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2022 KMI Maritime and Fisheries Outlook Conference, Discusses Responses and Strategies to enhancing the Oceans and Fisheries sector in the Post COVID-19 Era

- To Gear up for the post-pandemic era including the restructuring of global supply chains, climate crisis and carbon neutrality
- Facing the challenge ahead of raising the importance of the oceans and fisheries industry in the national economy as well as improving public awareness

The Korea Maritime Institute (KMI, President Kim Jong-Deog) held the ‘2022 KMI Maritime and Fisheries Outlook Conference’ via online on January 19th (Wed), 2022. Starting off with the opening ceremony, the conference was followed by three presentations under the theme of ‘Mid-to-Long term Prospects and Tasks of Oceans and Fisheries’ and a roundtable discussion.

In the opening speech, President Kim Jong-Deog of KMI emphasized the need to acquire wisdom in preparation for the post COVID-19 era against challenges such as the restructuring of global

supply chains, climate crisis, carbon neutrality, plastic-free and shifting environment of international trade. The president continued by stating that the oceans and fisheries industry must work on preventing the significance of the industry related to the national economy from becoming stagnant or declining. With innovative response, development plans and concerted capabilities of oceans and fisheries members, the industry should seek an opportunity to take another leap forward.

In the first presentation, Chang Jeong-In, Director of Ocean Economy Research Division of KMI said that “the oceans and fisheries industry is expected to continue its solid growth in 2022, with an average of approximately 3.3% growth rate in real value-added, while the industry’s direct contribution to the national GDP will remain around 2.5% in continuation of the last year.” She also presented major tasks including objective diagnosis of the industry through the construction of oceans and fisheries satellite account and setting up mid- to long-term investment strategies based on these data.

The second presentation broadcasted online was conducted by Claire Jolly, Head of Unit of the OECD STI Ocean Economy Group. She proposed the satellite accounting framework which allows for the analysis and comparison of ocean economic activities while identifying their contribution to the national economy. She continued by saying that “Korea is leading its way with its work on ocean economic data and provides very useful evidence for Korean decision makers, which is expected to create best practices at international levels.”

In the last presentation, Director General Park Kwang-Seo for the Ocean Economy & Statistics Research Department of KMI set 'Realizing the Sustainable Development of Korea through Blue Economy' as a vision and formulated four strategies; 1) becoming a leading nation in shipping and logistics, 2) cultivating smart fisheries and fishing communities, 3) creating clean and safe ocean environments and 4) preparing for global cooperation and a peace regime. Specific tasks were suggested as follows; industrialization of integrated logistics in shipping and ports; boosting the vitality of outer regions of national territory; promoting eco-friendly, future-oriented fishery businesses; and strengthening the resilience of marine ecosystems.

Following the presentations, the roundtable was participated with 11 prominent experts with President Kim Jong-Deog of KMI as a Chair, discussing topics such as countermeasures for change in global supply chains; development measures for sustainable fisheries; development strategies for ocean science and technology; innovation tasks for the MZ generation; and plans to strengthen maritime security.

Professor Kim Han-Ho from Seoul National University introduced fulfillment case studies of the Scottish fisheries industry, highlighting that the sustainable development of the domestic fisheries industry requires purpose-oriented policies. He added that it is necessary to provide market-oriented incentives with businesses complying with demands of the times such as ESG management while building infrastructure for allowing small and medium-sized enterprises to go digital.

President Kim Sung-Ho of the Korea Federation of Advanced Fisheries Leaders addressed that “difficulties of the fisheries industry are not because of a lack of work but because of a shortage of production manpower.” He emphasized that the quality of life in fishing communities should be enhanced with public-purpose direct payment and improved rural settlement conditions. In addition, fishing communities need to attract young people and urban dwellers as well as nurture fishermen who possess entrepreneurship and specialized skills.

