



Dear Chairman and members of Open Government Partnership

It is a profound moment to be a part of the Open Government Partnership Global Summit, a forum for exchanging reform and innovation policies for implementing open government around the globe. We are slowly recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic and look forward to meeting everyone in person next year.

Gwangju Metropolitan City became a member of the Open Government Partnership in October last year. In July of this year, we took the first step towards full-scale activities of Open Government by establishing an action plan through cooperation with civil society. The three civic values of innovation, communication, and integrity are further consolidated through Open Government Partnership activities. Expanding citizen participation in overall municipal administration is becoming a driving force in resolving long-standing municipal issues. We will continue to build a just and prosperous city together with citizens through the core values of the Open Government Partnership, such as transparency, accountability, and expansion of inclusive citizen participation.



The pandemic has left scars and damage that no one expected, and even now, countries worldwide are struggling to restore their daily lives. The pandemic that has shaken our everyday lives has made us realize more than ever the urgency of solidarity and action to respond to the climate crisis. Even within the civil society of the Gwangju area, there have been steady movements to recognize the seriousness of climate change and demand change and action. At the 2020 Gwangju Citizens' Assembly, citizens in various fields, including academia and labor, participated and pledged to take immediate action to respond to the climate crisis.

In addition, we set a goal to reach Net Zero and Energy Independence by 2045 and are taking our first step this year. In February, Gwangju city launched a public-private governance system named Net Zero Promotion Committee to meet the citizens' demands. Civic groups have launched a carbon-neutral pan-citizen action movement, and companies are accelerating carbon neutrality by participating in the RE100 and increasing their investments in renewable energy.



Furthermore, we have been promoting two open government commitments to expand citizens' interest and participation in responding to the climate crisis. These are making climate change management policy with citizens and building a citizen-friendly energy information Platform. We will speed up the transition to a low-carbon, green economy through this open government action plan.

The coming post-COVID-19 era will be a new era that no one has ever experienced. However, there will be an unchanging principle that the well-being and happiness of citizens are always at the center in the midst of change. Based on the fundamental values of transparency, openness, and democracy, Gwangju will create a transparent and competent government system and an open government that fulfills citizen sovereignty in everyday life.

LEE Yongsup
Mayor of Gwangju Metropolitan City