keynote Response, 2017. 11. 07. Kumsil Kang

It is an honor and a great pleasure to be here with you. We are all colleagues and fellows striving for an ecological civilization.

I would like to thank the Center for Process Studies for organizing this wonderful conference, especially the members of EcovicKorea, and of course, Prof. Gunna Jung and Dr. Yunjeong Han. And everyone else who put in the effort for this great event.

In particular, I would like to thank Dr. John B. Cobb for his keynote speech for Korea. There are various paths towards ecological civilization. South Korea has accomplished industrializing in 50 years following the US model. ((The story of its rapid economic growth has become almost a legend.)) The rapid economic growth has reached its limits, but we still hold on to the legend of the economic growth.

Even, in the constitution of Korea, the article **127 states “**It is the duty of State to develop the national economy by developing science and technology.”

Nowadays, the fourth industrial revolution driven by technology has become a major trend in Korea without ecological concern. It seems hard to transform the society toward another phase, ecological civilization.

In spite of all this, there have been signs of change that showed the potential toward ecological progress, like sparks of hope and dynamic power.

Firstly, I would like to point out the protests in 2008, against importing beef from the United States, fearing mad cow disease, ten years ago. Two meaningful points can be observed. The first point, the problems of factory farming system and globalization of food chain became the cause of protest. The issue of life was being questioned at demonstration of a national level like never before. The second point, some 6,000 young girls in their late teens led the candlelight rallies around the nation. They showed self-organized lateral network and turned the protests into a joyful celebration despite being raised in an extremely competitive education environment. Now in their late 20’s, they have established themselves as a major group of the society.

 2) In the past ten years, the new local government changed their policies more eco- friendly. Seoul City led the trend led changeover in the renewable energy policies. Seoul, Nowon District, established Environmental Foundation for the first time and including an Eco Center and Cosmology School.

Jeonju City canceled a shopping mall project to build an Eco Park in its place. It also hosted the Conference for Economics of Happiness.

Many local government try established sustainable development committees under the motto “Think Global, Act Local.”

The national government also set up the Presidential Committee for Sustainable Development.

As we can see, there are many changes taking place at community levels.

3) In 2011, Fukushima nuclear accident caused by an earthquake and tsunami 2011, the Green Party is established in Korea.

4) After [FRAMEWORK ACT ON COOPERATIVES](http://www.law.go.kr/eng/engLsSc.do?menuId=1&query=%ED%98%91%EB%8F%99%EC%A1%B0%ED%95%A9+%EA%B8%B0%EB%B3%B8%EB%B2%95&x=31&y=24#AJAX) went into effect, social economy movement spread out through the Korean society broadly.

The current administration put forward social economy as the alternative to economic growth without employment and economic inequality.

Social economy is one that is based on common and social values. It changes from a being capital centered to being centered around human relationships. Once it is connected with ecological issues, it has the potential to transform the relationship between human and nature.

Also, in 2016, the Catholic Church of Korea, nation’s most active religious organization of established a new Ecological organization, another trend of hope.

We live in a time when technocracy and ecological values are wrestling with each other.

That is why interdisciplinary dialogues are vital.

Korea is moving toward the tipping point. We are heading to a new phase. What we need is a new concept for the new paradigm that is ecological civilization. This can be the beginning place for an Ecological civilization progress.

Thank You.