

## **OPENING STATEMENT**

Chang K. Park  
Senior Vice President of KAERI

Welcome to Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI).

It is my great pleasure to have the first advisory group meeting on accelerator driven system in KAERI. I would like to express my sincere thanks to IAEA and all other participating member countries for their support for this meeting.

We are at the edge of the centennial turning point from 20th to 21st. Nuclear energy is believed to be one of the greatest inventions man made in 20th century. It caused the revolutionary changes in the concept of energy. It seemed to provide new horizon in energy sector to human being. However, the safety, spent fuel, and proliferation problems have prevented the nuclear energy from playing the ambitious role we expected in the beginning. Those problems are still remained as the works to be solved.

Energy will be one of the most crucial problems in this coming 21st century. I do believe nuclear will be the major energy source we can lean on in the next century. Many R&D have been done to seek the solutions to make nuclear the best energy source. Some of them have been done on national basis and some are on international basis. In recent years, I can see that the international cooperations are getting more weights. I think it is very natural because the problems we, nuclear people are facing with can not be solved easily by one or two nations but they can be by the international collaborations. In terms of this kind of international cooperations, KAERI appreciates and supports strongly the activities of IAEA.

The accelerator driven system has in recent few years become a fast growing field and is getting more attentions in many countries. The reasons are, I believe that ADS can be expected to play a hopeful role to provide a breakthrough to make the nuclear energy a safe, economically efficient and acceptable, and environmental friendly energy source. However, enormous research efforts are supposed to be required to make ADS system working.

We all understand that it is not easy for one or two nations to invest such huge efforts for the development of ADS in terms of the required technical manpower and cost. That is the reason why we are getting together here today. We will discuss and exchange each nation's view on ADS for next 4 days. I am sure you can derive the most efficient ways to develop and make ADS system working throughout this meeting.

Autumn is the best season in Korea. You can experience almost spotlessly clean blue sky and fresh air during your stay in Korea. I do believe that your 4 day meeting will make a fruitful contribution to preserve this beautiful weather for our future generations.