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KOREAN MILLENNIUM VILLAGE PROJECT PILOT PROGRAM LAUNCHES

Partnership between the Korean government and the Millennium Villages Project aims to demonstrate how to end extreme poverty in rural sub-Saharan Africa

New York, NY – A fund handover ceremony will be held today for the "Korean Millennium Village Project," a pilot development program to be implemented in Tanzania and Uganda with funds from the South Korean government.

The pilot program unites the resources and development expertise of South Korea with the Millennium Villages Project, a joint initiative of the Earth Institute at Columbia University, Millennium Promise and the United Nations Development Programme. The partnership aims to help demonstrate how extreme poverty can be ended in villages in rural Tanzania and Uganda through community-based development programs –a similar approach to the "New Community Movement" that helped lift South Korea out of extreme poverty.

The Korean Millennium Village Project, which is primarily funded by the Korean government, was first announced at a signing ceremony in November 2008 attended by H.E. In-kook Park, the Korean Ambassador to the UN, and Professor Jeffrey Sachs, Director of the Earth Institute at Columbia University and Co-founder of Millennium Promise. Also in attendance were representatives from the four lead partner organizations of the Korean Millennium Village Project: KOICA President Amb. Dae Won Park, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province Governor Mr. Kwan Yong Kim, ST-EP Foundation Board of Directors Chairperson Amb. Young Shim Dho and Millennium Promise CEO Mr. John McArthur.

U.S. President Barack Obama often mentions South Korea's development achievements as a solution to the struggle against poverty in Africa. The Korean Millennium Village Project unites South Korea's past achievements in economic development with the recent major successes of the Millennium Villages Project in agriculture, education, health and infrastructure to help end extreme poverty in four villages. The villages are located in the Mbola region of central Tanzania and the Ruhiira region of southwestern Uganda. These villages are part of the larger Millennium Villages Project, which currently operates in 80 villages in 10 countries in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Korean Millennium Village Project is a powerful example of how global partnerships can help achieve the Millennium Development Goals to help our generation end extreme poverty, hunger and preventable disease.

About the Millennium Villages Project

The Millennium Villages Project is a partnership between the Earth Institute at Columbia University, Millennium Promise and the United Nations Development Programme. The Millennium Villages are a proof of concept initiative to demonstrate that the Millennium Development Goals can be achieved in even the poorest and most remote rural communities in Africa by combining the best scientific and local knowledge to chart a course for ground-level, community-based support for agriculture, health, education, infrastructure and business development.