

# Welcome Speech

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At the 17<sup>th</sup> INPRO Dialogue Forum

Good morning, honorable guests, distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen!

It is my great honor to welcome all of you this morning on behalf of the “17<sup>th</sup> IAEA INPRO Dialogue Forum on Opportunities and Challenges in Small Modular Reactors.”

First of all, I would like to thank IAEA Deputy Director General Mr. Chudakov for bringing this extraordinary Forum and all the organizers and volunteers for making this event happen. In addition, I would like to extend a warm welcome to the distinguished guests.

UNIST has been working hard consistently in the education and research on SMRs since 2012. As a technical partner, we are very pleased to organize this Forum with support of the Ministry of Science and ICT of Korea and the Metropolitan City of Ulsan as well.

With its vision of ‘World leading university to advance science and technology for the prosperity of humankind’, UNIST is committed to play an active role as ‘the first mover’ for the next-generation energy, especially Small Modular Reactors.

For IAEA member States including the Republic of Korea, it has been very fortunate to develop sustainable nuclear energy technology with the leadership of INPRO Dialogue Forum since 2000.

It is very timely to direct the Forum on SMR as the world is seeking solutions for sequestrating greenhouse gases that can function in distributed deployment to work closely with renewable energy.

I wish all the best for the distinguished delegates from 23 different States who will work together this week to share information and knowledge on current status and to discuss the potentials and remaining issues of SMRs for their entry into the global energy market.

Ladies and gentlemen, in this INPRO Dialogue Forum, I believe all the delegates explore the different perspectives not only on technology but also institutional challenges, such as markets, resources, effects of regulation and public perception issues. Since Fukushima accident, we need to communicate with public in a holistic approach.

Once again, I would like to express my deep appreciation to all the honorable guests and distinguished delegates for your participation and wish you enjoy this special place for debate here in Ulsan.

Finally, it is my sincere hope that the 17<sup>th</sup> INPRO Dialogue Forum proves to be highly fruitful.

Thank you.