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2007. 12. 4

Welcome Address

SONG Sang -yong

Chair, Korea Environmental Education Center

Korea Federation for Environmental Movement

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On behalf of the Korea Environmental Education Centre, Korea Federation for Environmental Movements, let me extend my warmest welcome to all of you for the Asian Workshop on the Environmental Education for Citizens. Especially, I am so pleased to meet the experts on environmental education from China, Japan, Hong Kong, Cambodia, Philippines and Malaysia.

Asia shares long history and culture, but there is a great variety of local cultural backgrounds. Japan which achieved modernization in the nineteenth century and Cambodia which has just begun development coexist in Asia. In addition to the global environmental problems like the weather change, Asia is suffering from the various difficulties resulting from rapid industrialization. In order to recover the comfortable environment in Asia, we cannot emphasize the importance of environmental education too much.

Environmental movements were born in Korea in the 1980s. With the birth of Korea Federation for Environmental Movement in 1993, environmental education began through the Citizens' Environmental College. Increasing development of the environmental education programmes led to the establishment of the Korea Environmental Education Centre in 2000. It has now become the centre of environmental education in whole Korea. In 2005, Environmental Education Network was formed to coordinate the local environmental educations in the KFEM and we launched Nami Environmental School in 2006. We hosted International Conference on Environmental Education in Seoul in 2001. Last year members of Environmental Education Centre joined the environmental education programme in Nishinomiya, Japan.

Though we could not invite more countries to this workshop, we will try to exchange our experiences and informations and to strengthen our solidarity. It is my belief that this workshop will be the ground for the further development of environmental education in Asia. I very much hope that our guests will get much from the workshop and also enjoy Korea and Korean cuisine.