

THE ASIA FOUNDATION  
CENTER FOR U.S.-KOREA POLICY  
U.S.- KOREA DIALOGUE ON STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE  
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION  
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THE U.S. PEACE CORPS AND THE KOREAN DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE

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INTRODUCTION

IN THE 50<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY YEAR FOR PEACE CORPS AND THE 20<sup>TH</sup> FOR KOICA, THE ASIA FOUNDATION CHOSE AN IMPORTANT TOPIC FOR ME TO ADDRESS: THE U.S. PEACE CORPS AND THE KOREAN DEVELOPMENT EXPERIENCE.” IT IS ALSO 30 YEARS SINCE PEACE CORPS LEFT KOREA. WHAT LESSONS REMAIN RELEVANT IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD?

THIS WORKSHOP HAS GIVEN ME AN OPPORTUNITY TO PULL TOGETHER SOME INFORMATION AND MANY OLD MEMORIES ON THE PEACE CORPS EXPERIENCE. MANY RECORDS HAVE BEEN LOST OVER THE YEARS BUT THE GOOD FEELING FOR PEACE CORPS IN KOREA REMAINS. MUCH CAN BE LEARNED FROM EXPLORING THE APPRECIATION FELT OVER ALL THESE YEARS.

PEACE CORPS CERTAINLY WAS AN OUTSTANDING EXAMPLE OF COOPERATION BETWEEN KOREA AND THE UNITED STATES. I AM CONVINCED THAT THERE ARE LESSONS FROM THE PEACE CORPS EXPERIENCE THAT ARE RELEVANT

SPECIFICALLY FOR KOREA OVERSEAS VOLUNTEERS (KOV) BUT ALSO TO KOREA'S OTHER INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT GOALS. I WOULD LIKE TO THINK THAT AMONG THE KOREAN OFFICIALS WHO CHOSE THE NAME "WORLD FRIENDS KOREA" SOME MAY WELL HAVE RECALLED PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS FROM DECADES AGO.

THE TIMING AND THE LOCATION FOR THIS DISCUSSION COULD NOT HAVE BEEN BETTER. THE SIXTH PEACE CORPS REVISIT STARTED YESTERDAY IN THIS HOTEL. NONE OF THE OTHER 139 COUNTRIES PEACE CORPS HAS SERVED IN HAS EVER OFFERED SUCH GENEROSITY. WHEN PRESIDENT LEE, MYUNG-BAK ANNOUNCED THE REVISIT INVITATION IN 2008, IT WAS FOR ALL THE VOLUNTEERS. THIS MORNING VICE MINISTER..... OF MOFAT WARMLY WELCOMED THE GROUP THAT INCLUDES 58 VOLUNTEERS, INCLUDING THREE FROM THE FIRST GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS AND 30 FAMILY MEMBERS OR FRIENDS WHO WILL GAIN SIGNIFICANT NEW INSIGHTS TO AN EARLY CHAPTER IN THE VOLUNTEER'S LIFE. THE GROUP WOULD BE AN EXCELLENT FOCUS GROUP FOR THIS WORKSHOP ON THE BENEFITS OF PEACE CORPS FOR THEMSELVES AND FOR KOREA. FROM THIS ONE SAMPLING THE 15 YEARS OF PEACE CORPS ARE WELL REPRESENTED. THEIR CAREERS AND LIVES SUGGEST THE IMPACT VOLUNTEER SERVICE WILL HAVE ON THE KOREAN VOLUNTEERS AND KOREA ITSELF.

THROUGHOUT THE WEEK THE PARTICIPANTS WILL HEAR APPRECIATION FOR THEIR CONTRIBUTIONS TO KOREA'S DEVELOPMENT. THEY WILL ATTRIBUTE ALL THE KIND WORDS TO KOREAN HOSPITALITY AND THE KOREAN QUALITY OF RECIPROCATION. THEY ACTUALLY BECOME UNCOMFORTABLE WITH THE KIND WORDS. YET MANY WILL LEARN DURING THE REVISIT THAT AS A VOLUNTEER THEY DID IMPACT INDIVIDUAL LIVES – NOT JUST THEIR OWN.

LET'S LOOK AT THAT PAST, WHICH STILL RESONATES IN SO MANY WAYS, AND AT SOME LESSONS THAT APPLY TO KOICA/KOV AND OTHER KOREAN DEVELOPMENT PLANS INTO THE FUTURE.

## INFORMATION ON PEACE CORPS/KOREA

*PEACE CORPS GOALS AS SET FORTH IN THE PEACE CORPS ACT ARE: TO HELP DEVELOPING NATIONS MEET THEIR NEEDS FOR TRAINED MANPOWER; TO HELP PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF AMERICAN PEOPLE ON THE PART OF THE PEOPLE BEING SERVED; AND TO PROMOTE BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF OTHER PEOPLE AMONG AMERICANS.*

TO FULFILL THOSE GOALS THE FIRST GROUP ARRIVED IN KOREA IN SEPTEMBER 1966. FIFTY MORE GROUPS WOULD ARRIVE BEFORE THE PROGRAM ENDED IN 1981. IN THOSE 15 YEARS NEARLY 2000 VOLUNTEERS SERVED IN KOREA. THE ABRUPT, UNILATERAL DECISION TO END THE PROGRAM WAS A WASHINGTON BUDGET DECISION TO TERMINATE THE MOST DEVELOPED COUNTRY IN EACH OF ITS THREE REGIONS.

THE BEGINNING CAME FIVE YEARS LATER THAN SOME KOREAN LEADERS HAD WANTED. ACCORDING TO KEVIN O'DONNELL, THE FIRST DIRECTOR, KOREA HAD BEEN ONE OF THE FIRST COUNTRIES TO REQUEST PEACE CORPS. U.S. OFFICIALS IN KOREA APPARENTLY FELT THE AMERICAN PRESENCE WAS LARGE ENOUGH AND THAT KOREA WOULD BE TOO DIFFICULT FOR YOUNG VOLUNTEERS.

IN 1965 USIA OFFICER BERNIE LAVIN BEGAN EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITY WITH KOREAN OFFICIALS WHO INDICATED INTEREST IN ENGLISH, SCIENCE AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHERS. IN MAY 1966 A TEAM OF THREE PEACE CORPS STAFF, KEVIN O'DONNELL, LOREN COX AND TERRY MIXTER, SPLIT UP THE COUNTRY AND VISITED IN JUST A FEW WEEKS 100 POTENTIAL VOLUNTEER SITES. IMAGINE ALL THAT TRAVEL ON THE ROADS OF 1966. COMMON REACTIONS FROM THE KOREANS THEY MET WERE THAT YOUNG AMERICANS COULD NOT LIVE IN

THE RURAL AREAS AND THEY SHOULD BE PAID MORE THAN PEACE CORPS PLANNED.

