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석사학위논문

Teacher's Storytelling for Peace III

(선생님이 들려주는 분쟁 이야기3 · 번역논문)

제주대학교 통역번역대학원

한영과

염 종 은

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2017年 2月

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제주대학교 통역번역대학원

2017年 2月

Teacher's Storytelling for Peace III

선생님이 들려주는 분쟁 이야기3

Jong-Eun Yum

(Supervised by Professor Kyung-Ran Park)

A thesis submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirement for the degree
of Master of Interpretation and Translation

February, 2017

This thesis has been examined and approved.

Department of Korean-English
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF INTERPRETATION &
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Author Eun Sook Cha studied creative writing in university. Writing books that children love and plant the seeds of hope is what she always dreamed of. She designed children's books at a publishing company and has been creating contents for children.

Illustrator Ji Won Jung

Ji Won Jung always gives her best to paint pictures for children. She tries to paint fun, original drawings for those who appreciate painting works.

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Letter of Recommendation 1

The Dream of Children Living in a Global Village

To students living in the modern world, civil war and refugees would not sound familiar. It is the same of adults who only heard about civil wars and a variety of poverty issues taking place in the globe only through news on TV. They are so busy living their days thinking about current issues occurring in their nations that they do not pay much attention to what is happening in a faraway part of the world.

That's right. The issues involving civil war and refugees are frequently found in African or South American nations far from Korea. However, we also went through tough time during the Korean War. We should always keep in mind that many Koreans left their hometowns and became refugees at that time too. Korea is the only divided nation left in the world, with the North and the South separated. Civil war and refugee problems are not just confined to Africa or South America. They can be problems holding a distant but special place in our hearts too.

Plan Korea, the support organization for international children, has engaged in regional development projects in 50 recipient nations all around the world and witnessed many refugees suffering from the strife-torn civil wars. Amongst them, children are the most vulnerable, so they often become the biggest sacrifice of the civil war caused by adults.

It is taking place half way around the world, but if everyone puts serious interests and affection, the pain will be cut in half. If teachers, children, as well as Plan Korea who take the journey with the book share

their hearts together, I believe every child in the global village can become happier.

Plan Korea, Support Organization For International Children

Letter of Recommendation 2

Hope to Become 'Peacemakers' Dreaming and Building Peace

It was back in spring in 2013. The Kaesong industrial complex stopped operating and all that worked there returned to South Korea.

I had a conversation with children from Gotjawal Small School. They said they could never understand leaders from South and North Korea, adding they also hate those who seem to enjoy the situation. Why did they say like this? Their thoughts are simple but apparent.

“War is unacceptable. War burns everything. We should build peace instead of waging war. Let’s hold hands together.” Children wrote poems and made a sign, bearing that faith in their hearts.

That spring, children at Gotjawal Small School took a trip to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). They could take a peek at North Korea a stone’s throw away from Odusan Unification Tower, Imjingak Pavilion, and Gosung Unification Tower. They were sad to see the iron gate shut tight between South and North Korea. Children played the ocarina just in case North Korean people across the border could hear their music and even presented a performance in which they acted as if driving a steam engine and passing to North Korea. They wished and wished again for peace and unification between the two countries.

“I will be really happy to see the iron gate closed tight swinging open when I grow up. It would be really wonderful if people can come and go to Mt. Halla and Mt. Baekdo, having fun together. I wish there comes the world full of peace where people live without worries.”

Since 2007, Gotjawal Small School has worked on 'Asia Future Generation Arm in Arm Project' The project aims to contribute to building Peace Library where children in Asia war-zones relax, dance, and read books. Traveling in Asia war zones and getting along with children in those places, students from Gotjawal Small School ease pain and share hope. The school holds Peace Market once or twice a year and has raised nearly 25 million won through the project. It sent the collected fund to Tibet, Bagdad, Aceh, East Tior, Mindanao, Dharamsala, Myanmar, Vietnam, etc.

The children from Gotjawal Small School dream of the peaceful world without wars. They seek for ways to reach the peaceful world as the future generation.

They read, watch videos, listen to stories, and take a field trip firsthand. So it is a great pleasure to hear that 'Storytelling for Peace 3' is published in particular. I firmly believe children will have a better understanding of civil war and realize the importance of peace through this book.

I hope Korean children can be 'peacemakers' who can dream and build world peace as well as peace and unification of South and North Korea by reading this book.

Yong Po Moon, director of Jeju Gotjawal Small School

Author's Note

The Better World for Children

Over 2 billion children and young people are living in the global village. They are different from one another in birth place, skin color, religion, culture, and languages. But they are the ones forming the future of the global village with us.

Every child deserves to be loved, study, have fun, be healthy, and live in peace.

But there are those who cannot actually enjoy these but just wish for. It is the children in conflict zones. Deprived of their right for safety, food, and education, they are living their lives.

“Do not fight!”

Adults frequently tell children not to fight.

But it is adults that are waging war throughout the world. They do this due to different ethnicity, religions, or for a good share of territory or resources. What do you think children in conflict zones are leading their lives?

The children living in the world's conflict zones do not enjoy their due right. They cannot go to school for study or hang out with friends as much as they want. They suffer from starvation, diseases, farewell with beloved family or friends, and being child soldiers and get heartbroken.

We sometimes witness small and large scale of fights, violence,

discrimination, bullying, and so on around us. We are aware that anybody will be in trouble if it happens. Those living in conflict zones are having more difficulty in this sense.

How about paying attention to civil war taking place in other parts of the world as if we were in their shoes? Let's see what troubles civil war causes and why people keep fighting. We can also think of the ways to help and protect those in the conflict zones.

Though everything seems to be ruined due to civil wars, children who dream of a better future hope for peace.

Peace, the hope of children living in conflict zones!

Shall we support and share their dreams now and here? How about we live in peace with them as global villagers? It is said that the world good for children is the world good for everyone. I hope we can create the world hand in hand.

By Eun Sook Cha

01 SIERRA LEONE

Blood Diamond and Child Soldiers

1. Single Leg Soccer Club

“Ouch! It hurts me!”

A groan came out from Jun-Hyuk when he fell down and got his knees scratched while playing soccer.

‘Dang it! He must’ve meant it!’

Jun-Hyuk was upset at the thought.

‘We lost the game again because of Minsu! He shouldn’t have played from the beginning.’

Jun-Hyuk in the striker position knocked against Min-Su and fell down to the ground. Minsu is one of the players of the same team. The class 6 ended up scoring no goals and lost the game to class 7, 2:0.

Minsu apologized to Jun-Hyuk twice but Jun-Hyuk did not blink an eye at all. After returning to the classroom, Jun-Hyuk was taking a close look at his knees.

“You got hurt! You should go to an infirmary.”

Being surprised, teacher raised her voice.

“Teacher, Minsu pushed me while playing, so we lost the game.”

“Do you think he meant it?”

“Of course! He seems pretty jealous of me because I am a better player than him.”

“Why are you at odds with Minsu? Aren’t you guys in the same class? I bet that the very reason you lost the game lies in somewhere else!”

“Teacher! I can’t play soccer anymore! How can I play when my leg hurts like this?”

“Jun-Hyuk. Have you ever heard of a Single Leg Soccer Club?”

The teacher asked if he knows the soccer club, which apparently he has not heard of before.

“A Single Leg Soccer Club? Are there any clubs like those?”

“Yeah, not until recently have I heard of it, either.”

“If players are single-legged, they cannot play soccer, can they?”

“You’re right. But I heard the children in the club play soccer pretty well.”

“Is the Single Leg Soccer Club for children?”

Teacher nodded her head.

Jun-Hyuk got surprised once again.

“Does that children’s soccer club really exist? Where can I find it?”

“You can find it in Sierra Leone in Africa. There are quite many wounded children in the country.”

“Teacher, why are there so many wounded children in Sierra Leone?”

“It was because the war broke out among fellow countrymen. Many children were injured in the war that adults had started. It was horrific that many lost their limbs during the war. Some children who went through the hard time made up a soccer club in an effort to overcome their sorrow. They are regaining their lost hope through playing soccer.”

Jun-Hyuk found it hard to believe when he first heard about the Single Leg Soccer Club.

“Jun-Hyuk, if you take Minsu along to the infirmary, I will tell you about it more in detail later.”

“Deal.”

Jun-Hyuk had a talk with Minsu while getting treatments in the infirmary.

“I can’t believe it.”

“You said it. How can one kick a ball, racing on crutches across the field?”

When they returned to the classroom, they could see photos and articles

of the Single Leg Soccer Club on TV screen.

Teacher showed the other photos and articles as well.

The children seem to play soccer harder than anyone else in the world.

When Jun-Hyuk's curiosity on children in the Single Leg Soccer Club and Sierra Leone grew bigger, teacher said to him, "Hey, shall we get to know more about Sierra Leone?"

2. Sierra Leone, Blood Diamond

Sierra Leone, famous for diamond, is on the tip of West Africa. Its total land area is one third of that of the Korean peninsula and it has a population of about 6.4 million. The capital city is Freetown. It is bordered by Guinea in the north and east and Liberia in the south-east.

Sierra Leone is a country established by freed slaves from British Crown in 1787. The United Kingdom put Sierra Leone under its colonial rule in 1896, about which many people resisted.

Sierra Leone gained independence in 1961. However, even after the independence, power struggle for control over the country and high-ranking officials' corruption persisted. As the gap between the poor and the rich grew larger, people became more discontent than ever before.

In the middle of this context, a civil war broke out in 1991. A civil war is a war fought between different groups of people living in the same country. The civil war lasted eleven years until 2002. It is said that the war took 200,000 people's lives away, engendered 7,000 child soldiers, and chopped off over 4,000 person's limbs. It is truly horrendous. A

long-held civil war forced 2 million persons, one third of the whole population, to leave the country and become displaced in neighboring countries.

This unfortunate civil war is deeply related to diamond. Like I said, Sierra Leone is well known for good quality diamond. The world's third biggest diamond dubbed the star of Sierra Leone was discovered in the country.

Diamond is a rare, valuable gem which only kings or aristocrats could possess in the past. Then in the latter half of the 19th century, with a large-scale diamond mine discovered in South Africa, the method of extracting and cutting diamond has continued to evolve. Today ordinary people can also use diamond standing for eternal love as jewels.

In Sierra Leone, a diamond mine was discovered in 1930. Depending on the color, clarity, and weight of diamond, its value is decided. The diamonds from Sierra Leone are traded at high price on account of their bright-coloured light and sparkle. But ironically, Sierra Leone is the poorest country in the world.

Why does the country remain so poor despite producing diamond, the expensive jewel? The reason lies in its blood diamond. The diamonds produced in war zones and illicitly traded are called blood diamond. The diamond of blood.

Blood diamond makes it possible for dictators and warlords to carry on wars. Warlords refer to a group that occupies political privilege with military power. They buy the arms and wage wars with the money they earn by selling diamonds. The more diamonds Sierra Leone people

produce, the more pain of the war they have to shoulder.

The civil war of Sierra Leone was started in 1991 by Sierra Leone rebel group, the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), led by Foday Sankoh. After the civil war took place, government forces and rebel group had a fierce battle to win diamonds.

