



Republic of Korea
Seoul National University
Graduate School of Public Administration

Essay for EXPO 2012, Yeosu, Republic of Korea



Dear: Sir or Madame

KINSA Committee, Seoul, Republic of Korea

Re: EXPO 2012 Yeosu Korea-Essay Contest and Youth Forum

Date of Submission: 2012.6.30



Essay Title/Theme: Sustainable Development and Use of Ocean

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Age: 31 Yrs, birthday 1980.12.31

(I'm sorry for my age was over, but I'd like to participated in the great event like this)

Nationality: Lao

Gender: Male

School: Seoul National University (SNU)

Graduate School of Public Administration (GSPA)

Word count: 2.563 Words.

Since I have heard the theme of the exposition (world expo) 2012 on "The Living Ocean and Coast: Diversity of Resources and Sustainable Activities" which I'm really impressed, due to I have never heard the most stimulated topic before, since the 1933 World's Fair (World EXPO) was organized in Chicago up to the present time (21st Century), each exhibitions vary in character and are held in varying parts of the world. But mostly of those world's fairs (universal expositions) was focus on trading, commodities and services. EXPO 2012 is a large public exhibition, where there are more than 100 countries has participated for achieve the most culminated perception, understanding, tradition of national exhibitions, a tradition by their main attractions of each national pavilions, which was created by participating countries under the theme "The Living Ocean and Coast: Diversity of Resources and Sustainable Activities" which was created by the Korean people, who also created the great idea, unique and wonderful context as far as I see.

I. Literature review

Accordance to the announcement from the Korea International Student Association (KINSA) since **4th May 2012** (but, I've just apply to be the member and I've seen 2 days remain the deadline for Essay submission on **30 June 2012**) for the EXPO 2012, which host by the Republic of Korea, with the theme "The Living Ocean and Coast: Diversity of Resources and Sustainable Activities" I'm really excited and worried too much, due to the short time for me to prepare or start to write. In addition, my age was over than limited (30 Years old) it's very tough period for me to think or consult with the Organizers, I've just asked myself that will you do it? Can you do it? Ultimately I have decided to write the Essay for the EXPO 2012, because, all in my life I'm really interested in the Environment protection, Earth and Splendid world. Since I was young (primary school) participated on the Environment Advocacy Contest, Secondary/High School, volunteer members of Environment Protection, launched activities, University student also I've joined the Medias Member writing various issues, especially to the Environment Awareness, and Civil servant life since year 2004 I'm also participated events, wrote articles to the Newspapers agencies, Room to Read Laos, Organizations, etc. 2009 the Ministry of Information and Culture was awards given annually the Best Book of 2008 (My story Book: Many Bags) was selected from 678 adult and children's book published in the country previous year (2008).

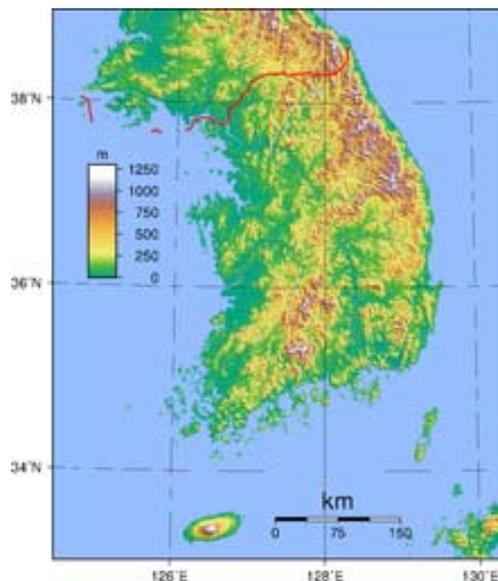
When I have heard all news, all events, etc. which related to the Ocean/Sea it's always reminds me to review my primary inspiration, due to my dream since I was young, when were I watching the documentary from the T.V on Penguin, it's touched my heart and really impressed to the Penguin's life living in the Kingdom of Penguins, Emperor Penguins in Antarctic, such a whole area of Antarctic was cover by iceberg, snow with cool water merely. There is no any human live there,

just Scientists and Researchers only, I've said to my family members, parents, siblings, relatives, friends, teachers, etc. but almost comments was blocked my idea or my dream with "you cannot do that, it's miserable to be there, just only Scientist could be there, It's may spend huge a mouth of money to achieve there, Laos there is no sea/ocean, etc." I'm always sad in my mind when were I have hearing those kind of words.

