

Opening Remark of ET 2018

Distinguished guests, Ladies and gentlemen, Good morning!

On behalf of the United Nations Office for Sustainable Development, I welcome you all to the 2018 ET for PM on 2030 Agenda for SD.

Our Office is part of the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA) and is supported by the Incheon Metropolitan city and the Ministry of Environment of Korea.

In this regard, I would like to convey my gratitude to Mr. Keewon, Hong, Ambassador for International Relations of Incheon Metropolitan City for delivering his welcoming address

And I also thank Mr. Mario Tuason, Chief of Capacity Development Office of UN DESA who will deliver the statement from USG, Mr. LIU Zhenmin.

This 4th ET for PM is one of our flagship activities. It aims to facilitate the successful implementation of 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda is our pathway to a safer, more resilient and sustainable world. As senior policy makers, you have the important responsibility of shaping, tailoring and implementing Agenda 2030 and the SDGs within your countries.

We are in the third year of the 2030 Agenda and significant progress has been made globally towards achieving these targets.

Recognizing that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda is ultimately a national responsibility, though under international collaboration, national governments have begun internalizing SDGs into their planning processes and coordinating internally and among ministries.

The reason why this training course is important is that you are the policymakers who are taking the lead in mainstreaming the SDGs into national planning.

Therefore, the main content of this training course is designed to support this objective. We will handle not only the understanding of 2030 Agenda for SD but also topics that will be discussed at this year's HLPF.

They are Water and Sanitation, Sustainable energy, Life on Land, Sustainable cities and Communities, Sustainable production and consumption, Life on Land, and Partnership or, put it differently, SDGs 6,7, 11,12, 15 and 17.

This course will also provide you a valuable opportunity to share your experiences and learn from the experiences and insights from your peers from around the globe.

Therefore, this training course is not simply delivering the knowledge to you. It is also meant to facilitate peer-to-peer learning by actively participating in the interactive dialogues among yourselves, especially during the discussions of the plenary and group work sessions.

I would say that this course is also one of Knowledge Management. Simply speaking, KM consists of three elements. First, Knowledge building. It is to build knowledge. As well, it includes Knowledge sharing and this course has components, which are especially developed to encourage the process of Knowledge sharing. But it is not enough. The third component is Knowledge application. The ultimate objective of this training course is to apply the shared knowledge to your strategy and policy making activities.

Regarding the program, we will have a field trip on the 3rd day in the morning. I thank Incheon Tourism Organization for supporting the field trip.

And tonight, please join us here at the banquet hall for a reception dinner, where you will have the opportunity to networking by conversing with your peers from around the world.

Regarding some admin issues including DSA distribution, our staff will share the information after this opening session.

I wish you all an active and productive participation and look forward to taking stock with you on the outcomes of the course at its conclusion.

Lastly, I thank all presenters who will make presentations over the next five days and also thank our consultant, Dr. Tae Yong Jung, Professor at Yonsei University, for designing and preparing our training program.

Before closing, I would like to introduce our staff who will assist you:

Jean, Hyun, Jay, Ilae, Shelley, Paul, and Kirim.

I thank you all for taking the time to be with us here this week.

I hope you all have a very rewarding time with us this week.

Thank you!