

**WELCOME MESSAGE FROM THE MINISTER OF TRADE, INDUSTRY AND ENERGY,
REPUBLIC OF KOREA
TO
SEVENTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF THE PARTIES SERVING AS THE
MEETING OF THE PARTIES TO THE CARTAGENA PROTOCOL ON BIOSAFETY**

The Government of Korea sincerely welcomes all of you to the seventh meeting of the Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety (COP-MOP 7) to be held from 29 September to 3 October 2014 in Pyeongchang, Republic of Korea. We are happy to host this meeting in order to support the Parties, the Secretariat and other stakeholders in their pursuit to further ensure an adequate level of protection in the field of the safe transfer, handling and use of living modified organisms.

Korea fully promotes the protection of biodiversity while ensuring sustainable development. We recognize the potential of modern biotechnology as a tool for development as well as its potential risks to biodiversity and to human health. In this regard, the Republic of Korea supports the Cartagena Protocol and its contribution to sustainable development.

As we prepare towards the seventh meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena in Pyeongchang, I urge all Parties to strive towards the full implementation of the Cartagena Protocol. We urge all Parties to discuss and find key solutions to improve the effective implementation of the Protocol in all countries.

The Seventh meeting is scheduled to have a special session which focuses on implementation. We should seize this opportunity to redouble our efforts to promote further guidance for integrating biosafety into relevant national development plans, other relevant national policies and programmes and mobilize additional resources in our effort to implement the Cartagena Protocol.

It is my hope that the decisions of the seventh meeting in Pyeongchang will further reinvigorate all of us to ensure the full implementation of the Cartagena Protocol as our contribution to the theme of the Pyeongchang meetings: “Biodiversity for Sustainable Development”.

We look forward to seeing you in Pyeongchang.

Yoon Sang-jick, Minister of Trade, Industry & Energy