President Kim Woong-Seo of the Korea Institute of Ocean Science & Technology stated that “people want ocean and science technology to be utilized for solving problems directly related to their living, calling for increasing social roles of government-funded research institutes”. For forecasting specific development areas for ocean science and technology, he suggested offshore wind power, blue carbon, which refers to carbon sequestration by the world’s marine ecosystems, marine biotechnology (MBT) that utilizes marine resources for medicine, and marine spatial development such as marine cities.

Serving as President of the Korean Academy of Marine Science, Professor Lee Ki-Tack from Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH) said that the openness of ocean science, which is a comprehensive study, should be increased to bring in talented individuals from a variety of fields. Giving ocean acidification as an example, he emphasized the importance of long-term operable observatory technologies and sensors to innovate marine observatory technology as well as the need to set up a worldwide network.

While mentioning that the annual hosting of the Youth Climate Summit was included in the agreement of the UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP26) held last November, Park Hye-Rin, CEO of Enomad stated that “future generations have been exposed to environmental issues since they were born, possessing hugely diverging attitudes towards climate change in comparison to older generations.” She added that “sustainable transformation requires participation and cooperation from future generations from the initial planning stage.”

Professor Lee Keun-Gwan from Seoul National University stated that “there is a stark difference between the significance of oceans taking on the national economy and the perception of Korean society and Korea should solidify its identification as a maritime power.” He added that “Korea needs to share experiences accumulated in the field of the oceans especially with developing countries”. Referring to the Yeosu Academy of the Law of the Sea as a successful case mentioned in the UN, Korea needs to nurture outstanding specialized manpower in the law of the sea.

Kim Hyung-Tae, Executive Advisor of Samsung SDS mentioned that the US government officially started the restructuring of global logistics networks, highlighting the importance of counterstrategies at a business level. Specific strategies were suggested including building a global Supply Chain Risk Management system; strengthening the visibility of the global supply chain with the integration of the 4th IR technology as well as supporting flexible decision making through data analysis-based risk forecasting; and rearranging global supply chain networks.

CEO & President Kang Joon-Suk of Busan Port Authority said that “As the world’s No. 2 transshipment port, Busan port has absorbed shocks occurring in maritime logistic chains by, for example, allowing delayed ships to secure punctuality.” He added “Even against recent disruptions surrounding global logistics, the maritime traffic at Busan port has increased as global shipping alliances selected Busan as a transshipment base due to its resilience from risks. As mid- to long-term development strategies for Busan port, he offered a number of suggestions including building the world’s best level smart port; restructuring the operational system of container terminals; attracting global logistics companies at port hinterlands; vitalizing the regional economy through port redevelopment; and securing foreign bases for logistic centers.

President Kim Yang-Soo of the Korea Ocean Business Corporation stated that “shipping restructuring has allowed the shipping industry to bring back its status before the collapse of Hanjin Shipping and the KOBC provided the support for securing competitive fleets and stable management of shipping companies.” As tasks to boost the global competitiveness of the shipping and shipbuilding industry, he suggested reinforcing support measures for eco-friendly facilities; supporting the introduction of eco-friendly ships such as renewable energy-powered vessels; supporting the digital transformation of the shipping industry such as by establishing a shipping logistics platform based on blockchain; and advancing IT of national flag carriers.

Last of all, Song Sang-Keun, Deputy Minister for Marine Policy Office of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries conveyed messages of appreciation to members of the industry as he mentioned that the fisheries and shipping sectors are on the path to recovery. In addition, he highlighted the importance of issues such as

preemptive response against the extinction of fishing communities, preservation of sustainable fishery resources and Korea's promotion as a maritime leader. While referring to comments from Professor Lee Keun-Gwan of Seoul National University, he added that "despite being a maritime power, Korea's public perception towards oceans is not high, and improving the public awareness of the oceans is one of the MOF's key tasks."

※ 보도자료와 관련하여 자세한 내용이나 취재를 원하시면 성과홍보실 성무석 전임행정원 (051-797-4384, seongms@kmi.re.kr)에게 연락주시기 바랍니다.

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