Anyway, although there is no anybody encourage or understand me, due to arduous way to see the Penguin in the Antarctic, where I've impressed for the big area and large Penguin population. You may have a question? Why I have dream to be there? Or what does my interesting with Penguin?

Actually, it's difficult to describe my feeling in dept, but the most of my ecstasy when were I have seeing the Penguin via documentary is all of Penguin spend their life similar with our humans' life, they live together with solidarity, freedom, rare of conflict and I thought we're all human should learn from the Penguins' life lives in utopia, no war, they also love and look after their kids' and some time I've cried, due to impressed for a penguin of a couples tried to keeping warm to the egg (s) many weeks/months in the Winter/snow falls and still stands there without moving or abandon, during another couple penguin gone for finds food.

In 2009, I have an opportunity to see the penguin in Japan during I have Home Stay trip in Okayama Prefecture, then my beloved Mather Miyao (Host Family) asked me where/what is the most want of you? Then I've answered by told her about my dream that I'd like to see the penguin. Suddenly, she mentioned, great! Tomorrow your dream will come true^^ then, morning she guided me to the Aquarium to see the Penguins, I've excited extremely before get in to the Aquarium, but when I have seen the Penguins was spent their life in the cage, narrowed area (no freedom), bad smelt environment, dirty water and the significant for penguin is Iceberg or snow, but in the Aquarium, there is no any ice or snow, vice versa the weather is very hot and sunshine, I've feel sad immediately, it's so pity my Penguins ;(



The Geographic of Korea Republic occupies the Southern portion of the Korean Peninsula, which extends some 1,100 KM (680 miles) from the Asian mainland. Obviously, Korea had the small portion when we compare to the other countries which had long and wide area coast to the Seas/Oceans. Due to high inspiration and motivated Korean people to the development, especially to the Environment matters (including submarine properties), enthuses of the Korean people willing and strived to organized the large public exhibition (universal expositions) kept the Ocean, Sea and Resources, where universal properties in this planet. This is a meaningful for our globe, due to this EXPO 2012 was created the big history for our world, since the Earth formed 4.54 billion years ago.

During the crucial time like this, Korea was launched the substantial opportunity for all people, especially to the students/youths who will be the strongly generation from now on and will be the future of us to save our world, especially to the Oceans, Seas and Resources sustained as much as we could. Aims for increase the youth's interest in oceans, seas and provide an opportunity for all of them, who participated or interested to discuss and consider or proposal their own ideas to other leaders on how to use our oceans, seas more effective, save both nature and global life for sustainable development and guaranteed.

