

Summary Report (based on progress report)

Overall Summary

Following the positive feedback and requests made by high-profile participants of the aforementioned ministerial conference for further workshops related to the theme, UNPOG set out to organize – in partnership with UN Economic Commission for Africa – an expert group meeting on sustainable modernization on agricultural and rural transformation in Africa, in which the case of Saemaul Undong, along with various policy issues related to Africa's poverty reduction (such as planning and designing of agricultural reforms and the formation of common rural development indicators), would be examined in depth, this time through contextualizing the model in diverse geographical settings such as Southeast Asia and Africa. Held from 17 to 19 December 2008 at the United Nations Conference Center in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, the meeting was attended by over 30 high-ranking practitioners of agriculture and rural development, particularly in the fields related to production and natural resource management, agribusiness development, rural agro-industrial development, marketing, and trade. Apart from the contributing role of Director Myungsoo Cho who delivered opening and closing remarks of the event and acted as one of the chairpersons during discussions in Session III, UNPOG drew resource from four expert authorities on the topic of Saemaul Undong, who each contributed an analytical presentation. The topics of presentation included: (1) rural development movement in Korea with special focus on Saemaul Undong; (2) local governance through Saemaul Undong in Asian countries; (3) regional community development in Africa and Saemaul Undong; and (4) Globalization of Saemaul Undong. Building on the introductory knowledge made available through Director's presentation in the last ministerial conference in Cameroon, UNPOG availed of this occasion to approach Saemaul from multi-faceted and inter-related thematic angles, allowing participants not only to diversify but to contextualize the necessary conceptual constructs and practical insights to understand the model and to apply its variants, while providing them with actual case studies from which they could formulate concrete policy lessons and guidelines. These in-depth analytical presentations were followed by a series of discussion sessions on Day 2 (18 December), the results of which were summarized into policy recommendations on Day 3 (19 December).