

SECOND PHASE OF WSIS, 16-18 NOVEMBER, TUNIS

STATEMENT FROM JUNG NAM CHO VICE CHAIRMAN, SK TELECOM 17 NOVEMBER 2005

Honorable Mr. Secretary-General Kofi Annan of the UN and Mr. Secretary-General Yoshio Utsumi of the ITU,

Preeminent Tunisian government officials and distinguished participants,

I would first like to express my sincere gratitude for inviting me to this meaningful gathering. I would also like to thank everyone for the wonderful job they have done in preparing for this event.

On behalf of SK Telecom, the company first to commercialize the CDMA technology, I would like to share with you my thoughts on the information society.

Penetration of mobile telecommunication in Africa surpasses that of wired telecommunication, with the fastest annual growth rate of average 50 percent.

Mobile telecommunication has played a significant role in bridging the digital divide among individuals, nations, and continents, by allowing Africa to access information and communication technologies with lower cost and broader area coverage.

Furthermore, mobile telecommunication will contribute to building an information society by converging with other industries such as Satellite-DMB service. It can propel us toward the "Millennium Development Goals" proposed by UN.

Continuous development of ICTs and fostering of the digital economy are essential for building an information society. Corporate investment in future ICTs from all around the globe are critical in this context.

Such investment will constantly increase the potential of the ICTs. It will also make positive contributions to industrial development and ultimately to the world economy. Support from governments is also essential for the construction of the information society.

Through these efforts, we can realize a genuine information society where every individual benefits from ICTs. I am very confident that everyone here will join the strides towards this goal. SK Telecom also reaffirms its commitment for these efforts.

Thank you very much.