The RUF army occupied diamond mines and sold diamonds produced there to Charles Taylor, the president of neighboring country, Liberia. Charles Taylor backed new arms and soldiers in return.

A rebel group heavily armed with new weapons continued to occupy a massive-scale diamond mines. They became more and more brutal. The rebels chopped off the wrists and ankles of those opposed to them with an ax, regardless of age. It is the most terrible thing that has ever happened during the war.

They even kidnapped children and turned them into child soldiers fighting in the war. For this reason, Sierra Leone Civil War is called the most brutal war in history of the 20th century.

*Tip

·Blood Diamond: a term used for a diamond mined and traded in a war zone in Africa. It does not refer to blood-red diamond but blood-stained diamond. Dictators and warlords financed their arms and wars with the revenue they earned from selling diamonds, so it is called 'Blood Diamond'.

·Foday Sankoh (1937-2003): the leader of Sierra Leone rebel group. He started insurgency in 1991 but was granted amnesty of war crimes due to Lome Peace Deal in 1999. However, he was arrested again for the incidents in which the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) army, previously led by him, killed a peace-keeping force of the United Nations, took a hostage, and fired a gun. Waiting for a trial, he died in a prison in 2003.

·Charles Taylor (1948-): the former president of Liberia. The head of a Libyan-backed rebel group, the National Patriotic Front of Liberia (NPFL). After the first Liberia civil war that broke out in the 1990s came to an end, he was elected the president in 1997. However, Indicted by United Nations International Court of Justice for the charge of war crimes in 2003, Taylor resigned and went into exile in Nigeria but ended up being arrested.

3. The Tragedy of War, Child Soldiers

After Jun-Hyuk heard about the story of war that Sierra Leone people went through, he became more curious about the Single Leg Soccer Club. He was told there are many former child soldiers, another victim of the war, in the soccer club.

“Teacher, what is a child soldier?”

“Child soldiers are minors, around the age of 10. Children hold guns like adults and fight in the war like them.”

“Friends in my age hold guns and fight in the battle?”

“Jun-Hyuk, there are a number of countries and people in the world where we live. War is apparently endless. From April 2001 to March 2004, there took place wars in twenty countries. Ten countries among twenty deployed child soldiers at the forefront.”

“Why do children have to fight in the war?”

“It is because of adults! Children living in war zones get kidnapped by force on their way to school or errands. After being kidnapped, they are made into child soldiers and forced to fight in the battlefield, shooting guns.”

“Oh my gosh! Are there many child soldiers? What do they do in the war?”

“I do not know the exact number of child soldiers. But I guess it will total around a few hundred of thousands. Some fight in the battle and others become porters or messengers.”

“How can children do such terrifying work?”

Jun-Hyuk could not believe what his teacher just explained.

“It being terrifying even to adults, children are fed drugs by sinful adults. I mean, adults threatened child soldiers to participate in the battle and fed them drugs for getting rid of fear, letting brutal things committed by child soldiers. Rifles such as AK-47 are light and simple enough for teenaged boys to carry around. So adults make children commit a horrible thing with that weapon.”

“Why do child soldiers’ parents sit on their hands? Do children not go to school?”

The more stories about child soldiers, the sadder Jun-Hyuk became.

“War stops children from going to school and being taken care of by adults since many of their parents either die or get injured. Some children turn into child soldiers as they have no place to go back.”

“It’s unbearably tragic.”

“When inhumane child soldiers made their presence known to the world, the international society protested against having children under 18 involved in wars. In 1999, the United Nations General Assembly adopted a new ordinance of convention on the right of the child. Its purpose was

that persons below the age of 18 do not take a direct part in hostilities and they are not compulsorily recruited into their armed forces. Including Korea, 115 countries signed and 77 countries ratified the ordinance.

The convention No. 182 of the International Labor Organization (ILO) acknowledges forced conscription of child soldiers as the most horrendous child labour. 150 countries ratified the convention by August 2004. The United Nations Security Council approved the resolution that urges international society to take measures for rooting out forced conscription of children.

In 2007, heads of 58 countries who gathered in Paris, France, signed the Paris Agreement to prevent boys living in war-zones from being drafted into the army. The Paris Agreement disallowed any countries to militarize children for any reasons. However, despite this concerted efforts by the international society, there still exist child soldiers.”

*Tip

·AK-47: as an automatic rifle developed in the Soviet Union, it is known as one of the three best assault rifles along with G3 (Germany) and M16 (America). It was designed by Mikhail Kalashnikov, a sergeant of the Soviet Army. AK-47 stands for “Kalashnikov’s automatic rifle’ made in 1947. It is called Akabo Gun in North Korea. AK-47 remains the most popular and widely used assault rifles in the world because of their ease of use, less defect, and substantial reliability.

4. The Star of Sierra Leone

Jammed up inside his heart, Jun-Hyuk asked,

“Teacher, what happened to the child soldiers after war came to an end? And adults who committed such horrible things were punished, weren’t they?”

“The children who fought in the war as child soldiers still bear the scars in themselves though the war was over. They just carry on their living in a destroyed country, feeling guilty. Efforts led by the international society brought the terrible and sad civil war in Sierra Leone to an end in 2002. Foday Sankho, who led the Revolutionary United Front (RUF), died while awaiting a trial after having been arrested. And Charles Taylor, the former president of Liberia, was sentenced fifty years in prison by the International Criminal Court in Hague, the Netherlands, on the charge of his involvement in the Sierra Leone Civil War and egging on civilian massacre.”

“When will the children who once fought in the war as child soldiers be able to heal their wounds?”

“Well, it would take more efforts and time for their wounds to be healed. The international society has been providing humanitarian assistance to child soldiers including consultation, rehabilitation, and technical training in Sierra Leone, Liberia, Uganda, Sudan, etc. Those countries have been afflicted by long-held civil wars. The international society has also been implementing community development projects focusing on children, peace-building as well as reconciliation. Oh, not to mention promotion and education projects to prevent children from being forcefully drawn into the army.”

The thought that somewhere in the world child soldiers are holding guns and remain in the center of the battle at this very moment stung

Jun-Hyuk.

“Can’t we hinder people from buying blood diamonds to end the war? If it works out, child soldiers will disappear!”

“You’re right. Amnesty International, the human rights group, carried on a campaign, defining ‘conflict diamond’ as diamond that leads to conflicts, wars, infringement of human rights, etc. The group argued if people keep buying diamonds mined in Sierra Leone for their beloved ones, it will only help the Revolutionary United Front (RUF) purchase weapons and chop people’s limbs. Many people who simply considered diamond as jewelry were in extreme shock. In January 2003, forty countries gathered in Kimberly, the Republic of South Africa and signed the agreement banning on distribution of conflict diamonds. The scheme was to prevent diamond purchases financing for violence. It was ‘Kimberly Process Certification Scheme’.

Jun-Hyuk slowly nodded his head.

Everyone in class heaved a deep sigh and felt pity for them.

“Kids, don’t have a long face! No matter how frustrating and rough the situation is, we always find hope.”

“I know! A kid on the Single Leg Soccer Club said that in the interview,” Minsu said this time.

“Did he?”

Teacher signaled Minsu to continue his talk.

“The kid said he wanted to show how much people in Sierra Leone love peace and how they overcome the war. On top of it, he said soccer is the hope for children in Sierra Leone.”

Not saying a word for a while, teacher looked out the window. The sun rays were pouring into the classroom, shining lightly itself.

“Ah, that is why they had extraordinarily bright eyes. Now it makes sense. Their precious dream way more shiny than diamonds was in full stunning brilliance.”

***Further Knowledge!**

Human Rights-Related Organizations of the World

Plan International

Plan is one of the world's largest international child rights organizations established by British Journalist John Langdon and his friend Eric Muggeridge in 1937. John, who worked as a war correspondent during the Spanish Civil War, organized 'Post Parents Plan' in order to help war orphans and he became active in it. The purpose of Plan was to provide children suffering from the Spanish Civil War with food, shelters, and education. Plan is the international NGO with over 75 year history, which works in 50 countries with 8,000 volunteers. It works in 58,000 communities to improve 56.5 million children's lives without distinction of any kind of nation, politics, and religions.

Amnesty International

Amnesty International was founded by the British lawyer Benenson in 1963. Centering in London, the international bureau is one of the world's largest human rights organizations with 800 branches and over 110 regional offices in 150 countries. The stated objective of the organization is to improve human rights including torture, execution, refugees in an independent and fair manner beyond political, economic systems. The organization was awarded the 1977 Nobel Peace Prize for its contribution

to world peace and protection of human rights as well as the United Nations Prize in the Field of Human Rights in 1977.

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

(United Nations Human Rights Council)

United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is a United Nations agency that works to promote and protect the human rights. It was founded in the wake of the first meeting of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in 1946 based on Clause 68 stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that all member states of the United Nations signed. In recognition of the need to enhance authority and roles of Human Rights Council, it was dismantled in 2006 and replaced by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

OHCHR: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is under a secretary-general of the United Nations that works to promote U.N.'s role in relation to human rights. The headquarter office is located in Geneva, Switzerland. The organization coordinates each country's human rights related issues such as refugee crisis and gives recommendations.

UNESCO: United Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

The organization is a specialized agency of the United Nations established in 1947. Based in Paris, the organization declared the purpose of contributing to peace and security by promoting international

collaboration through educational, scientific, and cultural reforms. It aims to increase universal respect for justice, the rule of law, and human rights.

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

The organization is a United Nations (UN) program to provide assistance to children. Created in 1946, it has provided nutrition, drinking water, education of sanitation, and emergency aid, working on basic projects to protect children in dire straits. It serves as the primary point of education projects on human rights and peace-building as well as child protection programs.

02 THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

Cell Phone and Gorilla

1. Can you find my cell phone?

Hyunsu rummaged through his bag over and over again.

His cell phone was certainly in his bag before he left home but now it isn't where it should be. Apparently he lost it.

“How am I going to explain it to mom?” Hyunsu was worried sick.

Three months ago, Hyunsu told his parents with conviction, holding the latest smart phone in his hand, “I will never lose my cell phone again!”

At the time, it was not long ago since he had lost his cell phone. But today he lost his cell phone again!

Deeply concerned, Hyunsu could not go home but just stayed in the nearby playground. No matter how high his swing gets, his mood did not get any better. His mind was all over the place, with worries growing, on the swing.

‘I had better talk to mom honestly!’

When he opened the door, there stood Mom.

“Hyunsu, why are you so late?”

“Ehhh, the thing is...”

Despite having made a firm decision, Hyunsu hesitated.

“Cough, cough...”

Hyunsu gave a cough. He felt dizzy and felt as if he had a fever.

“Why are you coughing?”

Mom casually asked him.

“Maybe I caught a cold.”

“Your cold is quite weird! Every time you have something to be scolded, you get a cold.”

“Cough, cough...”

Hyunsu coughed again. His mom would be touching his forehead if it were as usual, but not today. However much he coughs, there is no way the missing cell phone would appear out of the blue.

“Hyunsu, where is your smart phone?”

“Mom, I cannot find it anywhere. What should I do? Can you help me find it?”

Hyunsu said, almost bursting into tears.

“I know one boy who left his stuff under the desk in his room!”

