



ICA GENERAL ASSEMBLY

"Co-operation and Peace in the Era of Globalisation"

15 - 17 October, Seoul - Korea

Welcome Address

Chung Dae-Kun, Chairperson, National Agricultural Co-operative Federation

His Excellency President, Kim, Dae-jung
Mr. Roberto Rodriguez, President of ICA
Mr. Supachai Panitchpakdi
Cooperative Leaders and distinguished guests,

It is indeed a very special occasion for us to be able to host the first ICA General Assembly in the new millennium here in Seoul and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely welcome the leaders of cooperatives from all around the world.

I would like to express my heart-felt gratitude to the farmers who have worked hard during this year's harvest, and to the cooperative leaders and member co-operators who have put so much interests and effort in preparing for this assembly.

Looking back, the modern cooperative movement was born out of the industrial revolution and contributed to creating fair trade, improved the livelihood of the members and led the development of regional societies becoming an important part of the national economy.

The cooperative movement in the new era will have a greater role to play. The movement will have to adapt to the changing social environment, the development of digital technology and growing market competition. At the same time, it must also make substantial contributions in creating a peaceful stable global economy.

To fulfill this mission, cooperatives have to streamline their management and restructure through the organization while adhering to the cooperative principles.

The National Agricultural Cooperative Federation of Korea has set the reform of its cooperatives as its ultimate goal, to effectively increase the benefits of individual members, the NACF has made every effort to downsize, and professionalize its management.

Dear cooperators! The world is pooling its wisdom to design a new framework for the market economy. Fair and balanced negotiations must be part of the next WTO round, and need to consider the underprivileged, lower class; and the valuable roles agriculture play in our society.

Only by doing so, the door to a new era of cooperation and peace will open. Cooperators of the world!

I hope the 2001 ICA General Assembly in Seoul is fruitful and meets the expectations of the 760 million cooperators.

Once again I welcome all of you to the Seoul General Assembly. I would like to thank His Excellency Kim, Dae-jung for taking this time to be with us and for showing interest and support for the cooperative movement. I wish the best to all of you attending the Seoul General Assembly

Thank you!