

Name: **Kim Tae Ho**

University : **Hankuk University of Foreign Studies**

Major: **Russia**

-Essay-

Our Activities to Solve the UN's SDGs

A new global agenda named 'Sustainable Development Goals' was set by the UN in September 2015. Unlike MDGs, which focused only on developing countries, SDGs focused on both developing and developed countries and included more environmental aspects. SDGs set 17 goals for every country through 'People', 'Prosperity', 'Peace', 'Partnership' and 'Planet'. Among them, poverty eradication was at the top of the agenda. SDGs included three elements – economic growth, social inclusion and environmental protection. For example, tuberculosis is not only determined by an unhealthy lifestyle, but it could also be influenced by other factors such as poverty or air quality. For these factors to remain in their best condition, we must strengthen the capacities of all stakeholders to work together, make peace, and maintain a good institution to improve three elements. It is the international cooperation that makes this possible. Private sector and public sector take an important role and work together.

SDGs Goal 14. Life Below Water

Among 17 goals, there is "Life Below Water" denoted as 'Goal 14'. It focused to conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. The first reason the UN has set this goal is that the water quality is getting worse due to constant pollution and acidification caused by people. The damage does not only affect marine resources, but also humans. If the marine resources or life were to eat small invisible pollutants, it would be on our table because we consumed that. Secondly, these things eventually break away from the UN's goal of eliminating discrimination. Because reckless fishing and marine pollution in other countries end up affecting countries that rely on primary industrial activity. Mainly developing countries rely on agriculture or fishing and are greatly affected by the reduction of their catch or the destruction of the marine ecosystem.

Due to global warming and ocean pollution, the water temperature of the sea is rising. Over the past 80 years, global catch has declined 4.1 percent on average, and marine resources is moving northward due to rising water temperatures. In the case of Korea, from 1930 to 2010, East Sea of total fish volumes were decreased to 35 percent. The warming of the waters around our country is accelerating very much. As a result, the catch of squid and Japanese Spanish mackerel dropped sharply. Squid caught 14,414

tons in 1993 but is now catching 986 tons in 2016.¹ In the case of Russia, fish have moved northward in response to rising water temperatures, making it possible to fish in large quantities in the Kamchatka Peninsula. It accounts for 66.9 percent of Russia's total catch. The Barents Sea is followed by the second-largest catch area, accounting for 12.2 percent of the total.

We must seek ways what we can do regarding South Korea and Russia. The beginning is the 'North Pole route'. Global warming has caused glaciers to melt, opening the way through the Arctic to Asia and Europe. It takes 7-10 days to transport goods from Asia to Europe by train. In contrast, it takes two to four weeks to ship goods from Asia to Europe via the North Pole route. However, the amount transported by ship would be too large than by train. As a result, shipping by ship is much more profitable. The North Pole route can now use only three to four months a year, but experts predict it will be able to use seven to eight months in 2023. For this reason, the world sees the second Silk Road as the North Pole route and is developing as much as it is.

What is certain is that if people are interested and development is accelerated, the concern of destruction and pollution about ecosystem will be on the back burner. Recently, there have been many incidents from melting ice and destroying ice by Russian icebreakers, leading polar bears to come to Russian villages tens of thousands of kilometers away. It is necessary to alert people to these happenings. From a college student's point of view, it is necessary to upload and share intense photos showing the destruction of the Arctic or marine pollution through SNS. This is because these trivial things provide the basis for gaining sympathy, raising awareness and further changing regulations and policies. With the development of the Arctic route, the activity of social networking services by university students is important to re-light the marine destruction and pollution that are covered. When people are concentrated by sharing the images of destruction on social networking sites, the government strives for preservation as well as development.

The second is to change the buying patterns of consumers. When consumers buy goods, the packaging tends to attract attention and make purchases. If a familiar image or celebrity is printed on the same item, people are more likely to purchase such items than items that do not have. I recently joined RosUpack and got some information. RosUpack is an international packaging fair in Russia, where various packaging companies participate to promote their products and sign contracts. Most of these companies emphasized their differentiated in design and minimal costs. These parts were only aimed at selling well, but the resources and environment were not considered. And in the end, it will destroy the environment and waste indiscriminate resource consumption. In contrast, in the case of a Canadian packaging company, the focus is different. They emphasize recycling possibilities and promote these to consumers. For example, "Water bottles of our products used recycled plastic and used machines to make them stronger and cleaner than ever before. They are promoting and selling goods in this way. These parts clearly show that Canada is different from Korea and Russia, and they are more concerned

¹ Kim Yun Bae's thesis in KIOST

about environmental conservation.

That is why consumers must first change their buying patterns from packaging design to environmental preservation. Even if you buy the same items, you buy company products that use recycled containers. This change in consumption habits will make companies change to recyclable packaging rather than hard-to-recycling plastic packaging and reduce the amount of waste dumped in the sea. 8,000,000 tons of plastic waste leak into the ocean every year. However, changes in consumers' purchases could help reduce these figures.

SDGs Goal 17. Partnerships for the Goals

UN is promoting a comprehensive partnership based on principles, values, common vision and goals, focusing on people and our planet. This partnership is needed at both international, regional and national levels. In particular, global partnerships are important not only for developed countries, but also for the participation of developing countries. Long-term investments to developing countries and direct investment in foreign capital are important factors. Accordingly, the UN sets out detailed goals, focusing on financial, technological, trade and systemic issues.

Suppose giving material support to developing countries. Developed countries will send aid supplies to developing countries, with the expectation that they will make their lives better with computers and machines. Will they use these aid materials effectively? No. Because they need immediate money, they try to get short-term profits by taking apart support materials like machines and selling them at low prices. The reason why this situation happened is because they are ignorant. They do that because they don't realize how aid materials are helpful in the long run. Therefore, we should focus on the 'Education' section to compensate our goals from the partnerships. In other words, what we can do in line with the U.N.'s partnership is to promote education in developing countries.

In developed countries, there is a compulsory education system, where children must receive a certain level of education. As a result, children in developed countries crave a way to live a good life which can lead to the development of the country. However, children in developing countries have relatively poor educational opportunities. Their families are suffering from poverty and starvation because there is no fixed income. Thus, children are sent to work rather than to school. Furthermore, children's death rates are inevitably high because they are exposed to dangerous situations because of poor work conditions.

For 'Partnerships for the Goals' to be practically executed within the realm of volunteering, education should become the basis. Education should be the foundation to all the factors in which a country can stand to become self-sufficient. For example, child labor could be reduced by campaign and campaign can be promoted to send children to school. There can also be ways to explain to parents the need for children's education and future benefits. These will be the basis for achieving partnerships.

As a college student, there are many limitations to implementing the U.N.'s SDGs. However, efforts to change even small things will enable people to sympathize and practice together. In the end, it will be a step toward the goal and it will eventually be reached.