



DPR Korea

Ref: UNDP/36/07

20 April 2007

Dear Mr. Ri Hung Sik,

Departure of UNDP International Staff

I refer to Timo Pakkala's letter reference UNDP/26/07 of 9 March to you on the suspension of the UNDP programme in DPRK. As you know, Paul Brewah, Operations Manager and myself have been the two remaining international staff in Pyongyang after 17 March.

Since then, in a meeting with Mr. Jang Chun Sik on 26 March, we have been informed of the Government decision that the remaining international UNDP staff should leave DPRK by end of April. Accordingly, I just wish to inform you that Mr. Brewah and I will be taking the first available flight out and trust this will meet with your concurrence. Due the unavailability of seats, we are to leave on 3 May.

As far as UNDP is concerned, the departure of the remaining international staff is still a suspension, and not a closure, of the UNDP programme in DPR Korea. Accordingly, and as I had informed Mr. Jan Chun Sik in our meeting referred to above, UNDP will continue to maintain the lease on its office premises. Meanwhile, we are taking several measures in connection with the consequences of our departure that I hope will receive the support of the government. These are outlined below:

1. UNDP has formally requested WFP to provide necessary administrative and financial services in Pyongyang after the departure of its international staff. These relate mainly to the safeguarding of some UNDP assets that will be stored at the WFP office, and making necessary local payments. We hope and expect that we will be able to conclude the necessary agreement with WFP in the next few days.
2. A large part of UNDP assets will remain in the UNDP office premises. It is our expectation that the 24 hour security guard presence provided by the government outside the UNDP office compound will continue after 3 May, and that the government will ensure that such assets are maintained and secured.
3. As indicated in Mr. Pakkala's letter of 9 March, UNDP will formally transfer to the government the non-expendable assets of all closed and cancelled projects. I seek the government's cooperation in ensuring the speedy transfer of these assets in the next few days.

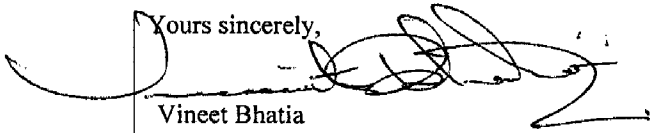
Mr. Ri Hung Sik
Secretary General
NCC for UNDP
MFA, Pyongyang

4. Provided that the service agreement with WFP is finalized, UNDP will endeavour, as far as possible, to complete all pending local payments through WFP before 3 May. Any remaining local payments will be made thereafter by WFP at the request of UNDP.

I trust that the above actions and arrangements will be acceptable to the government.

With best regards.

Yours sincerely,



Vineet Bhatia
Officer in Charge