

## Speech OECD Special Day at Yeosu EXPO on 9 July

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to be here with you at the Yeosu EXPO 2012 and it is an honour and a privilege to welcome you to this OECD Day. It is a great pleasure to see the theme for this EXPO, “The Living Ocean and Coast”, come to life and to be part of this experience.

### Introduction to the OECD

The OECD was founded 51 years ago with a **mission to drive better policies for better lives**. As we all know, in today’s globalised, interdependent world, multilateral co-operation is more important than ever. The OECD provides a forum in which governments can work together to share policy experiences and seek solutions to common problems.

The OECD has 34 member countries, and we collaborate closely with more than 100 other countries. As part of this more global role, the OECD has been an active participant in G20 meetings and summits since 2008. Under the various G20 Summits, one of which took place in Korea in 2010, and again under the current Mexican G20 Presidency, the OECD provides analysis, data and policy recommendations on virtually all issues being tackled.

### OECD relationship with Korea

Since joining the OECD in 1996, Korea has provided leadership in a number of areas of key importance to the OECD. I want to highlight three examples.

## Development

Korea is the first country (and so far the only country) to have made the leap from developing country and aid recipient to becoming a donor country and important member of the DAC Development Assistance Committee (DAC).

## Green Growth

Green Growth was first mentioned by Korean President Lee, Myung-bak in his speech on Korean Independence day in August 2008 and to this day, the OECD Secretary General often refers to President Lee, Myung-bak as the Father of Green Growth. In fact, the OECD's declaration on Green Growth came out of the OECD Ministerial Council Meeting in June 2009, which was chaired by Korean Prime Minister Han, Seung-soo.

## ICT

The first OECD Ministerial to be held in Asia was the OECD Ministerial meeting on the Future of the Internet Economy which took place in Seoul in June 2008. At this meeting, the Seoul Declaration for the Future of the Internet Economy was adopted by 39 countries and the European Community.

## EXPO 2012 Yeosu and OECD interest in the Blue Economy

The theme of the Expo is "The Living Ocean and Coast". The Ocean is an important part of our living planet. It is home to so many economic activities including shipping, tourism, biotechnology, fisheries and aquaculture, energy, and importantly it also serves as climate regulator. In terms of growth, the ocean offers tremendous economic potential. The very significant increase in the world's population over the coming decades means many more mouths to feed, many more jobs to be created, and many more livelihoods to be assured. Meeting that global challenge is unthinkable without the ocean and the many diverse

resources it has to offer. But optimum utilization of this potential will require greater scientific, technical and political co-operation. The lack of economic data and research in many ocean-related sectors and regions is one of the major obstacles to realising in full the promise of the ocean economy. In particular, we face an uphill task in raising the interest of policymakers in an ocean agenda if we make no effort to gain a better grasp of the economic benefits and costs of ocean-based activities. What is more, we will also require approaches that treat the ocean, ocean resources and ocean users in a more comprehensive, integrated manner. For the OECD and its green growth agenda, addressing the Ocean challenge is therefore an important endeavour we share with the EXPO.

Yeosu has been one of the major fishing ports in Korea. There is a famous saying about Yeosu in Korea that "You shouldn't boast your money (or wealth) when you visit Yeosu". In Korean pronunciation, it is read as "Yeosu-e Ga-myeon, Don Ja-rang Ha-ji Mara".

### Closing

With this in mind, I'd like to invite you to visit the OECD pavilion to explore the OECD's work with Korea in the areas I have mentioned.

Today we are also going to launch a book "Rebuilding fisheries". It is by no means a coincidence to have the book launching ceremony here at Yeosu. I wish Yeosu to flourish again: full of fish and wealth.

I would like to thank the Organising Committee for their excellent work in putting this event together. Thanks also to the Korean Delegation to the OECD for their input and support.

Personally, I will be keeping an eye on the venue for EXPO 2017. I hear that Liege in Belgium is a candidate city!