
Welcoming Remarks

Gyeong Jae Maeng



Distinguished guests from home and abroad. I am Gyeong Jae Maeng, Commissioner of the Chungbuk Free Economic Zone Authority.

Welcome to Osong, an international city renowned for its health and beauty, imbued with the spirit of the Mihocheon River. I would like to express my gratitude to Dr. Jae Eun Lee, President of the International Crisis Management Society, Dr. Chen An, President of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, and Mr. Hans Kuttman, Director of the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center. Additionally, I extend a warm welcome to all the representatives from various countries and international organizations.

Osong has a 31-year history in the biotechnology industry. It has created an environment conducive to bio-research with a concentration of companies and institutions, and it has the necessary infrastructure for manufacturing companies to grow into global enterprises, making it a city of health.

Secondly, Osong is a city of beauty, a cradle of K-Beauty. Every October, we host the world-renowned "Osong Cosmetics & Beauty Expo," which attracts globally famous cosmetics-related companies to Osong. It is also the home of over 100 cosmetics-related companies, a cosmetics clinical support centre, and cosmetics associations. Furthermore, through the K-Beauty Academy, we have the privilege of passing on Korean technology to foreigners interested in K-Beauty, which has helped establish Osong as a global cosmetics city.

Thirdly, Osong is a hub city for global startups. It hosts various centres, including the Creative Economy Innovation Centre, which provides trade consulting support and research and development space. These systems make it easier for both domestic and foreign individuals to start businesses.

We would also like to highlight the excellent transportation environment in Osong. In 2010, the Chungbuk Line and KTX Osong Junction were established, with Cheongju International Airport just 15 minutes away. It is our hope that, by 2029, a commuter train from Seoul, the capital of South Korea, will be operational, making Osong a key transportation hub. It is hoped that by around 2027, the KAIST Medical Science Campus, AI Bio Talent High School and an international school will have been established. At present, a number of educational establishments are already based here. It is our hope that Osong will eventually become an educational city that is well-placed to nurture global talent.

Unfortunately, the area was affected by heavy rains last year, which resulted in significant loss of life and property. This serves to highlight the importance of ensuring that Osong is a safe city in the event of disasters. It is my hope that this academic conference will facilitate an exploration of effective measures for disaster response.

I would like to express my gratitude to the esteemed guests from near and far for taking the time to visit. I would also like to request your continued support and interest in the development of Osong, the international city. I would like to express my gratitude.

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Gyeong Jae Maeng