

## Opening Ceremony

Speech by **Kwan-Yong Park**,

Former Speaker of the National Assembly, Republic of Korea

His Excellency, President Tsakhia Elbegdorj of Mongolian People's Republic, Chairman Cho Lee-Jay, distinguished participants, and guests, and ladies and gentlemen,

On this occasion of the Nineteenth Annual Conference of the Northeast Asia Economic Forum, I am very pleased to say a few words on behalf of the Korean delegation.

This year, we are pleased to be here after the successful annual conference last year in Pusan hosted by the Pusan Metropolitan Government.

First, the Northeast Asia Economic Forum has a historic mission of promoting regional economic cooperation, peace, and stability in this region of conflict and tensions. I am committed to this vision and have been participating in the Forum's annual conferences and activities for a number of years.

Second, the Forum, through its achievements of the past, established a solid foundation for the more critical role of realizing concrete functional cooperation in finance, energy and environment, transportation and logistics.

Third, I want to congratulate the Forum for conducting the superb training program for the young leaders from Northeast Asia and North America. I have personally interacted with the bright young leaders in the past few years. These young leaders, through their networks of relationships, will provide creative and valuable leadership for regional harmony in the future for this dynamic Northeast Asia.

Finally, I want to extend my great appreciation to Dr. Cho and his leadership and to the Northeast Asia Economic Forum and the Mongolian government for organizing and planning this important conference. And I wish all of you a very successful meeting.

Thank you.