

**Remarks by Mr. Shin Dong-ik**

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Minister Retno Marsudi,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

Let me begin by expressing my appreciation to the Indonesian Government for its relentless efforts to promote democracy in the Asia-Pacific region over the years. The Bali Democracy Forum, which is now in its eighth year, has successfully established itself as a premier forum for sharing experiences and best practices on the development of democracy.

Last September at the United Nations, the international community unanimously adopted Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development -- the historic blueprint to guide international development for another 15 years. And the inclusion of goal 16 to promote peaceful and inclusive societies by promoting strong institutions, among others, illustrates the growing global awareness that effective governance is critical to sustainable development. In this regard, I believe the theme of this year's forum "Democracy and Effective Public Governance" is relevant and timely.

Distinguished Delegates,

Korea achieved both rapid economic development and democracy after overcoming poverty and authoritarianism in a span of a generation. Today, Korea is aspiring to meet the responsibilities of a middle power by

contributing to resolving many of the daunting challenges faced by the global community. And Korea's rapid development can be mostly attributed to the effective public governance that was gradually strengthened through a process of trial and error.

More specifically, in the early stages of nation building in the 1950s after Korean War, the Korean government set up the Economic Planning Board to design five year economic development plans, which played a critical role in laying the foundation for Korea's development across-the-board. In addition, the government has been building roads and steel companies

More recently, in line with today's information age, the Korean government has been pursuing e-government initiatives to set up effective public governance. This is to address the public's demand for greater openness and transparency of the government, as well as greater civic participation in public affairs. In fact, Korea ranked number one in the UN E-government Survey in 2014. According to the survey, Korea established a world-class transparent and efficient online presence and an impressive e-mobile presence by having an adequate infrastructure for ICT development and sustainability.

Korea's e-government initiatives have been contributing to promoting our democracy in the following ways.

First, Korea launched the E-Participation Portal (e-people), which provides administrative services, such as submitting complaints, reporting administrative corruption, and petitions, among others. The portal also offers a scheme through which the feedback and ideas of citizens can be applied to government policies and projects.

Second, Korea is pursuing e-government initiatives to improve access to information and public services, especially to vulnerable groups, namely women, the disabled and children. The public can now easily obtain

information and access to public services at the touch of a button, anywhere and anytime.

The Civil Service Portal (Minwon 24) and Public Data Portal ([www.data.go.kr](http://www.data.go.kr)) services are cases in point. The Civil Service Portal enables citizens to apply for government issued certificates online without having to physically visit the public institutions. Public Data Portal is used as a single access point for integrated management of public data. The data, which is generated and stored by individual institutions, is then open to the public.

Ultimately, improving access to information and public services for the vulnerable and underprivileged group will contribute to inclusive growth for all, which is essential to achieving democracy and sustainable development. Full democratization can never be achieved in a society in which huge inequalities exist.

Distinguished Delegates,

UN Secretary General Ban Ki-moon said, "Democracy is not a guarantee of success, but it is the most powerful and just means for building well-functioning societies."

Democracy based on the freedom and equality of individuals is no longer an option but a necessity. And building administrative and institutional capacity is critical to achieving democracy and sustainable development. To this end, Korea is committed to sharing our experiences with other countries in building public services tailored to their unique social and political contexts.

I hope that this year's Bali Democracy Forum will make great contribution to enhancing our awareness and capabilities on Effective Public Governance for Democracy. Thank you. /End/