The Republic of Korea is often acknowledged as a living model for low- and middle-income countries (LMICs) to emulate, given its legacy of development success. Whereas the development successes of other high-income countries have been forgotten, because their development progress occurred so long ago, Korea’s development successes are relatively recent. Whether these lessons can be readily replicated in other societal settings is highly debatable, however, many nations may aspire to this end. While many development experts favoring modernization theory would be optimistic that Korean development experience is relevant to other countries, other world system theorists are pessimistic. The Journal of Global Health Science (JGHS) does not, as yet, have a clear position in this debate. But as a journal, the JGHS aims to serve as a means of sharing institutional memories that are inspired by Korea such that it could potentially benefit institutional development elsewhere. The JGHS provides a mechanism for Korean experts to share knowledge that has been confined in the past to individuals who are conversant with the Korean language but who can now share this health development experience with counterparts from LMICs.

Development circumstances and challenges have changed; in ways that may prevent other countries from following the same trajectory as Korea. Nonetheless, the people of Korea welcome opportunities to acknowledge the support that we received in the past by reciprocating in ways that support our friends from LMICs who are now confronting challenges that resemble problems that we experienced in our past. Our sense of social responsibility as well as the obligation to engage in reciprocity and goodwill, provides a strong rationale for the Korean Society of Global Health (KSGH) to launch a scholarly vessel in the health sector that will abide by these principles. This new academic vessel honorably conveys diverse development knowledge cargo originated from Africa to Asia; from Latin to Africa; from Asia to Africa; and so on. Currently lessons from successful project and program are proliferating in Africa. However, Africa’s innovations are not well known to Asian scientists and policy makers and vice versa. Therefore, the newly launched vessel, JGHS, aims to provide a bridge between regions so that innovation anywhere can be understood, disseminated, and utilized wherever relevant health action is needed. JGHS will be honored to have this opportunity to carry brand-new quality cargo from these regions; we are pleased to increase frequency of voyages and volume of cargo to echo all the distinguished requests from these regions.

In this sense, it is my pleasure to introduce the inaugural issue of JGHS. It is likely that you are reading this online, this being an online journal, even though JGHS has also printed this
inaugural issue in order to showcase the journal to readers of global health community. The KSGH has decided to make the JGHS an open access publication so that its audience has no obligation to pay for accessing its articles. All of the articles remain the property of the authors, and reuse by others is permitted under a variety of Creative Commons licenses. Restrictions that apply range from the most restrictive to the most liberal, according to authors’ own preferences. The JGHS decided to support the dissemination of any under-represented high-quality academic research, field experience, or opinion via our journal platform. For this to be sustained, we will eventually need to seek means of funding the production cost of publication. For most open access journals such costs are normally paid by the authors who are contributing manuscripts while for the more traditional journals, the opposite funding strategy applies, requiring the readership audience to pay subscription fees. Both types of financing constrain LMIC audience accessibility to journals, a problem that the JGHS aims to avoid. Yet, there is a need for cost recovery. The KSGH generously decided to cover the production costs of the JGHS for the first year (2019), and then through fund raising, pursue a similar policy that will aim to maintain any fees that apply within a reasonable range by applying a neutral and purely academic subsidy program from a Korean academic grant foundation. If the JGHS is successful, any publication charge to be assessed to authors would be markedly subsidized so that the JGHS will remain affordable for any author with high quality research to present, even for manuscripts generated by authors who lack dissemination financing from research grants. Any language proficiency imperfection, article length limitation, methodological constraint, or null finding barrier would be eliminated by the JGHS. Our only requirement will be for the research to be representative of high-quality science, based on proactive editorial policies. To pursue and sustain this policy in the long-term, the JGHS will need many active collaborators. This will require volunteer reviewers with tolerance of the language support needs of writers who are not native speakers of English and the need, as well, to support balance between global north and south; especially if publication advances the fund-raising prospects of researches who lack adequate lines of funding. We will welcome the views of visionaries who seek to share their contributions to editorial policy ideation as new editorial board members or free donations of their ideas; or volunteer English editors or proofreaders for non-English native authors for JGHS to breakthrough current academic journal arena from this journal. I believe that this vision is not mere fantasy. Already, JGHS has experienced considerable collaborative support during the preparation of this inaugural issue.

The JGHS call for papers generated responses from diverse geographic regions of the world—from Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Philippines, Viet Nam, Ghana, the USA, Cambodia, Myanmar, Peru, Malawi, Fiji, Tanzania, Japan, Switzerland, Nepal, and Chad. Several native English speakers from academia from US and Korea provided pro-bono language editing service for non-English speaking country authors. In particular, I wish to acknowledge the contribution of Professor Lisa Lim (KDI School), Professor James Phillips (Columbia University), Dr. Jason Ahn (UCLA), Dr(c) Ashley Younger (UCSF), and Dr. Rockli Kim (Harvard University). Many scholars provided expert reviewing, a contribution that will be acknowledged in the next year issue. Professors David Bishai (Johns Hopkins University), Sun-Young Kim (Seoul National University), and Ayaga Bawah (University of Ghana) critically directed JGHS policy by providing their visionary advice. As a dream that has become reality, this inaugural issue contains a diverse selection of research, together with editorials, comments, congratulatory comments, and letters from the field which arrived from diverse academic researchers and key field leaders. The KSGH executive board decided to cover all the publication cost in 2019. This contribution is the part of the JGHS dream that
has come true at last. We will be aiming to expand upon this dream in the future with the dissemination of excellence in global health science.

I hope you enjoy this first issue and will contribute to JGHS over time. And, it is our hope that all readers will regard this journal as a shared venue for equitable and effective communication between academia (thinkers) and field practitioners (doers), that includes a community of researchers, lawmakers, health professionals, health policy makers, officials from bilateral and multilateral agencies, non-state actors, local community members and leaders and students. If our dream is met, our new journal, the JGHS, could eventually claim that we successfully launched an effective vessel for carrying scientific knowledge to colleagues in need.