

## **Volunteering in addressing the UN Sustainable Development Goals**

The impact of volunteering is something that the UN lately has been paying much attention to. The United Nations considers volunteering as a mechanism that complements traditional means of achieving global goals, encourages people to engage in activities for the benefit of others and the planet, enhances civic participation, social integration, solidarity, increases the scale and complexity of joint actions at local, national and international levels and forms strong constructive ties, despite national, ethnic, social, and religious boundaries. The UN believes volunteering is an asset that deserves full recognition as a key partner in sustainable development.

One of the current challenges facing practitioners and researchers of volunteerism is to synchronize the development of volunteerism with the Sustainable Development Goals, launched by the UN. It is necessary to bring volunteering to a new level, to provide such a “link” in order to consider volunteering not only as a socially useful activity, but as one that is necessary and often indispensable for the sustainable socio-economic development of countries and the planet as a whole.

I have been volunteering since my school. At that time together with the team of volunteers we participated in the annual organization of the Victory Day parade, various concerts during holidays, cleaning of the grounds, etc. At the university, I continued to develop my volunteer potential in the framework of volunteer work in the student trade-union committee of National Research Tomsk State University and in Faculty of History. I possess leadership skills and speak English and Korean fluently and continue to learn German, that is why, my main task was to organize conferences as a senior volunteer and as a volunteer-interpreter.

In 2017, while studying under the Korea Foundation Fellowship for Korean Language Training at Yonsei University in Seoul, I volunteered for Funday Korea Networks organization. We held various cultural events for foreigners in South Korea in order to develop their knowledge of the culture and the language of this country. Thus, we contributed to the achievement of SDG 4 “Quality education”, because our programs allowed foreigners not only to learn new information, but to see everything themselves and participate in workshops. Moreover, as a future volunteer of the Olympics and Paralympics in PyeongChang 2018, I was invited to take part in “The 8th Youth Dialogue” of the forum “Korea-Russia Dialogue”, that was held in Seoul and PyeongChang in July 2017. During the forum together with the participants from South Korea and Russia, we solved cases on the use of sports infrastructure after the end of the Olympic Games in PyeongChang, including using the Russian experience in holding the Winter Olympics in Sochi, as well as questions about the lives of young people in Russia and South Korea and problems relevant to young generation.

In 2018, in the framework of the Volunteer’s Year in Russia, I took part in the two largest world events: PyeongChang Winter Olympic and Paralympic Games and FIFA World Cup Russia. According to Presidents Moon Jae-in and Vladimir Putin, as well as the organizers of these global events, it would have been impossible to hold these global events without help of volunteers. In my opinion, what made it possible to conduct these historical events successfully was the understanding that we all work towards the achievement of the

common goal. Volunteers were involved in absolutely various activities at different levels, thus contributing to the implementation of the UN SDGs.

Nowadays, the spirit of volunteerism is becoming stronger and stronger. Volunteers around the world participate in all kinds of programs to help people and the environment, thereby attracting public attention and promoting the need to implement the UN SDGs. Universities, on the basis of which volunteer communities are organized, play a crucial role as intermediaries between the government and the community, thereby involving people of different social levels in actions and activities aimed at achieving the UN SDG.

To sum up, I consider it my duty to help achieve the UN SDGs, inspiring people by my example and creating a ripple effect that will increase outreach and multiply our results. Sustainable development cannot be achieved through institutional action only. Therefore, I am ready to continue contributing as an active member of the civil society, as a mediator at the international level with knowledge of foreign languages, and as a person who is able to negotiate and achieve public goals.

Being a volunteer  
Is being a leader without fear  
That you won't achieve your goal,  
Whether it's big or whether it's small.

Sustainable development goals  
That the UN has set  
Have very distinctive roles  
That the mankind will have met.

So together with other participants  
Striving for the optimism  
We'll help to address the significance  
Of the UN SDGs' volunteerism.

As a good team-player with proactive position  
I'll help to make common decision.  
I'll plunge into forum and work out solution  
That will become my best contribution.