

# Message from the Publisher

On behalf of the Korea Information Society Development Institute (KISDI), I am very pleased to publish *ICT World Today*, the journal of information and communication technology (ICT) for development.

Since 1985, KISDI has provided high-quality research and innovative policy recommendations on the full range of ICT issues for policy-makers, corporations, and citizens in Korea. In recent years, we have been leading various types of international ICT cooperative projects in over ten countries such as the "ICT Policy Consultation Program" by delivering policy solutions and the best practices for building an information society. In this regard, *ICT World Today* is a continuous outcome of our determination and endeavors toward co-prosperity through ICTs.

*ICT World Today* is aimed at improving the quality of lives in developing countries and promoting their economic development by introducing ways of alleviating the digital divide and developing human resources and technology in the ICT sector. Ultimately, we hope our efforts via *ICT World Today* will contribute to building ICT capacity among ordinary people, policy-makers and ICT professionals in donor and recipient countries, as well as to raising their awareness on the role that ICTs play in their socio-economic development.

*ICT World Today* will also be a volunteer in distributing knowledge of ICTs into the readers in underserved areas by sharing successful experiences from other countries, and building strategies for those suffering from unfavorable situations. In the meantime, *ICT World Today* will also enable developed countries to bring more efficient support and aid for developing and least-developed countries by helping the former come up with the needs of the latter.

The articles and contents in *ICT World Today* consist of materials including working papers and reports from international and national instruments, organizations, and institutes. By delivering those trustworthy and irreplaceable articles dispersed worldwide to readers in a comprehensive way, *ICT World Today* will make a remarkable contribution to narrowing the gap among people in terms of access to ICTs.

As our first outcome, the inaugural issue of *ICT World Today* examines the socio-economic impacts of ICTs and digital divide. This inaugural issue guides readers into ICTs

for development in a broad spectrum and plays the role of an introduction for the upcoming issues. The current state of ICT development, potential of telecommunications for poverty reduction, ICT policies issues in developing countries, links between digital divide and economic growth, patterns of the digital divide, and the role of ICTs on world summits and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are discussed on the inaugural issue of *ICT World Today*. Updated regional studies on ICT for development in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Central Asia, Latin America are also available in this issue.

From the second issue, the themes will be narrowed down to convergence, e-government, and disaster management, with each issue covering one theme. We will take the demand from readers into consideration to determine the theme of each issue.

Lastly, taking this opportunity, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to our sponsor, the United Nations Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (UN-APCICT) for its indispensable support to *ICT World Today*. Our cooperative ties via *ICT World Today* will serve as a solid foundation for a thriving partnership in the future.

"Hope," itself, cannot be a strategy toward prosperity or against poverty. However, through *ICT World Today*, we will make these hopes come true by delivering the strategies that can lead every developing country to a place with equitable and sustainable development. In conclusion, your understanding and support from donor and recipient countries, civil societies, and international organizations are and will always be important for co-prosperity. We hope for your incessant support in the coming years.



**Bo-Hyun Seo, Ph.D.**

Acting President of  
Korea Information Society  
Development Institute (KISDI)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bo-Hyun Seo', written in a cursive style.