Hyunsu’s mom held out his phone.

Hyunsu took it right away. Why did he fret over the phone left behind his room? He felt it was nonsense. But it is a good thing that he did not lose his phone anyway.

“Hyunsu, please take care of your smart phone!”

“You know what? I do want to. You would not know how dreadful I was at the thought that I lost this expensive smart phone!”

“Yeh, it is expensive. But there is another reason that you should take a good care of it! In one country, because of a cell phone that we use for convenience, there took place civil wars! You should give it a thought at how painful and sorrowful those people in that country would feel.”

“A cell phone caused a civil war?”

“Yes, in Africa.”

Hyunsu could not believe what his mom just said.

“Not only this, there is no place left for gorillas on account of cell phones.”

“Cell phone and gorilla? What has anything to do with gorillas?”

Hyunsu became puzzled about it.

“There is the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) in Africa. The country has abundant underground resources. Especially much of its

wealth, Columbite-tantalite — coltan for short abounds. It is an important mineral made into a component for cell phones. This resource led the Congo people into the center of war, destroying gorilla's habitats and their species.”

“What is the Congo like?”

“Ok, let's find out what the Congo is like with me.”

2. The Country That Suffers from Rich Natural Resources

The Congo region became known to Europe as Livingston and Stanley went on an expedition in the middle of the 19th century. Later European powers were chomping at occupying the region. With the Treaty of Berlin signed in 1885, the west bank of the river was under French sovereignty and the east bank was reigned by Belgium.

The Congo received full independence in 1960. The Republic of the Congo ruled the west side of the river and the Democratic Republic of the Congo took charge of the east side.

The Democratic Republic of the Congo was thrown into extreme chaos after gaining independence due to power struggle and civil war. Even the Coup d'état took place. Once in power, Mobutu formed an authoritarian regime in a military Coup d'état in 1965 and changed the Congo's name to Zaire in 1971. Enjoying considerable support from the United States, Mobutu held power for 32 years as a military dictator. His authoritarian regime was overthrown by rebel forces in the end. Laurent Kabila, who changed the Congo's name to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, became the president later.

The DRC is 11 times bigger than the Korean peninsula and it is the third biggest country in Africa following Sudan and Algeria. Kinshasa is the capital city of the country.

The country has been afflicted by civil wars for a long time due to its location. The Congo is a country located in the inland of central Africa, bordering 9 countries. The DRC borders the Central African Republic and Sudan to the north; Zambia to the south; Uganda, Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania to the east; and the Republic of the Congo and Angola to the west.

As bordered by many countries, it was under direct influence when civil wars occurred in neighboring countries. When there was war between Rwanda and Burundi, many took a refugee to the DRC. Those who evacuated to the Congo caused another civil war afterwards.

The DRC is rich in its natural resources. Cobalt, petroleum, coltan, etc, are high-value resources with the vast potentials, which resulted in constant struggles for a fair share of resources among a number of forces.

The warlords that occupied the natural resources purchased the cutting edge weapons by selling them to continue the civil war. Furthermore, as neighboring countries had their eyes on natural resources of the DRC, they intervened in the civil war, expanding the civil war into continental war.

Among many, particularly coltan has become more valuable. Coltan is a metallic ore made into a cell phone and also known as 'blue gold' since it

gives out bluish light and as valuable as gold.

The mineral is an ore from which tantalum is extracted, which is crucial in use to control electric current of a cell phone. It is a very important mineral made into high-tech equipment such as computers, air crafts, spaceships and so on.

As high-tech equipment including cell phones has constantly been made, more and more coltan was demanded. About 80% of the world's coltan reserves are in the DRC. The smart phones we use are made of tantalum, which is extracted from coltan.

The DRC has a lot of coltan with high economic value, but it is a country flooding with poor and ill-fated people. The reason stems from a handful of greedy people exclusively enjoying benefits from the mineral. Moreover due to the fight to get a good share of coltan, many people died.

In the name of digging out coltan in mines, some people are abducted and forced to work with no holidays given. Those working in coltan mines often die from diseases and malnutrition.

As civil war continued in the DRC, the United Nations prevented the distribution of coltan smuggled out from the DRC. However, the rebel forces are still continuing the war along with an army of soldiers by selling coltan and purchasing weapons. It means coltan is the main culprit of ceaseless wars.

*Tip

·Livingstone (1813-1873): a Scottish Congregationalist, an explorer in South Africa. He discovered Victoria Falls and the Zambezi River. Livingstone explored Lake Nyasa as the British Consul in Quelimane. By exposing the realities of 'slave hunting', he contributed to banning slave-trade. He wrote 'Missionary Travels & Researches in South Africa'.

·Stanley (1841-1904): a Welsh journalist and explorer who was famous for his search for Livingstone. Between 1874 and 1877, he completed the exploration in Central Africa and finished mapping of the Congo rivers. Financed by Leopold II, he founded Leopoldville on the Congo River, helping Belgium contribute to colonize the region.

·Coup d'état: to take the political power by force. It is made by power shift within the ruling hierarchy, differing from revolution with the aim to transform the system.

·Motubu (1930-1997): a military dictator of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. He seized power in a military coup and assumed the role of army chief of staff in 1960. Motubu presided over the country for 32 years from 1965 to 1997. When rebel forces led by Laurent Kabila expelled him from the country, he exiled into Rabat, Morocco but died there.

·Laurent Kabila (1939-2001): a politician of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Kabila pushed his forces into a full-scale rebellion against Mobutu as the Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire (ADFL) in 1996. He overthrew the Mobutu regime and was

known for dictatorship until he died in coup d'état in 2011.

3. The Great War of Africa, the Congo War

“The civil war in the DRC sounds very complex.”

“That’s right. It is mainly because neighboring countries were involved in the Congo Civil War and the war was expanded into the world war into which many African countries entered. For this reason the Congo Civil War is called the Great War of Africa.”

“How was the Congo Civil War developed?”

“The First Congo War (1996-1997) rose from resistance against dictator Mobutu who was in power over 32 years. The war began as anti-government forces including the Congo-Zaire Rebel Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo (ADFL) led by the Tutsi launched attacks on Motubu regime and the Hutu. By using the Hutu that came to eastern part of the DRC after having been defeated in the Rwandan Civil War (the Rwandan genocide in 1994), Motubu regime suppressed the Tutsi based in the eastern region of the country.

Provided weapons and trained by Rwanda, Uganda, Angora, etc, the rebel forces overthrew Motubu regime and successfully marched to the capital city, Kinshasa. Later the rebel leader Laurent Kabila became the president.”

“What about the Second Civil War?”

“The Second Congo War (1998-2003) took place when president Laurent Kabila demanded the Tutsi withdraw from the CDR. Laurent Kabila wouldn’t have been able to become the president without support by the Tutsi. Feeling betrayed, the Tutsi became a rebel force against Laurent Kabila and launched attacks on his regime in July 1998.

The Second Congo War, the widest interstate war in modern African history, involved 10 African nations. Kabila gained great strengths, fighter bombers, and tanks from Angola, Zimbabwe, Namibia, Zambia, Sudan, etc. The rebel force was supported by Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, etc. These 10 African nations fought for their interest in rich resources that the DRC had.

After the president Laurent Kabila was shot and killed in January 2001, his son, Joseph Kabila, was sworn in as president. Five neighboring countries signed a peace deal and agreed to a cease fire in Cape Town, the capital city of South Africa, in December 2002. Following the Second Congo War, the Transitional Government came into being in the DRC in 2003. The war drove over 5 million people to death and displaced more than 20 million people.

Even after the Second Congo War ended, peace did not last long as civil war reoccurred in 2008. It put hundreds of people to death and displaced over 200,000 people within five months.”

***Further knowledge!**

The Rwandan Genocide –The Detritus of Belgian Colonial System

The Rwandan genocide known officially as genocidal mass slaughter took place in Rwanda, a neighboring country of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. 800 thousand Tutsi were killed or injured within a hundred days in 1994. The Rwandan Genocide is based on a colonial policy by Belgium that ruled the region. Rwandan population is made up of the Hutu (85%), Tutsi (14%), and Twa (1%). It is hard to distinguish these groups as the Tutsi and Huchi have been together for a long time. They were only

distinguished based on occupation and property. The Tutsi belonged to the aristocracy engaged in stock-farming, and the Hutu farmed the land as farmers.

Then Belgium decided to make use of the Tutsi, a minority group, to control Rwanda. Spreading rumors that the Tutsi were superior to Hutu in terms of ethnicity, Belgian administration implemented identity card labelling system and made them write their ethnicity on them. The Belgians had the Tutsi supremacy remain, giving them prior right to enter school and run the public offices. The system divided the tribes that had been co-existing in the same region. Even after the end of colonial rule, the Tutsi and Hutu could not but hate each other.

Burundi, another country bordered by Rwanda, shows a similar population composition to Rwanda. It was 1994 when the airplane carrying Rwandan and Burundian presidents were shot down by the missiles. They had met to discuss the issues of international peacemakers stationing in Rwanda. The plot behind it was not clearly found out. The Hutu and Tutsi condemned each other for having caused the incident. Finding fault with the incident, the Hutu began slaughtering the Tutsi, resulting in the Rwandan Genocide. The tragedy was over when the Tutsi fought back and occupied Kigali, a capital city of Rwanda. The Hutu, afraid of retaliation, fled to Uganda, Burundi, Congo, etc after the Tutsi won the civil war.

4. No Place to Live for Gorillas

Hyunsu was terrified at the war in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwandan Genocide. But he was still wondering why gorillas

have something to do with wars.

“Mom, what is the relationship between gorillas and wars?”

“Ah, you want to know further about it? The Democratic Republic of the Congo has rich natural resources as well as Mother Nature of Africa. Along with the Amazon, it is often called Earth’s lung and there lies Congo Basin in the DRC. A rich diversity of animals and plants live together in forests of Mother Nature. Gorillas inhabit in the forests of Kivu abounding in coltan.”

“Can’t people mine coltan while protecting gorillas?”

“You have a good point. The Congo finds it difficult to protect the forests because the country is in war state. There is Kahuzi-Biega National Park, a world heritage site of the DRC, in Kivu region. Coltan is buried everywhere in the park, which resulted in the difficulty to control coltan mines. It is one of the last places inhabited by gorillas. If the gorillas living in the park go extinct, there will be no gorillas left in the forest. You will only be able to see gorillas in a zoo if it happens.”

Hyunsu took a gander at the cell phone in his hand again.

“If you want to protect gorillas, you should protect the forest since they can only live in their natural habitats. After discovering coltan here, people porched gorillas, which caused their population to be cut nearly half. The gorillas that survived lost their place to live as the forest was completely destroyed. Now they are on the list of endangered species.”

“What should we do? I mean, we cannot stop using cell phones.”

“True. Cell phones are must-have items these days. Nearly two thirds of the world’s population is using cell phones. I and you cannot live without it. That is why we should use it in a right way and dispose of it afterwards.”

“How?”

“Well, we need to use cell phones as long as possible and let them

re-used by those in need. Old cell phones we throw away contain heavy metals such as lead and cadmium. So when we discard them, the environment gets polluted. Whereas, if old cell phones are recycled, metals including gold, silver, copper, etc, extracted from the process can be recycled.”

