



Welcoming Remarks

Representatives from Azerbaijan, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and officials from Asian Development Bank,

I wholeheartedly welcome you to the Seminar on E-government and Trade Facilitation co-hosted by Korea Customs Service and Asian Development Bank.

I am very pleased that we brought together leaders of customs administration in each participating nation, who take up crucial responsibility.

The main theme of this seminar is e-government. The paradigm emerged in the face of new demands of information and knowledge based 21st century. It not only represents computerized and automated administration, but also seeks to secure efficiency, productivity, transparency, and credibility, with the ultimate aim of achieving genuine democracy by realizing citizen-oriented government.

I know that nations around the world, recognizing the need to improve the administration and to innovate public service, are endeavoring to establish e-government in a bid to raise national competitiveness.

Korea launched e-government in 2002, which made it possible to provide public service via internet, and now the plan for building small but efficient e-government is gaining greater momentum. Korea Customs Service is proud to be the leader among many government bodies, when it comes to informatization.

Informatization of customs administration is an essential means for both securing efficiency and fulfilling the global mission of trade facilitation and security. I believe all of you gathering here share this view.

Today's seminar is held under the theme of "clearance automation" and "import/export cargo processing system." I hope the seminar will be a helpful opportunity for you to collect useful information about the informatization of Korea Customs, discuss and exchange ideas and opinions, so it will make a contribution to the development of customs administrations.

Once again, I sincerely welcome all of you to Korea. I wish great success and prosperity to you all. Thank you.