

LOGOTRI President, Mr Kim Joo Hyun, Ladies and Gentlemen.

The presentation made by our esteemed colleague Dr Kim Dong-Ju, presents an innovative responses to a number of common issues. Industrialised growth in primary cities has left many countries with uneven growth and inequitable services in the non-metropolitan areas. and secondary cities. Dr Kim has eloquently explained how in Korea there has been a policy shift away from high input strategies focused around the Seoul Metropolitan Area to Innovation driven growth that is more dispersed throughout the country. This is a very interesting example because it shows how the intellectual paradigm shift towards innovation, is accompanied by policies to encourage a physical shift of wealth generation and to develop a sustainable quality of life.

The presentation also highlights the substantial foundation of government policies, legislation and initiatives that are necessary for successful implementation. Without such a foundation is possible that such new growth would never be any more than simply a good idea. A strong theme in the work is that in order to achieve this new growth, there is not only a new way of thinking necessary but also new relationships. Dr Kim has shown how there are new relationships between, government, universities and corporations to encourage the human resources required for innovation.

Also, traditional isolationist relationships between Ministries and down to their respective domains have been replaced by new practices that foster cooperation between Ministries also between stakeholders at the local level. This perhaps echoes some of the themes from this morning.

The presentation outlines a strategic approach to developing innovation priorities, and the work to “marry” industries to produce new high-value products and services. What I found particularly interesting is the concurrent aims to build and maintain a quality of life. The concept of a balanced National Development is not only balance throughout the country but also balanced between the social, economic and environmental aspects of growth.

The presentation clearly shows the role for active government in growth redistribution – the development of a new innovation and administration center in Yeongi – Gyeongju will provide the necessary stimulus for others to follow and create a new city.

The presentation highlights that the committee are at the forefront of much of the thinking on the role of creativity and innovation in generating new wealth. Richard Florida’s work on the rise of the creative class has clearly shown that a city or regions ability to come up with new ideas will be the secret to their future wealth. Florida points to the three Ts – technology, talent and tolerance - as the key ingredients needed for attracting what he calls the talented strangers to an area, and this theme is consistent with Dr Kim’s presentation. Many of the elements of the Quality of Life in the Korean context are similar to the “creativity indices” develop by Florida – “these are the things that make it attractive to live in this place”.

By contrast, my country Australia is perhaps some way behind Korea in many aspects. Australia continues to be the most sparsely populated country in the world, and the most urbanized – 80% of Australian live in the coastal cities and the numbers are increasing. Technology advances and shifts in production mean that less people are employed in the inland areas, so there is massive urban drift to the coasts. This is having a detrimental effect on the prospects for growth in the inland regions and also a negative effect on quality of life

in both rural and metropolitan areas – some inland centers are becoming ghost towns and the cities are getting more crowded.

Some smaller local areas have seen the link between the enhanced quality of life and the ability to attract the kind of talented people who are going to be able to generate innovation and hence wealth. However their efforts have largely be self- initiated by local government, without the aid of any such powerful instruments as this Committee for Balanced National Development.

For both Korea and Australia, this ability to develop balance growth hat delivers high value innovations with a sustainable quality of life will be critical for our success in the Asia/Pacific region. Dr Kim's detailed presentation has shown that the Korean Government has taken some concrete and positive steps that will no doubt see Korea maintain its position as a leader in the region. Thankyou Dr Kim, you have given us much food for thought and also set a challenge for us to follow. Congratulations to you and your colleagues on the Korean Presidential Committee for Balanced National Development.