“Oh, I see.”

Hyunsu nodded his head.

“As you know, Korean people are especially fond of top-end models and more likely to buy new ones. They change phones in 18 months on average after their initial purchase. Considering that it is 46 months in case of Japan and Germany, Japanese and German use cell phones three times longer than we do.”

“If we use cell phones longer, can we protect gorillas?”

“To protect the forests gorillas live in, we need to stop indiscriminate mining and destruction of forests. One of the most practical ways is to use cell phones as long as we can. If not possible, you should put them into a recycling bin at least.”

Hyunsu gave it a thought.

‘I wish war ends and the Congolese are happy. Oh, I wish gorillas can continue to live in peaceful forests too!’

03 SUDAN

Pepe's Letter Of Hope

1. Letter of Hope

“Today we are writing a letter of hope!”

Pureum had a heavy heart when her teacher began to explain.

‘What should I write to a kid in Africa I have never met before?’

“Ok, then let’s meet our friends, thinking about what hope we want to share with them.”

The teacher said and played the video.

It was showing Darfur, Sudan in Africa and a handful of scrawny, lanky kids. The kids were walking carrying gigantic plastic water bottles.

They walk a mile to fetch water. To them fetching water is the most important thing. As there is no water nearby, they have to walk to a remote site. The water they get is dirty, but they have no choice but to have it to survive.

Teacher paused the video and asked, “Pureum, how do people get water in Korea?”

“Water pours out when we turn the faucet on.”

“Yes, we can get water easily anytime, anywhere in Korea. Some purchase bottled water or use a water purifier for good quality water. We wash ourselves as much as we want and take showers several times a week. Right?”

“Definitely! I take a shower everytime I get sweaty in summer,”

“Ok, but it seems quite difficult for those children to get water, don’t you think so? Let’s resume watching.”

A Caption that reads ‘Pepe’s video message’ popped up and zoomed in the video.

Pepe was a boy with really big eyes. He said looking at a camera coyly. When he talked, a Korean subtitle appeared on the screen.

Hello, friends in Korea.

My name is Pepe.

I am eleven years old and living in Sudan.

I wake up at dawn and fetch water every day.

My legs hurt because I walk a long mile.

My brother is really sick.

People say dirty water made him sick.

*Many people who are sick and injured
in battle are living where I live.*

*I will become a doctor when I grow up
to cure sick people like my brother.*

When becoming a doctor, I want to visit Korea.

Pepe waved his hand, smiling brightly.

Pureum thought Pepe's smile was so beautiful.

After watching it, teacher said, "Now let's write a letter to Pepe. But before that, shall we get to know about Sudan?"

2. The Worst World's Tragedy of the 21st Century, Darfur Conflict

Sudan (including South Sudan that gained independence in 2011) is the largest country in Africa. It is the 10th largest country in the world. The capital city is Khartoum.

The southern and northern part of Sudan are distinctively different in many aspects. Majority of the North Sudanese are Arab Muslims and

religions followed by the South Sudanese include traditional indigenous religions and Christianity. The northern part has extremely dry desert and southern part is a tropical region with large amounts of rainfall. Therefore ranching and agriculture are developed in North and South Sudan respectively. Due to differences in religion, ethnicity, and living environments, the two regions came to confront each other.

There used to be the Nubian Kingdom in Sudan. Later it was ruled by the Ottoman Empire of Egypt and from the latter half of the 19th century it was governed by Egyptian authority. Following that, the British sought to establish their control over Sudan, separating the southern and northern part of Sudan. It was how the British had colonial administration worked in an easy manner.

The North Arab Sudanese held the political power by being favored, whereas the southern region became politically discriminated and began to lag behind. As a result, the South Sudanese had complaints towards the North Sudanese.

Sudan gained independence from the British in 1956. However, it has suffered from continuous civil wars even after the independence. It is attributed to failing to settle divisions as well as conflicts resulting from the divide-and-rule policy.

Another reason for conflicts is oil. Oil fields are in South Sudan and facilities including oil pipelines are found in North Sudan. South and North Sudan fought to gain the shares of profit made by oil exports.

Sudan has for so long experienced civil war twice. The First Sudanese

Civil War (1955-1972) took place in 1955. After gaining independence, the Northern Arab Sudanese had the authority to themselves, and South Sudanese who were against it raised a rebellion. The war lasted 17 years. In 1972 president Nimeiry and South rebel force entered into an agreement, ending the conflict. The southerners were granted a single southern administrative region. Half a million people died in the First Sudanese Civil War.

The Second Sudanese Civil War started in 1983. At that time the president of Sudan was Nimeiry, who was Northern Arab Sudanese himself. He said he would implement Islamic law 'Sharia', throughout Sudan, which provoked resistance from the southerners who believed in christianity or indigenous religion.

Furthermore, President Nimeiry divided the southern administrative region into three parts not only to strengthen centralized authorization but also to take oil fields newly found in the southern parts.

The Second Civil War came to an end when the government and the southern rebels made a peace agreement in 2005. The southerners decided to proceed their independence. 1.5 million people died in Sudan Civil War that lasted 20 years.

South Sudan became an independent state in 2011, being separated from Sudan. South Sudan suffered from internal conflict again in 2013. After independence, South Sudan's ethnic groups including the Dinka, Nuer, etc divided authority and oil royalty. And then, a political power struggle broke out between President Salva Kiir from the Dinka and his deputy Machar from the Nuer. President Salva Kiir accused Vice President

Machar, which made opposing forces against the government, igniting the South Sudanese Civil War again.

In the Darfur region of the western Sudan, people are living in agony due to another conflict. Darfur refers to realm of the Fur. The conflict in Darfur is called the worst tragedy of the 21st century. 0.3 million people died and 2.5 million people became refugees. Britain made a decision to engage itself colonially in Sudan and consolidated Darfur into Sudan. During the colonial period, Darfur was politically and economically discriminated.

Even after Sudan became independent from Britain, the Northern Arab Sudanese in power strengthened arab-dominated policies, treating the Fur living in the region unfairly. The Fur formed a rebel force and began to fight against the government from 2003.

To counterattack the Darfur rebel, the Sudanese Government responded by using the Janjaweed, Arab militia, as its main counter-insurgency force. Janjaweed means devils on horseback. They committed a horrible crime in Darfur.

The Sudanese Government bombarded rebels with aerial strikes and made Janjaweed commit indiscriminate violence, plunder, and rape in Darfur. Once caught by Janjaweed, children and adults were all killed. Women were forcefully raped without question. Therefore Darfur Conflict is called the most inhumane and worst conflict ever happening in the 21st century.

In 2004, the African Union (AU) deployed peace-keeping force to

monitor its observance, and the Sudanese government signed the Darfur Peace Agreement along with the rebel force. As a result, Janjaweed militias and rebels were dismantled, resulting in the establishment of temporary government the rebel forces could take part in. However, Janjaweed militias launched a larger attack, causing 80 thousand people to flee from their homes for 4 months.

We need to take a look at the fundamental reason for Darfur Conflict aside from political, economic reasons. It is climate change.

Darfur is a region slightly dodging the crisis of the First and Second Civil War. Arab Sudanese engaged in ranching were living in the northern part of Darfur and black people practicing Christianity were farming in the southern part.

Drought continued for several years in Darfur. The climate change had Arab-Sudanese making their living by ranching come down to the south in search of water and grass. In the past, the black farmers shared water with the nomads of Arabia but could not do it after drought became aggravated. It caused small and big disputes among them.

The continued drought was on account of climate change. More and more disputes were driven by the drought, contributing to the civil war in the end. In a word, conflict was triggered by climate change.

In June 2007, Ban Ki-Moon, UN Secretary-General, contributed an article regarding 'Darfur Conflicts' to a magazine 'Washington Post'. He described 'Darfur Conflict, the worst world's tragedy of the 21st century, arose from climate change.

*Tip

·The Nubian Kingdom: is often called the Kingdom of Kush and it was situated in Nubia. It was established around 1070 BC and went to the ground around 350 BC. With Egypt's power waning due to invasion of the Hyksos, Nubia conquered Egypt around 760 BC. And the kings of the Nubian kingdom ruled both Nubia and Egypt as Egyptian pharaohs over 100 years.

·Nimeiry (1930~): a military officer and politician of Sudan. He came to power after a military coup in 1969. He started a campaign aiming for socialist economy but later moved to capitalistic agriculture in order to develop Sudan into a country that produces food. 'Sharia', he was supposed to implement, became the catalyst of the Second World War. During his visit to Egypt in April 1985, the prime minister raised a coup, which made him step down.

·Sharia: is the Islamic law derived from the Quran and Prophet Muhammad. The dictionary meaning of Sharia is the path leading to where one can drink water or the path toward god. Sharia ranges from bathing, ritual, pilgrimage, funeral to personal matters such as marriage contracts, inheritance, trade regulations and legal norms like rights and obligations, crimes, punishments, and war with non-Muslims.

3. Climate Change and Scarce Water are the Root Cause of Conflicts?

“Teacher, drought in Darfur began due to climate change?” Pureum asked.

“The serious water scarcity is attributed to decreased rainfalls compared

to before. The global warming raised the Indian ocean's temperature, while decreasing precipitation by over 40% influenced by the seasonal wind.”

“How about in the past? It was alright back then?”

Jun-Hyuk, who was in the same group with Pureum, asked a question.

“Yes. Darfur used to be a region with rich soil where crops and fruits grew well. But over the past 20 years, as precipitation decreased continuously, people began to fight for getting water. Without water, people as well as animals and plants cannot survive.”

“Yep.”

Teacher continued her explanation after children answered in chorus.

“There is plenty of water in the world. Water accounts for roughly 70% of the surface of the earth. Most of it is seawater, while drinkable fresh water is only 3%. As glaciers store most of the world's fresh water, people can drink only 1% of the freshwater.”

“Only 1%? But Korean people use clean water and do not even care about it, right?” Being shocked to hear what his teacher said, Jun-Hyuk could not but ask a question.

“Not everyone living in the world is like that. Over 700 million people of the whole population cannot access to clean, safe water. Especially many Sub-Saharan African countries extremely lack not only clean water but also water and sanitation infrastructure. According to the reports released by the United Nations, the number of people who died from diarrhea amounts to 1.8 million, 90% of whose deaths are due to polluted water. What aches our heart more is the fact that 90% of the deceased are children aged less than 5 years old. Every 19 seconds, a child dies from dirty water around the globe.”

“Why is climate change happening? Doesn't it only trigger the water scarcity?”

“Climate change is driven by global warming. It is known that there are multiple, complex reasons explaining the global warming. But the biggest reason for it is greenhouse gases.”

“Where do greenhouse gases come from?”

“Most of it is emitted by industrially advanced countries. Korea ranks ninth in producing greenhouse gases in the world. The emissions of greenhouse gas per capita of Korea are larger than those of Europe or Japan. Africa has almost nothing to do with emissions. But it is African people who suffer from greenhouse gases produced by the advanced countries. According to the report published by the European Committee, it is expected conflicts surrounding water resources, territory, refugees, and natural resources will be major conflicts in the future.

