

Opening Address



KIM DONG HOON

President

Journalists Association of Korea

[A forum for public discussion that presents peace and hope]

Welcome to the World Journalists Conference. It is nice to meet journalists who participated in this conference despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am President KIM DONG HOON of the Journalists Association of Korea.

Established in 1964, the Journalists Association of Korea is Korea's largest organization of journalists. It is celebrating its 57th anniversary this year and has about 11,000 members from 195 media companies nationwide participating and engaging in its activities.

The association became a member of the International Federation of Journalists in 1966 with the creed of "reinforcing ties with international journalists and helping each other" as one of the five major creeds. Since then, we have actively participated in the community of international journalists. In particular, we have been inviting journalists from all over the world yearly since 2013 and held World Journalists Conference in Korea. Thus, the conference is now already in its ninth year.

For World Journalists Conference, we have invited journalists from all over the world for seven years until 2019 to the Korean Peninsula, which is the only divided nation on earth, to have them personally experience the reality of the divided nation and

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realize once again the importance of peace. Aside from that, we have discussed the future of journalism and expanded forum for mutual bonding. As such, I am proud to say that the conference is settling as one of the greatest events for journalists around the world.

However, as COVID-19 spread globally, we inevitably held the event online last year, and we're having it online this year as well. It is to our regret that we cannot show you the beautiful nature and culture of Korea, as well as the reality of a divided nation, but we are relieved that we can provide the opportunity to contribute to the development of the media by meeting in a healthy state at least online and by sharing the situation in each country.

Dear journalists,

We all share commonalities even if our country, gender, skin color, and ideologies are different. It is a fact that all journalists are working hard for freedom and peace and disseminate the truth with a warm heart and cold reasoning.

We prepared, even if still a bit carefully, the first day of this year's online World Journalists Conference under the theme "The Prospect of the Post-COVID Era" in line with the development of vaccines and the beginning of inoculation. In addition, we prepared the second day under the theme "Global Climate Issues" for us to jointly devise solutions and respond to the climate problem, which is closely connected with various fields, including society, environment, and life worldwide.

Although we are all going through difficult situations because of the COVID-19 pandemic, we ask that you present your opinions and recommendations actively at the conference so that we may all present dreams and hope to humanity and realize our calling as journalists as the conference is a precious opportunity even if held only online.

I take this opportunity to express my gratitude to you once again for your participation in

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the conference despite your busy schedules. I hope the conference will serve as a deeply meaningful and beneficial forum for you. Moreover, I hope that you will share the contents discussed during this year's conference with fellow journalists and disseminate them to citizens of your country so that we may draw interest to the tasks the global village faces and jointly respond to them.

I look forward to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic soon so I can invite you all to Korea and show you our beautiful traditional culture and the peace-loving Koreans.

I wish you good health until we meet again. Thank you.