

**WSIS Thematic Meeting  
on Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for  
Bridging the Digital Divide**

**Introductory Remarks**

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**Venue / Sheraton Grande Walker Hill Hotel, Seoul**

The honorable Vice Minister of Ministry of Information and Communication, Jun Hyong RHO, Head of the Strategy and Policy Unit of ITU, Tim KELLY, Executive Secretary of UNESCAP Kim Hak-Su, President of Swiss Agency for Development Walter FUST, Ambassador of Tunisia, Othman JERANDI, Members of international organizations, Representatives from NGOs, ICT experts from home and abroad, and distinguished guests:

I welcome you all to the WSIS Thematic Meeting on Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships for Bridging the Digital Divide. And I would like to thank all of you for your presence here this morning. Today, I am very pleased that KADO is organizing this meaningful meeting which aims to explore experiences, challenges and best practices of multi-stakeholder partnerships among all sectors of society for bridging the digital divide, and to develop a composite Digital Opportunity Index to measure the digital divide.

The advancement of ICT is accelerating the transformation of our society into the knowledge-based society. However, ICT is also exacerbating the gap between information haves and have-nots. Recognizing this problem, a variety of actors including governments, the private sector, civil society, international, regional and non-governmental organizations are cooperating together to narrow the digital divide. As a member of the global community, Korea is also working together with a variety of actors, domestic and international, to close the digital divide.

For instance, KADO, as a founding partner of Connect the World, is working together with a variety of NGOs, governmental ministries, schools, and many other organizations in public and private sector to support and provide programs to close the digital divide. In this globalized world, the issue of the digital divide cannot be resolved by an individual actor alone. The digital divide can be overcome only through cooperation and partnership among different

stakeholders. Today, we have ICT leaders of the world, members of international organizations and experts who work to close the world's digital divide.

I hope this meeting will be an opportunity to enhance cooperation and mutual understanding among different actors working to close the digital divide. Only when we join forces, we can overcome the digital divide and achieve the era of co-prosperity in which information technology benefits all.

Thank you for your attention.