

## Overview

### Opening Address



#### **KIM Dong Hoon**

Journalists Association of Korea  
President

#### **[ We are ‘Journalists’ Who Strive for Truth, Freedom, and Peace ]**

Dear fellow journalists from around the world, I sincerely welcome and greet you all. I am Kim Dong Hoon, President of the Journalists Association of Korea.

For the past three years, we have held our conferences online, only being able to virtually meet our fellow journalists from around the world because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Today, I am truly delighted that we can finally come together in person.

Established on August 17, 1964, the Journalists Association of Korea is the largest association of journalists in South Korea, celebrating its 59th anniversary this year. We have over 11,000 members from 203 companies spanning newspapers, broadcasting, telecommunications, and internet platforms, all actively working together.

Since its inception, the Journalists Association of Korea has recognized the importance of international exchange and upholds the principle of “building stronger bonds with journalists from around the world.” In 1966, we joined the International Federation of

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Journalists (IFJ) as a full member and have actively participated in the international journalism community ever since. Since 2013, the Journalists Association of Korea has been hosting the World Journalists Conference, inviting journalists from around the globe to Korea, and this year we are organizing the 11th conference.

We have contributed to preparing for the future of our global community by holding conferences to discuss journalism and various topics such as “Peace on the Korean Peninsula and the World,” “Development and Future of Journalism,” “Climate Change and the Role of Journalism,” and “Preparing for the Post COVID–19 Era.”

This year, we have selected topics that will be helpful to our fellow journalists and countries.

First, under the topic of “The Challenge of Journalism for the Regional Development,” we have prepared a session to discuss solution journalism case studies that examine local community issues and propose solutions. We encourage you to share your insights for the revitalization of local journalism.

Another topic we have prepared is “Leadership in the Digital Transformation Era and the Future of Journalism.” In this session, we will take a moment to contemplate our path in the rapidly changing environment. We now live in an era where we can access the news and information we need anytime, anywhere with a single smartphone. Things that were unimaginable just a few years ago have become a reality. Science and digital technology are evolving faster than ever. If we do not prepare for our future, journalism may face unprecedented crises. This is why we must reflect on issues and develop solutions now.

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Dear guests from all around the world!

It is our duty to contemplate these two topics and find solutions.

Although we have different nationalities, races, genders, and ideas, we all share the same identity as journalists who strive for truth, freedom, and peace with sharp reasoning and warm hearts. I believe your lively discussions will contribute to a bright future for journalism.

Also, I encourage you to visit Seoul, Gyeonggi, Busan, Incheon, Suwon, and other major cities and also the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) during your stay. I hope you will have the opportunity to experience Korea's unique traditional culture and the distinct characteristics of each region.

I sincerely hope the conference will be a meaningful and rewarding experience for all of you who have taken time out of your busy schedules to attend. Please share the insights from this year's conference and the beauty of Korea with your fellow journalists and home countries.

Lastly, I hope you will engage in many conversations with journalists from around the world during the World Journalist Conference 2023, and stay comfortable and well.

Thank you.