*Tip

·Greenhouse gas (GHG): is the fundamental cause of global warming. Carbon dioxide accounts for over 50% among gases that cause global warming. Water vapor, carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, chloro fluoro carbons (CFC) are well-known for contributing to greenhouse effect. In 1986 the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) officially proclaimed the root cause of global warming is carbon dioxide. The temperature rise driven by the global warming caused sea level to rise, contributing to many problems.

·European Union (EU): the member states are Germany, France, Island, Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Denmark, Sweden, Finland, Austria, Italy, Spain, Portugal, Greece, Czech, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia, Lithuania, Latvia, Estonia, Slovenia, Cyprus, Malta, Bulgaria, Rumania,

Croatia, etc and 28 other nations. It was founded on November 1, 1993.

4. A Letter to Pepe

Pureum was really shocked to realize that Sudan underwent conflicts throughout decades. She also learned that water scarcity was driven by climate change and global warming.

“Teacher, can’t we help Pepe so that he doesn’t have to walk miles to access clean water?” Pureum asked.

“There are many who think like Pureum. A number of international organizations have been working to build wells in Africa.”

“You mean, Pepe’s village will have a well?”

“Not right away, but there will be a well one day. People are making every effort and I believe so.” Pureum felt sad and became heavy-hearted thinking about what she could do.

“Hey, now you know water which you just drink and use as much as you want can be very important to someone else?”

Teacher asked children meeting her eyes with every child in class.

“Yes!”

“Great. It might sound like it’s happening from a far-away country, but Pepe is the same as you living in the global village. He can meet you one day and he is sharing his hope with the letter.”

Everyone nodded their head.

“Teacher, I learned that greenhouse gases and climate change have something to do with me.” Jun-Hyuk said.

“Brilliant. Now it is time to write a letter to Pepe,” Teacher said.

Pureum began to write.

Dear Pepe,

Hello. I am Pureum from Korea. I am eleven years old and my dream is also to be a doctor.

I was taken by the surprise to see the video about Sudan.

I realized people drink dirty water as there is no access to clean water.

I also learned there are many injured people suffering from war.

To be honest I often do not finish drinking water.

I thought to myself I will never do it again.

From now on I will use my stuff wisely and not use a disposable items.

Hope to help with the 'Build Wells in Africa'!

Pepe, I really hope your brother gets better soon.

When becoming a doctor, I would like to treat ill people living in Sudan.

I bet you will be a doctor then.

Let's see each other!

04 SOMALIA

I Do Not Want to Be a Pirate!

1. My Dream is...

“My dream is to be the UN’s secretary general. Just like Ban Ki-Moon Secretary General.”

“Wow!”

“I know you will make it, Ji-Sung.”

Giving a clap, children commented on what Ji-Sung said.

‘Man, he’s always bragging!’

Min-Young’s turn came while she thought to herself.

“I would like to be a children’s book author. But my grandpa wants me to be an announcer and my mom wants me to be a teacher. So I am not sure what I want to be yet.”

“I can understand. When I was young like you guys, I was sometimes asked what I wanted to be in the future by parents or relatives. When I did not give them a cool answer as they expected, they did not like my idea.”

“Exactly! I was scolded when I said my dream was to be a pirate,” Su-Hyuk said.

“Haha!”

“No doubt!”

Children became rowdy. Su-Hyuk was an offbeat puck. That was what everyone laughed about though.

“Su-Hyuk, do you really want to be a pirate? Do you know what exactly it is?” Teacher asked in a quite serious tone.

“Yeh, I would like to travel to the end of the world just like Captain Jack Sparrow appearing in the movie, Pirates of the Caribbean.”

“That sounds too unrealistic! Why don’t you just say you want to be Harry Potter?” Ji-Sung snorted.

“Ok, be quiet everyone! The pirate that Su-Hyuk mentioned only exists in a film. Did you know that there are children who want to be pirates in real world?”

“Yes, I do. I heard Somali children want to be pirates,” Ji-Sung answered proudly.

“Are you serious? Do you believe it?” Teacher asked him once again, wearing an incredulous look on her face.

“Children, you have heard about Somali pirates, haven’t you? Years ago Somali pirates seized a Korean ship.”

“If they did seize the ship, they must be real pirates, not just pirates only existing in a movie. Am I right?”

To his astonishment, Su-Hyuk, who revealed his dream was to be a pirate, raised a question.

“Yes, they are real pirates. Somali pirates. Korean media reported as if pirates in Somalia were treated like heroes, adding that many of Somali children want to be pirates. Let’s find out if it is true.”

2. The Horn of Africa, Somalia

Looking at the map of the African continent, you will find a spot sticking out like a horn of rhinoceros in Northeast Africa. It is the Somali peninsula and often called the horn of Africa. There lies Somalia.

Mogadishu is the capital city and the official language of Somalia is Somali. Most people in the country are Muslim. Majority of Somali territory is desert, while arable land only accounts for 2%.

The Somali consider themselves one people and they make up the most of the population. The Somali was derived from the word 'Somar' meaning 'milking'. As you can see from the name of the ethnicity, the Somali are nomads raising cows and sheep.

It's been a long time since the Somali lived in the inland of Somalia and the Galla lived in the south and west regions of the country. Islam culture was introduced to the area between the 7th century and the 10th century with Muslim Arabs and Persians coming into the country.

After British occupation of the Gulf of Aden lying between the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea in 1839, European powers began the scramble for Africa. In the 1880s, Britain, Italy, France, and some other countries ruled over the Somali peninsula.

Somalia is bordered by Ethiopia to the left. Ethiopia occupied the Ogaden region located in the west of Somalia where the Somali were living in 1896. As a result, the region inhabited by the Somali was demarcated into British Somaliland, Italian Somaliland, French Somaliland, Ethiopia Somaliland regardless of whether the Somali wanted or not.

Somali-inhabited regions including Ogaden became the conflict zones which neighboring countries fought for. To seize the Ogaden region, Somalia launched attack on Ethiopia in 1977.

Somalia gained independence from Britain and Italy in 1960. A military coup d'état spearheaded by Barre broke out in 1969, after which Barre ruled it with an iron hand over 20 years. At that time Somalia was made up of many different tribes. But Barre reigned the country with people

from his tribes. Many different Somali forces based on each tribe were engaged in armed struggle, resulting in continuous conflicts in Somalia.

In 1991, the Barre administration was ousted by a coalition of opposition groups mainly consisting of the United Somali Congress (USC) led by Aidid. However, due to power struggle among factions, Somalia fell into the swirl of civil war once again.

The war that lasted over 20 years ravaged the whole country and engendered casualties and refugees. Furthermore, the worst drought swept Somalia in 1991. More than half of the total population, 4.2 million, suffered from hunger. In 1992, over 300,000 people died from starvation.

As such devastations came out, the international peacemakers were deployed for various activities. Korea also deployed the engineering unit consisting of around 250 soldiers to support peace-keeping of the U.N. in 1993. Despite concerted efforts by the U.N., Somali conflicts continued, during which some of the U.N. forces were even killed. Following that, the U.N. withdrew its troops from Somalia in 1995.

It is less than a year when Somalia stayed peaceful without any conflicts over the past 20 years. Most of the population has lived suffering from starvation and diseases. There is no proper government, electricity and water supply plant. There is no school where children study and hospital offering treatments to those who are sick.

A number of people are goaded by incessant pain due to drought in Somalia. Civil war has lasted in the state of anarchy after dictatorship fell down. Crimes such as murder and abduction are of constant occurrence

as well. Somalia is one of the saddest and most dangerous countries in the world.

*Tip

·Barre (1919-1995): he came to power after a military coup d'état in 1969. Forming the Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party (SRSP) in 1976, he made one-party government by appointing himself Secretary-General and president. He was eventually forced from power in 1991 by a coalition of armed opposition groups. It was 1995 when he died from heart attack during political exile in Nigeria.

·Aidid (1934-1996): a Somali military commander. He was a former general under Barre authority but led the opposition group after being jailed for 6 years. Following that, he waged a civil war and declared war against the international peacemakers. The U.S. accused him as a war criminal. He was injured and died during the civil war in 1996.

·United Nations peace-keeping: the United Nations Security Council is responsible for dispatching troops to support peace-keeping in the conflict zones. In order to ease the tension and in the pursuit of settling peace through negotiations as well as monitor violations of the Armistice Agreement between the countries, the U.N. dispatches armed forces to the conflict zones. Korea sent peace-keepers in the occurrence of 1993 Somali and 2000 East Timorese crisis.

3. The Pirate's Country, Somalia

“Somalia came to fame for pirates by the time of 2000s. It has the longest coastline in Africa. Puntland is in northeastern Somalia and situated at the eastern mouth of the Suez Canal, the Gulf of Aden. Annually over 30,000 ships including those carrying oil and natural gas, which account for 14% of the world's freights, pass through the Suez Canal.”

Listening to Teacher's explanation, Su-Hyuk wanted to ask a question.

“Then, Somali pirates target the passing ships?”

“Yes, they attack oil tankers or cargo ships passing the coastal waters of Somalia and hijack them. Taking hostage of people, they demand a hefty ransom. There were as many as 200 cases a year of pirate's hijacking. In 2011 Korean-owned Samho Jewelry was hijacked by the Somali pirates and evacuated.”

“Teacher, why did the Somali people turn into pirates?”

Being curious, Ji-Sung put a question to teacher.

“Somali pirates emerged in the early 1990s. The Somali coastal waters were so-called ‘golden fishery’ abounding with marine resources. The Somali fishermen caught fish with a small fishing boat as much as they could manage. But after Somalia fell into anarchy due to conflicts, large vessels from other countries made a clean sweep of marine products in the Somali coastal waters. They even took away the nets cast by the Somali fishermen. In addition they began to dump illegal waste into the sea recklessly. As there was no proper government in Somalia, there was no one to crack them down.”

“The fishermen must have been so upset!” Min-Young said, feeling

pitiful.

“The Somali fishermen not being able to bear this anymore, began to arm themselves and protect the ocean on their own. Over time, they became pirates looting foreign ships. As piracy added up to real money, warlords cut in and provided pirates with weapons. In return, the warlords took up some portion of the profits. The size of pirates became larger and larger, with weapons more advanced.”

“Isn’t there any way to stop pirates?”

Children bombarded teacher with questions.

“The international society formed multinational coalition naval fleets to stop piracy and deployed joint operation in the ocean near Somalia. As pirates found it difficult to loot, they formed cooperative ties with rebel forces and have been active in smuggling arms, doing illegal trades, supporting terror, and committing theft.”

“Teacher, by the way, why do wars keep breaking out in Africa?”

“Oh, Min-Young gave us a good, timely question! In order to understand the reason behind the wars in Africa, we need to look into the history of the African continent. African people were living in rich nature for tens of thousands of years. But things changed when Europeans got to know about Africa through discovering a new sea route around the 1500s.”

“How did things change?”

“Europeans believed they could be rich if going to Africa, recognizing it as the land of gold. So they began to invade the continent to occupy resources in Africa. Threatening with guns and swords, Europeans abducted and sold Africans as slaves. They even wrested many different kinds of resources such as expensive rubber and ivory. Preceding the army, European powers colonized on the native’s land by force. Eventually all the African continent but for Liberia and Ethiopia fell into

the hands of European powers.”

