

Welcoming Speech

It is my pleasure to welcome all of you, ITTC participants around the world, to this city, Seoul, Korea. We, the university professors, researchers, shipyard engineers numbering about 100,000, all of us are much privileged indeed to have you, all very distinguished scholars in ship hydrodynamics, and in particular towing tankery. We are above all proud to have a first opportunity through such meeting as this, to go out and reach out in the international arena. Since some of you are new here, let me go over briefly the city and surrounding conditions here.

You are here in this city of bristling 12 million souls and 5 million cars with all their aspirations and hardships of a developing country. Historically, the city is 600 years old; at the start of the Korean War in 1950, the population numbered about half a million; the city was completely flattened out; but we now have this after 50 years! We are the single spot in the world remaining with a potentially explosive and dangerous military situation.

We now are going through an adjustment dictated by IMF and the political structural changes. Some are saying we are going through the most difficult times since 1950.

Speaking of Korean shipbuilding, ranking, as you know, about the second in the world in output and export totaling about \$5B., it is only about 25-30 years old. Our industry has come this far with a policy of open international cooperation. We are now reaching out even more in the marketing, ship components and in technology. We will noticeably change in the next couple of years in this regard even more.

As for the towing tanks, our history of small towing tank is about 50 years in a university, but large commercial towing tanks are less than 25 years old. We now have private as well as government facilities. We are working very hard in tankery, and over the years remarkable results have been obtained from the tanks and researchers.

But let me introduce an episode. Some years ago we had tested series models for the improvement of small fishing crafts. We then brought in an actual fishing boat in the towing tank. We found the actual fishing craft had better resistance quality than that our researchers were about to devise. The craft had a flat bottom with a cut-off stern of an ordinary looking Korean coastal boat, which had evolved here for, who knows, a few thousand years.

We have had turtle ships in this country, famed for its brilliant tactical and strategic battle stories in the latter 16th century by Admiral Yee, Soonshin. They, however, turn out to be more than 4 different models of different L/B depending on the current and tidal conditions of the local waters. What I am saying is that our towing tank history may be recent, but we have had long history of developing ship models. I am really saying that when it comes to these matters you

ITTC people should feel very much at home.

Coming back to the present, let me assure you that with all the rapid development and changes in the city, in the community, and in the industry, we value our tankery business very seriously and highly. It is old as well as new there. Open door policy is the motto of the business today here. Likewise, our friendship through ITTC should remain strong as ever.

Hope your stay here will be pleasant, rewarding and memorable.

Thank you.



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