Young Doo Kim is the WGC 2021 NOC Chairman and Acting President & CEO of Korea Gas Corporation (KOGAS).

Could you please give us an overview of the WGC 2021 National Organizing Committee, and the extraordinary industry and government support the event has already?

The WGC 2021 National Organizing Committee (WGC 2021 NOC) was launched in December 2016 and is dedicated to the preparation of the World Gas Conference 2021.

The NOC is a group of almost 60 organizations representing the entire gas value chain in Korea led by Korea Gas Corporation (KOGAS). The Ministry of Trade-Industry & Energy (MOTIE), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Daegu Metropolitan City, and many other related organizations have pledged their full support, and Daegu Metropolitan City has also launched its own WGC 2021 Support Team to give extra-ordinary attention to the event.

WGC 2021 will therefore be brought to you by the most dedicated National Organizing Committee ever created for a global gas event, all striving to make it the most successful World Gas Conference in the history of the International Gas Union (IGU).

How are the WGC 2021 preparations coming along so far?

Since the success of Korea’s bid in 2014, the WGC 2021 NOC has been committed to planning the event, obtaining strong support from government and industry along the way.

To maximize WGC 2021 stakeholders’ satisfaction, the NOC is initiating proactive communication with IGU members, establishing stronger relationships with strategic partners including IEA and World Bank Group, and ensuring innovation under the objectives “Empower IGU”, “Empower the Gas Industry” and “Environmental Leadership” — with the ultimate aim of realizing “A Sustainable Future — Powered by Gas”.

To talk about the conference program, it is being developed with the support from the members of IGU’s 11 Committees and three Task Forces.

They will address the latest critical issues facing the global gas industry today. WGC 2021 will feature more than 500 speakers and 70 sessions, and will attract over 5,000 conference delegates, 350 exhibitors making it the largest and most successful global gas event of this kind.

Could you please tell us a bit more about the event theme, ‘A Sustainable Future — Powered by Gas’?

The theme for the Korean Triennium is “A Sustainable Future — Powered by Gas.” This theme tells us that gas is an essential element in energy transition that consistently evolves and moves forward to meet energy demand while at the same time lowering greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality.

Our overarching aim is to advance the role of gas in a sustainable energy future.

Under this theme, we are going to demonstrate that gas is the perfect catalyst towards a sustainable future, and it will be realized through our three strategic guidelines which are environmental leadership, market vitality, and value creation.

To attain these, there will be some 1,000 global experts in the IGU Committees and Task Forces to develop the plans.

Moreover, last year, KOGAS announced to invest 1 trillion won ($896 million) on eco-friendly infrastructure under the government’s initiative to increase energy sourcing from clean and renewable fuels.

The spending will go to expanding LNG bunkering facilities in Korea as the market is expected to grow from 310,000 tons in 2022 to 1.36 million tons in 2030 under stricter environment regulations.

The investment also would be used to increase LNG refueling facilities for vessels and vehicles at port and cargo terminals by 2020. KOGAS will install extra 100 charging machines for hydrogen-fueled cars by 2022 and fund a project to construct a complex for promotion of the green car.

What makes Daegu a good setting for this event? Can you tell us a little more about the world-class EXCO (Daegu Exhibition & Convention Center)?

Daegu is a metropolitan city that forms an energy cluster and is also known as a ‘green city.’ The City has given great effort to make Green City, especially, the city has proven to be capable of hosting international events by successfully holding the World Water Forum, World Biomaterials Congress, International Congress of Parasitology, and many more.

Daegu is also a home to many popular writers, painters, and musicians and these are well reflected in festivals by creative artists.

Moreover, within an hour driving distance, Daegu boasts six UNESCO World Heritage Sites namely Bulguksa Temple, Gyeongju Historic Areas, Yangdong Village, Andong Haeseo Folk Village, Seokgurum Grotto, and Haeinsa Janggyeong Panjeon. We regard Daegu as an ideal place to hold the World Gas Conference not just because of its location or the unique culture but also the energy the city has towards the event.

Daegu citizens are welcoming all of us and they are cheering us whole-heartedly wishing for a most successful global gas event.

And the venue EXCO, is in the Daegu Distribution Complex, and is a multi-purpose space used for exhibitions, art shows, performances, and business. With EXCO’s ongoing expansion plan, it is currently undergoing a $250 million expansion and will be ready to showcase the largest global gas event ever held.

What can potential delegates expect from WGC 2021? World Gas Conference has been the largest and most exciting event for the global gas industry for almost 90 years.

Undoubtedly, it has also been recognized as the most important gathering of the gas industry and related sectors. To meet the needs and give satisfaction, WGC 2021...
NOC is exerting effort to create the most successful event yet — by carefully analyzing past events and reviewing attendee surveys. We will be able to make improvements to create a memorable event that directly addresses the needs of the industry. As many of you already know, Bloomberg has ranked Korea as the second most innovative country in the world in 2013, dominating international charts in R&D intensity, value-added manufacturing, and patent activity.

Korea is a melting pot of innovation and technology especially in terms of Information Technology.

Therefore, NOC plans this global event to effectively incorporate Korea’s advanced IT to maximize the delegates satisfaction and to differentiate it with previous WGCs.

One of the items which we could think of to develop with IT in mind is an Event App which certainly will give a whole new experience to the delegates.

Above all, I think the success of the event is determined by the satisfaction of participants.

WGC 2021 NOC will continuously search for better ways to meet the needs of all the different stakeholders — after all, our top priority is the participants and their satisfaction.

We look forward to hosting you all in Daegu for this remarkable event, from 21 to 25 June 2021.

The new WGC 2021 website has just been launched — please visit www.wgc2021.org for more information