

Good Morning, Ladies and Gentlemen

I am Myung Jhon, co-chair of the Korea-U.S. Nano-forum. On behalf of the organizing committee, I would like to welcome all the participants on the opening of the fourth forum. I will make this opening remark very brief since we have so many interesting topics to cover by distinguished scientists like you.

So, let me give a quick overview of these forums:

Historically, the fifth US-Korea joint committee on science and technology which was held in October 2002, agreed to have regular Nano Forums which are supported by Korea ministry of science and technology(MOST) and National Science Foundation (NSF). As an outcome of their decision, myself and Dr. J.W. Lee, who is the other co-chair of the forum, along with the support of Dr. Roco had organized the 1st Korea-U.S. NanoForum at Seoul in 2003. This forum provided an ideal platform for exchanging information on the recent status of research and development as well as providing opportunity for cooperation in nanotechnology among experts from both countries.

The second Forum in 2005 complemented the first Forum by focusing on topical issues including the examination of nanomanufacturing research and educational program development. These two Forums were focused on passive devices and systems research in nanotechnology. To complement, the third Forum dealt with the active nano devices & systems area, in addition to studying the impact of nanotechnology on education, society, and environment.

Today, we will have the fourth forum to discuss recent developments and issues in energy systems. This forum will focus on sustainable nano energy dealing with the design, synthesis, fabrication, and characterization of nano-materials as well as devices and system for energy applications such as fuel cells, batteries, hydrogen storage & production, and solar cells.

Nanotechnology provides us the tools to manipulate the matter at the atomic level and could lead to new energy resources and improve efficiency of solar and hydrogen energy sources. Especially, nanotechnology when fused with energy technology will express an entirely new paradigm of sustainable energy. Hence, NanoEnergy could enable the production of cost-effective sources of energy and accelerate the transition towards clean, sustainable, and renewable energy resources which will complement current petrochemical energy resources.

We believe that this forum will provide us with an excellent opportunity in accelerating the exchange of information on recent research achievements and trends of nanoenergy both in the United States and Korea. On behalf of all advisory committee members in the United States and Korea, we deeply appreciate all participants and speakers for their support and cooperation for the success of this forum.

And now, I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the MOST and the NSF for their keen interest and continuing support in helping us to make these forums possible.

I would especially thank Korea Institute of Science & Technology Information for hosting the Forum and also to KUSCO for their supplemental financial assistance.

Again, thank you very much for your participation inspite of your very busy schedules. And I hope to see you next year in Seoul during the fifth forum.

Now, I would like to introduce Mr. Dae-Hyun Kang, Consul General at Honolulu who will deliver congratulatory address. Please welcome Mr. Kang.