

Welcome Speech

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At the 17th INPRO Dialogue Forum

[Introduction]

Mr. Chair, Distinguished guests and IAEA representatives!

I extend my warm welcome to all the participants to the 17th the International Project on Innovative Nuclear Reactors and Fuel Cycles (INPRO) Dialogue Forum.

It is a great honor for Korea to host the Dialogue Forum for the second time since 2012.

My sincere thanks go to President JUNG Mooyoung and the organizers of UNIST, and to Mayor SONG Cheol-ho of Ulsan City for his generous support.

[Korea and IAEA INPRO]

Distinguished participants,

I support the cause of INPRO, which brings together both technology developers and technology users to explore better ways to ensure peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

I believe that we should strengthen the partnership between the technology developers and users with the IAEA.

This would raise nuclear sustainability based on innovative nuclear technology and ultimately, bring the prosperity of all humanity.

Korea will actively cooperate with the IAEA and its Member States in order to help reach the consensus toward establishing a win-win global nuclear community.

[SMRs and Korea's SMART]

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Recently, small modular reactors are increasingly recognized as an alternative to conventional nuclear reactors for newcomer countries, thanks to their low initial cost, short construction period, and improved safety.

I believe that it is timely for us to address “Opportunities and Challenges of SMRs” as a topic of this Dialogue Forum.

Korea has been developing SMART, the System-integrated Modular Advanced Reactor since 1997, and it acquired approval for a standard design in 2012 for the first time in the world.

Based on this, we successfully completed the pre-project engineering (PPE) for SMART partnership with Saudi Arabia last year and commercialization of SMART is very close at hand.

Securing technologies for safe design, construction, and operation is more important than pursuing short-term profit for the firm establishment of the SMRs industry and its sustainable growth.

Korea's successful experiences on the commercialization of the conventional nuclear reactors will raise competitiveness for technology demonstration and construction of SMRs.

[Closing]

Distinguished participants,

It is the time for technology developers and users to strengthen a cooperative partnership for the commercialization of SMRs to bear that more countries may enjoy their benefits.

Korea is committed to standing at the forefront of such efforts.

Dear speakers and participants,

I am looking forward to your having fruitful ways to expand the use of SMRs in this forum. Thank you.