

Welcoming Address

ITU New Initiatives Workshop
- On Creating Trust in Critical Network Infrastructures -
Seoul, Korea, 20 May 2002

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Minister of Information and Communication of Korea

Dr. Utsumi, Secretary General of ITU, and distinguished guests,

I am very pleased with the ITU New Initiative Workshop being held in Seoul.

And I would like to welcome all of you here today.

Due to the incredible speed of Internet expansion and wide use of broadband network, we are currently undergoing rapid and profound changes in all aspects of our lives.

In addition, informatization has greatly contributed to enhancing our quality of lives.

For example, with the growing popularity of e-commerce, our society became more efficient by saving time and cost.

Furthermore, as our e-Government initiative is making remarkable progress, reliability and transparency of public management are being greatly increased.

As you may be well aware, we are enjoying tremendous benefits of Internet, but these benefits do not come without a price.

We are experiencing a rapid increase in Spam mails, hacking and computer viruses brought into our lives through informatization.

What's more serious is the hostile cyber attacks on our critical network infrastructure not only threatening the social and economic stability but also putting national security in danger.

Nations worldwide, aware of the seriousness of these problems, have been making a significant effort to enact laws and regulation, and to develop technologies in order to protect themselves from these cyber-terrorism.

Korea is no exception.

We have enacted the 'Information Communication Infrastructure Protection Act', which requires mandatory protection measures for the critical network infrastructure designated by the government.

At the same time, we have launched a comprehensive protection system against cyber-terrorism by establishing a special task force to cope with such problems.

Also, we have established an Anti-Hacking and Virus Reporting Center where incidents of hacking and viruses can be reported 24 hours a day.

But such attacks in cyberspace often go beyond nations' boundaries and that is why, on top of the unilateral effort by each nation to counter cyber-terrorism, nations should also put a top priority to a cooperative effort such as joint development of information security technologies and sharing information gain through experience.

In this sense, it is obvious that international cooperation is one of the most effective ways to solve such problem.

Distinguished guests and dear information security experts!

The ITU, since its start in 1865, has been vigorously promoting international collaboration through development of technology, policy and standardization.

As a result, the ITU has been able to establish itself as one of the most prestigious international organization in the field of communications.

And I hope that through this workshop co-hosted by the ITU and MIC, we would be able to achieve tangible results in creating trust for critical network infrastructure, and share a common understanding and new ideas. I would like to express heartfelt gratitude to the organizers of this workshop and wish a great success.

Once again, I welcome all of you to the ITU New Initiative Workshop here in Seoul.

Thank you.