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Welcoming Remarks

## Dr. Eugene Song

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I sincerely welcome everyone to 'The 18th International Conference on Crisis and Emergency Management (ICCEM)'. I would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to Professor Lee, Professor Chen, and their colleagues for establishing ICCEM and operating the conference annually for the past 18 years. Over the past decade, I have witnessed significant advancements in the field of disaster management thanks to their foresight and efforts.

Climate change has transformed many aspects of our lives. Every year, we hear news proclaiming that "this summer will be the coolest as it will only get hotter from now on." We receive breaking news about abnormal weather conditions from around the world, and we too are feeling the effects of climate change as we turn on our air conditioners amid unseasonably hot weather.

Disasters are not equally fair to all humans. The elderly, pregnant women, women in general, and low-income communities are particularly exposed to many disaster risks. These groups are also more vulnerable to climate-related disasters.

Disasters cause numerous social problems, one of which is the issue of human dignity. Various crimes and human rights issues that occur in disaster shelters are prime examples.

We now need to consider climate-related disasters, explore countermeasures, and present appropriate policy directions. This will lay the groundwork for all members of society to plan stable futures and maintain healthy lives.

At 'The 18th ICCEM', disaster experts from around the world will gather to discuss the theme of 'Extreme Disaster Response and Securing Human Dignity in the Era of Climate Crisis'. I believe that today's gathering will provide insights into how we can prevent and respond to climate-related disasters. Through this, I hope our society can progress towards becoming a safer one.

Since its establishment in 2006, The National Crisis and Emergency Management Research Institute has been continuously engaged in crisis management activities to ensure the safety of the public through domestic and international academic seminars, as well as research and educational initiatives. Additionally, whenever major disasters occur, we strive to identify the causes and propose solutions to the best of our abilities. The National Crisis Management Research Institute will also contribute to finding solutions for climate-related disasters.

Once again, I would like to thank everyone for attending the 18th ICCEM.

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