



United Nations  
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la science et la culture

Organización  
de las Naciones Unidas  
para la Educación,  
la Ciencia y la Cultura

Организация  
Объединенных Наций по  
вопросам образования,  
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منظمة الأمم المتحدة  
للتربية والعلم والثقافة

联合国教育、  
科学及文化组织

**Address by Mr Alfredo Pérez de Armiñán,  
Assistant Director-General for Culture of UNESCO**

**on the occasion of the art exhibition “Heritage, Legacy and Light”**

**UNESCO, 7 October 2014**

Excellency, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of the Republic of Korea,  
Distinguished Secretary-General of the Korean National Commission for UNESCO,  
Honourable Vice Mayor of Gwangju Metropolitan City,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am very pleased to welcome you all to UNESCO Headquarters for the inauguration of a truly stunning exhibition aptly titled “Heritage, Legacy and Light”. This exhibition has been specially conceived to celebrate six decades of cooperation between the Republic of Korea and UNESCO.

At the outset, allow me to thank the Gwangju Metropolitan Government and the Permanent Delegation of the Republic of Korea to UNESCO, for co-organizing this event. Our special thanks go to Samsung Electronics for its support, without which this exhibition would not be possible. I would like to add that Samsung has partnered with UNESCO on a number of initiatives devoted to consolidating education and knowledge societies through technology.

I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, and its Secretary-General, Dong-seok Min, who has honoured us with this presence today, for its leadership and achievements in supporting UNESCO’s culture programme.

Over the years, the Republic of Korea has demonstrated great foresight and commitment, particularly through its promotion of creativity and particularly arts

education as a means to enhance innovation, critical thinking and mutual understanding. Thanks largely to Korea's efforts, International Arts Education Week proclaimed by the UNESCO's 36th General Conference and perfectly in line with the 2010 Seoul World Conference on Arts Education, has generated greater global awareness of the importance of arts education.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

After 60 years of successful cooperation between Korea and UNESCO, we are opening a new chapter, which will address the new challenge of culture for development. As you know, UNESCO is a leading advocate for the tremendous potential of culture and creativity as a driver and enabler of development. In today's globalized world and creative economy, the Republic of Korea's vision and cultural dynamism are essential to UNESCO's mission to ensure a wider recognition of the importance of creativity and human-centred policies and strategies, particularly in view of the post-2015 development agenda.

The impressive exhibition that we are inaugurating this evening, "Heritage, Legacy and Light", further illustrates Korea's ongoing contribution to UNESCO's mission. Brought to us by the municipality of Gwangju Metropolitan City, the city of light, this exhibition features the works of fourteen talented Korean artists that re-interpreted traditional expressions through digital media. This exhibition also highlights the potential of the arts, technology and innovation in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Through a novel use of digital media, these artists attempt to create a bridge between East and West, and between past and present, as they explore and combine diverse elements such as Dutch still-life and Korean traditions in their works. Drawing inspiration from Buddhism and national heritage sites, as well as nature and various contemporary topics, this exhibition invites us to ponder the complexities of our modern society and the its connections to the past.

In closing, I would like to thank the artists for sharing their through-provoking works with us. I also wish to renew my congratulations to the Government and people of the Republic of Korea on the occasion of this 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary and to reaffirm UNESCO's commitment to pursuing our longstanding cooperation.

I thank you for your attention and hope you enjoy the exhibition.