

The 5th Joint Research Committee of the Global U8 Consortium

Welcoming Remarks

by President Bon-Su Lee, Inha University

March 31, 2009

Respectable President Camille Galap,

JRC Chair Professor Peter Alfonso and members of the
Research Committee of the Global U8 Consortium,

Secretary-General Professor Judy Beckman and staff members of the
Secretariat,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to give my warm welcome to all of you this beautiful
spring morning. It is a great honor and pleasure to host the 5th
meeting of the Joint Research Committee here at Inha University
today.

This meeting is significant in many ways. I know that this is the first
committee meeting held in Incheon since the launch of the Global U8
Consortium here at the Inha University's campus in 2004. This is
also the first time that I attend the GU8 meeting as President of Inha
University. Today will mark my official inauguration ceremony
which will take place this afternoon. I am honored to invite all the

guests to the celebration of Inha University's new beginning. I am most grateful to President Galap for graciously agreeing to give congratulatory speech for me, which I believe will make today's ceremony even more meaningful.

Distinguished colleagues,

Here we are convened once again in Incheon, the birth place of the Global U8 Consortium. I am highly impressed with the amazing level of growth and development the U8 Consortium has achieved in a relatively short period of time. This accomplishment was possible by concerted effort and contributions given by all the individuals' involved, including those in attendance today and former President of Inha University Seoung-Yong Hong. I must acknowledge, with sincere respect, that his great leadership has been a major contribution to the success of the Consortium's goals for the last five years. On top of his achievements, I will work together with you for the continuity and further development of the Consortium.

Respected participants,

If you allow me some time, let me share with you Inha University's situation. The results and achievements in our research areas have been nationally recognized as exceptional and influential. Inha has been ranked consistently within the top-10 from among 200 Korean universities. We are among top 5 to 6 in some index such as amount of research funding, the number of high quality research papers and registered patents.

In addition to highly respected logistics, we have recently opened graduate schools for the specialized fields of law and medicine. Those two schools were both successfully accredited by the government last year after fierce competitions. Inha University is also making tremendous effort to build the Songdo Global Knowledge Complex which is Inha's Second Campus. This campus is designed to become a leading hub for global research and education in the Northeast Asia. It is absolutely essential to cooperate with foreign universities for the successful management of all these huge projects. I would be more than happy to see our partnership and collaboration with U8 universities help us upgrade our research capabilities.

In the next two days, we will address issues on research cooperation between member universities. I hope that your collective work will result in innovative ideas, practical strategies and perspective for more enhanced research cooperation within the Global U8 Consortium.

Have a wonderful day at Inha.

Thank you.