

Congratulatory Address

**Woo Won Shik**

Speaker of the National Assembly
Korea

Esteemed journalists from all around the world,
It is a great pleasure to greet you at the 2025 World Journalists Conference.
I am Woo Won-shik, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

I extend a warm welcome to the respected international journalists visiting the beautiful Republic of Korea. With your continued attention, Korea stands as a key player in global affairs across politics, economy, and culture.

The unwavering dedication of journalists tirelessly working in the field to uphold the public's right to know forms the foundation of a transparent society and drives the advancement of global democracy.

The unchecked spread of misinformation and fake news endangers journalism and puts democracy at risk throughout the world. I believe journalism and democracy evolve together, and now, more than ever, the dedication of vigilant journalists is indispensable.

In this spirit, the gathering of journalists from around the globe to tackle global challenges and explore the future of journalism is profoundly meaningful. Notably, the theme of the 2025 World Journalists Conference, 'The Role of Journalism in Confronting Climate Change and Environmental Shifts,' is not only a pressing global concern but also a defining imperative of our era.

From blistering heatwaves and devastating floods to landslides, droughts, and raging wildfires, the climate crisis threatens the survival of all life on Earth. This is not a challenge for a few nations alone—it demands a unified global response. At this critical moment, the vigilance and commitment of journalists worldwide are essential.



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This conference will serve as a meaningful platform for media organizations, journalist associations, and individual reporters worldwide to share their efforts and experiences in reporting on the climate crisis. I sincerely hope that your valuable participation, despite your demanding schedules, leads to productive discussions and impactful outcomes.

I offer my sincere congratulations on the hosting of the 2025 World Journalists Conference. The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea will remain an enduring advocate of press freedom.

Thank you.