Seoul, Republic of Korea on 9-11 October 2012

Opening Remark
UNESCO Asia Pacific Regional Bureau for Education
Director Dr Gwang-Jo Kim

VIPs:
Mr. Roland Davies, Country Director, British Council Korea;
Mr. Chol Soon Park, Executive VP of Convergence Business Office, SK Telecom;
Ms. You-mi Suh, Director General, International Cooperation Bureau - Ministry of Education, Science and Technology (MEST), Republic of Korea

Distinguished speakers, Profession Peck Cho from Dongkuk Univ, our keynote speaker
Teachers and Teacher Educators (from Bangladesh, China, Indonesia, Korea, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Thailand, Vietnam),
Partners and Key Players from public and private sectors in the area of ICT in Education,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of UNESCO Asia-Pacific Regional Bureau for Education, I would like to thank all of you for joining us at this meaningful event, A Regional Seminar: Innovative ICT Practices in Teaching and Learning. This Seminar is personally very special to me because it is a culminating event of the three-year project funded by Korea Funds-in-Trust, which has been undertaken since I joined the UNESCO Bangkok in 2010. Under this project, UNESCO Bangkok trained teachers and teacher educators from 136 schools and 102 teacher education institutions across the region and I heard that those of you who are invited to this seminar are selected as best of the best. So I look forward to learning more about what and how you integrate ICT in your classroom practices.

I also thank to co-organizers, British Council East Asia and SK Telecom who came forward without hesitation to support teachers and teacher educators in less developed countries to share and exchange their views and practices in ICT-
pedagogy integration. I believe this small step and effort of ours will eventually contribute to improving access to quality education for all across the globe.

As I mentioned earlier, this Seminar is part of a three-year project entitled “Facilitating Effective ICT-Pedagogy Integration Project”, which in itself is innovative as it tries to move away from teaching basic ICT skills to promote students’ effective use of ICT for higher-order thinking.

To achieve this goal, one of the most critical aspects we believe in is teachers’ capacity. UNESCO Bangkok therefore has been providing technical support for teacher education institutions in various ways such as pre-service teacher curriculum development, in-service teacher capacity building workshops, publication of training guidelines and education deans’ forum and many others.

Along the same line, we are pleased to provide teachers and teacher educators with this platform – this Regional Seminar – to share and update information and experiences on using ICT for teaching and learning; showcase innovative ICT practices for teaching and learning; and encourage further collaboration among schools and teachers.

We also hope that the Seminar will facilitate dialogue among key players from private and public sectors to find potential collaboration opportunities that synergize innovative implementation of ICT in education in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond.

October 5 was the World Teachers’ Day. The slogan of this year’s World Teachers’ Day was “Take a stand for teachers!”, which means providing adequate training, ongoing professional development, and protection for teachers’ rights. All across the world, a quality education offers hope and the promise of a better standard of living. However, there can be no quality education without competent and motivated teachers. Teachers are among the many factors that keep children in school and influence learning. They help students think critically, process information from several sources, work cooperatively, tackle problems and make informed choices.

I can’t thank more to Korea Ministry of Education, Science and Technology for supporting this wonderful initiative and concentrating programme on teachers. I hope the Ministry would enjoy the next three day, learning what these teachers
have been able to achieve through your generous support and feel rewarding to see what changes these teachers have brought.

I am also grateful for British Council for co-organizing the Seminar and SK Telecom for sponsoring the teachers to fly in this beautiful city of Seoul. I should not forget the enthusiasm of our long-standing partners and new partners towards the effective use of ICT in Education, including SEAMEO Innotech, KERIS, EBS (Education Broadcasting Service), InfollutionZero, IREX, Microsoft-Korea, YTN Science, AEC)

Last but not least, I thank our ICT in Education team from UNESCO Bangkok, lean but very mighty team, and Korea National Commission for UNESCO for their hard-work and efforts to make this Seminar happen.

I wish you a very successful and engaging Seminar and pleasant stay in Seoul.