

I am very grateful for this opportunity to speak to you today which has been generously offered to me by the organizers of this important conference.

However, on one hand I feel very inadequate and apologetic. Sometime ago when I received the request to present a paper here, I thought that doing so would provide me with a good occasion to consider my past five years of political participation, and on that basis ^{share} my reflections and opinions with you through this ^{opportunity} address. Then, a few days ago when I was reminded about submitting my manuscript, I experienced a deep sense of regret. As you may be aware, we in Korea are now only thirty days away from the election of a new president. This means that because I am in a position of considerable responsibility in my political party and have many pressing involvements at the present time, I have been unable to devote as much time as I would have liked to a full and adequate preparation of my presentation for the opening event of this conference today.

The topic which was given to me for this ^{morning} address is the role of women politicians in promoting the status of women in society. Under this title I was asked to speak about the work of women politicians to contribute to the improvement of women's status, the contributions which they have already made and those which will be made in the future.