“Ah, I see.”

“European powers such as Britain and France even jostled with one another for occupying more land in Africa. They demarcated the border of African countries in their own way and colonized them. They did not take people’s ethnicity, tradition, lifestyle into consideration at all. As a result, the same tribal groups were separated into different countries, and tribal communities conflicting each other happened to fall under the same nation. It is the reason African countries have straight borders today.

After the First and Second World War, many of the African countries gained independence, yet there still remained borders drawn by Europeans as they preferred. It resulted in conflicts among tribes living in the same country and constant civil wars until now.”

*Tip

·Samho Jewelry: is a Korean-owned freighter hijacked by the Somali pirates in January 2011. It was not the first time that Korean vessels were hijacked, so public formed the opinion that the government should not pay ransom to pirates. The Korean president issued an order to deal with the crisis and all sailors were evacuated on the Gulf of Aden six days after having been hijacked. The operation is dubbed ‘Dawn of Gulf of Aden’.

·Illegal waste: it normally costs \$250 to process a tone of wastes in Europe, while it only costs less than \$2.5 to process the same amount of waste in war-stricken Somalia. Therefore European companies dumped radioactive wastes such as heavy metals like uranium, cadmium, industrial

wastes, chemical wastes, medical wastes, etc into the coastal waters of Somalia.

4. Africa is Starving

“Teacher, what do Somali people think of piracy?” Ji-Sung asked.

“I don’t think Somali pirates would be proud of their criminal activity! A former Somali pirate said that under bizarre circumstances where crime is predominant, the government takes hands-off attitude, and there is no law and order, piracy was the only option left for him. He had to manage to live by piratical attack despite it being the last thing that he wanted to. Those people are only cornered criminals.”

“Somali kids don’t really want to be pirates, do they?” Min-Young asked.

“What do you say?”

“Teacher, I firmly believe if Somali children say ‘my dream is to be a pirate!’, which is the same as ‘I never really want to be a pirate’. You said they cannot go to school and hang out with friends. It must come from lack of hope. Didn’t you say they are lacking in food as well?”

Ji-Sung nailed the answer.

“Yeah, I believe so indeed! 900 million out of the world’s 7 billion population still suffer from malnutrition, among which the number of children under five years old is 200 million. Particularly over 30% of the total population inhabiting in southern part of Sub-Saharan region and roughly 16% of that in Asia are malnourished. Every year 6 million children are dying from diseases caused by malnutrition. Starvation can put lives at risk, weakening eye vision and immunity.”

“How so? Can’t we send leftover food to them?” Min-Young asked, feeling miserable to hear teacher’s explanation.

“The amount of food waste dumped every day is 12,000 tons on average, which is equivalent to 1,400 trucks by 8 ton truck. The amount of annual food waste stands at around 4.1 million tons. In money terms, it totals 15 trillion won. However, it is not easy to send food to the distant African country.”

“Can’t the rich people help hungry children?” Ji-Sung asked.

“There are many different types of international organizations and relief groups helping starving children. We need to pay more attention to the events or organizations to help starving children and make a contribution to them no matter how small it is. Also it’s time for us to figure out the root cause of the starvation and think about the ways to help them.”

*Tip

International organization and relief group

·World Food Programme (WFP): is the food assistance branch of the United Nations. It is the world's largest food assistance organizations addressing hunger problem. The WFP works to provide food to people in emergency such as war, civil war, and natural disaster and help to save their lives.

·UNHCR (United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees): was founded as a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly in 1949. The agency coordinates international measures to protect refugees and addresses refugee issues. Its primary purpose is to safeguard the rights and well-being of refugees. The UNHCR was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1954 and 1981 respectively.

·UNICEF (United Nations Children's Fund): was created by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1946 to provide assistance to children and adolescents suffering from wars. Recognized by its service, UNICEF was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1965.

·World Vision: was founded in the midst of the Korean War in 1950. It is the biggest non-governmental, Evangelical Christian, and humanitarian organization to work for relief and development projects in 100 countries as of now. The World Vision helps children's physical, mental, spiritual development as well as works to create safe households and local communities.

·MSF (Médecins sans Frontières): was founded in 1971 and awarded the Nobel Prize in 1999 by being recognized for prompt relief activities in conflict and disaster zones as well as realization of humanitarianism.

·Korea Food for the Hungry International (KFHI): is the first international non-governmental organization launched in Korea to help overseas. As a support group for the UN's Food for the Hungry International, the organization opens the path for impoverished and starving neighbors in the world's 50 countries to lay the framework for survival and self-reliance through emergency relief as well as development projects.

·Good Neighbors International: to respond to the society's call that we pay attention to underprivileged, impoverished neighbors in the globe and to resolve the social issues more professionally, the organization was founded by Korean in 1991. As of now, Good Neighbors has been

working on professional community development projects and international emergency relief projects in 25 countries.

***Further knowledge!**

Root Cause of Starvation

1. Natural disaster: a variety of natural disasters including flood, drought, and tropical cyclone (typhoon) bring about great food crisis. In particular, drought is the root cause of food shortage as it withers all food crops. It was drought that afflicted Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia in 2011.

2. War: war has the most direct and indirect impact on starvation. A number of people lose a place to live and become refugees due to war. They can neither farm nor survive without aid from emergency relief organizations. Wars or civil wars left refugees displaced throughout the world from Asia and Africa to South America.

3. Unbalanced distribution structure of wealth and political corruption: since a minority of leadership has wealth to themselves exclusively, a majority of people are extremely poor. Especially by exploiting people, African leadership indulged in corruption to meet their selfish needs, resulting in starvation throughout the country.

4. Desertification: is a type of land degradation where relatively dry area of land becomes increasingly arid, caused by a variety of factors such as dry-out phenomenon, deforestation related to excessive farming, environmental pollution, and climate change. Owing to desertification, the size of the land disappearing from the earth every year is equivalent to 60% of Korea's. The size of deserted areas totals around 5.2 billion

hectares, which accounts for nearly 30% of the world's land mass. Annual damage due to desertification is estimated to be \$42 billion. With terrain changed from arable land to desert, people have food insufficiency and suffer from hunger and poverty.

05 MEXICO

The Speed of Snail: the Zapatista

1. Trip to the Mural Village

“Areum, why don’t we go on a trip to a mural village?”

“Mural village?”

“Yup, there is Sopo mural village in Tongyoung, Gyungnam Province. How about doing some internet search for it?”

Areum looked it up on the internet. It says high school girls drew murals in Sopo Village.

“Mom, I bet there are many fun, interesting drawings!”

“Yeah? It will be way better to go there in person.”

Areum and her mom took a trip to the mural village.

When they entered the village, the first drawing they encountered was a huge giraffe. Mommy giraffe was staring at her baby with her neck hunching.

“Aruem, aren’t their eyes so pretty?”

“Ye, baby giraffe is so cute.”

Areum took a photo with her cell phone and walked to the entrance of a small winding alley.

There appeared a gigantic grey elephant this time. It looked very friendly. Unlike straight alleys in Areum’s neighborhood, this place has small and narrow alleys connected to one another. Where an alley ends began another alley and it made her want to go further and further.

“Aruem, look over there. Doesn’t it look like a goldfish is swimming in the air?”

“Yeah, all animals and plants in these drawings look so happy.”

“I think so, too.”

Alleys are connected to one after another. Some walls were depicting leaves of books and others were showing butterflies and birds. Aruem took snaps and recorded a video with her cell phone, having the most of the time.

On her way back to Seoul from a day trip, Aruem asked, "Mom, isn't it early men who drew murals?"

"For quite a long time, people have drawn pictures on either walls or rocks. Altamira cave paintings in Spain were created by paleolithic men. In Korea the murals of Goguryeo ancient tomb are famous. The Renaissance was the golden age of the mural art in the West. Mural paintings have been drawn a lot in the modern times too. But they are made in different ways from those at their best time. These days there are many mural villages like Sopo Village in Korea."

"Really? Then, which country is well known for murals?"

"Mexico! In the early 20th century, Mexico saw a national mural painting movement. If going to Mexico City, the capital city, you can find murals everywhere from subway or university to public and private buildings. So some people refer to Mexico as the country of the murals. Oh, and there is a very unique mural in Mexico."

"What is it like?"

"The mural is called Chiapas. But to get to know about it, you should have a better understanding of the Zapatista Uprisings, the Mexican Civil War. Shall we get to learn about Mexico?"

2. Mexican Muralism

Mexico is a country in the south-west of North America. Mexico is nearly 9 times bigger than Korea and is the fourteenth largest country in the world. Its capital is Mexico city. The country is bordered to the north

by the United States and to the south by Guatemala. The population is over 110 million. Mexico is ethnically diverse; 60% of the total is whites and mestizos (mixed whites and indians), 30% is indians, 9% is white Mexicans, and the others are mulattoes, zambos, etc. The country has the largest Spanish-speaking population in the world and about 90% of the population believe in Roman Catholicism. Mexicans love soccer, boxing, and bullfighting.

Mexico is where Maya, Toltec, and Aztec ancient civilizations originated from. The Aztec civilization was the latest one. Tenochtitlan was located on an island in the lake. The city was quite big enough to accommodate more than 200 thousand people but it was collapsed by the Spanish invasion.

In 1519 Cortés from Spain landed the coast of Mexico with 11 vessels and 500 soldiers to invade Mexico and ended up occupying Tenochtitlan, the capital of Aztec. Over the next 300 years, Mexico was colonized by the Spanish. The natives of Mexico were treated like slaves in plantations after the country was fallen into colonization.

The Mexicans proclaimed independence and waged war in 1810. One of the most famous independent activists is the Catholic priest, Hidalgo, who is called the father of Mexican independence. Father Hidalgo raised his voice that Mexicans fight against Spain and gain independence. However, he was caught by the Spanish army and lost his life. As Mexicans struggled to fight until the end, they could eventually be free from the Spanish in 1821. The nation lost its northern territory such as California and Texas to the U.S.A. in a war in 1846.

From the latter half of the 19th century to the early 20th century, The Mexican territory was largely concentrated in the hands of a few, and the contradiction in the society grew more and more serious with the gaps between the rich and the poor widened. The revolution led by Emiliano Zapata, who claimed 'land and freedom', took place in 1910. As the new constitution set out for the rights of farmers and laborers was enacted, the revolution came to an end (Mexican Revolution). Following the revolution, the political party involved formed a party called the National Revolutionary Party or PNR, which ran the country for 71 years from 1929 to 2000.

The Mexican mural movement began in the 1920s and lasted until the 1970s. The government supported the movement in order to find the identity of Mexican culture as well as ethnic arts. It was to ensure anyone could paint on the walls of public buildings so they could access to arts. The drawings were about Mexican history, culture, and people. Diego Rivera, David Alfaro Siqueiro, and Jose Clemente Orozco are so-called three greatest artists in the era. Through this movement, Mexicans could have a better understanding of Indian's indigenous culture.

