Welcome Message

Ki-Seob Kim
President
Pusan National University
Republic of Korea

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen!
I am Ki-Seob Kim, president of Pusan National University, and I am very pleased to see all of you here in Busan.

I want extend a warm welcome to all of the fellow scientists participating in the 4th Asia-Pacific Congress of Sericulture and Insect Biotechnology being co-hosted by the Korean Society of Sericultural Science, Pusan National University's Department of Life Science and Environmental Biochemistry, and the National Academy of Agricultural Science of Rural Development Administration in Korea.

I am also particularly grateful to those prominent scientists who have traveled great distances from the United States, China, Japan, India, Thailand, Taiwan, and Korea, and those of you who took valuable time away from your busy schedules to attend this event.

Allow me to offer a special mention of my appreciation for the presence of Yang-Ho Lee, administrator of the Republic of Korea's Rural Development

Administration, Dr. Ho-Yong Park, president of the Korean Society of Sericultural Science, and PNU Professor Sang-Mong Lee, who served as local organizer, as well as all of the participating scientists who soon will be giving us such valuable presentations and leading such exciting discussions.

Sericultural science and industry has long played an important role in the history of human development. It originated in China more than 5,000 years ago, and Korea also has more than 3,000 years of involvement in sericulture.

As many of you may know, the "Silk Road" between Asia and Europe also has a long and storied history, and has made an amazing impact on the exchange of culture, ideas and economic benefits between these two regions.

Even though the silkworm is a tiny insect, it has made a great contribution to humanity, to improvement in global relations, and to a better understanding between the East and West. This accomplishment is now being renewed with the advent of the 'neo-Silk Road,' to include such manifestations as the 'Ocean Silk Road,' the 'Eurasian Silk Road' and the 'Iron Silk Road.'

As most of you know, sericultural science comprises silkworm physiology and biochemistry, silkworm rearing and breeding, mulberry cultivation, pathology, histology, silk reeling processing and fabric production, which collectively form the basis of what is not only basic science but also applied science. It is important that sericultural science gets the consideration it deserves when it is utilized for the purposes of industry because it provides us with invaluable benefits.

The cornerstones of sericultural science—the silkworm, the mulberry, and silk—continue to make contributions as experimental tools to researchers, income sources to farmers, and as the finest and most sought-after fabric known anywhere in the world, as well as one of the best raw materials on the market.

Currently, the traditional focus of sericulture has been on "dress silk," but there has been a refocus and renewal through a shift towards "food silk," also known as "functional sericulture." This new paradigm will determine the next frontier in the creation of a new 'Silk Road' well into the 21st century.

I am confident that this kind of international academic meeting between key countries belonging to the Asia-Pacific region will play a key role in defining the future activation of personnel exchanges, improvements within the insect industry, and the creation of a new history for the silk industry.

During this meeting, we surely will see the introduction of interesting and significant research results and provocative discussions, leaving no doubt that this congress will be a resounding success in the sharing of academic information, the expression of scientific and industrial concerns, and the forming of new partnerships among all the members here today.

There is an old expression: "Fine feathers make fine birds." Anyone who has ever worn an article of silk clothing will understanding the truth of that statement: silk is the finest of feathers we flightless birds are privileged to wear,

and that is why sericulture and this congress are so important, and such an important step in the future development of this vital industry.

I wish all of the congress participants a pleasant stay in Korea and an enriching experience here at PNU, and once again I want to express my gratitude to the participants and organizers, and to the Korean Society of Sericultural Science. May you enjoy great success here today.
Thank you.