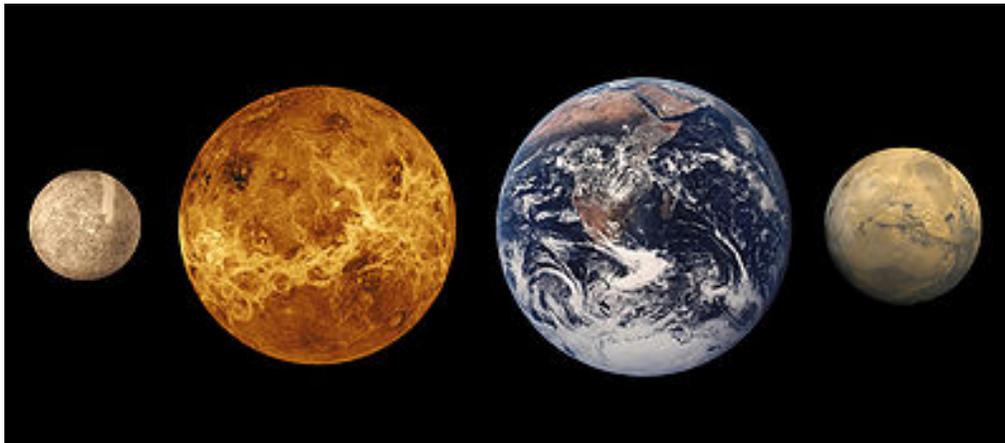
Ultimately, after review many questions in my mind with anxiously to the announcement from the KINSA, I'm always excited and this writing time also, to know this event, which rare event of my life and I have no any idea or hope from now on I will have this kind of opportunity to write the Essay for participation, Anyway I'll try my best for advocate and let all people around the world more concentrate and take care more for our Earth, where unique place of life merely in this galaxy. Although my friend laugh and said to me that my idea was stupid why I have to care about ocean/sea because Laos have no any sea, you have no any responsibilities or obligation related to the sea and your crazy dream which never come true to approach South Pole, spend a lot of money to be there or you may wait until you death with no hope. However, I've wrote this Essay although tough, but at least my desirable was dedicated to my LOVED PENGUINS.



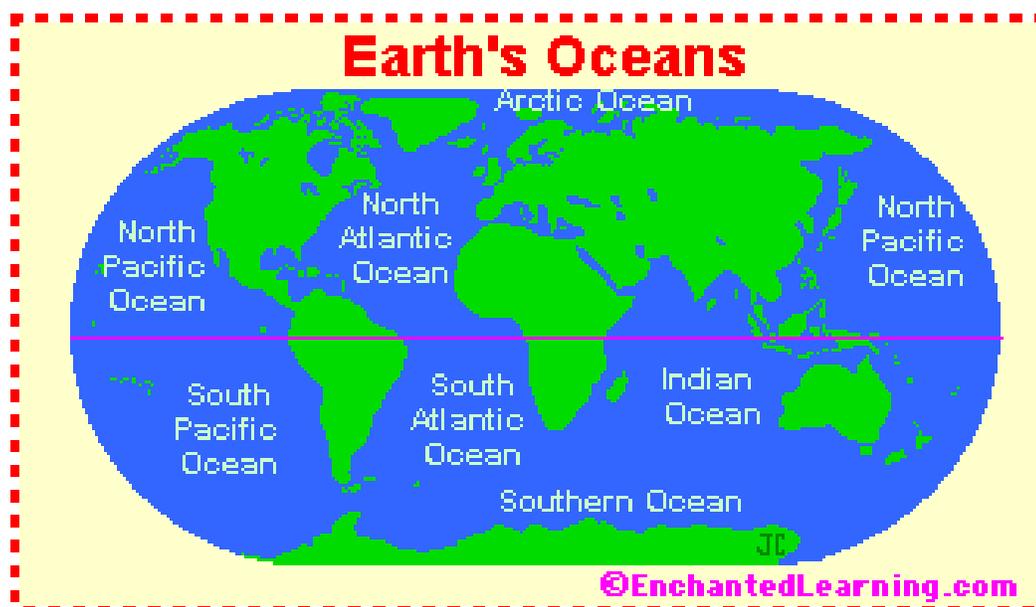
II. Problem and Analysis

General issues

The miracle Earth, where unique place of life merely in the Solar system, so called the Blue Planet, the surface is covered by water about 70.8%, which much of the continental shelf below sea level.



As you may aware the sea water color is almost blue, which cover much more than the ground, although we have a lot of trees which produces the Oxygen and other airs for the life being, but the main significantly Oxygen producer (Biggest Oxygen Factory) still from the Ocean or Sea as well.



No other planet in our Solar System has liquid water (although recent finds on Mars indicate that Mars may have had some liquid water in the recent past). Life on Earth originated in the seas, and the oceans continue to be home to an incredibly diverse web of life, seems the ocean is the BIGGEST Cradle of food.

