

Seoul, December 3, 2018

Dear all participants,

Warm greetings from the GSEF Secretariat.

We write this letter to thank you in a very special way for all your support and solidarity shown to the development of the GSEF during the year 2018.

Bilbao 2018 GSEF forum has already been over for two months. From the beginning of the year till the GSEF 2018 held in Bilbao, Spain from 1st to 3rd October, your full dedication and support for the development of the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) has helped us make the GSEF 2018 as its' first kind in Europe highlighting the long and deep-rooted SSE initiatives in the continent, giving a greater visibility and recognition.

With 1,700 participants from governments, social economy actors and networks, UN and international organizations, universities and research institutes from all around the world, we could demonstrated that the growing SSE movement around the world is not just a mere reality of our society, creating economic and social alternatives but transforming the economic, social and development paradigm of our societies, cities and local governments.

We are most grateful to you all to make this vision of GSEF a reality that all stakeholders working together for an inclusive and sustainable development through co-created policies, innovative partnerships and approaches beyond boundaries of sectors, types of organizations and means of implementation, to put the economy at the service of the common good and to prioritize people over profit is possible and growing as a real global movement.

As Co-Chairs of GSEF, we would like to convey our sincere gratitude for all the support for the success of the Global Social Economy Forum 2018.

At the closing ceremony, through the Bilbao Declaration, we shared our resolutions and aspirations for the continuity of our joint efforts for the inclusive and sustainable local development through social and solidarity economy. We acknowledged the importance of localizing the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for the successful implementation of

the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the contribution of the Social Economy to build a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient society as fundamental to achieve these goals.

Great efforts in this regard are being made by many stakeholders and networks today, most importantly by the local governments and social and solidarity economy actors.

The GSEF is envisioning a new dream. We hope that through the activities of the GSEF, more citizens around the world will be able to realize the value and importance of the social economy. We hope to expand this network around the globe for greater cooperation and solidarity in the coming years.

We stay at your disposal for any inquiry or information needed to be an active member of GSEF or join our activities for the years of 2019-2020.

Once again we thank you from all our heart for your participation and contribution for the success of 2018 forum in Bilbao.

As the year of 2018 ends soon, we convey our warmest wishes for joyful and happy holiday seasons with your families and friends and wish you a Happy and Blessed New Year of 2019.

The journey for a society where nobody is left behind is not easy however we believe we have come closer through our joint efforts and endeavors.

We look forward to our continued collaboration in the coming year 2019 and most importantly for the preparation of the GSEF 2020 in the Mexico City.

Sincerely yours,



Won Soon Park
Mayor of Seoul



Joung Youl Kim
Co-Chair, President of SSEN