Special High-Level Event on a New Rural Development Paradigm and the Inclusive and Sustainable New Communities Model Inspired by the Saemaul Undong

KIM Young-mok, KOICA President

Excellencies and dear Colleagues

I thank you all for excellent and valuable contribution. Any explanation on Korea’s dynamic development would not be perfect without mentioning SMU.

Korea’s SMU in 1970s generated dramatic changes not only in rural communities but all sectors of Korea as well.

Now we all agree that we work together toward inclusive and sustainable development across the world. As always I am honored and pleased to note that SMU is being recognized as a new paradigm or model in achieving SDGs:
First, SMU is one of best models which include people under poverty and structural disadvantages in the chain of growth and prosperity. Most populations in rural area, particularly, in remote area are excluded from benefits of development.

Second, one of intrinsic values of SMU is to nurture sustainability. SMU is not only based upon a principle of ownership and self-motivation but aims at building capacity for villagers to sustain what may have been achieved in the long run by themselves.

Third, SMU targets multiple sectoral goals SDGs pursues such as better education, improved health, sanitation, eco-friendly agriculture, environment and promotion of such universal values as gender equality, respect for human dignity in addition to income increase.

Once the concept of SMUs, many appropriate, innovative technologies and know-how should be applied to create wider social/economic impact. Taking advantage of science, technology progress is another important component of SDGs.
In my word, recommendation and analytic review by both OECD research team and UNDP are all identical to strategy and goals of KOICA, pursues through “SMART SMU”

Distinguished colleagues

Among others, One of our practical tasks is to how frame tailored schemes in harmonization with similar programs of partner countries like “Non-ton Moi” of Vietnam, “Sam-sang” of Lao PDR or “Tambos” of Peru, national integration plan of Uganda, Rwanda and others of similar goals.

I believe the new paradigm of community development asked us to pool together our commitments and resources.

We have tremendous challenges ahead. Among them are growing inequality, challenges from climate change, insufficiency of human and social capitals in addition to shortage of financial resources.
We cannot do much without input, support and participation of partners. "Inclusive Partnership" with “people of will”, governments, organizations such as UN/UNDP, WB group, OECD, Private foundations and corporations would make our task easier.

The spirit of Saemaul starts from the respect of human dignity. Pope Francis told us to let people in poverty and despair become agents chartering of their own future. He rightly pointed out what should be the guiding principle of new paradigm of SMU for inclusive and development.

I once again thank you all for your attention and great contributions.