

THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

**VIDEO MESSAGE TO ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL CONFERENCE
ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS
FOR NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS
Seoul, 11-13 October**

Professor Hyun Byung-Chul, Chairperson of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea,
Ms. Rosslyn Noonan ICC Chair & Former Chief Commissioner, New Zealand Human
Rights Commission

Dr. Amara Pongsapich, Chair of the Asia Pacific Forum and Chair of the National
Human Rights Commission of Thailand,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

31/08/11

I am pleased to greet this important conference.

Businesses have a crucial role to play in supporting human rights and social
justice.

They have formidable resources. They operate in politically sensitive
environments.

Their activities have a profound impact on people's lives and on key global issues
ranging from poverty and natural resources to corruption, climate change, conflict and
disease.

Our challenge is to make sure that business is not part of the problem – but the
source of solutions.

Human rights must be respected at every step of production chain ... from
gathering raw materials to taking executive decisions at corporate headquarters.

We have tools that can help make this happen.

The "Protect, Respect, Remedy" framework developed by my Special
Representative for Business and Human Rights, Professor John Ruggie, sets out guiding
principles and was endorsed unanimously by the Human Rights Council.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, for its
part, continues its dialogue with the private sector on how businesses can have a positive
impact.

National human rights institutions have an important contribution to make.

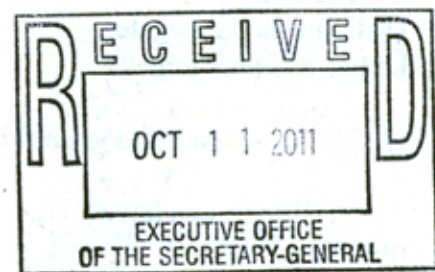
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People look to these bodies for protection. They want to know that those who abuse human rights will be punished, and that the rule of law will prevail.

Let us work together to strengthen national human rights institutions, help businesses flourish and, above all, ensure that people everywhere enjoy the dignity and opportunity that are their birthright.

Thank you.



HYUN BYUNG-CHUL
CHAIRPERSON



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31 August 2011

His Excellency Mr. Ban Ki-moon
Secretary-General
United Nations
Secretariat Building, Room S-3800
New York, NY 10017

RE: Video Message to the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Business and Human Rights for National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

Excellency,

On behalf of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea (NHRCK), I have the pleasure to inform you that the Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Business and Human Rights for National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) will be held in Seoul, Korea from 11 to 13 October 2011 on the theme of 'Business and Human Rights: Capacity-Building of National Human Rights Institutions', and I would like to kindly ask you if you could contribute a video message to the participants of the conference.

The conference will be hosted by the NHRCK and co-organized with the Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs (APF) and the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC). In addition, the ICC Bureau Meeting and the ICC Working Group Meeting on Business and Human Rights will be also held in Seoul in conjunction with the conference, on 10 October 2011 and 14 October respectively.

The main theme of the Conference is 'Business and Human Rights: Capacity-Building of National Human Rights Institutions,' with the sub-themes of the Implementation of the UN Special Representative's Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights - Implementing the United Nations "Protect, Respect and Remedy" Framework; the development of regional action plans for the Asia-Pacific region; and the training for the NHRIs on business and human rights.

The Conference will bring together approximately 180 participants from a balanced mix of relevant stakeholders in the field of business and human rights home and abroad including NHRI representatives, international experts, and businesses. Invitees also reflect, as far as possible, the wide diversity of issues in the field of business and human rights.

I am convinced that this conference will create an important momentum in the promotion and protection of human rights in business, and your video message will boost the NHRIs activities to improve business and human rights agenda and encourage corporate responsibilities and efforts to respect human rights.

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