THE FORMAL AGREEMENT WENT INTO FORCE ON SEPTEMBER 14, 1966 TO BE FOLLOWED BY AN "UNDERSTANDING FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION" SIGNED ON MARCH 24, 1967. YOU SHOULD KNOW THE NAME OF THE KOREAN GENTLEMAN SIGNING THAT DOCUMENT. IT IS CHO, SUNG OK. HIS CAREER LINKS PEACE CORPS AND KOICA/KOV. HE SIGNED THE DOCUMENT AS DIRECTOR, BUREAU OF CULTURE AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION. WHEN I WAS COUNTRY DIRECTOR HE WAS DEPUTY OF EDUCATION AND MY PRIMARY GOVERNMENT CONTACT. IN OUR LUNCHES, IN ADDITION TO PEACE CORPS PROGRAMMATIC MATTERS, HE REGULARLY DISCUSSED HIS DESIRE THAT KOREA HAVE ITS OWN INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM AND ASKED FOR MY VIEWS. HE PUSHED AND PULLED THIS DREAM INTO EXISTENCE MAKING KOREA THE FIRST RECEIVING NATION TO SEND ITS OWN VOLUNTEERS OUT TO HELP THE WORLD. IT HAS NOW GROWN INTO THE SECOND OR THIRD LARGEST INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION.

ITS GOALS CERTAINLY ECHO PEACE CORPS' THREE GOALS.

*THE KOV PROGRAM AIMS TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF PEOPLE IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, ENHANCE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN KOREA AND PARTNER COUNTRIES, AND PROMOTE PUBLIC AWARENESS AND PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION IN KOREA.*

WHEN RETURNING PCVS VISIT KOV TRAINEES, AS THEY WILL THIS WEEK, THERE IS ALWAYS CONSIDERABLE EMOTION. TEARY EYES ARE NOT UNCOMMON FROM BOTH THE AMERICANS AND KOREANS. IN THESE YOUNG KOREANS THEY CAN SEE THEMSELVES SEVERAL DECADES AGO PREPARING FOR UNKNOWN ADVENTURES TO FULFILL SIMILAR NATIONAL AND PERSONAL GOALS.

ON THE FIRST VISIT WHEN THE KOREAN TRAINEES SAW PICTURES OF THE PCV LIVING CONDITIONS IN 1966, MANY GASPED IN SURPRISE, AS IT WAS A COUNTRY THEY COULD NOT ENVISION NOR COULD THEY IMAGINE AMERICANS LIVING LIKE THAT. BEFORE THEY SAW THE PHOTOGRAPHS, I HEARD ONE YOUNG PERSON SAY, "WHY WAS PEACE CORPS HERE? WE WERE ALWAYS RICH."

FROM THESE VISITS MANY OF THE PCVS REALIZE THAT ONE OF THE STRONGEST MESSAGES THEY OFFER TO THESE FRESH KOREAN SUCCESSORS IS THAT VOLUNTEER SERVICE OVERSEAS IS LIKELY TO CHANGE THEIR LIVES FOREVER. HORIZONS WILL EXPAND WITH NEW KNOWLEDGE, LANGUAGES, FRIENDS AND AMBITIONS. I AM CONVINCED SOME WILL BE AMBASSADORS FOR KOREA NOT ONLY IN THEIR YOUTH BUT ALSO IN THEIR PROFESSIONAL CAREERS, JUST AS AMBASSADOR STEPHENS DID, TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY OF THEIR VOLUNTEER DAYS KNOWING IT AND LOVING IT IMMEASURABLY TO THE GREAT BENEFIT OF BOTH COUNTRIES.

I WAS A VOLUNTEER IN THAILAND. I HAVE BEEN SURPRISED THAT PEACE CORPS IS STILL THERE. A FORMER PCV WHO BECAME AMBASSADOR TO THAILAND RECENTLY TOLD ME THAT THAILAND PAYS FOR MUCH OF THE PROGRAM WITH A VERY STRONG FACTOR BEING AN UNDERSTANDING THAT FROM PEACE CORPS COME FUTURE SCHOLARS, DIPLOMATS AND FRIENDS WHO WILL CONTINUE TO BENEFIT THAILAND.

AS DIRECTOR IN 1974 I ARRANGED FOR AN EVALUATION OF THE PROGRAM AS IT APPROACHED THE TEN-YEAR MARK. BY THAT TIME, TWO-THIRDS OF THE WAY THROUGH PEACE CORPS' PRESENCE ABOUT ONE THOUSAND MEN AND WOMEN HAD ARRIVED IN KOREA. BASED ON MY EXPERIENCE LATER SUPERVISING PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS AS REGIONAL DIRECTOR FOR NORTH AFRICA, NEAR EAST, ASIA AND PACIFIC, I BELIEVE THE STUDY CAN WELL SERVE AS AN OVERVIEW TO THE ENTIRE FIFTEEN YEARS IN KOREA AND OFFERS INSIGHTS TO PEACE CORPS

VOLUNTEER SERVICE IN GENERAL. AS I RE-READ “AN EVALUATIVE STUDY OF THE PEACE CORPS PROGRAM IN KOREA”<sup>1</sup> FOR THIS WORKSHOP, OLD MEMORIES STIRRED AND MY RESPECT FOR THE KOREA AUTHORS RETURNED. THEY SENT OUT 500 QUESTIONNAIRES RESULTING IN 272 USABLE REPLIES FROM BOTH VOLUNTEERS AND KOREANS AND CONDUCTED AN EXTENSIVE SERIES OF INTERVIEWS.

AN IMPORTANT QUOTE IS: “NO SWEEPING CHANGE HAS BEEN OCCASIONED IN THE KOREAN ENGLISH EDUCATION SYSTEM BY PCVS, NOR IS IT LIKELY TO IN THE NEAR FUTURE. BUT AN *INCREMENTAL CHANGE* WOULD BE WELL WITHIN THE RANGE OF POSSIBILITY.”<sup>2</sup>

THE STUDY HAS EIGHTEEN TABLES ON PCV AND KOREAN PERSPECTIVES IN THE DIFFERENT WORK SECTORS BUT I WILL INCLUDE ONLY TWO THAT SEEM MOST PERTINENT TO THIS WORKSHOP’S GOALS.<sup>3</sup>

PEACE CORPS CONTRIBUTION

VOLUNTEER RESPONSE ON HOW MUCH THEY FEEL THEY ARE CONTRIBUTING TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF KOREAN SOCIETY.