Following the latter half of the 1970s, Mexico experienced a rapid economic growth. As one of the major oil-producing countries, Mexico's oil export played a role as a driving force. Yet, the country suffered from serious financial difficulty due to a big fall in oil price in the latter half of the 1980s. To cope with these financial difficulties and continue the economic growth, the Mexican government promoted neo-liberal policy measures including privatizing state-owned firms and liberating markets. The North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) signed in 1992 is one of the policies reflecting neo-liberal policies.

The NAFTA took effect on January 1, 1994, on which the Zapatista Uprisings took place in Chiapas region. These two incidents have a close association with each other. The NAFTA was to promote market liberalization and globalization, while the Zapatista Uprisings was against the NAFTA.

*Tip

·Mixed race: the mixed race in Latin America is mestizos, molattos, zambos, etc. Mestizo is a person of combined white and indians, molatto is white and black combined, and zambo is the mixed blood of Indians and blacks.

·Emiliano Zapata (1879-1919): is a leading figure of the peasant revolution in the Mexican Revolution and a pioneer of the land reform. Leading poor farmers and the community, he participated in the Mexican Revolution in 1911, contributing to the victory. He continued armed struggles against the central government even after that. In 1917 his claim had a significant influence on the article 27 of the constitution that stipulates the land reform.

·Diego Rivera (1886-1957): is a prominent Mexican painter who marked a new era for the mural movement after returning from studying in Europe. Diego Rivera lampooned the Spanish conquerors, American capitalists, and the Mexican upper class, while he expressed Mexican mixed-race with a gentle touch and voluminous lines. By beautifying the era of Aztec and Maya civilization, he received enormous empathy and love from the public. His wife, Frida Khalo, is also a distinguished

painter.

·Jose Clemente Orozco (1883-1949): after the Mexican Revolution, he formed the association for the artists as part of nationalistic revivalism. He spent his entire life with the revolution and he poignantly depicted heroic scenes of the war from a tragic perspective. Sharp, straight lines heightened the sensitivity of the historic tragedy in his paintings. Violence of conquest and mortal tragedy found in the revolution are vividly represented as well.

·David Alfaro Siqueiros (1896-1974): involved in the Mexican Revolution, he became a social realist painter. To overcome flatness of murals and instead emphasize movement and dynamism, he studied space a lot and introduced a new mural technology. His murals allow the viewers to have different feelings and impressions depending on at which angle they look at them and whether viewers move or not.

·NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement): is an agreement signed on October 11, 1992, by the United States, Canada, and Mexico, for the purpose of free trade and economic collaboration. The agreement came into force on January 1, 1994. It aims to phase out non-tariff barriers and customs duties regarding the movement of goods and services among these three countries over the next 15 years. It created the single market based on the U.S.'s capital and technology, Canada's resources, and Mexico's labor, creating economic integration.

3. The Zapatista Uprisings That Took Place in the Poorest Place

“What is Chiapas like? I mean where did the Zapatista Uprisings take

place?”

“Chiapas is one of the states located on the tip of south-eastern Mexico. Despite its rich natural resources, Mexico is one of the poorest states. 30% of the total residents are comprised of the natives, who were discriminated by the government. As they were alienated from education, their illiteracy rate is three times higher than the national average level. The farmers living in Chiapas formed the organization called the Zapatista to preserve their culture and rights.”

“What is the Zapatista like?”

“The Zapatista took its name from Emiliano Zapata. Zapata is a leading figure and the main leader of the peasant revolution who claimed land reform, speaking for farmers’ rights during the Mexican revolution.

Zapata demanded autonomy, but the Mexican government did not meet their requests. In the situation where farmers were in need of logging for firewood and land, what the Mexican authority did was to prohibit logging and implement deportation policy. Rising up against it, the farmers caused terrorism and riot from 1991.

By creating the Army of National Liberation, the Zapatista staged a riot to eliminate discrimination, poverty and social discrimination. They even announced the declaration in the following.

“As we could not access the most basic necessities, they used us as cannon balls and extorted wealth from the nation. They did not care about anything. They had no interest in whether we had medical treatment, food, or education at all. We were not allowed to select our political leader in a free and democratic way, either. There was no independence we gained from foreign powers, no peace and justice for

ourselves and our children.”

The declaration was a cry for no more discrimination and oppression against the natives and farmers that lasted 500 years even after Spain’s colonization was over.

“The Zapatista fought with the Mexican government?”

“The Zapatista Army of National Liberation occupied 7 cities in Chiapas. The authority mobilized a large scale of military forces and launched attacks on the Zapatista with helicopters and tanks. In the end the Zapatista sneaked into Lacandon Jungle in Chiapas. In January 1996, the Zapatista Army of National Liberation declared they would stop using armed forces. In February, the Zapatista army and Mexican government signed the agreement on the native’s rights and culture. However, armed clashes took place later and there has still remained tension.

The Zapatista fought in a very unique manner. Their weapons were not arms but internet and writing. The leader of the Zapatista was Marcos, who always wore a ski mask and carried a laptop with him to state the reason and the purpose of their struggle, appealing to the world. This is why many people call the Zapatista Uprisings ‘post-modern revolution’ or the ‘Cyber guerilla’.

*Tip

· Marcos: is referred to as the next Zapata or Che Guevara. He is a mysterious man whose early life and real name were kept behind the closed doors. He was born to the middle-class family and graduated from the National Autonomous University of Mexico. He is also known to have studied in the Sorbonne, France. After graduating from the university, he

did social-service activities in the gutters of Lacandon Jungle, Chiapas. Right after the Nicaraguan Somoza regime was ousted, it is known that he participated in the Sandinista Revolution, forming the association for farmers and staying in Nicaragua.

4. Snails: Autonomy

Areum wondered about the murals in Chiapas.

“What kind of paintings are drawn on the murals in Chiapas?”

“I said that many people in Chiapas are poor and illiterate. So they express their experience and hope through murals instead of writing. Many of the village walls have the revolutionist Zapata, Che Guevara, and Marcos highly esteemed by the Zapatista.”

Areum wanted to know about neo-liberalism.

“Mom, can you tell me about neo-liberalism?”

“Well, today neo-liberalism means the international trend. It emerged with economic recession and government’s budget deficit deepening. It aims to boost the economy by minimizing the government’s intervention and realizing open competition in terms of economic activities. The governments pursuing neo-liberalism implement policies; for example, they deregulate enterprises’ activities, dwindle corporation tax, allow corporations to freely restructure, privatize public companies, and let foreign enterprises to enter domestic markets freely, boosting the economy.”

“By the way, why did the Zapatista object to neo-liberalism?”

“Well, while neo-liberalism allows a minority of enterprises and capitalists to maximize their profits, a majority of ordinary people become more alienated due to reduction in welfare policy in comparison with the

past. With the rich-get-richer and the poor-get-poorer being aggravated, the society can be polarized. That is why the Zapatista, the native farmer's organization rooted in Chiapas, which is the poorest region in Mexico, opposed the NAFTA."

"Mom, how are the Zapatista in Chiapas living now?"

"They are ruling themselves in Chiapas now. There are five regional hubs called 'Snail' in Chiapas, a political organization called 'Right government panel', and 30 boroughs. Each borough has steering committees and residents committee representing each village. They are governing Chiapas by performing legal, judicial, and administrative role through right government panel and village steering committee."

"Why are the regional hubs called Snail?"

"It is because snails are slow but never stop moving forward. Also the pattern on its shell looks like a circle is moving outward from the center."

"Mom, you said many people in Chiapas cannot read. Aren't there any schools?"

"Yeh, the illiteracy rate of Chiapas was pretty high, while the average life expectancy was the lowest in Mexico. So when the regional organization, 'Snail' and autonomous villages were created, schools and hospitals were the first buildings established. Though it is still insufficient, each autonomous village has its own primary educational institutions and each Snail has secondary schools. In addition, every autonomous village has health centers and a regional hub, Snail, has a hospital with operating rooms.

"Mom, you mean people in Chiapas are like snails that are slow but never rest?"

"You're right. If continuing their efforts, people in Chiapas will be able to realize the village they have always dreamed of."

06 COLOMBIA

Children, Be the Peace Guard

1. If the World Were a Village

Today I watched an animation titled '*If the World Were a Village*' during the second class. The book was published to celebrate the international children's broadcasting day.

"This animation took a close look at the world, supposing there only lived 100 people in the globe," Teacher said.

"Yes, ma'am. I read the book!"

Pureum proudly spoke.

"Right, it was made into a book. Let's find out how global villagers are leading their lives."

The animation '*If the World were a Village*' began.

In the global village are 60 people from Asia, 15 from Africa, 13 from Americas, 11 from Europe, and 1 from Oceania. 37 persons out of 100 are under twenty, and the remainder 63 persons are adults. 10 persons are aged over 60. There are 48 males and 52 females. 33 persons are Christians, 22 are Muslims, 14 are Hindus, and 5 are Buddhists. Among those people, 21 persons speak Chinese, 9 speak Hindi, and 7 speak Spanish.

Pausing the animation, Teacher said.

"The global village is really dynamic, isn't it? If you were one of them living in the village, what would you be like? Let's find it out. Well, first of all, you are a child, Asian, and Korean speaker. Right?"

"Yes!"

“Ok, shall we find out what villagers eat and how they live? It is said that 30 persons out of 100 often starve from hunger, 17 suffer from malnutrition, and 13 out of 100 cannot drink safe and clean water.”

Si-Hyun shuddered to hear that more people are suffering from starvation than she expected.

“Not all villagers can eat and live happily, right?”

“I think there are too many hungry people.”

Si-Hyun replied wearing a worrisome face at Teacher’s question.

“How would you feel if the world were a village?”

“It feels like everyone is neighbors.”

“That’s true. We are neighbors living together in the one and only global village. That is why it is important for us to get to know what is going on in this world.”

“Teacher, if someone has a car, he must be rich enough to be one of the top 7 rich people. Only 2 people can have computers. My family must be really rich to have a car and a computer, right?”

Jun-Hyuk raised a question.

“You’re right. There are many people with no computers, food, and clean water.”

“...”

The children nodded their heads quietly.

“That’s not all. 20 people in the global village are threatened by air strikes and bombing every single day. They even feel afraid of being kidnapped.”

Teacher went on with her explanation.

“Kidnapping is too scary!” Si-Hyun said.

“There is a country, Colombia, which is famous for coffee. Colombia is also well-known for something else like civil war and kidnapping.”

“Teacher, how can a person live where kidnapping is done at any time

and at any place?”

Nodding her head, Teacher continued.

“Let’s find out what Colombia is like.”

2. The Country Known for Coffee and Civil War

Colombia is the fourth largest country in South America. The size of the area is 5 times larger than that of Korea. Its capital city is Santafé de Bogotá. Colombia has beaches on the Caribbean and the Pacific. The Andes, the largest mountain range in South America, is in Colombia.

Colombia is, above all, noted for coffee. With 980,000 tons of annual production, it is the second largest coffee producer following Brazil. Colombian coffee is cultivated along the mountain range of the Andes, an alpine region. The coffee grown in that area is evaluated as best of the best since it is of a high quality, superb savor and flavor. Besides the coffee, sugar cane, bananas, cacao, etc also grow in Colombia. In terms of underground resources, the country has abundant resources such as gold, silver, platinum, iron, mercury, coal, oil, bauxite, nickel, molybdenum, uranium and so on. Especially, Colombia is the second largest oil producer in South America following Venezuela.

