Her Excellency Madame Suthasri Wongsamarn, Acting Minister of Education of the Kingdom of Thailand,

Mr Qian Tang, Assistant Director-General for Education of UNESCO,

Mr Isiye Ndombi, UNICEF Deputy Regional Director for East Asia and the Pacific,

Honorable Ministers and representatives from Asia-Pacific states,

Distinguished delegates, ladies and gentlemen.

I feel grateful to be at the Asia-Pacific Regional Education Conference.

On behalf of the Republic of Korea, I would like to express special thanks to Director Gwang-jo KIM and all the staff members of the UNESCO Bangkok Office for the excellent preparation for this important event.

Today's conference is very meaningful and timely, as it is the first of its kind and its results are expected to be observed by other regions with great interest.

We have sailed a long way since the 2000 Dakar meeting. While we have made some progress in the EFA goals, we should admit that there are numerous issues yet to be resolved. Many children are far from receiving quality education, and disparities among social groups still remain significant. Thus, we must adjust our efforts collectively and accordingly, utilizing lessons
and experiences learnt to date.

The importance of global values such as peace and happiness, responsible citizenship, and sustainable development should be further emphasized. Innovative thinking and technologies should be adopted by learners and educators alike to open new platforms and opportunities.

All these issues will be discussed at the World Education Forum 2015 to be held in Incheon, Korea, to form the post-2015 education agenda. The Republic of Korea is well aware of the important roles of education sector to enhance the well-being of the global community, and therefore the significance of the Forum. I sincerely hope for the success of APREC so that its results will form the heart of the discussions at the Forum.

On behalf of the Republic of Korea, I welcome you all to the World Education Forum 2015.

Thank you so much, Ladies and Gentlemen, for your attention.