way.

Long-frozen relationships between South and North Korea are beginning to thaw. I think, we are entering a meaningful phase for peace settlement on the Korean Peninsula as well as peace for Northeast Asia.

Jeju carried out the “Vitamin C” diplomacy with its project to send tangerines to North Korea from 1999 to 2010.

I hope the ‘energy peace’ that Jeju Carbon Free Island will bring, will be able to contribute to peace building on the Korean Peninsula.

I also would like ask all of you to become bridges for international exchanges and cooperation, which will become a stepping stone for the energy peace, flowing from Jeju to be settled into a permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.

I would appreciate your support and interest.

It is a great pleasure for me to share with you about Jeju’s Carbon Free Island 2030 project that reflects the value of balance and co-existence.

Jeju will continue to work together with you for sustainable growth and development.

Thank you.