

Ladies and Gentlemen, it is a pleasure to welcome you all to this special ceremony taken place in this nice virtual venue. Now, we are really on the Grid.

On behalf of Grid Technology Research Center, National Institute of Industrial Science and Technology, Japan, I'd like to begin by thanking the National Grid Office, Singapore, who has made great efforts to make this ceremony possible. I think it is a very important ceremony for establishing much tighter partnership between Singapore and Japan. We would hope this partnership emphasizes the grid activities across the Asia Pacific countries as well as other parts of the world. Personally, I am very glad to congratulate Lawrence on becoming the director as my counter part since we know each other for long time.

It is unnecessary for me to explain again to you what is grid today, but simply the grid is supposed to be the new generation information technology infrastructure for the next decade. The Grids are an emerging paradigm for organizing and sharing computing, network, storage and instrument resources in large-scale applications. The Grid Partnership will provide both us opportunities to learn about grid applications and middleware and to discuss future directions for grid development both in the Asia-Pacific region and globally.

We take this grid technology as a common framework for realizing virtual organizations which produce flexible, dependable, affordable, stable, and cost conscious computing infrastructures. There are increasing needs in various situations to support virtual organizations from hundreds of Teraflops of power for applications such as Nano-tech and Bio-technology, Peta byte class distributed storage for data centers, or to human / agent communities assembled as needed out of existing resources in order to pursue common goals.

Looking around our countries, we realize a considerable number of significant grid projects have been proposed and some of them have already got funded by each government. I really hope now is a good time to make a further step for the grid to be a more practical platform

for everyone.

Today, we have agreed to this understanding, by which we strongly wish to have more chances to exchange information, people, and resources mutually and reciprocally.

I am personally very happy to see the recent rapid growth of the Asia Pacific Grid, and I sincerely hope all of you presenting here would share the great achievement from it.

Thank you again for Prof. Lawrence Wong and National Grid Office, the organizers, and participants today.  
I wish you all a successful grid life.

Satoshi Sekiguchi