	<u>TESOL</u>	<u>PUBLIC HEALTH</u>	<u>VOC. ED</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
VERY MUCH	8	2	0	10 (8.1%)
SOMEWHAT	21	6	2	29 (24.0)
A LITTLE	49	14	2	65 (52.8)
NONE	11	8	0	<u>19</u> (15.4)
				123

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<sup>1</sup> Hahn, Bae-Ho, Ung-rin Ko, Hong-Woo Lee, Han-Kyong Kim, An Evaluative Study of the Peace Corps Program in Korea, June, 1975, Seoul.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, p. 88

<sup>3</sup> Ibid, p.7-72

KOREAN RESPONSE

	<u>TESOL</u>	<u>PUBLIC HEALTH</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
VERY MUCH	19	13	32 (27.8%)
SOMEWHAT	37	33	50 (43.4)
A LITTLE	20	9	29 (25.2)
NONE	2	2	<u>4 (3.4)</u>
			115

THESE TWO TABLES OFFER SIGNIFICANT INSIGHTS TO PEACE CORPS IN KOREA. THE AUTHORS WROTE, "THE FINDINGS WE HAVE OBTAINED FROM PCVS AND THEIR COUNTERPARTS ON ALL THESE POINTS LEAD TO "A CONCLUSION THAT PCVS IN KOREA ARE DOING FAIRLY EFFECTIVE WORK \* IN SPITE OF A NUMBER OF SERIOUS CONSTRAINTS IMPOSED UPON THEM." <sup>4</sup>

THAT ASTERISK IS FOR THE ONLY FOOTNOTE, COPIED BELOW, IN 110 PAGES AND IT IS AN IMPORTANT STATEMENT AS WE PROCEED TO LESSONS LEARNED -- AND TO LEARN.

*THIS CONCLUSION SHOULD BE QUALIFIED BY A CROSS-CULTURAL OBSERVATION. AMERICANS TEND IN PARTICULAR TO BE MORE SELF-CRITICAL THAN KOREANS AND KOREANS LESS CRITICAL IN GENERAL. DUE TO LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL BARRIERS IT IS DIFFICULT FOR PCVS TO SENSE ACCOMPLISHMENT WITHOUT DEFINITE TANGIBLE RESULTS.* <sup>5</sup>

IN VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS YOU ARE ALWAYS DEALING WITH INTANGIBLES TO ACHIEVE THE TANGIBLES. IN THE FIFTY YEARS SINCE PEACE CORPS BEGAN, MUCH OF THE WORLD HAS CHANGED IN WAYS

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid, p.86

<sup>5</sup> Ibid, p.86

INCONCEIVABLE FIVE DECADES AGO. NO NATION HAS RISEN FASTER ECONOMICALLY AND EDUCATIONALLY THAN KOREA. RETURNING VOLUNTEERS FIND THEIR VILLAGES HAVE HIGH RISES. THEY SEE FIRSTHAND THAT IN SOME AREAS AMERICA HAS FALLEN BEHIND KOREA. MANY KOREANS REALIZE THAT THE FIFTEEN YEARS (1966-81) THAT PEACE CORPS WAS HERE WERE THE TAKE OFF YEARS. THE EVALUTIVE STUDY STATES THAT VOLUNTEERS ARRIVING IN 1966 FOUND THE COUNTRY "IN THE GRASP OF ECONOMIC UPSURGE."<sup>6</sup> (I DOUBT THAT THOSE BREAKING ICE TO WASH IN MUDDY COURTYARDS REALIZED THAT SURGE.)

IN MY OWN YEARS, 1973-76, THE GREYHOUND BUSES RACING BACK AND FORTH TO PUSAN ON A NEARLY EMPTY HIGHWAY WERE BRIGHT SYMBOLS OF MODERNITY. THE THATCH COUNTRY ROOFS OF THE AGES WERE QUICKLY DISAPPEARING. DUSTY COUNTRY LANES WERE PAVED, BLACK AND WHITE TVS BROUGHT NEWS FROM SEOUL INTO SMOKY SMALL TOWN TABANGS, WHERE HARD WORKING MEN FOUND SOME RELAXATION AND WARMTH IN THE WINTER WHILE DISCUSSING THAT DAY AND FUTURE ONES. BOYS AND GIRLS PACKED INTO UNHEATED CLASSROOMS WERE AWARE THAT THEIR PARENTS HAD HIGH HOPES FOR THEM. PEOPLE MOBILIZED TO PLANT TREES ON BAREN HILLSIDES.

THOSE TREES NOW GROWN TALL ACROSS KOREA SERVE AS A BEAUTIFUL EXAMPLE OF THE COUNTRY'S DEVELOPMENT PROCESSES UNIQUE PROGRESS. IS THERE ANOTHER NATION THAT AT THE SAME TIME IT WAS PUSHING RAPID INDUSTRIALIZATION HAD THE VISION AND DETERMINATION TO REFOREST HILLS DEVASTATED BY COLONIALIZATION, WAR AND POVERTY? KOREA'S "MIRACLE ON THE

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<sup>6</sup> Ibid, p.7



HAN" IS GREEN AS WELL AS BLACK AND WHITE NUMBERS IMPRESSING PLANNERS, ECONOMISTS AND KOREAN CITIZENS.

MANY HAVE WRITTEN ON THE METHODS AND SUCCESS OF SAEMAUL UNDONG IN THE RURAL AREAS OF KOREA. MANY VOLUNTEERS EXPERIENCED ITS EFFORTS FIRSTHAND. MANY JOINED WITH THEIR STUDENTS AND THE COMMUNITY IN PLANTING TREES. ARE THERE PATTERNS, LESSONS IN THOSE EFFORTS THAT ILLUSTRATE PEACE CORPS' SUCCESS IN KOREA THAT ARE ALSO APPLICABLE TO THE WORK AND LIVES OF KOREAN VOLUNTEERS ABROAD? WHAT DID THOSE DAYS ON STEEP HILLSIDES AND THOUSANDS OF TINY SAPLINGS GRABBED AND STUCK INTO MUD WITH CHAPPED HANDS REQUIRE TO BRING FORTH FORESTS?

THE SAME THINGS SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS REQUIRE.

(1) AMBITIOUS GOALS: AS SAEMAUL UNDONG'S TREE PLANTING BEGAN THE OLDEST KOREANS COULD STILL REMEMBER WHEN THERE WERE MANY TREES. THEY NOW KNEW THE NEED FOR WOOD AND KINDLING AND THEY WANTED THEIR COUNTRY TO BE BEAUTIFUL AGAIN. THE CHILDREN THOUGHT IT WAS FUN SHARING IN THE GRAND ADVENTURE NOT COMPREHENDING THAT SEOUL HAD SET AMBITIOUS GOALS WITH STRICT ENFORCEMENT. THEY CERTAINLY DID NOT ENVISION THAT THEY WOULD LIVE TO SEE HILLS COVERED WITH TREES, WHICH THEIR CHILDREN AND GRANDCHILDREN WOULD ASSUME HAD ALWAYS BEEN THERE.

