

Mission Statement (Sang-Mook Lee for Solid Earth section President)

I remember vividly the first time I attended the preparation meeting towards the inauguration of AOGS back in early 2000. The meetings were led by Wing Ip, Yohsuke Kamide and Ian Axford. These people who we refer to as the 'founding fathers of AOGS' were all established even back then in their fields of study. It seemed Kenji Satake and I were the only juniors in the room. Being a skeptic, I asked Kenji about his true feeling towards this independence movement which was more or less a rebellious act not only against West Pacific Geophysics Meeting but AGU itself. The blistering remark of Kenji was that "if we do not act now, we will still be talking about the independence five years later." These words moved me, and I volunteered my service for the success of AOGS 2008 in Busan. And this is why I volunteered for the organization of AOGS 2020 in Korea once again.

These events occurred more than 15 years ago, and it is astonishing to see how much AOGS has grown since. I have also changed. Even though we come a long way, I still see that we have a long road ahead of us. My running for the Solid Earth presidency of AOGS is to reinvigorate our commitment and in doing so make our academic communities stronger. Complacency can settle in after you had initial success but in the ever-growing world of academia, this is one sentiment we cannot afford to enjoy too much. We need to reach out to a wider audience in the scientific and public sectors. We need to inspire even greater number of younger generations. If I were to become the president of Solid Earth section, I will try to make AOGS a platform for initiating scientific collaborations across the borders which the atmospheric scientific community in Korea is doing and benefiting so well. It would be great if I can bring a similar success (that is, a more meaningful collaboration among countries) to the solid earth communities as well. But all these will require your help and that your devotion.

In Asia and in this part of the world, we have this long-held belief and tradition of making yourself an important person in the society and then giving yourself in the service to the society. I believe these characteristics are important in this age of rapid growth and increasing global uncertainty. Many important answers to the quest for continued success of humanity lie in the knowing the past history of Earth, not just the recent tens of thousands of years but all the way to the beginning of our planet.