

Partnering to Build a Green Restart: How smart efficient buildings as part of the Korean New Deal can fight climate change and create jobs

Time: 25 May 2021, 8.30-9.45 am CEST / 3.30-4.45 PM KST

We need to re-energize the economy and create jobs, but we still need to address the issue of climate change. Luckily, each challenge demands the same solution – investment in a low-carbon economy. In other words, we need a Green Restart.

The Korean New Deal is an excellent example of how to turn the idea of a Green Restart into policy. It aims to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 and to accelerate the transition towards a low-carbon green economy by investing 114 trillion won (USD 94.5 billion) to create 1.9 million jobs by 2025. It's two main policies – the Digital New Deal and Green New Deal together highlight the potential of smart, connected, low-carbon societies that boost economies as well as human well-being.

Smart commercial buildings hold a huge potential to deliver on the aims of both policies. Buildings account for nearly 40% of global energy and about 1/3 of global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions – and have massive potential for energy savings. Higher requirements for new and renovated buildings and smart digital solutions will ensure they pollute as little as possible. At the same time, the construction sector is labor intensive and local, resulting in quick job creation. 9-30 jobs are created for every million USD invested in energy efficiency in buildings.

This event will spotlight how a Green Restart in general, and the Korean New Deal in particular, can help recover economies in a sustainable way, and accelerate our path towards net-zero emissions. We will take the case of smart, energy efficient commercial buildings as an example of how governments and private companies in partnership can accelerate recovery and climate action in the most efficient way.

Agenda:

Moderator: Ms. Julie Kjestrup, Head of Public Affairs and Sustainability, Danfoss

8.30-8.50 Opening session

- High level opening remarks by Mr. Jeppe Kofod, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Denmark and Mr. SungHwan Kim, Member of Parliament, Chairman of Green New Deal Committee

8.50-9.40 Panel discussion

Fire starter:

- Ms. Karin Finkelston, Vice President, Partnerships, Communication, and Outreach, IFC

Discussion:

- Mr. Lee, President, Korean Energy Agency
- Mr. Kristoffer Böttzauw, Director General, Danish Energy Agency
- Mr. Young Kyoon Jeong, CEO and Chair of the Board, Heerim Architects & Planners
- Mr. Prashant Kapoor, Chief Industry Specialist, Green Buildings and Cities, IFC
- Mr. Niels Arbjerg, President of Asia Pacific Region, Danfoss

P4G official side event

9.40-9.45: Closing session

- Thank you from Mr. Songyop Kim, Head of Danfoss Northeast Asia