PEACE CORPS' THREE GOALS COMBINED A MISSION OF HELP, SHARED HUMANITY WITH RESULTING BENEFITS FOR THE U.S. KOREANS DEVELOPING THEIR NEW AGENCY OBVIOUSLY HAD

COME TO UNDERSTAND THAT APPEALING SYNERGY TO SET SUCH SIMILAR GOALS FOR ITS VOLUNTEERS.

- (2) DETERMINED LEADERSHIP: IN KOREA IN PRESIDENT PARK'S TIME ORDERS CAME FROM THE TOP. WHILE HIS RULE COULD BE HARSH, HE HAD A BROAD VISION FOR THE COUNTRY INCLUDING RURAL DEVELOPMENT. HISTORIANS ARE NOW GIVING HIM MORE CREDIT FOR KOREA'S SUCCESS.

WHEN CANDIDATE JOHN KENNEDY CALLED FOR A PEACE CORPS IN A LATE NIGHT SPEECH, THE OVERWHELMING RESPONSE FROM YOUNG PEOPLE STARTLED HIM. THEIR ENTHUSIASM ENSURED THAT THE IDEA WOULD NOT BE DISCARDED DESPITE THE DOUBTS OF SOME ADVISORS AND STATE DEPARTMENT. KENNEDY GAVE THE TASK OF BUILDING THE AGENCY TO A DETERMINED BROTHER-IN-LAW WHO HAD ABIDING FAITH IN THE IMPORTANCE OF SERVING BUT CHOSE ADVENTUROUS STAFF AND REDUCED BUREAUCRACY. HIS STYLE WOULD BE THE OPPOSITE OF THAT NORMALLY FOUND IN KOREA BUT IT WAS EQUALLY INSISTENT. PEACE CORPS IS CONSIDERED KENNEDY'S 'MOST ENDURING LEGACY' BUT IT IS REALLY SHRIVER'S.

AMONG THOSE WHO BUILT KOREA'S PROGRAM, I ONLY KNOW CHO, SUNG OK WHOSE ZEAL WAS EVIDENT BACK IN 1973 AND, I AM TOLD, EVEN EARLIER. VISITING THE KOICA TRAINING CENTER AND HEADQUARTERS, IT IS CLEAR HOW EFFECTIVE ITS LEADERS HAVE BEEN IN ESTABLISHING A LARGE PROGRAM VERY QUICKLY. IN A VERY SHORT TIME THEY HAVE EXPANDED AROUND THE GLOBE. THAT TAKES COMMITMENT AND DETERMINATION. FOR SOMEONE STEEPED IN PEACE CORPS, I

AM ALWAYS AMAZED AT HOW *ESTABLISHED* THE KOREAN PROGRAM FEELS WHEN I VISIT ITS FACILITIES. THERE IS A DIFFERENCE BETWEEN KOREAN LEADERSHIP STYLE AND THAT INFUSED BY THE KENNEDY/SHRIVER MORE OPEN “NEW FRONTIER” APPROACH. BOTH HAVE WORKED.

(3) IN-COUNTRY SUPPORT: AFTER LANGUAGE AND CROSS CULTURAL TRAINING IN GROUPS, MANY WENT OUT TO VERY RURAL SITES. IN THE EARLY YEARS, THEY WERE OFTEN THE FIRST FOREIGNER TO LIVE THERE. IT WAS CHALLENGING. THE EVALUATIVE STUDY HAS STARK COMMENTS: “A CONSIDERABLE PROPORTION (57.5%) OF PCVS FEEL THAT THEY ARE TREATED AS “OUTSIDERS” IN PUBLIC, WHICH IS QUITE UNDERSTANDABLE. THE DATA ALSO SUGGESTS THAT ONLY HALF OF THE PCVS ARE ACCEPTED AS FRIENDS AMONG THE KOREANS (49.6%).<sup>7</sup> YET FROM THE 415 VOLUNTEERS SWORN IN BETWEEN 1966 AND 1972, THE EARLY TERMINATION RATE WAS ONLY 26%, INCLUDING FOR REASONS OF ILLNESS OR FAMILY PROBLEMS AT HOME. THAT SPECIFIC NUMBER IS THE ONLY “ET” RATE I COULD FIND. THAT RATE, I BELIEVE, REMAINED FAIRLY CONSTANT. THE WORLDWIDE AVERAGE FOR PEACE CORPS HAS BEEN AROUND 30%. WHY DIDN’T MORE TERMINATE IF THEY FELT SO ISOLATED?

A CRITICAL REASON WAS THE IN-COUNTRY SUPPORT GIVEN BY PEACE CORPS AND KOREA. THE “UNDERSTANDING FOR IMPLEMENTATION” STATES, “THE PEACE CORPS WILL PROVIDE ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE TO THE VOUNTEERS IN THE FORM OF RESIDENT STAFF MEMBERS. THE ACTIVITIES

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<sup>7</sup> Ibid, p.70

OF THE VOLUNTEERS WILL BE OBSERVABLE AT ANY TIME BY REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA.”

DURING THIS REVISIT WE WILL HONOR KOREAN STAFF. BOTH THE TRAINING AND PERMANENT KOREAN STAFF TOOK THEIR RESPONSIBILITIES VERY SERIOUSLY. THEY KNEW THEY WERE WORKING WITH INTERESTING PEOPLE AND THAT THEIR OWN WORK WAS ALSO FOR KOREA. I OFTEN HAVE CALLED OUR KOREAN STAFF OUR “HEART, SOUL AND CONSCIENCE” AND THEY DESERVE MUCH OF THE CREDIT FOR WHAT VOLUNTEERS ACHIEVED.

I CANNOT RESIST SHARING A STORY: IN 1988 I WAS TRAVELING IN CHINA TO NEGOTIATE AND DESIGN THE PEACE CORPS ENTRY FOR A SMALL GROUP OF TEACHERS. THIS WAS A MAJOR BREAKTHROUGH FOR PEACE CORPS. THE CHINESE WERE TOUGH NEGOTIATORS. THEY DID NOT WANT ANY PERMANENT STAFF. AS WE BOUNCED OVER ICY ROADS IN SICHUAN, I THOUGHT I HAD A GOOD EXAMPLE OF WHAT A STAFF MEMBER OCCASIONALLY HAD TO DO. I ASKED THE INTERPRETER TO TELL THEM THAT A PCV’S PARENT COULD DIE AND THE STAFF WOULD INFORM THE VOLUNTEER AND ARRANGE FOR THE TRIP HOME. I WATCHED THE CHINESE AS THEY DEALT WITH THIS OBVIOUS ATTEMPT TO TUG AT OLD CONFUCIAN VALUES. AFTER A LONG DISCUSSION, MY TROUBLED INTERPRETER SAID – AND THIS IS AN EXACT QUOTE I HAVE NEVER FORGOTTEN: “THEY WANT TO TELL YOU THAT THEY WILL NOT PERMIT A PARENT TO DIE.” ARGUMENT LOST, MR. KEETON.

