

Dear PSPS students,

The world commemorates "The world environment day" on June 5 every year.

The PSPS student council decided to observe and celebrate the world environment day today in PSPS because today is the day practicing the Saemaul spirit in this month. I think all of you now understand the meaning of observing monthly 'Saemaul spirit practice day'. This is a replica of what Korean people did in 1970s as a part of the Saemaul Undong. They could practice 'diligence' by waking up early in the morning to work, 'self-help' by cleaning up their villages with their own hands, and 'cooperation' by participating all together in cleaning up their villages, and they could be closer and get to know each other more while having breakfast together after cleaning up, which is very important for effective cooperation. We observe this day every month symbolically and practically hoping that all the PSPS students understand the meaning of this event and develop the Saemaul spirit by participating it.

However, we have an additional meaning for today's practice since we are observing today as the World Environment Day of PSPS: Reminding people of the importance of the environment, calling people's attention to environmental issues, or more importantly educating them what they (including me) have to do to conserve our planet.

I know it is not that easy to live environmentally-friendly because we are all so used to live "environmentally-adversely". We have to give up lots of convenient things and ways in our lives and be ready to live a little bit inconveniently to protect our environment. One example is using plastic bottles and bags which became so universal part of our lives. However, the plastic is one of the materials polluting the earth the most today. Many environmental organizations and media keep telling us about the problems caused by plastic products. They predict that there will be more plastic bottles and bags than fishes in the ocean in 2030 based on many statistical researches. It is estimated that 300 million tons of plastics were discharged by people last year and 8 million tons of them were flowed into the ocean. We had news saying that several islands of plastic bottles near the east coast of African continent were found. We also hear warnings that the plastic products we throw away will be eaten by fishes and the human-being will eventually consume the plastic by eating the fishes. It is very scary, isn't it? Scientists say that it takes more than 50 years (sometimes more than 100 years) for a plastic bottle to be decomposed.

The PSPS student council recognized and understood the seriousness of this issue and initiated BYOB (Bring Your Own Bottle) Campaign with the support of PSPS office. I am very grateful to the student council for this initiation and to all PSPS students for their voluntary participation as well. This is also important for us as students and future policy makers studying and implementing the sustainable development.

I understand that we have additional activities after cleaning up our campus in room 307 including a student's presentation and discussions while we are having our breakfast. Now let us spread to clean up by groups and see you later.

Sincerely,

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