



Secretary General Chul Ki JU
Closing Speech At

***The Declaration and the Handover Ceremony of
North-East Asian Youth Conference: “The World We Want”***

9th January 2013
GSIS, Korea University

I congratulate all the students of Northeast Asia attending this Conference. I thank the UNDP and UNESCAP and the Korea University for hosting this Conference together with us. I am particularly honored and pleased to support this important Conference as you are the next leader of our community. As the world celebrates the accomplishment of the MDGs in 2015, we are planning a new target of SDGs to be followed for the years to come. The world has made considerable progress in the last 13 years in terms of developments. Considerable progress has been achieved in MDGs' different goals but certainly not all objectives have been met. The recent world economic crisis has added problems in achieving development goals. In every country, stakeholders raise their voice of discontents. For instance, in Korea, people worry that there is deep gap and division between generations. Discontents from the Youth are magnified through the prism of media. Over the world, The Occupy Wall street was another sign of discontents. But I wish to remain rather optimistic. The UN mechanism has kept overall peace in the world over seven decades and economic and social conditions have greatly improved in many parts of the world. New peoples join in the bandwagon of making progress. Yesterday, there was an astonishing news report that GDP of newly emerging countries surpasses that of developed countries. Many peoples are out of poverty line but still many remain inside. Political strife and conflicts still torment huge number of victimized peoples. There is continued need of promoting UN Charter goals, namely, peace and security, economic and social progress as well as human rights. So, there is a constant need to set up a good strategy for the Post-MDGs years. In the process, Asian voice should be heard and Asia needs to contribute to this endeavor as a region where huge progress has been made over the years. Our Youth should be ready to take charge of all these endeavors as next leaders. We also could share our wisdom and experiences with the others, for instance, with African peoples so that they also would join the development ladder. We must to give due



attention to issues such as climate change, water, energy, forestry and food which will become dominant agenda in the 21st century. To my mind, we, the peoples in Northeast Asia have two important priority areas. First, we must pay due care for cherishing peace and stability in the region, as this is pivotal to buttress our continued progress. We must learn to have wisdom to overcome conflicts of interests among regional countries for the broader benefits of all. In this respect, I am happy to note that such concern is well reflected in your Declaration today. Secondly, we must think about ways of boosting up sustainability in our region. In this respect, I would particularly mention on safety issues of nuclear energy. As we have so many nuclear centrals in our periphery, we need to develop mechanism of promoting safety of the nuclear installations existing in the region. You emphasized the importance of nuclear security in your Declaration. Likewise we must give due attention to nuclear safety issue.

Ladies and gentlemen, the UN Global Compact is promoting human rights, labor rights, environment and anti-corruption. It also backs up UN efforts for promoting MDGs. It will become even more important partner of the UN for SDGs. I congratulate you on finishing important job today and adopting the North-East Asian Youth Declaration. Certainly this is not the end but the start of our combined endeavor. I also hope you enjoy Seoul life for a few days. I also wish you to maintain close contact among friends here and that way, you all become an active agent for peace and progress. I thank you.

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