WE HAD DISAGREEMENTS – LONG DISCUSSIONS - WITH KOREAN SUPERVISORS AND OFFICIALS FOR SURE, BUT USUALLY A VISIT BY A PEACE CORPS STAFF PERSON COULD RESOLVE THE MATTER. KOREA, AFTER ALL, WAS GLAD TO HAVE AMERICANS IN THE COUNTRY. ENGLISH TEACHERS WERE ESPECIALLY WELCOMED. TOO MUCH SO, AS EVERY PARENT LOBBIED TO HAVE THE AMERICAN TEACH THEIR CHILD RESULTING IN HUGE CLASSES WITH LIMITED PROGRESS FOR MOST. WHILE I WAS WRITING THIS I CALLED A FORMER PCV AND STAFF MEMBER TO ASK WHY PC/KOREA WAS SUCCESSFUL. HE SAID INSTANTLY THAT WE HAD “AMITY” AND “RECEPTIVE” COLLEAGUES AND ADDED THAT BOTH “THE STRUCTURE” OF KOREA AND THAT OF PEACE CORPS CONTRIBUTED TO SUCCESS.

DO YOU REMEMBER WINTERS IN THE MID-SEVENTIES AFTER THE ENERGY CRISIS? EVEN IN SEOUL MANY LIGHTS WERE TURNED OFF. THE AIR SMELLED OF YEONTAN SMOKE. MANY UNIVERSITIES WERE CLOSED DUE TO STUDENT UNREST. OUR PHYSICIAN TREATED CASES OF FROSTBITE AMONG THE SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS WORKING IN CLASSROOMS WITH ONLY A SMALL STOVE. THEY LOOKED FORWARD TO A HOT BATH ONCE A WEEK OR SO.

I WAS PLEASED THE EDUCATION VOLUNTEERS COULD GET AWAY DURING THE WINTER SCHOOL BREAKS. I WAS EVEN MORE PLEASED WHEN THEY RETURNED. MANY HAD GONE TO THE PHILIPPINES WHERE THEY ENJOYED THEMSELVES AND OFTEN MET LOCAL PCVS. THEY RETURNED TO TELL ME THAT THEY WERE GLAD THEY WERE IN PEACE CORPS KOREA BECAUSE “WE HAVE JOBS.” KOREANS WERE WORKING HARD AND THEY EXPECTED THE VOLUNTEERS TO DO THE SAME.

THERE WAS A BETTER FUTURE AHEAD. THAT WORK ETHOS DROVE THE NATION AND MOST VOLUNTEERS FELL IN-STEP.

LATER WHEN THE PHILIPPINES CAME UNDER MY PURVIEW AS REGIONAL DIRECTOR, I REMEMBERED THOSE COMMENTS ABOUT PEACE CORPS' PROGRAMMING PROBLEMS – AND WILL ADMIT TO SHAKING IT UP. RAYMOND BONNER'S "WALTZING WITH A DICTATOR, THE MARCOSES AND THE MAKING OF AMERICAN POLICY" <sup>8</sup> RANG TOO TRUE. PRESIDENT PARK SURE WASN'T WALTZING. HE WAS LEADING A BAND IN A QUICK STEP MARCH TO PROGRESS – AND YOU BETTER KEEP PACE. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS WERE FORTUNATE TO BE IN KOREA IN SUCH DEMANDING YEARS.

(4) AMBITIOUS PARTICIPANTS: FIRST RULE FOR A SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM: REMEMBER THE VOLUNTEERS **ARE** THE ORGANIZATION, NOT THE GOVERNMENTAL OR NON-PROFIT HEADQUARTERS, NOR THE STAFF OR HOST AGENCY. EACH IS AN INDIVIDUAL BUT MOST REFLECT THE GENERAL CHARACTERISTICS OF THE HOME CULTURE. THE *ETHOS* CAN CHANGE FROM ONE YEAR TO THE NEXT AS THEY ARRIVE EMBUED WITH THE HAPPENINGS OF THE MOMENT. I REMEMBER ONE YEAR MANY VOLUNTEERS ARRIVED CHARGED UP ON WOMEN'S LIBERATION; THE NEXT YEAR IT WAS ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS. BUT ALMOST ALL EXPECT A JOB THAT HAS VALUE TO THE HOST COUNTRY. STAFF AND HOSTS NEED TO UNDERSTAND THEM AND PROVIDE THEM ENOUGH FREEDOM TO GIVE AND TO GROW.

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<sup>8</sup> Bonner, Raymond, Vintage Press, 1988.

I CANNOT WRITE AS CONFIDENTLY ABOUT THE KOREAN VOLUNTEERS FROM CASUAL OBSERVATIONS WHEN VISITING SEVERAL TRAINING GROUPS, BUT MOST ARE LESS INDEPENDENT THAN AMERICAN COUNTERPARTS AND HAVE THE ADDITIONAL BURDEN OF NEEDING TO LEARN NOT ONLY THE HOST LANGUAGE BUT ALSO MORE ENGLISH AS THE LINK LANGUAGE. THEY ALSO COME FROM A COUNTRY NOT AS WELL KNOWN AS THE U.S -- THIS MAY BE AN ADVANTAGE -- AND WILL HAVE GREATER NEED TO DESCRIBE THEIR HOMELAND.

#### A SUCCESS MODEL AND FAILURES

HOW DO THE KOREAN VOLUNTEERS EXPLAIN THAT IN THE EARLY 50'S KOREA BY SOME ESTIMATES WAS THE POOREST COUNTRY IN THE WORLD BUT HAS RISEN TO THE 11<sup>TH</sup> LARGEST ECONOMY? WHAT ARE THE LESSONS TO TEACH, TO SHOW? NO COUNTRY HAS RISEN SO FAR SO QUICKLY WHILE SO MANY OTHERS WERE LEFT BEHIND. WILL THEIR WORK HABITS EMULATE THE DILIGENCE THAT PARTIALLY EXPLAINS THE SUCCESS? DOES THEIR TRAINING TEACH THE PHILOSOPHY OF SAEMAUL UNDONG? THERE IS INTEREST IN ITS APPROACH OUTSIDE KOREA. FREY-LUNGULA N'KUMU PRESENTED A PAPER ON "THE SAEMAUL UNDONG IN THE CONGO" AT A CONFERENCE IN WASHINGTON IN 2010<sup>9</sup> WITH STARTLING CONTRASTS BUT SOME ENCOURAGEMENT.

