

## <Volunteer activity to address UN's Sustainable Development Goals>

Jaehyun Kim

UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) agreed on September 2015 has pursued sustainable development in diverse areas including economy, society, environment, etc. Detailed targets they suggested are the end of poverty, sustainable agriculture, more opportunities of lifelong education and the achievement of sexual equality. However, sustainability of these goals is unstable as compelling force is absent under international agreement. Spontaneity matters in this sense. It is a fair guess that cooperation among nations would be weakened by the changes in international relations. Cooperation among civil societies which is based on volunteer activity is required as an alternative to this. Individual can be a part of this volunteer activity by offering teaching services.

Clause 4 of UN SDGs is 'quality education'. This term means providing fair and high-quality education to everybody regardless of gender and guaranteeing environment for pursuing lifelong education. Especially it is meaningful as not only to improve the quality of life but also to let the students from developing countries arrive at the solutions of sustainable development by themselves. Economic and social equity are also ensured. To provide the quality education, school expenses, teachers, buildings are additionally required. When it comes to the teacher, volunteers can be the answers. University students from developed countries who are willing to be sent to the developing countries can perform teaching services. As to education program, 'Accompanying project' by Seoul can be a good example. University students in Seoul city play the role as a teacher or a mentor and guide the students in developing countries. This project consists of teaching services, talent donation and caring services. Therefore, the project like 'Accompanying project' can be considered 'volunteer activity' by assigning university students for their mentors. However, to advance this kind of volunteer activity, several factors including expenses, safety should be preferentially taken into consideration. Additionally, they need to join the global teaching volunteer group which is an official organization. In case of Korea, Areumduri global volunteer supported by KT&G welfare foundation and global volunteer group supported by each university are officially signed as volunteer organization offering teaching services. It might be effective to join these pre-established organization to conduct global volunteer.

Sustainable development should be conducted to improve the quality of everyone's life. It seems obscure to carry out this goal in an individual level that joining global volunteer activity can be a realistic option. I firmly believe that, if these sorts of volunteer I mentioned above are being activated, the execution of sustainable development goals can be accelerated.