December 12, 2020

To whom it may concern,

  It is my pleasure to support the candidacy of Dr. Soonwook Hwang for the position of the President of Korean Institute of Science and Technology Information (KISTI). My qualifications for recommending Dr. Hwang are based on my expertise as a leader in the field of Grid Computing for many years. As the founding Director of the Grid Technology Research Center (2002-2008) within the National Institute of Advanced Industrial Science and Technology (AIST), an Independent Administrative Institution under the Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Japan; I collaborated with Dr. Hwang in the National Research Grid Initiative (NAREGI) project in Japan from 2003.   While he was a research scientist at the National Institute of Informatics, Japan, I became familiar with Dr. Hwang's work and how it gained significant recognition outside of his circle of collaborators. After he moved to KISTI, I continued to form a long-term partnership between AIST and KISTI, and I have interacted with Dr. Hwang on many occasions, including at HPC, AI, and high-speed networks.

  Over the years in developing Grid Computing, it was a great adventure for everyone to collaborate together to push the boundaries in the area of advanced technologies. Dr. Hwang developed his career as part of the NAREGI team in Japan. He developed his skills to interact with international partners and to provide middleware as well as application examples. His involvement has long been appreciated by the community. During this time, I personally saw the growth of his professional expertise as well as his management skills.

  I believe that Dr. Hwang's career experiences have prepared him well for the position of President at KISTI. Without reservation, I strongly recommend Dr. Soonwook Hwang to be given the opportunity to demonstrate his ability as a leader in your institute.

Sincerely,

Satoshi Sekiguchi, Ph.D
Director General,
Department of Information Technology and Human Factors,
Vice President, National Institute of AIST, Japan