
Opening Address

Dr. Seo Yong Kim



I would like to welcome researchers and practitioners from home and abroad to the 18th International Conference on Crisis & Emergency Management (ICCEM).

Today, crises are not a temporary phenomenon, but a constant problem. Therefore, and the theoretical and practical responses to them are of great importance. Today's crises are complex and interconnected problem.

The Global Risks Report 2024, published by the World Economic Forum in 2014, identifies five of the biggest risks human facing in the coming years. These five risks are extreme weather, AI-generated misinformation and disinformation, social and political polarization, cost-of-living crisis, and cyberattacks. Of these five risks, the biggest risk is extreme weather caused by climate change. Extreme weather is dangerous in itself, but it also acts as an accelerator for the rest of the crises.

Climate change causes social and economic inequalities on a global scale, and these inequalities drive social instability and distrust. Social distrust and conflict lead to social polarization and extremism. All of them make a crisis of democracy.

Responding to complex crises caused by climate change, requires thinking the uncertainty as a given and reflecting on the causes of a risk society. As Ulrich Beck said, the causes of risky societies are not natural, but the result of human activities. Therefore, all of efforts are needed to form a social discourse that reflects on the errors of human reason and explores new social directions for right pathways.

I hope that this year's International Conference on Crisis & Emergency Management (ICCEM) will serve as a forum for the formation, development, and dissemination of wisdom and knowledge to respond to the crises facing our time.

Finally, I wish that all of participants in this conference get the wisdom and peace with ICCEM conference. Thank you.

July 2023

Seoyong Kim

Chief of Research Center for Climate Change Policy in Ajou University