KOREA: 1960 GNP \$100 U.S.

NOW GNP \$20,000 U.S.

NO NATURAL RESOURCES

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<sup>9</sup> N'kumu, Frey-Lungula, "The Saemaul Undong in Congo: A Way to Create Jobs for the Rural Community," a paper for a conference on Recasting the Korean Model of Development: Issues, Debates, and Lesson, June 30-July 1, 2010.

CONGO: 1960 GNP \$100 U.S.  
FULL OF NATURAL RESOURCES

NOW GNP STILL BELOW \$200 U.S.

BOTH COUNTRIES HAD INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE AND PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS. WHILE THAT ASSISTANCE, FOR SURE, WAS A FACTOR IN KOREA'S SUCCESS, ITS OWN PEOPLE DESERVE MOST THE CREDIT. VOLUNTEERS RETURNING TO KOREA ARE AMAZED AT THE PROSPERITY AND HOPEFULNESS OF THE PEOPLE THEY MEET. VOLUNTEERS RETURNING TO MANY COUNTRIES FIND INCREASED POVERTY AND DESTRUCTION. THEIR YOUTHFUL IDEALISM AND EXPECTATIONS ARE SHATTERED. WERE THEIR TWO YEARS OF SERVICE WASTED, AT LEAST ON THE DEVELOPMENT GOAL?

WHAT OTHER COUNTRIES ARE POISED TO ESCAPE POVERTY AND BUILD A STRONG GOVERNMENT? WHAT SUCCESS STORY WILL WORKSHOPS DISCUSS FIFTY YEARS FROM NOW FOR LESSONS? DURING MY TIME IN KOREA, I WONDERED HOW I WOULD DO IN AFGHANISTAN. ON 9/11 I DETERMINED TO FIND OUT. FROM EARLY 2002 TO 2007 I SPENT OVER FOUR YEARS THERE. ON ONE TRIP BACK TO THE STATES IN A MEETING WITH THE KOREAN AMBASSADOR, I REMEMBER TELLING HIM THAT KOREA COULD HELP AFGHANISTAN FOR IT HAD IMPORTANT LESSONS ON OVERCOMING WAR AND POVERTY. I WAS NAÏVE. I HAD NOT YET THOROUGHLY UNDERSTOOD THE CULTURAL DIFFERENCES. I HAD NOT YET READ JEFFREY SACH'S "THE END OF POVERTY"<sup>10</sup> NOR RICHARD NISBETT'S "THE GEOGRAPY OF THOUGHT, HOW ASIANS AND WESTERNERS THINK DIFFERERNTLY ...AND WHY"<sup>11</sup> NOR DID I UNDERSTAND EARLY ON THAT THE LOADSTONE OF KOREAN DEVELOPMENT – EDUCATION – DID NOT COMMAND THE SAME RESPECT AMONG MUCH OF THE AFGHAN POPULATION.

THIS WEEK THE AFGHAN WAR BECAME AMERICA'S LONGEST WAR. IT

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<sup>10</sup> Sachs, Jeffery D., *The End of Poverty, Economic Possibilities for Our Time*, The Penguin Press, 2006

<sup>11</sup> Nisbett, Richard E., *The Free Press*, 2003



IS NOT OVER AND WE WILL MOST LIKELY LOSE. THE “TIPPING POINT” OCCURRED BACK IN 2004/5 WHEN WE BEGAN TO LOSE THE CONFIDENCE OF THE AFGHAN PEOPLE. WHO AM I TO SAY THAT? JUST ONE PEACE CORPS TYPE WALKING, SMILING, DRINKING PLENTY OF TEA, LISTENING CAREFULLY, WORKING FOR AFGHANS, AND CARING DEEPLY. THOSE ARE FUNDAMENTAL TENETS OF PEACE CORPS AND IF APPLIED IN A MASSIVE WAY EARLY ON IN AFGHANISTAN, WE WOULD NOT BE IN THE FIX WE – AND THEY - ARE IN. AS I FINISHED THIS PAPER, GENERAL McCHRISTAL SAID THAT COALITION FORCES “HAVE LACKED AND STILL LACK A SOLID COMPREHENSION OF AFGHANISTAN’S SITUATION, CULTURE AND HISTORY.”<sup>12</sup>

MY ORGANIZATION TOOK PROJECTS AFGHAN MINISTRIES DID NOT WANT. ORDERS CAME FROM WASHINGTON. COMPANIES THAT HAD NEVER BEEN TO THE PROVINCE WON CONTRACTS. USAID CHANGED DIRECTIONS CONSTANTLY. AND THEN AMERICANS BECAME AFRAID. WE PULLED A FORTRESS MENTALITY DOWN UPON US FORGETTING THE RINGING WORDS OF JOHN KENNEDY, “PAY ANY PRICE, BEAR ANY BURDEN...” ONE USAID DIRECTOR TOLD ME THAT HE HAD NEVER LEFT THE COMPOUND EXCEPT IN THE AMBASSADOR’S CONVOY. A PRESIDENT THOUGHT IT WAS “THE GOOD WAR” AND GOT A CHUNK OF THE FINISHED HIGHWAY THAT IS NOW OFF LIMITS TO MOST. ITS CONTRACTOR HAD CONTACTED ME TO OVERSEE VILLAGE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ALONG THAT HIGHWAY BUT THE PROGRAM WAS NEVER BUDGETED. VILLAGERS DID NOT MATTER THAT MUCH. REPORTS TO WASHINGTON DID. BUREAUCRATIC DEADLINES MUST BE MET -- WHILE PEOPLE DIE.

WE DID NOT READ HISTORY. IN A TALK TO NATO OFFICERS IN BELGIUM I PULLED OUT PLENTY OF OLD QUOTES ABOUT PUSHTUNS THAT SHOULD HAVE SENT OFF

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<sup>12</sup> Read more: <http://www.politico.com/news/stories/1011/65398.html#ixzz1a7HDDCcb>

ALARMS YEARS EARLIER. IF AFGHANS HAVE TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEIR PRIDE AND POVERTY, THEY WILL CHOSE POVERTY FOR THEY HAVE KNOWN IT FOR YEARS AND YET THEY STILL DEFEATED OUTSIDERS.

IN AFGHANISTAN I MET A FEW DEDICATED KOREAN HEALTH WORKERS. THEY LIVED IN THE SPIRIT OF PEACE CORPS. STUDENTS AND FACULTY LINED UP AT KABUL UNIVERSITY TO RECEIVE THEIR CARE. AND THEN A GROUP OF KOREANS WITH ANOTHER MISSION CAUSED IMMENSE DAMAGE TO KOREA'S REPUTATION. YOU DO NOT PROSELYTIZE IN AN ISLAMIC COUNTRY; IT IS AS SIMPLE AS THAT.

