

Dear distinguished GRSP members,

After I retired from the Korea Automobile Testing & Research Institute in June 2019, I joined Seoul National University to work as a research professor since 2019 July. Unfortunately, I cannot attend this GRSP session and I have to say goodbye to you through this letter. It was a great honor for me to serve as a GRSP Vice-Chair from the 53rd GRSP Session in 2013 to the 65th GRSP Session in 2019.

When I first started my career in automobile sector in 1988, I wondered why there is UN logos on vehicle regulations because I knew very little about UNECE/WP.29. I have attended the GRSP meeting as a Korean delegate since 2003. My first impression was “Am I participating in the developing process of the UN/ECE Regulations?” As I’ve attended the GRSP meeting, I’ve learned the process of developing, harmonizing and amending regulations. These kinds of activities have broadened my horizons of thought to the global level.

In 2003, discussion in GRSP was in the early stages of the development of Door Locks and Door Retention Components, Head Restraints, and Pedestrian Safety of UN Global Technical Regulations. It seemed to be a very slow development process, but looking back, a lot of UN Regulations and GTRs have been adopted and implemented, and it made a great progress for vehicle safety.

As we all know, Passive Safety is fundamental to vehicle safety, it plays an essential role in reducing casualties from traffic accidents. Korea was one of the countries with a high number of traffic accident fatalities. The Korean government has implemented a policy to actively introduce UN Regulations and UN GTRs as Korea's Motor Vehicle Safety Standards. As a result, the number of road traffic fatalities has been significantly decreased from 15.1 in 2003 to 7.3 in 2018 per 100,000 people.

I remember the time when I was chairing the GRSP session twice. That was a big challenge for me; on the other hand, it was a great honor for me and a highlight of my career. I am deeply grateful to the former GRSP Chair Mr. Nha Nguyen for his leadership and contribution. I also wish to extend my appreciation to the GRSP secretary Mr. Edoardo Gianotti for his valuable support and contribution that lead our GRSP meetings to success. In addition, I want to thank the interpreters at each session for their hard work and dedication. Last but not least, I really appreciate all GRSP experts for cooperation, contribution and advices. I hope all GRSP members would succeed in your career.

I value our friendship, and I am honored to have worked with you at the United Nations in Geneva. I hope to see you again someday. I wish all the best for you and happy New Year. Thank you very much.

Respectfully yours,

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