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Opening Address

## Dr. Hwang Woo Noh

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I am honor and pleasure to welcome all of you to the 18th International Conference on Crisis & Emergency Management.

My name is Hwang-woo Noh and I am the President of Korean Association for Crisis & Emergency Management.

The Korean Association for Crisis & Emergency Management (KACEM) has been co-hosting the International Conference on Crisis & Emergency Management (ICCEM) with the International Society for Crisis & Emergency Management (ISCCEM) since 2007.

So far, the world has been making efforts to prevent climate change. However, the temperature rise due to global warming is accelerating faster than we expected, and climate disasters such as heat waves, floods, heavy rain, droughts, storms, cold waves, forest fires, and hurricanes are occurring.

Last year, the region most affected by climate change-related disasters was Asia. It was found that more than 9 million Asians were directly affected by the disaster. The regions with the greatest loss of life were India, Pakistan, and Nepal.

In the future, the area affected by climate disasters that suddenly occur is gradually expanding, and the scale of damage and the number of victims are expected to increase. Therefore, cooperation between disaster-related researchers across countries is of utmost importance.

It is necessary to form a joint disaster response network between countries, share disaster situations, and cooperate in damage recovery. Perhaps this is why we are here.

I would like to express my deepest thanks to all researchers, who kindly submitted invaluable papers and works to ICCEM 2024 and made a presentation at the conference.

Also, I appreciate the honorable guests, invited speakers and all the dedicated scholars who have decided to come and share their valuable research work with us.

I hope ICCEM 2024 can bring together educators, and scholars to develop professional networks and to collaborate with colleagues from around the globe. Above all of this, I wish you have wonderful and memorable experience in Cheongju, Korea.

Before ending, I must extend my warmest thanks to all steering committee members and staff members of ISCCEM, who have made devoted efforts for preparation for this event.

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Hwang-woo Noh

President of Korean Association for Crisis & Emergency Management