DURING THIS LAST DECADE AFGHANISTAN AND KOREA HAVE BEEN THE DUALITY OF MY LIFE. ONE A "MIRACLE" BY THE DINT OF HARD WORK, EDUCATION, A HOMOGENOUS POPULATION, SEAPORTS AND FRIENDS. THE OTHER PLAGUED BY RECENT WARS, UNFRIENDLY NEIGHBORS, ILLITERACY, ETHNIC DIVISIONS, CORRUPTION, AND A RELIGON THAT GLORIFIES THE NEXT LIFE. THE CONTRAST COULD NOT BE GREATER. I WAS PLEASED TO SEE THAT THE ONE OTHER COUNTRY SPECIFICALLY INCLUDED IN THE WORKSHOP SCHEDULE IS AFGHANISTAN. IT WAS AN APPROPRIATE DECISION FOR WHILE MANY COUNTRIES ARE EMERGING FROM POVERTY, THE FEW THAT ARE NOT WILL BE THE REAL TESTING GROUNDS FOR STRATEGIES FOR EFFECTIVE DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION FOR THE NEXT FIFTY YEARS OR MORE. AFGHANISTAN, PAKISTAN, YEMEN, SOMALIA, NORTH KOREA, A FEW IN AFRICA REQUIRE ASSISTANCE IN EVERY AREA BUT MANY CURRENT PRACTICES WILL NOT BRING ANY SIGNIFICANT SUCCESS.

### KEY ISSUES

BEFORE YOU BEGIN TESTING NEW STRATEGIES, THERE ARE REAL ISSUES THAT INTERVENE:

- (1) SECURITY. MUCH OF THE WORLD IS MORE DANGEROUS THAN IT WAS FROM BOTH CRIME AND TERRORISM. EVERY PEACE CORPS POST HAS A SECURITY OFFICER NOW WITH CONSIDERABLE AUTHORITY. RECENTLY PEACE CORPS HAS BEEN CAUGHT UP IN ITS HANDLING OF RAPE AND ASSAULT CASES.
- (2) INSURANCE. INCIDENTS HAPPEN, FEAR RULES AND INSURANCE RATES GO UP. NGOS ARE FORCED TO ACCEPT MORE AND MORE SECURITY RESTRICTIONS LIMITING THEIR EFFECTIVENESS. THOSE WILLING TO TAKE PERSONAL RISKS FOR GOOD CAUSES ARE THREATS TO THE BOTTOM LINE. I HAVE BEEN TOLD I WOULD BE UNEMPLOYABLE NOW IN AFGHANISTAN AS I REFUSE TO LIVE LIKE A PRISONER. HUNDREDS OF EMBASSY/USAID EMPLOYEES IN KABUL NEVER GO OUT OF THE COMPOUND. WHEN THEY DO MOST ARE HEAVILY GUARDED. THE 'SHOOTERS' STANDING GUARD ON THE EDGE OF THE MEETINGS UNDERMINE THE DESIRED SENSE OF TRUST.
- (3) BUREAUCRACY. REPORTS AND DEMANDS FOR SUCCESS STORIES ARE MIND NUMBING. COMPARE THE COST OF TIRES IN SEVERAL DIFFERENT COUNTRIES WAS ONE TASK SOME STAFF WERE PUT ON.
- (4) THE COMMUNICATIONS REVOLUTION. THERE IS A REAL DOWNSIDE TO IT PARTICULARLY FOR VOLUNTEERS. PEACE CORPS VOLUNTEERS CAN BE/MUST BE MONITORED MORE. AS MOST HAVE ACCESS TO COMPUTERS, IT IS FAR EASIER TO BE IN TOUCH WITH HOME RATHER THAN SEEKING OUT FRIENDS AT THE SITE. GO INTO THE USAID OFFICE IN KABUL LATE AT NIGHT, AND EMPLOYEES ARE AT THEIR DESKS ANSWERING BOSSES BACK IN WASHINGTON, WHO SEEM OBLIVIOUS TO THE TIME DIFFERENCE AND WANT ANSWERS NOW.
- (5) BUDGETS. WITH THE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS OF MANY COUNTRIES, INCLUDING THE U.S., DEVELOPMENT FUNDS ARE BEING SLASHED.

(6) IMPACT OF GLOBALIZATION. DIFFERENCES HAVE HARDENED. DOMINIQUE MOISI'S BOOK "THE GEOPOLITICS OF EMOTION"<sup>13</sup> EXPLORES THE CULTURES OF FEAR, HUMILIATION AND HOPE. THE FAULTLINES HAVE BECOME MORE DIFFICULT TO CROSS. CROSS CULTURAL TRAINING NO LONGER CAN BE ON HOW PEOPLE DRESS, EAT, AND TRAIN THEIR CHILDREN. HOW DO YOU DEAL WITH HATRED AND HOPELESSNESS?

### PRACTICAL LESSONS

WHO THOUGHT A MAN COULD GO TO THE MOON? WHAT DID THOSE KOREANS KNOW WHEN THEY TOLD THE PEACE CORPS TEAM THAT VOLUNTEERS COULDN'T LIVE IN RURAL VILLAGES? WHO KNEW CHO, SUNG OK'S HOPES FOR A KOREAN PEACE CORPS WOULD HAVE KOREANS SERVING OVERSEAS ONLY TEN YEARS AFTER PEACE CORPS HAD LEFT KOREA? DREAMS AREN'T VERY PRACTICAL; DETERMINATION IS. COMBINE THEM. BE SURE YOU HAVE PLENTY OF PRACTICAL IDEALISTS.

PEACE CORPS HAS SENT OVER 200,000 VOLUNTEERS OUT TO SERVE. FROM MY OWN EXPERIENCE IN SEVERAL POSITIONS, THE PRACTICAL LESSONS ARE:

- (1) WORK CLOSELY WITH HOST COUNTRY OFFICIALS. IT IS THEIR COUNTRY. SET AN EXAMPLE FOR THE VOLUNTEERS.
- (2) PROVIDE VOLUNTEERS STRONG SUPPORT AND INSPIRATION. THEIR LIVES CAN BE TOUGH. THEY WANT TO SUCCEED.
- (3) REALIZE THE HOST COUNTRY STAFF IS CRITICAL TO ANY SUCCESS. BUILD AN UNDERSTANDING TEAM. MY RULE OF THUMB WAS THAT IF THE COUNTRY DIRECTOR WAS NOT WORKING WELL WITH HIS/HER STAFF, HOW COULD I IMAGINE THE COUNTRY RELATIONSHIPS WERE ANY BETTER?

