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by

Mr LEE Kwang-jae
Secretary General of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea

on

“Participation of citizens in the work of parliament”

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“Political Participation of Citizens through Big Data Platform and AI Technology”

Honorable Delegates,

I am Lee Kwang-jae, Secretary General of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea.

It is my great honor to meet you all here in Manama, Bahrain.

The development of information and communication technology and AI is triggering great changes in the way people participate in politics. With data integration and real-time processing, as well as smoother interactive communication, citizens are now directly involved in the policy process. Technology is compensating for the limitations of the existing representative system caused by information asymmetry and one-way communication.

Honorable delegates,

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce various efforts of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea to improve people's participation in politics using technology.

First, we are building a 「National Strategy and Policy Big Data Platform」. The “National Strategy and Policy Big Data Platform” is a data platform that integrates important policy data for the country and its people and converts it for machine learning. We aim to create new values through data integration, establish reasonable policy agenda, and identify potential policy demands.

We are also planning collaboration with the government, public institutions and the private sector in this process. It will allow the National Assembly to come up with high-quality policies through data integration and sharing and to re-establish itself as an institution that solves problems in line with the needs of the people.

Let me now introduce the “Policy Seminar Real-time Broadcasting System.” Considering that policy seminar is one of the main legislative activities of the National Assembly members, we are building a system that relays policy seminars to the public in real time. We are to install digital video recording and sound equipment and monitors in the conference room of the National Assembly Members' Office Building and establish a network so that each member's office can easily record their own policy seminars and transmit them on YouTube. Starting with a small-scale pilot project in 2022, we are in the process of installing new equipment in 13 conference rooms this year.

The introduction of the real-time broadcasting system will not only enhance public access to legislative activities, but also enable two-way communication between the public and the National Assembly members by incorporating interactive communication technologies such as online chatting.

In addition, the preservation of policy seminar videos on a separate web site will make it easy for everyone to find and use them.

Lastly, I would like to introduce the 'Live Subtitling System with AI Speech Recognition'. It has been developed and established in accordance with the 「National Assembly Act」, which stipulates measures for smooth provision of information to the disabled. The system is meaningful in that it is the world's first live subtitling service using AI speech recognition for National Assembly meetings.

Based on the latest state-of-the-art AI speech recognition technology, we have upgraded the engine by using language models and acoustic models and made it learn data from the meetings and press conferences of the National Assembly, thereby enhancing accuracy and securing usability.

In the future, the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea will provide subtitle service for broadcasting of all standing committee meetings to improve access to legislative information for those with hearing impairment.

With the digital revolution, the political system is entering a new phase. Changes in the way people participate in politics, led by the development of ICT and AI technologies, are calling for changes in the roles and responsibilities of the National Assembly as well. The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea will continue to lead the way for digital National Assembly and AI National Assembly, reaching out to the public first, seeking solutions together, and fulfilling its role as a representative body of the people.

Thank you for your attention.