When I was young (1990s) I have heard from news both in internal and external, there was a continuous flow of reports in the media about the giant hole in the ozone layer as a result of the emissions of excessive carbon gases; There are constant reports in the media (again) and supported scientifically, that ice in the Antarctic is melting and this is leading to sea levels rising, due to the global climate temperatures have increased every year, so called climate change every day.

Since last century to the present time, the sea level rose about 15-20 centimeters (roughly 1.5 to 2.0 mm/year), with the rate at the end of the 20th century greater than over the early part of the century. The scientist indicates that the rate of increase has jumped to about 3.1 mm/year, which is significantly higher than the average rate for the 20th century.

Risks, Impacts, Disasters, etc.

According to the National Academy of Sciences, global temperatures have increased by 0.2 degrees Celsius per decade over the past 30 years (0.6 degree in totally). It's affected to the icebergs was melted and melting a lot to over the nature should be balance, therefore sea level was raised and dangerous climate change was dangerous to the whole life being all over the world, especially to the countries has coastlines or island, where risk to disappear or vary disasters.

From the report said that, many countries from the region are struggling to cope with frequent disasters that are believed to originate from climate change. Disaster risks associated with climate change have the potential to affect us all and the indications are that the risks, both in Asia and the Pacific region and globally, are likely to increase in the future.

Recent events include Cyclone Nargis which killed a reported 138,000 people in Myanmar in 2008; extensive wildfires in Russia during 2010, floods in Pakistan which directly affected an estimated 20 million people; in 2011 victim more than 300 dead and over 30 million people was evacuated during of flooding in Australia, Thailand and the Philippines.

In the case of Korea Republic, especially Seoul in late July 2011 triggered a series of flash floods and urban landslides that killed 69 people, affecting 125,000 people and over 11,000 evacuated.



Although, Laos there is no any border or coast to the Ocean or Sea and far from the seaboard (Vietnam) more than 500 KM, but Laos still has effected from all changes of global crisis/ disasters.



According to the CRED/EM-DAT, the top 10 natural disasters of Lao PDR for the last 30 years in terms of the total affected people are shown in Table below.

No	Disasters	Period	People total affected
1.	Storm	Aug. 1995	1,000,000
2.	Drought	Dec. 1988	730,000
3.	Flood	Aug. 2005	480,000
4.	Flood	Aug. 2001	453,000
5.	Flood	Step. 2000	450,000
6.	Flood	Aug. 1996	420,000
7.	Flood	Step. 1995	391,400
8.	Flood	Step 1991	332,000
9.	Storm	July 1992	268,877
10.	Flood	Aug. 2008	204,190

From the table (Top 10 disasters), it can be understood that the major threats of Laos from the natural hazards come from the hydro-meteorological related hazards, such as, flood, storm and drought, etc., rather than the geological hazards like earthquake, volcano, tsunami and land slide.



Although floods/droughts can persist for several years, even a short time, but the substantial impact on the ecosystem and agriculture of the affected region, intense can cause significant damage and harmful the local economy, environmental, agricultural, health, economic and social consequences.



The most hazard of the Ocean/Sea

Tsunami can be generated by large events, although the impact of tsunamis is limited to coastal areas, their destructive power can be enormous and they can affect entire ocean basins.

The 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami was among the deadliest natural disasters in human history with over 230,000 people killed in 14 countries bordering the Indian Ocean.

On the Tsunami relief period, Lao government was emergency donated 100.000 \$ USD, Society was fund-raising for charity gained more than 300.000 \$ USD (including me, I have donate 150.000 Lao Kip, worth 53% of my salary 279.000 Lao Kip). Although the amount of donation does not big, but all Lao people's heart was always worried and good intention for all victims.