Colombia was colonized by Spain in the 16th century, but it gained independence in 1810. Simón Bolívar defeated the Spanish and established Gran Colombia (Republic of Colombia) that encompasses three countries including current Colombia, Venezuela, and Ecuador. However, three countries emerged from the collapse of Gran Colombia in 1830 and Colombia became Nueva Granada. It ended up being the country known as the Republic of Colombia in 1886.

Colombians have been goaded by civil wars ever since the country was founded. It was on account of the power struggle between the conservative party and the liberal party. In 1899, due to Thousand Day's War, more than 100,000 people died. In the civil war that lasted from 1948 to 1958, about 200,000 people were killed. The war came to an end as political negotiation between conservative and liberal party became successful.

In the 1960s another civil war broke out. It was a conflict between the Colombian government and rebel forces, which has continued until now. The main culprit of the conflict was the gap between the rich and the poor as well as deep-rooted inequality.

Europeans, a very small minority of the population in Colombia, kept political, economic power to themselves only. The majority of people were impoverished and enjoyed no benefits. Smoldering discontent and conflict bursted into the civil war.

Speaking of the anti-governmental rebel forces leading civil wars from the 1960s, we can suggest the FARC (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia), ELN (The National Liberation Army) and the others. Based on rural areas and jungle regions, they have been waging an armed struggle. The rebel forces are in fact getting a hold of over a half of the national territory.

The rebels worked their ways, aiming to overthrow the current government, solve social inequality, and establish the anti-government. They did nothing but attack the army, commit terrorism and kidnapping, and destroy oil pipes as well as national infrastructure. They have also

used money they made from drug trafficking business as war funds.

The opposing forces fighting against the rebels are: the government forces, right-wing militia, right-wing guerrilla organizations and so on. The militia was begun when landlords formed the self-defense forces to protect themselves. The typical example is the AUC (United Self-Defense Forces of Colombia). Militia, which worked hard to get rid of rebels, has been provided with training and weapons by the Colombian government and the United States. Yet, as a violent armed forces, they have been indulging in abduction, drug trafficking, and arm trade.

Every year, about 2,500 people die from the conflict and the number of refugees reaches around 1 million.

3. Drug and Abduction, the Efforts for Peace

“Teacher, is Colombia the largest drug producing country in the world?”

“It is said over 80% of the world’s drugs are produced in Colombia. Drug is made of cocaine derived from Coca plants. As neighboring countries such as Peru and Venezuela prohibited drug production in the latter half of the 1990s, Colombia’s drug production significantly increased. The profit Colombia made on drug trafficking is over 4 times higher than that of coffee exports.”

Tilting her head, Si-Hyun asked a question.

“Aren’t drug sales illegal?”

“Of course they are. But there are many places where law does not take effect. Rebels, backed and funded by drug producers and drug rings, protect them in return. They even collect 20% of the taxes under the name of the revolutionary tax. With the fund provided by those illegal

forces, the rebels purchased the cutting edge weapons including missiles, mortar, heavy weapons, and starlight scopes, continuing the civil war. In a word, Colombia is where gunshot is heard nonstop due to drug-related rings and conflicts.”

“Kidnapping happens frequently in Colombia, right?”

“Yes, Colombia has one of the largest numbers of kidnappings in the world. Over 50% of the kidnapping cases take place in Colombia. The anti-governmental armed forces would skyjack a passenger plane carrying high-ranking officials, abduct former ministers, clergymen, as well as senior executives, and demand ransom or kill them. After the year 2000, the amount of money the FARC (the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia) received for ransom a year was 110 million dollars. In 2002 Ingrid Betancourt, the presidential candidate of Colombia, was abducted and captured in the jungle for 6 years. It was in 2008 when she was rescued.”

“The presidential candidate was kidnapped and captured for years?”

While listening to Teacher, Jun-Hyuk was shocked and couldn't but raise a question.

“Yes, under this circumstance where fear over abduction and violence is free-floating, Colombians’ life is under threat. Especially kidnapping and violence are casting a dark shadow over children’s future. Schools where children study become massacre scenes at times and friends at school turn into soldiers holding rifles. The rebels and militias would come to a village one by one and execute or dismiss villagers only for the reason that villagers helped the other force in the past.”

“What if there happened gun battle in the village?”

“Children have no choice but to get stuck with fear. After the gun battle, killed or severely injured people are found here and there. People lose their families, relatives, and even friends and come to realize that

they can be killed anytime themselves. The children suffering from extreme pain of the civil war longed for peace.”

“No doubt about it!”

“So from the middle of the 1990s, Colombians set off their journey to retrieve peace for themselves. Children began their own ‘Colombian Children’s Peace Movement in 1996. The child activists who led the movement held a voting for the children’s mandates for peace and rights. They even planned to involve the participation from over 500,000 children in Colombia.

“The ballot of the children’s mandates for peace and rights reads children’s 12 rights selected from not only the Colombian Constitution but the convention on the rights of the child. The rights encompass rights to education, a fair trial, life in peace, safe environment, etc. Children are told to vote for the very rights they want.”

“Who led the children’s mandates for peace and rights?”

“It was child activists. Among the activists, there is Mayerly Sanchez. Mayerly had a friend named Milton. These two kids were studying at the same school even when Colombia was in conflict. One day, Milton was killed by an armed force. It happens quite often in Colombia where adults are fighting with one another over dozens of years.”

“I bet Mayerly was in real shock to hear her friend’s death.”

“I am sure she did. She said that, ‘Milton was only 12 when he was killed. Another friend could be killed later. Including myself’.”

“Teacher, so Mayerly figured out what she could do, right?”

“Yes, Mayerly decided to actively take part in the ‘Colombian Children’s Peace Movement’. When she attended the conference funded by World Vision, the international relief organization, she appealed to the international society for the support for the ‘Colombian Children’s Peace

Movement.”

In order to hold voting on children’s mandate for peace and rights, the child activists such as Mayerly Sanchez received grants from scores of organizations in Colombia, publicizing the ‘children’s mandate for peace and rights’ and carrying out a variety of activities attracting participation in voting.”

*Tip

·Ingrid Betancourt (1961~): is a female Colombian politician. She was a candidate for the Colombian presidency presidential election as a member of a party, Green Oxygen party, in May 2000. Taking a risk, she held her electoral campaign in the area occupied by the rebel force. However, she and vice-presidential candidate Clara Rojas were kidnapped by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC) in February 2002. After six years in captivity, they were rescued by the Colombian government force in July 2008.

Convention on the Rights of the Child: is a convention proclaiming basic rights to survival, development, and protection, recognizing that children are entitled to all the rights and dignity worth of human not just being the object of protection. The convention was unanimously adopted at the U.N. General Assembly on November 20, 1989, and ratified by 193 nations. It consists of the full charter along with 54 articles, reaffirming the rights of the child comprehensively. It is to ensure basic right from rights to life of the child under 18 years old, right to form her or his own views to rights banning on torture, punishment, illegal oversea transfer, and sexual abuse. The member states should be obliged to take

legislative, judicial, and administrative measures to the fullest extent.

“We created the Colombian Children’s Peace Movement. We will make Colombia a conflict-free country where people live in peace together. Please help us.”

4. Children’s Mandates for Peace

Si-Hyun wanted to know about Children’s Peace Movement further.

“Teacher, wasn’t Mayerly scared to death? If I were in her shoes where my friends die because of war, I would be too sad and scared to think properly.”

“You’re right. I suppose Mayerly was really devastated and scared. But she came up with ideas about what she could do for her friend. Mayerly believed war should stop and it was time for her to make some efforts to prevent it.”

“The voting of children’s mandates for peace sounds like an incredibly great achievement. By the way, didn’t adults stop her idea? You know, they were in war.”

“Yes, they did. Adults were frightened at the thought that children who voted might be attacked by armed rebels and militias. As you know, they hate any actions or measures rooting for peace.”

“Children are really courageous! Did the voting go well?”

“Preparing the voting for the children’s mandate for peace, the activists appealed to armed forces that they should stop the war.”

“Did the armed forces hear that?”

“On the voting day, there was no noise of gunfire, no violence, and no kidnapping anywhere in Colombia. At least this day was peaceful.”

“It was opposed to the grown-up’s worries. It was comforting to hear

that.”

“2.7 million Colombian children cast their ballot at polling places. The rights to survive, peace, and live with family were most voted rights by children.”

“By the way, Teacher, aren’t those rights that many Colombian children supported the basic rights that everyone should enjoy?”

“It’s true! The result shows how much children pine for peace in the middle of war.”

Si-Hyun was pretty impressed by the ‘children’s mandate’ created by children themselves who she thought had no power at all.

“Teacher, it is like 2.7 million children laid an order to end the war that lasted over 50 years.”

“Exactly! The ‘Colombian Children’s Peace Movement’ is known to be one of the most successful children’s movement. It was even nominated for the Nobel Prize. It received an honorary award, so-called children’s Nobel Prize, from the Swedish World’s Children’s Prize (WCP).”

“Wow! Sounds incredible.”

Children all said in chorus.

“The power of the children who love is literally amazing, isn’t it?”

“Yes. What children want is peace. I just realized that children’s thought and practice can change the world.”

“Though the ‘Colombian Children’s Peace Movement’ did not end the war, it was a great chance for children to learn how significant peace is. Other groups of children have also been developing a number of diverse activities too.”

To children longing for
peaceful world without wars

Engaged in regional development projects in 50 recipient nations all around the world, we witness many refugees suffering from the strife-torn civil wars. Amongst them, children are the most vulnerable, so they often become the biggest sacrifice of the civil war caused by adults. It is taking place half way around the world, but if everyone puts serious interests and affection, the pain will be cut in half. If Teachers, children, share their hearts together, I believe every child in the global village can become happier.

Plan Korea, Support Organization For International Children

The children at Gotjawal Small School dream of the peaceful world without wars. They seek for ways to reach the peaceful world as the future generation. They read, watch videos, listen to stories, and take a field trip firsthand. So it is a great pleasure to hear that ‘Storytelling for Peace 3’ is published. I firmly believe children will have a better understanding of civil war and realize the importance of peace through this book.

Yong Po Moon, director of Jeju Gotjawal Small School

Acknowledgements

Foremost, I would like to express my deepest gratitude to my advisor Prof. Park Kyung-Ran for the continuous support of my work, for her patience, motivation, enthusiasm, and immense knowledge. Her guidance helped me in all the time of translating the book. I could not have imagined having a better advisor and mentor.

Besides my advisor, I would like to thank Prof. Kim Won-Bo, Kim Jae-Won, and Crist Larry for their encouragement, insightful comments, and hard questions.

My sincere thanks also go to Lee Sang-Moon and my endearing fellow friends for inspiration and incessant encouragement. Everytime I was faced with frustration, they helped me to stand up and rooted for me so that I could continue this long journey. I truly appreciate what they have done to me and will never forget their thoughtfulness.

Last but not the least, I would like to thank my family: my parents, for giving birth to me at the first place and supporting me spiritually throughout my life, my sister and brother. Once again I would like to thank everyone.