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Professor, Natural Products Research Institute, Seoul National University

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Prof. Youngbae Suh has a long history of association with IUCN. Since the Korea National Committee for IUCN was officially recognized in 1998, he has been involved in IUCN programmes at various levels.

From 2009 to the present, he has been serving as the Chair of the Asia Regional Committee, which was officially approved at the 77th Council in November 2011. As the Chair of the Regional Committee, he had the Asia Regional Conservation Forum held successfully September 27–30, 2011 in Incheon, Korea.

From 2008 to the present, he has also served as the President of the Korea National Committee. In this term, Korea was successful in becoming the host of the IUCN World Conservation Congress.

From 2004 to 2008, he served as the secretary of the Korea National Committee for IUCN. In this post, he was practically in charge of re-establishing strong IUCN programmes in Korea.

Since 2004, the membership in Korea has grown from 4 Members to 26, and 5 more applications were submitted for approval in February 2012. To this end, Korea will have one of the largest IUCN bodies in the region.

Currently, he also serves on the Congress Preparatory Committee for the 2012 World Conservation Congress.

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Prof. Youngbae Suh has proved his strong commitment and excellent efficiency in developing and promoting the missions and work of the Union throughout his long career with IUCN. During his chairmanship of the Asia Regional Committee, he has been building close relationships and sharing good understandings with secretariats as well as Members in the region. The 2011 Asia Regional Conservation Forum was the largest and most successful RCF ever in IUCN history. He has made huge efforts to host the 2012 World Conservation Congress in Korea, and his contribution continues to the successful WCC. Korea has become a strong partner to IUCN with a great potential. He has played a key role to promote IUCN programmes in Korea. His connections to the various levels of Member organizations in the country should be essential to build the successful partnership between Korea and the Union in coming years. Since 1993, as a plant taxonomist as well as a professor in Seoul National University, he has been involved in various projects related to the subject of conservation.

He is ready to share his knowledge, experience and commitment, which he has earned in his academic field, in the country and in the region, to promote the work of the Union.