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2011.11.22

Y o o , Y o u n g S o o k

Minister of Environment

Honorable Mr. Georg Kell(게오르그 켈),
Executive Director of the United Nations Global Compact,

Honorable Ms. Huguette Labelle(위겟 라벨르),
Chair of Transparency International,

Honorable Dr. Han Seung-soo(한승수),
Board Chair of the Global Green Growth Institute,

Mr. Lee Seung-han(이승한), organizer of this wonderful Conference and President of UNGC Korea,

Distinguished guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,
It is my great **honor** and **privilege** to be here at this meaningful event.

I would like to extend my deepest appreciation to **UNGC Korea** for inviting me to this **conference** and it is my **pleasure** to deliver a speech in front of such a prestigious audience.

I would also like to extend my **congratulations** on the success of the **Global CSR Conference 2011**.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Despite unprecedented **abundance** and **prosperity**, the world is faced with **uncertainty** and **unstableness**.

We are witnessing a number of **challenges** ranging from **financial crisis, unemployment, income imbalance** to environmental challenges such as **climate change**.

Such circumstances made us look back on **the way of civilization** that humankind has pursued.

The UN has already set "**Sustainable Development**" as a key concept for building a viable future for mankind, under which **policies** are coordinated and **wisdoms** gathered.

The well-known report "**Our Common Future**" in 1987 defines **Sustainable Development** as a concept to meet the **needs of the present** without compromising the **ability of future generations** to meet their own needs.

Although this concept was initially targeted for the **public sector**, its implementation within the **business arena** has become important

as the **role and status** of modern enterprises have evolved significantly.

Enterprises, by nature, have been contributing greatly to the history of mankind as a cradle of **innovation** and **creation**.

At the same time, however, business activities have a **responsibility** to tackle various **challenges**, not to mention **environmental challenges**.

While an enterprise that makes **profit** is a **good enterprise**, an enterprise that pursues **social responsibility** is a **great enterprise**.

UN Global Compact is providing a milestone to the leading enterprises by emphasizing **corporate social responsibility**.

The **four core values** of the UNGC, **human rights, labor, the environment and anti-corruption**, will contribute to tackling modern day challenges,

thereby making global economy and society more **stable, fair and inclusive**.

I have been told that you had **diverse and active discussions** today on **business-related issues** such as

human rights, women, labor, Rio+20, carbon management, renewable energy, anti-corruption, shared growth, green consumption and social enterprise.

I sincerely hope these discussions lead to finding **solutions** to those global challenges I have already mentioned.

As **Minister of Environment** of the Republic of Korea, I cannot help mentioning the issue of **climate change**, our common challenge of the Earth.

Starting next week, the **Conference of the Parties** to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change will be hosted in South Africa

where intense international negotiations on **post-Kyoto regime** will take place.

Climate change should be tackled by **concerted efforts** from both **developed and developing countries**.

In 2009, the Korean Government declared its greenhouse gas **reduction target** of **30%** below BAU level by 2020, to the international community.

Since then, the public and private sectors of Korea are in the process of a **paradigm shift** to **"Low Carbon, Green Growth."**

While the international negotiations are mainly focused on **country level** greenhouse gas **reduction, adaptation, technology and finance,**

I believe **private enterprises** are also expected to tackle climate change.

There is much room for **reducing** greenhouse gas emissions **surrounding business activities** as well as **adaptation** to climate change.

I hope enterprises play a much **greater role** in climate change along with the public sector.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The complex and volatile nature of **contemporary crises** call for coordinated efforts through **public private partnership.**

In this regard, I believe that the **values** and **principles** of the UNGC are highly **relevant** and this conference is very **timely.**

Lastly, if you allow me to describe CSR in a word, I would like to say that it is **love.**

It is often said that

"The best use of **life** is **love.**

The best expression of **love** is **time.**

The best **time** to love is **now."**

It is indeed that **now** is the **time** for you to **act.**

I am pleased to hear that today you had quite fruitful discussions and I hope **tomorrow's sessions** will also result in productive outcomes, leading to care others with love.

I wish you all the best and good luck in your future endeavors.

Thank you very much.