Statement of the Republic of Korea

The number of dementia patients is surging along with a rapid population aging in Korea. According to a survey on dementia prevalence rates in 2012, 9.6% of the elderly population are estimated to have dementia as of 2014, and the figure is expected to reach 15% by 2050. Moreover, social cost of dementia in Korea is projected to increase from 1.0% of GDP in 2013 to 1.5% level in 2050.

A national dementia management program is under implementation in accordance with the second comprehensive plan on dementia management in order to reduce the increasing number of dementia patients and social costs of dementia. The third comprehensive plan will be established in 2015.

Policy priorities are placed on reducing risk factors of dementia. The government is working on promoting a national campaign on preemptively managing various risk factors of dementia through no smoking or drinking, exercise, and chronic disease management.

Moreover, long term care facility models dedicated to care for dementia patients are to be developed and distributed as nearly half of the beneficiaries of the long term care insurance are dementia patients. In addition, mild case of dementia is newly covered by the long term care insurance and is provided with cognitive activity programs.

Dementia Helpline, operating 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, provides information on caregiving and consultations for dementia patients as well as their caregivers to help relieve their stress. Also, Central and Provincial Institutes of Dementia are established in order to support dementia management programs.

It is very timely to hold this conference to discuss global dementia response in this time of increasing social and economic burden posed by dementia, which is projected to further intensify. Korea would like to express its sincere gratitude to G7 countries, particularly UK, and WHO for the hard work organizing this conference on dementia.
It has been all the more meaningful to facilitate communication and exchange of ideas and information between Government-Industry-Academy through a number of legacy events following the G7 Dementia Summit held in December of 2013.

It is essential to continue such efforts to facilitate communication at the global level as well as to increase public attention and encourage participation from every sector of society in order to promote global action and reinforce leadership for dementia response.