While Japan may have the longest recorded history of tsunamis, the sheer destruction caused, last year Japan was hit by a 9.0 magnitude earthquake on 2011 March 11 there are 15.839 dead, 5.950 injured, and 3.642 missing.



(Mother's Sacrifice during the Japan Earthquake 2011, There was a 3 months old little boy wrapped in a flowery blanket under his mother's dead body and text message on the screen of her cell phone: " If you can survive, you must remember that I love you.")

Sustainable Development

Since the concept of "sustainable development" was first introduced at the time of the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio, where over 170 heads of state signed a plan of action for the 21st Century ~ Agenda 21 sets out a proposal for sustainable development that combines several goals: preservation of the environment, social equity and economic efficiency.

Mr. BAN Ki-Moon, the secretary general of the United Nations called on world leaders to step up their political commitment to sustainability as he opened the Rio+20 Earth Summit 2012. More than 100 world leaders and senior ministers are attending the mega-summit, which has been billed as a once-in-a-generation opportunity to rebalance economic growth, social stability and environmental protection.

III. Conclusion and Admired

Most of the world's coastal cities were established during the last few millennia, a period when global sea level has been near constant. Over 600 million people live in coastal areas that are less than 10 meters above sea level, and two-thirds of the world's cities that have populations over five million are located in these at-risk areas.

This era is modernization, we also have many high technologies to help or improve our daily life better and safer than before, such as Satellites, Alarm systems, Expertise to measure various risks. However it may have no meaning or significant at all, if all of us still living as the same behavior, do not care or heal our world from now on, our Blue planet should be termination sooner or later due to global climate change, environmental and ecological imbalance, cause of our generation in this era, which the most ashamed.

Perspective of sustainable development still keeps going on and should be more extends among implementing and collecting new idea/comments from other people all over the world, commitments of leaders, especially to the Industries countries, oil exporters should be consider and implement in the real practice and concreted.

Even Laos, there is no any Ocean/Sea but Lao government and all Lao ethnic groups always love the green environment, protected and developed also, especially to the main river (Mekong) terminated by sea, which more than 35% of Mekong water was flow from Laos, and abundant forests, lakes, reservoirs, marshes, wet lands, etc. I'm also admired for many countries, INGOs (Green Peace), NGOs and others tries to protect the green environment, clean power/alternative energy, green to achieve sustainable development and other activities, such as plant-restoration along seaboard, waste/garbage cleaning in sea (trash, plastic, pollution), coral plantation, recycling project, etc.

Rio+20, President Lee Myung-Bak championed his "green growth" strategy as a way to address a host of global issues including the economy and environment during a major speech in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Although Rio table doesn't come close to solving the planetary emergency we're facing. But, world leaders participated in the Rio+20 must give the summit a life-saving shot of urgency and ambition by pledging tough action to create a safe and prosperous future for us all.

Acknowledgement

I would like to acknowledge and extend my heartfelt gratitude to the Host, EXPO 2012 Organizing Committee; Korean National Commission for UNESCO; Korea Ocean Research and Development Institute, Jeollanam-do Provincial Government, KINSA and other writers, who wrote the useful information for readers. Lastly, I'm still reminding me to the meaningful words, although tough to do in the real situation, but if it does, I'm always thought we can make this glob to be the Nirvana on our earth. Likes John Lennon said in his song, imagine all the people living for the day, imagine there's no counties, it isn't hard to do, nothing to kill or die for and no religion too, Imagine all the people living life in peace, etc.

Nowadays, our Earth was sick (severe) due to us, destroyed our life's BIG house as enemy, instead of we should unanimous and be friend of the Earth's and Heal the world like Michael Jackson's song said, Make it a better place for you and for me and the entire human race.



One World, One Hope... Wonderful

**This Planet/Glob/World is belong to all of us,
There is not individual property, we should cooperate and solidarity to protected.**

Seoul National University, Dorm. 2012.6.30

Signature of author:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Lang Sith". To the right of the signature, there are some Korean characters and a date "2012.6.30".

Best regards, LAngsith THANASOUK