



WeGO Briefing Session 2020

Welcome Message

Good Morning! I'm WeGO SG Kyong-yul Lee. Thank you for your interest and participation. We go online this year due to Corona situation. And we conduct this meeting in Korean because it was designed to promote WeGO in Korea.

Happy families are all alike. But unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. Likewise, happy cities are all alike, but an unhappy city is unhappy in its own way. A smart city is happy city. It should have intelligence to solve various urban problems in the first place. And thereby it should make people feel happy. In a word, a smart city is livable and lovable community. WeGO dreams the future where all the humanity enjoys life in happy cities.

Most of the cities and companies where you belong are already WeGO members. WeGO is an international urban association with more than 200 members. Compared to 10 years ago, we grew four-fold. Notwithstanding, we aspire to have more than one thousand members. There are many international organizations and events for smart cities. But WeGO is the one and only international non-profit body with a standing secretariat working exclusively on smart cities. WeGO is a smart city platform. We provide ideas and advanced experience for member cities. And we provide business opportunities for member companies.

According to a recent study conducted by McKinsey, the current smart city applications deliver significant results. Up to 30 minutes are saved from daily commutes, 40% of crimes are reduced, people can live 8-15% longer and healthier, and up to 300 lives can be saved each year. This is very impressive. But the more important point is that we can achieve down the road what we cannot imagine now. When we see what advanced countries and cities like Korea and Seoul take smart measures to fight corona virus, we become confident that smart ideas and applications can save by far more than 300 lives.

We are going to brief on WeGO's major activities for this year. It is true that a majority of our programs has already been cancelled or postponed. As the Tokyo Olympics was rescheduled for next year, our projects for the second of this year may need to be readjusted. Still we will explain what we continue to work on and new

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programs we are preparing for our members. As Secretary General I would take this opportunity to touch upon several priorities.

First, I place priority on practical and useful services we can provide for our members. A special project called WeGO Smart City Driver is a prominent case. As was already notified, we are going to identify smart solutions that each of our members want, which will be followed by a stage where WeGO designs the optimal packages which will be implemented later. Although the immediate package implementation might not be easy under the current circumstances due to the corona situation, I believe the identification and package designing can still be conducted without delay. I wish active participation from our city and corporate members.

Second, considering that all the cities are exerting the utmost efforts in disease prevention under the current pandemic situation, WeGO is trying to put more emphasis on sharing and disseminating information of healthy smart solutions and best practices. We created a special page for this on our website. We will develop it further and try to organize useful online gatherings as many as possible.

Third, WeGO's triennial GA (General Assembly) is supposed to take place this year. It's slated for early September in Makati city of the Philippines. The second WeGO-ASCN (ASEAN Smart City Network) mayoral conference is planned on the sideline of GA as well. And we are pursuing to establish NEASCN (Northeast Asia Smart City Network). We will elaborate on these later. We might need, however, to modify the plans in case the current pandemic continues. But it's too premature to think about it. Assuming that things will get a lot better before the end of June, I hope our city and corporate members will actively participate.

This briefing session is expected to give you clearer and deeper understanding of WeGO's activities. I also hope that it will stimulate new cities and companies to make up their mind to join us. I call a smart city a Homosapiencity, happy city for our species Homo sapiens. I am looking forward to working closely with you for the prosperity of our Homosapiencities and smart happy Planet Earth. Thank you very much.

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