

Welcoming speech by the mayor of Yeosu City

I am greatly honored to meet such global conflict mediation experts at the '9th Asia-Pacific Mediation Forum'. I would also like to thank Dale Barkshaw, chairman of the Asia-Pacific Mediation Forum, and Won Chang-hee, chairman of the Korean Association of Mediators for giving me a chance to deliver welcoming speech at '9th Asia-Pacific Mediation Forum.'

It is said that this is an era of conflict and confrontation. Conflicts continue to arise in the economic and trade conflicts between the U.S. and China of the wide range, and in the family, community, schools, businesses, and public institutions of the narrow dimension. This is a time when conflict mediation and arbitration have become greater than ever.

Asia-Pacific Mediation Forum is known as a non-profit regional association of individuals, organizations and institutions interested in promoting peace through mediation and other dispute-change processes if conflicts threaten the well-being of individuals, organizations, communities and governments.

I also understand that the main purpose of this association is to promote the exchange and development of knowledge, values, and technology of interpersonal, international and other dispute settlement processes between various countries and cultures in the Asia-Pacific region, and to achieve these goals is to strengthen national, regional, and international cooperative networking by providing a wide range of information, resources and opportunities in conflict control and resolution, peace-building areas.

I hope we will recognize the differences between the parties facing the conflict and find common ground to improve smooth problem solving and restoration of relations with each other through the 9th Asia-Pacific Mediation Forum.

Also, I hope you will gain the ability to mediate conflicts to improve the relationship between the parties involved in the conflict and to properly utilize the techniques for diagnosing, analyzing and solving the problem. I will also learn these things well and apply them in administrative policy of Yeosu.

Thank you again for your active participation in this event, and for all of you who have worked hard for this event.

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Hang-Jin Lee, Mayor of Yeosu City