



**3rd Congress of the World Conference on Constitutional justice
Seoul, Republic of Korea, 28 September – 1 October 2014**

Constitutional Justice and Social Integration

Congratulatory Remarks by President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea

Opening Ceremony of the 3rd Congress of the World Conference on Constitutional Justice

29 September, 2014

Honorable President Gianni Buquicchio of the Venice Commission,
Presidents and Chief Justices from countries around the world,
Distinguished guests,

I sincerely welcome all of you to Korea.

I also would like to extend my heartfelt congratulations to you on the opening of the 3rd Congress of the World Conference on Constitutional Justice here in Seoul.

This 3rd Congress is highly significant since this is the first Congress to be held after the World Conference on Constitutional Justice has achieved framework for a permanent body in September, 2011 by adopting the Statute.

I would like to thank the Venice Commission and the participating Courts for your efforts made up until now in order to promote "democracy through law" all around the world.

I also believe it is all the more meaningful that the Constitutional Court of Korea has been recognized for its contributions on the global stage, and became the host Court of this important event.

Distinguished guests,

Over the past few decades, constitutional justice has greatly contributed to realization of the rule of law and improvement of human rights in many countries as a key system to protect universal values of humanity.

Even now, constitutional justice is playing an integral role in wisely resolving political confrontation and ethnic, cultural, and social conflicts, and promoting social integration.

The Republic of Korea has achieved democracy, improvement in human rights, and economic development in a harmonious manner despite the reality that it is a divided nation.

In the process of making such remarkable achievements, the Constitutional Court of Korea has played a major role by continuously making efforts to promote social integration while protecting constitutional values including liberal democracy.

I believe that constitutional justice should continue to perform a central role in integrating society, building the nation rightly, and establishing the rule of law.

Recently, social conflicts caused by economic bipolarization are becoming a more serious global issue, and erroneous social conditions that put power and interest before laws and principles are aggravating division and conflicts among the public.

Such difficult circumstances of this era behoove us to ensure that all citizens including the underprivileged can be protected within the framework of law, and also that they abide by the law.

The trends of this era once again remind us all of the meaning and importance of constitutional justice.

I believe that to right wrongs is your mission as well as your responsibility.

I would like to sincerely ask all of you who are here today to spare no efforts to make a world where each and every global citizen can live a happy life under the protection of law.

Distinguished guests,

With rapidly increasing social and cultural exchanges among countries, a global cooperation framework for the rule of law is more important than ever.

In this regard, it is my sincere hope that this Congress, which is a global platform for cooperation and exchanges among constitutional courts around the world, will be a meaningful opportunity for you to seek ways to develop and promote constitutional justice system by sharing experiences and wisdom.

The Republic of Korea is highly interested in sharing its experience of developing constitutional justice and the legal system with other countries.

Although each country has its unique history and culture, all countries share the universal hope of mankind, which is to protect human dignity and values.

The Republic of Korea will join you in contributing to the development of the global legal field by making its utmost efforts to promote the rule of law and protect human rights through active global cooperation.

Wishing that many fruitful results that can contribute to the development of constitutional justice system and co-prosperity of humanity will come out from this Congress, I hope you will have a rewarding and enjoyable time in Seoul.

Thank you.