

April 18, 2014

‘Global Saemaul Leadership Forum 2014’ Postponement

Dear colleagues and friends,

I am Oe Chool Choi, the president of Global SAEMAUL UNDONG Forum. First of all, I am deeply sorry to inform you that Global Saemaul Leadership Forum 2014, scheduled to take place on April 21-24, 2014, has been postponed because of the tragic ferry accident happened on April 16 in Korea. I also extend my sincere gratitude to those who have given tremendous support for organizing this Forum.

The Global Saemaul Leadership Forum 2014 has been organized to celebrate the 44th anniversary of Saemaul Undong. The Forum was co-hosted by Global SAEMAUL UNDONG Forum, KOICA and Korea Saemaul Undong Center and was supported by Ministry of Security and Public Administration, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs.

This Forum was planned as part of an effort to make new beginnings for reducing global poverty, resolving the common challenges we are facing, and living happier life together by sharing experiences of Korean development. We have expected that the Forum could have provided unique opportunities for sharing experiences and values of Saemaul Undong among more than 800 delegates, who are government dignitaries of developing countries including the Deputy Prime Minister of Cambodia, international organization experts from the U.N. and the World Bank, Saemaul leaders from 45 countries.

Shockingly, however, a Korean ferry carrying over 470 passengers sank off

this Wednesday morning. Nearly 300 people are dead or still missing. In particular, a considerable number of students on a school excursion are in a desperate situation. Under these tragic circumstances, most of arranged events in Korea have been postponed or cancelled.


This ferry tragedy should not have happened. Victims' families are suffering from the heartbreak of losing their children, relatives, and friends through this unexpected accident. We all sympathize with their indescribable pain and we think this is a time to mourn. Therefore, we had to make a decision to postpone the Global Saemaul Leadership Forum 2014. Once again, I am very sorry for informing this and for any inconvenience it may cause.

I thank all of PSPS graduate students, who worked as supporters of Global Saemaul Leadership Forum or prepared for field-learning activity. I am also grateful to many professors and to staff members of Institute for International Development Cooperation for their sincere contributions.

As we are aware of the increasing international needs and interest on Saemaul Undong, we are trying to hold another Forum in the near future. When the schedule is set, I will let you know. Again, I would like to ask your understanding on these circumstances.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'choi oe choel' in a cursive style.

Oe Chool Choi, Ph.D.

President

Global SAEMAUL UNDONG Forum