

## Congratulatory Address

**Seunghwan Kim**

(Superintendent, Jeollabukdo Office of Education)

First of all, I would like to give my heartfelt congratulation to Youngtae Kim, President of Global English Teachers Association and Gwanchan Leu, President of Jeonju National University of Education for hosting this international conference. I also thank all the members of GETA for participating in this conference.

I want to express my gratitude to all the persons involved in English education including famous scholars and English teachers. You are doing leading roles for our students, so they can learn English easily and lively.

We are now in the era of globalization. To broaden our vision, we must receive and exchange new information. Although the Korean language is important as the mother tongue, English is very important as it is the international language.

We made efforts to develop reading and listening skills in English education until now. However, English education in Korea is now facing a kind of innovation called 'National English Ability Test' which focuses on strengthening four skills of speaking, listening, reading and writing. Therefore, speaking and writing in English are becoming more important elements in English education than before.

The title of GETA is 'Pedagogical and Evaluative approaches to speaking and writing'. I am certain that we are able to obtain new teaching skills and theories through this conference.

I also hope we can exchange the information about English education here, so that we can modify the English classes to attract students' attention. Even if this may be a small change, this will be a step to build a solid public education.

Once again, I would like to thank you for your big support and interest in English education. Enjoy your time here at the conference. Thank you.