

[Congratulatory Remarks]

AI GORE Former Vice President of the United States, Nobel Peace Laureate in 2007



A Common Vision, Key to World Progress

It is an honor to be here at the Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity 2017. Governor Won Heeryong, I want to congratulate you on the magnificent speech and on the thoughts that you conveyed to us, and I want to congratulate you and your whole team for organizing this forum for peace and prosperity. The Jeju Forum this year is truly inspiring.

I want to acknowledge the ministers, former ministers, former heads of states and former heads of governments, and all the distinguished guests. And may I particularly express my respect for the message we received from the new President of the Republic of Korea, Moon Jae-in. That was wonderful to hear his comments. I have learned a great deal in preparing for my visit here. And I learned even more since I have been here in this beautiful island. The forum focuses on inspiring message of sharing a common vision for Asia's future. A common vision is often the key to making the kind of progress the world must make now.

There is an old African proverb that says, "If you want to go quickly, go alone. If you want to go far, go together." The essence of our challenges in the year 2017 in our modern world is that we have to go far quickly, which means that we must have a common vision. And with the rising fortunes here in Asia, a common vision for Asia is an absolutely essential and inspiring goal.

In the Paris Agreement December 2015, we saw the emergence of a common vision for the entire world, which can inspire us to go far and quickly. This forum has become over the years a truly exemplary gathering for a multilateral dialogue on peace and prosperity with a focus on diplomacy and its task in providing a space for international collaboration throughout East Asia and Asia on foreign policy, environment, security, and economic issues. It is essential that we harness our ability to follow that common vision to collaborate and cooperate internationally and overcome the greatest challenges of our time, including solving the

climate crisis, which is connected to both peace and prosperity.

On that note, I wish to give special thanks again to Jeju Province not only for graciously hosting this wonderful event but for your commitment to help solving the climate crisis by pledging to become a zero carbon island by 2030. I commend you as well on the smart grid you have been developing since 2009 and for being named a leading city for electric vehicles in 2011. I understand Governor Won drives electric vehicles. I do too in my home country. And you have now committed to switch all the 370,000 currently registered cars to electric vehicles by 2030.

In closing, I want to quote a famous economist named Rudi Dornbusch. He said, "Things take longer to happen than you think they will, and then they happen faster than you thought they would." We have seen that in various technology revolutions. We have seen it in many social and political revolutions. Now we are seeing it in the environmental movement to save the global climate. We have the capacity to do what is necessary to discharge our moral and ethical obligations to all who come after us. When we succeed, as we will, special thanks will be due to Jeju Island.

