

Congratulatory Remark

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It is my great honor and pleasure to deliver congratulatory message for Joint International Seminar between Otaru University of Commerce(OUC) and Chungnam National University(CNU) under the theme of "Globalization and Regional Economic Cooperation: Crisis and Opportunities". This year's Joint International Seminar has a special meaning to us because it is the 30th anniversary of the College of Economics and Management, CNU and I know that OUC is also preparing the 100th anniversary in the year 2010.

Indeed, as we are all aware, Northeast Asia including Japan and Korea is positioned at the heart of the world in the 21st Century. Recently, however, global business environment around this area is changing very rapidly, in particular after the global financial crisis in 2008. Therefore the challenges in the economies of Northeast Asian countries are becoming more important than ever.

I strongly believe that the distinguished scholars from two sister universities, OUC and CNU will find better ways and means to cope with the challenges we are now facing and to promote better mutual understanding through this seminar.

Taking advantage of this opportunity, I, on behalf of all the faculty members of our college, would like to thank President Yamamoto Makio and all the faculty members of OUC for providing us with such a precious chance to have had various academic exchange programs including this seminar. My special thanks should be sent to lecturers, panel discussants, Vice President Shigeo Ohya and Prof. Susumu Egashira for their invaluable time and effort for this seminar.

Finally, I am looking forward to seeing all of you at the great ceremony for the 100th anniversary of OUC.