



28th ANNUAL CONFERENCE
of the International Organization of Securities Commissions
14~17 October 2003, Seoul Korea



Opening Ceremony

Mr. Philippe Richard

Secretary General of the International Organization of
Securities Commission (IOSCO)

16 October 2003

Remarks of Philippe Richard

IOSCO Annual Conference

16 October 2003

Good afternoon, ladies and gentlemen. Like Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman Lee, I also would like to welcome you to this year's IOSCO Annual Conference. In addition to completing our normal work at this year's conference, IOSCO also has excellent cause to celebrate as the year 2003 marks the 20th anniversary of IOSCO's creation. IOSCO was organized in 1983 through the transformation of a predecessor inter-American regional association, set up in 1974, into an international standard- setter body. Eleven securities regulatory agencies from North and South America gathered in Quito, Ecuador in April 1983 to take that important decision. In 1984, securities regulators from France, Indonesia, the United Kingdom and Korea, and I want to stress the name of Korea, were the first agencies to join the membership from outside the Americas. The 1986 Annual Conference in Paris was the first to take place outside of the Americas and, on that occasion, a decision also was made to create a permanent General Secretariat for the organization. The two principal working committees of the organization were formed shortly thereafter, the Technical Committee in 1987 and the Emerging Markets Committee in 1989.

Twenty years later, IOSCO's membership stands at 181 and is still growing rapidly. The Organization's members regulate more than 90% of the world's securities markets and IOSCO is today the world's most important international cooperative forum for securities regulators. In its twenty year history, IOSCO has been extremely active and we can be proud of these achievements. IOSCO published its first public resolution in 1983. Then the Technical Committee issued its first public report in 1989 and the EMC its first report in 1990. Since 1983, IOSCO has issued more than 50 public resolutions and 153 public documents. This body of work represents both the commitment of IOSCO members to implement the principles of securities regulation into their national laws, as well as an outstanding compilation of the technical expertise relating to the regulation of the sectors on which the international community of securities regulators have reached consensus. The crowning achievements in this twenty year effort were IOSCO's adoption in 1998 of a comprehensive set of *Objectives and Principles of Securities Regulation*, recognized today by the world financial community as international standard for the regulation of securities markets. In 2002

we endorsed the multilateral memorandum of understanding (*IOSCO MOU*) designed to facilitate enforcement and exchange of information among securities regulators and in 2003, this morning, the Presidents Committee endorsed the New Methodology to assess the level of implementation of the principles.

At this year's Annual Conference, IOSCO continues this important work. The Annual Conferences have historically served multiple purposes that facilitate the achievement of the organization's objectives. In addition to providing a forum for meetings of working committees and for the taking of broad policy decisions by the Executive Committee, the Annual Conference also is the occasion for the general meeting of all IOSCO ordinary and associate members in the President's Committee. Decisions taken by this body are very significant as they represent commitments by the community of securities regulators that are truly international in scope. The Annual Conference also is the only occasion where not only the ordinary, associate, and affiliate members of IOSCO, but also industry representatives, observers, journalists and other invitees, come together to exchange views and to establish the personal relationships that facilitate the communication and cooperation between stakeholders that is necessary to the proper functioning of international capital markets. Clearly, without the kind of dialogue between stakeholders that is facilitated at fora such as the IOSCO Annual Conference, the proper regulation of capital markets would be much more difficult.

The public portion of this year's Conference is extremely topical. Securities regulators today face a series of challenges in responding to events that threaten investor confidence in global capital markets and to the ramifications of the September events and large corporate failures. The topics of this year's public panel discussions have been calculated to address several of the more prominent issues with which securities regulators are now contending. The panel topics are: *Increasing Disclosure – A Key to Improving Investor Confidence*; *Regulating Credit Rating Agencies*; *New Stringent Avenues of Corporate Governance*; and *Combating Financial Crime Globally*. We have an extremely distinguished set of panel speakers to address these important topics and I'm certain that the discussions will be stimulating for all of us. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our panel speakers for their willingness to take the time to contribute their expertise to the discussion of these topics.

I would also like to take this opportunity to warmly thank Chairman Lee and the entire staff of the Korean Securities Commission and Services for all their efforts in organizing this Conference. IOSCO appreciates the very strong and fruitful cooperation we have with the Korean Commission. We are particularly grateful for their help and for their willingness to undertake the logistical burdens associated with the postponement of the Conference to this October. Their dedication and professionalism is greatly appreciated.

I also would like to thank the conference organizers, their staff and all other invisible people involved in the organization of this conference. To be successful, an event of this kind requires the efforts of many people. We appreciate very much the tremendous hospitality and support we have received here in Seoul.

Thanks you for your attention and I hope you enjoy the Conference.