

Distinguished professors, scientists and engineers, Aloha!

I believe this is a very auspicious event of the 4th Korea-US Forum on Nanotechnology. The opportunity allowed for me to make congratulatory remarks at this venue honors me very much. I would like to thank you all for inviting me. Your commitment to the development of Korea-US relationship in the areas of science and technology is highly respected.

In accordance to the agreement made during the fifth meeting of the U.S.-Korea Joint Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation in 2003, U.S.-Korea Nanoforum is being held annually since 2003 for the mutual benefits of developing nanosciences and nanotechnology. Since its first meeting in Seoul in 2003, the U.S.-Korea Nanoforum has served as a venue for discussing not only technological cooperation, but also public policies on the issues. This is already the fourth U.S.-Korea Nanoforum in total.

In this fourth U.S.-Korea Nanoforum, about 40 scientific lectures will be given focusing on sustainable Nano energy, development of nanotechnology education programs, and joint research programs between the two countries. It is expected that the partnership among scientists and researchers from both countries will become more solid through common research infrastructure, and the valuable research outcomes from the previous three forums will generate productive and synergetic discussions about the future of nanosciences and nanotechnologies.

I sincerely hope that this year's forum held here now in the "Aloha State of Hawaii" will provide an excellent opportunity for exchange of information and research and development among the scientists from the two countries, and serve the interests of both countries in terms of technological development. I also hope that this forum will be an occasion to deepen mutual understanding of the two nations and lay the foundation for establishing a positive environment for an enhanced cooperation between Korea and the United States.

In this meaningful occasion, ladies and gentlemen, please let me have a pleasure to talk briefly about the Korea-U.S. alliance, which is one of the most successful bilateral alliances in history.

The latest milestone in this rock-solid alliance relationship is the successful negotiation of a Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement. Korea is the world's 10th largest economy with an annual GDP approaching \$1 trillion and United States' 7th largest export market. Removing trade and investment barriers between the two countries through the FTA will increase greatly market access for both nations, giving a tremendous impact on the field of science and technology of both countries as well. We believe that the agreement can strengthen our existing alliance, reaffirm U.S. commitment to remain vigorously engaged in Asia, and create new opportunities for prosperity and peace for the people of our two countries. In this regard, if the FTA concluded in this April is successfully approved in a not-too-distant future by the Congresses of both countries, the bilateral agreement will be our most significant one since the 1953 Mutual Defense Treaty that established the Korea-U.S. alliance. It means that the Korea-US relationship is transforming into a more comprehensive, dynamic and mutually beneficial alliance.

Before concluding my remarks here, ladies and gentlemen, I hope again that this Forum will provide another gateway to further expand technological exchanges and cooperation between Korea and the US, contributing to enhancement of the friendly relations and mutual understanding between our two nations.

On behalf of the Korean government, as the Consul General of ROK in Honolulu, I extend my best wishes for a fruitful outcome of this Forum. I wish you all the very best! Mahalo