It is my great pleasure to close this first-ever virtual Symposium on the important topic of ICTs and Climate Change.

Today, we witnessed the power of ICTs to tackle climate change through the success of this virtual event. Speakers and moderators participated from Korea, United States of America, Viet Nam, China, India, Switzerland, Sweden, Japan, and United Kingdom.

We have saved up to 600 tons of Co2 on the assumption of an average of at least 3 tons of Co2 per person that would have been expended by 200 people travelling to one place in the world. When we consider that every week there are international conferences involving thousands participants, events such as this would have a huge impact on emissions.

So on behalf of all participants; let me thank our hosts, the KCC of Korea with the technical support of TTA of Korea, as well as the sponsors of the event who provided the technology that has worked so well today.

Being a virtual event; extensive cooperation from all the speakers and moderators was indispensable to its success. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to all the speakers and moderators who participated virtually, and congratulate the engineers who provided the necessary technical assistance. It was a big challenge. We dealt with many new and unknown problems and uncertainties. Naturally, there were a few glitches, but we will learn from this experience, and I am sure many others will now follow our good example.

There are a few downsides to a virtual event. Seoul is a wonderful city, famous for its rich culture and delicious food. As virtual participants, we did not have the opportunity to enjoy this city, or for a chat over a coffee. However I am pleased to learn that our first virtual coffee breaks were quite successful using Twitter.

Those of you who do not know ITU very well may have wondered why ICTs are linked to climate change. I hope that after this symposium, you can see that in fact ITU and the ICT sector can make a significant contribution to the global efforts to combat climate change. We had three symposia on ICT and climate change in the past, in Kyoto, London and Quito. The Quito event concluded that Bridging the Digital Divide and bringing the benefits of ICTs to all citizens is fundamental to tackling climate change. Equitable access and ensuring connectivity to schools, rural communities, health facilities, etc. are vital to economic development and to making effective use of ICTs to combat climate change. The full text of this conclusion is on our website.

As you have heard ITU has developed an internationally agreed methodology for calculating the impact of ICTs on GHG emissions over their complete life cycle. Our new Study Group 5 on the "Environment and Climate Change" is converting this methodology into a formal global standard.

Before we start work on any new standard in ITU we apply an environmental check list, to ensure that equipment and services built to our standards are truly green.

We are also setting an example in our work methods. Although we still hold face to face meetings, we are promoting and encouraging the fullest use of electronic working tools, including conference calls and remote collaboration, and paperless meetings. For example our Focus Group on climate change held 28 virtual meetings and only three physical meetings.

Many of our meetings are now held in developing countries, to reduce the travel costs of delegates, and to encourage participation by the full ITU membership in our standards work.

This Symposium is taking place at a critical moment for the global community in its efforts to combat climate change. In a little more than two months, world leaders will gather in Copenhagen in an effort to reach a new Agreement on Climate Change. Already, the negotiations have proved difficult and the current 200 page text is a long way from final form.

ITU has been active in the negotiations in promoting the important role that ICTs can play in mitigating and adapting to climate change. The speakers today have demonstrated the relationship between ICTs and climate change, and we do hope that the negotiators preparing the Agreement will recognize the critical importance of ICTs in the final text. So far we have only managed to get one reference to ICTs in the text, but ITU will again be proposing further references to ICTs in the coming meetings in Bangkok and Barcelona.

In closing, I would like to thank all of you from all over the world for your participation and hope that we may meet again in the future, either in person or virtually. I wish you a good morning, good afternoon, good evening and good night!