



## Welcome by Jacques Defourny, Co-chair of the 3<sup>rd</sup> ICSEA, Member of the Board of EMES, and Scientific coordinator of the ICSEM Project

As a co-chair of the 3<sup>rd</sup> International Conference on Social Enterprise in Asia (ICSEA), I first want to express how pleased and impressed I am by the interest this event has attracted: more than 100 participants have registered and 70 papers will be presented by researchers from 19 countries. This represents a major step forward in the ongoing construction of a large Asian research community on social enterprise.

On behalf of the Board of the EMES Research Network and more particularly his President, Professor Lars Hulgård, who would have liked to take part in this 3<sup>rd</sup> ICSEA, I also wish to say that EMES is proud of being the companion of such a fast growing research community in Asia. The very first collaboration between EMES and a group of Asian researchers goes back to an informal meeting at a joint EMES-ISTR Conference in Barcelona in 2008. This short meeting, organized at the initiative of a Korean researcher studying in Belgium and a French researcher working in South Korea, paved the way for the launch of a joint research project about the emergence of social enterprise in Eastern Asia on a purely voluntary basis. A major step of this project was the 1<sup>st</sup> International Conference on Social Enterprise in Eastern Asia, organized by Professor Kuan in Taipei in June 2010. Among various other contributions, papers related to the project were presented and discussed on this occasion and they gave birth to a special issue of the *Social Enterprise Journal* (2011, n°1).

After a second successful ICSEA edition in Tianjin, China in 2012, a new step of collaboration is taking place on the occasion of this 3<sup>rd</sup> ICSEA at Yonsei University Campus in Wonju. A worldwide research project on "International Comparative Social Enterprise Models" has been launched by the EMES Network on July 5, 2013, just after its 4<sup>th</sup> EMES International Conference, held at the University of Liege, Belgium. Once more, Asian researchers are at the forefront of this project, as the very first ICSEM Regional Symposium will be embedded in the 3<sup>rd</sup> ICSEA: most Asian ICSEM research partners are presenting their first contributions on social enterprise models in their respective countries within a thematic line of this conference.

As an ICSEM Project's coordinator with my colleague Marthe Nyssens, I want to express our warmest thanks to the ICSEA Korean Organizing Committee and supporting partners, such as Yonsei University, Gangwon Provincial Government, SK Group and KOSEA, for allowing such a joint scientific venture through major financial and logistic support.

I wish you all exciting debates and a very pleasant stay on this beautiful campus!