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	<p>개막식 환영사</p> <p>Congratulatory Address</p> <p>Ki-Nam Shin President of the National Organising Committee Korea</p>
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<개막식 환영사>

Ki-Nam Shin

Honorable guests,
Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of the National Organising Committee of 2006 World Library and Information Congress, I would like to express my heartfelt welcome to almost 5000 library and information professionals who came to this Congress from some 150 countries around the world.

Let me also thank our distinguished guests whose presence enhances the importance of this opening ceremony. First, I'd like to extend my sincere thanks to the leaders of IFLA, President Alex Byrne, President-elect Dr. Claudia Lux, Secretary General Peter Lor, and other Governing Board Members of IFLA. My thank goes also to the representative of

UNESCO for the efforts in promoting diversity and creativity in the world's cultures.

I would also like to thank Mr. Kim Myoung-gon, Minister of Culture and Tourism, for his efforts in soliciting support from the Korean government for this congress.

Let me express my sincere appreciation for the next two speakers, First Lady Kwon Yang-sook who is the patron of this Congress, and Mayor of Seoul Oh Se-Hoon.

And there is one person that I would really like to extend my special thanks. It's Former President Kim Dae-jung, today's Keynote Speaker and Nobel Peace Prize winner. He has been struggling and won against political aggression and ideological conflicts throughout his life.

Distinguished librarians of the world,

There's no doubt that the 21st-century human society is made of knowledge and information. And there's no doubt that libraries are the Dynamic Engine that will lead our society. Let us ignite that engine and put it in motion.

The theme of the IFLA 2006 Seoul Congress is "Libraries: Dynamic Engines for the Knowledge and Information Society". We have a variety of events including some 200 presentations and workshops, 140 exhibition booths, 37 library tours, numerous specialized sections and meetings of library directors. And there will be a cultural performance and two official dinners where all the registered participants are invited.

The National Organising Committee promises you

that we're ready to do our best to make your congress the most successful one in all aspects. For the past 7 years since Korea was selected as the host country, we've been waiting for you. Once again, let me convey my sincere words of welcome.

Dear friends from all over the world,
Korea is a nation of culture, proud of its five thousand years of history. Our ancestors built libraries in the 4th century, made paper in the 6th century, invented metallic movable types in the 13th century for the first time in the world and created in the 15th century an original and efficient alphabet system that is still in use today. At present, Korea promotes cutting-edge Information Technology(IT) industries to be in the front line of the knowledge- and information-based society of the 21th century.

It is my sincere hope that you will achieve fruitful results in your professional fields through this Congress. Also, I hope you can take this opportunity to fully enjoy Korea's dynamism. Especially, please do not miss the traditional art performance and the official dinners where you can have a sense and taste of 5000-year history of Korea. Let me urge all of you to be there. If you miss these events, you'll definitely regret it.

This world-class metropolis guarantees security and pleasantness whenever and wherever you visit, and its citizens are friendly and hospitable. Feel free to take the streets and visit Seoul's shops, parks and subways.

Also let me remind you that you'll regret a lot if you miss this opportunity to visit Gyeongju, Korea's oldest city of 2000-year history, and Jeju Island, the

southern volcanic island.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I firmly believe that it is undesirable that only countries with strong economies receive the benefits from a big-size world conference such as this one. Knowledge and information should be equally distributed, and only when that happens, we can see fair development in the world. At this Seoul Congress, we have especially invited our colleagues from some 20 developing countries. Some of them traveled a very long way from the opposite side of the globe. Ladies and gentlemen, please express your welcome to these guests who came from far away despite various hardships.

Respected colleagues and members of IFLA,

In five days when we hold the closing ceremony, I wish this Congress would have made the biggest achievement in your specialized fields, as well as succeeded in giving the most favorable impression of the host country.

Last but not least, I'd like to thank once again IFLA headquarter staffs, the Korean government, sponsor companies, Korean librarians, some 200 volunteers and my dear colleagues of the National Organising Committee and the Executive committee.

I wish you all good luck and health during your stay in Korea.

Thank you.