



God of life,  
lead us to  
justice and peace

**World Council of Churches  
10th Assembly**

30 October to 8 November 2013  
Busan, Republic of Korea

Greeting

FOR INFORMATION

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Provisional translation from Korean

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## Greeting of the Chairperson of the Korean Host Committee

Jesus Christ, the Gospel of Hope in a Critical Future

Mr. Moderator, General Secretary, delegates from member churches of the WCC, distinguished guests, Brothers and Sisters in Christ. I welcome you all in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost on behalf of the Korean Host Committee.

The Korean people have become accustomed to greeting favored guests by raising their arms above their heads and making a heart, while saying “*Sarang Hapnida!*”

Why don't we try and greet each other like this together. *Yeoreoboon, Sarang Hapnida!* I love you all!

The Korean churches are grateful to God for his grace, which has allowed us to host this 10th Assembly of the WCC in Korea. The Korean church is a younger church with a relatively short history and so I am very pleased that the WCC has accepted our invitation and has decided to hold its 10th Assembly here in Busan. I know it will be a historic moment.

Korea, and the Korean churches have experienced spectacular growth in a very short period, achieving economic growth as well as political democracy. In addition, the Korean churches have also become the second largest in terms of sending missionaries overseas, following in the tradition the early Antioch church. The Korean churches have also worked hard to fulfill their calling to serve and bear witness to the Gospel of life in a suffering society.

However, the Korean peninsula still suffers from more than sixty years of division, and is currently under the threat of nuclear weapons. The Korean peninsula, indeed the entire region of North East Asia is currently being reshaped. Military, economic and cultural conflicts continue to rise in the region. We witness the suffering caused by widespread poverty, discrimination and numerous forms of oppression. These challenges exist not only in Asia but in every corner of the world. The whole of humanity and creation itself is facing a crisis in all realms never before experienced.

The World Economic Forum, a gathering that brings together academics, politicians and economists, published a Global Risks 2013 that brought together the work of 1000 specialists. The contents of this

report are very shocking. It states that humanity and the earth can encounter a critical crisis within the next 10 years. It also declares that the results of this failure and the severity of the consequences are impossible to predict.

We are living in the midst of a world that is without hope for the future. The crisis which we are facing cannot be resolved through human efforts. We are not able to offer any paths that can lead us out of this crisis.

The theme for this 10<sup>th</sup> Assembly of the World Council of Churches is, I believe, a response to the needs of our world today: "God of life, lead us to justice and peace". God can and will provide. The crises we face today is because we have forgotten that we live and have our being in God.

"Let us examine our ways and test them, and let us return to the Lord. Let us lift up our hearts and our hands to God in heaven." (Lamentations 3:40-41)

Sisters and Brothers in Christ, we have received an historic calling from God in this critical hour in human history to gather in Busan to pray together, to confirm our common calling and to commit ourselves to working together in proclaiming the message of hope that brings life for all creation.

First, we must confess that Jesus Christ is our only hope. Jesus is the way, the truth, the life and salvation. Only by the Gospel of the Cross of Christ can humanity and creation have life. Second, by the guidance and power of the Holy Spirit, the Church of Christ must regain its apostolic calling for bearing witness to the life giving Gospel of Christ through its work of evangelism, mission and service, the Church must recover the person and spirituality of Christ. Third, we need to acknowledge that the path to life is found in God's written word, the Bible. In the midst of overflowing information we have lost our understanding of the truth, that one source of information that leads to life found in the Holy Scriptures. In addition, we must renew the call to prayer and reclaim it.

"If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land." (2 Chronicles 7:14)

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ. This 10th Assembly of the WCC must proclaim a message of blessing and hope that brings life to the world. Historically, Asia has been the birthplace of many civilizations and cultures. I thank God, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, that we have been given the opportunity to open a new era in the 21st century through our meeting here in Busan, Korea. This new era, the new culture of life can be made manifest in this world only when the Gospel is proclaimed through each and every one of us who have been called for God's glory in Jesus Christ our Lord.

Shalom! Hallelujah! Thank you.

Rev. Dr. KIM Sam Whan

Chairperson

Korean Host Committee for the 10<sup>th</sup> WCC Assembly