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<sup>13</sup> Moïsi, Dominique, *The Geopolitics of Emotion, How Cultures of Fear, Humiliation, and Hope are Reshaping the World*, Doubleday, 2009

- (4) DEVELOP PROJECTS FOR THE CURRENT NEEDS, NOT FOR WHAT WAS DONE IN THE PAST. INNOVATE. TOO MANY PROJECTS HAVE BEEN GOING ON TOO LONG.
- (5) THINK LONG TERM. REALIZE EACH INDIVIDUAL WHO IS HELPED IS AN IMPORTANT ACCOMPLISHMENT. IN THE "EVALUATIVE STUDY," ONE ASTUTE VOLUNTEER WROTE: " I DON'T THINK THAT PC IS A VERY SIGNIFICANT FACTOR IN INCREASING THE GNP OR STANDARD OF LIVING. BUT SOME OF THEIR CONTRIBUTION IS PERSONAL AND HARD TO MEASURE."<sup>14</sup> WE SURE SEE THOSE RESULTS IN THESE REVISITS.

#### MUTUALLY BENEFICIAL BILATERAL COOPERATION

WITH THE ISSUES DISCUSSED ABOVE, THERE SURELY IS NEED FOR COOPERATION BUT IT IS ALWAYS EASIER SAID THAN DONE. ALL VOLUNTEER ORGANIZATION PLEDGE TO WORK MORE CLOSELY WITH COLLEAGUES FROM OTHER COUNTRIES. THEN THEY REALIZE: GOALS DIFFER SOME; VOLUNTEER LIVING STANDARDS VARY; SOME ARE MORE CLOSELY TIED TO THEIR EMBASSY THAN OTHERS; THERE ARE LANGUAGE AND CULTURAL DIFFERENCES; THERE IS COMPETITION. WITH SO MUCH GOING ON JUST TO MANAGE YOUR OWN ORGANIZATION AND HOST AGENCY NEEDS, FINDING TIME FOR OUT REACH WITH OTHER GROUPS FALLS ONTO THE "TO DO SOMETIME" LIST.

NO ONE EVER SAID DEVELOPING VOLUNTEER PROGRAMS WOULD BE EASY, NOT SARGEANT SHRIVER, NOT CHO, SONG-OK. YOUNG KOREANS ARE REACHING OUT TO THE WORLD NOW. WHEN I WORKED IN KOREA, IT WAS DIFFICULT FOR A KOREAN TO GET A PASSPORT.

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<sup>14</sup> op cit, Hahn et al, p. 78

SOME IDEAS TO INCREASE BILATERAL COOPERATION.

- (1) KOREANS LIKE TO THINK BIG. AS THE FIRST RECEIVING AGENCY TO DISPATCH VOLUNTEERS, KOICA/KOV – WORLD FRIENDS KOREA – SHOULD CALL FOR A CONFERENCE FOR ALL INTERNATIONAL VOLUNTEER AGENCIES AND OFFER TO HOST. IT HAS ONLY BEEN DONE A FEW TIMES. THE LAST SUCH CONFERENCE MAY HAVE BEEN ORGANIZED BY PEACE CORPS DURING THE CLINTON ADMINISTRATION. THE WORLD AND THE ISSUES HAVE CHANGED SINCE THE LAST ONE. THE THEME WOULD HAVE TO APPEAL TO ALL THE ORGANIZATIONS IN ITS RELEVANCE TO THE CHANGING WORLD. TO PLAN, GAIN SUPPORT AND ORGANIZE, IT WOULD TAKE TWO TO THREE YEARS.
  
- (2) FOK IS VERY INTERESTED IN SEEKING WAYS TO WORK WITH KOV. A MENTORING PROPOSAL WE SUBMITTED REMAINS OF INTEREST WITH SOME OF OUR MEMBERS AS THEY DO IDENTIFY WITH THE KOREAN VOLUNTEERS.

I WISH TO END THIS PAPER WITH THREE QUOTES. THE FIRST TWO ARE FROM THAT 1975 “EVALUATIVE STUDY OF PEACE CORPS/KOREA.”

“THE PEOPLE OF KOREA AND THE KOREAN GOVERNMENT SEEM TO HAVE EVERYTHING TO GAIN BY UTILIZING THE PRESENCE OF PCVS IN KOREA. KOREAN YOUTH COULD LEARN THE SPIRIT OF VOLUNTEERISM AND THAT A NATION CAN GROW WHEN ITS PEOPLE CARE FOR OTHERS’ NEEDS AND ARE WILLING TO MAKE SOME SACRIFICES FOR NATIONAL AND HUMANITARIAN CAUSE.”<sup>15</sup>

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<sup>15</sup> op cit, Hahn et al, p.97

THAT INSIGHTFUL OBSERVATION HAS COME TRUE. KOREAN YOUTH ARE SERVING MORE AND THE WORLD AND KOREA WILL BENEFIT. KOREA HAS EVEN A STRONGER MESSAGE TO GIVE THAN PCVS AS THEIR OWN COUNTRY HAS DEVELOPED BEYOND WHAT ALMOST ANYONE COULD IMAGINE ONLY THREE DECADES AGO. IF PEACE CORPS HELPED CONTRIBUTE IN THAT WAY TO KOREA, WE SHOULD BE VERY PLEASED.

“...IN OUR VIEW, THE RELEVANCY OF PC/KOREA PROGRAMS TO KOREA’S DEVELOPMENT PROCESS SHOULD BE DISTINGUISHED FROM THE ISSUE OF PCV’S EFFECTIVENESS...BUT AN INCREMENTAL CHANGE WOULD BE WELL WITHIN THE RANGE OF POSSIBILITY.”<sup>16</sup>

WRITE ODES TO INCREMENTALISM. INCREMENTAL CHANGES OCCURRED IN THE LIVES OF MANY KOREAN INDIVIDUALS WHO WERE INSPIRED BY A PEACE CORPS TEACHER OR SAW THEIR HEALTH IMPROVE BECAUSE OF A VOLUNTEER. KOREAN VOLUNTEERS WILL HAVE THE SAME IMPACT ON INDIVIDUAL LIVES IN MANY COUNTRIES.

I CONCLUDE WITH WORDS THAT A KOREAN STAFF MEMBER, SONG YUN-KI, WROTE ON A SCROLL FOR A DEPARTING AMERICAN COLLEAGUE. THEY CAPTURE IN A FEW WORDS AN UNDERLYING MESSAGE OF THIS PAPER. FULFILLING HIS BEAUTIFUL WORDS IS THE ULTIMATE MISSION AND JOY OF VOLUNTEERS.

이해하는 마음은 우정을 낳고,

An understanding heart creates friendship,

그 우정이 있는곳에 평화가 있다.

And where there is friendship, there is peace.

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<sup>16</sup> op cit. Hahn et al, pp.87-88

