This paper has examined the reports of the UN Secretary-General. The UN Secretary-General has not only a political and administrative role, which are stipulated in the UN Charter, but also a normative role to show his policy and vision. He has a responsibility to lead the norms in the world. Traditionally, international laws, which are the most important world norms, are created by the sovereign states in international society. But nowadays, in reality the normative role of the UN Secretary-General is more important. On the one hand, the norms created by sovereign states have an “international” vision, but on the other hand, the norms created by the UN Secretary-General have a “global” vision.

Preface

On January 1, 2007, Mr. Ban Ki-moon, a Korean, became the United Nations Secretary-General. It is a very good opportunity for people in far eastern Asia to reflect on our way of thinking and our ideas about the policies of the United Nations.

In this paper, I would like to mention the normative role of
the UN Secretary-General. It is basic knowledge for specialists in the field of UN studies that the UN Secretary-General is, as UN charter article 97 states, the chief administrative officer of the Secretariat of the United Nations. The Secretary-General has not only an administrative role but also a political and executive role. In the field of peace and security, the Secretary-General has to be a good mediator. Former Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold performed a quiet diplomacy. The Secretary-General may bring to the attention of the Security Council any matter which in his opinion may threaten the maintenance of international peace and security.² In addition, the Secretary-General has an executive role. He shall act in that capacity in all meetings of the General Assembly, the Security Council, and the Economic and Social Council and shall perform such other functions as are entrusted to him by these organs.³ All of these roles of the UN Secretary-General are mentioned in the UN Charter.

The UN Secretary-General has another important role. This is a normative role or norm creating role. In this paper, the following three points are examined: First, I would like to consider, who creates global norms on the earth. Second, what kind of norm creating role did former Secretaries-General fulfill. Third, what are the norm creating activities of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon?

The Subject of Norm Creating Actor in the World

Who creates norms on the earth? Traditionally we can say that sovereign states have created international law. The subject of a norm creating actor has been solely sovereign states. On the other hand, nowadays we can recognize many kinds of actors on the earth such as international organizations, regional organizations, NGOs, multinational corporations, groups of transnational organized crime, ethnic groups, individuals, and so forth. These multiple actors can not necessari-
ly have norm creating abilities. But from the viewpoint of the theory of global governance, these multiple actors have some kind of ownership in international society.

Can these multiple actors create global norms? Oran Young mentions three types of global governance. The first type is a pessimist “observers react to this question with a deep sense of frustration and growing pessimism regarding humankind’s ability to cope with the world’s troubles.” The second type “response to the growing demand for governance emphasizes efforts to reform the UN as a preferred mechanism for the supply of global governance.” And the “third response emphasizes the distinction between governance and government and directs attention to a variety of innovative social practices that have come into existence during the postwar era to solve discrete or distinct problems by creating regimes or sets of roles, rules, and relationships that focus on specific problems.”

Now we are living in this age and we, human beings, have to live in the future. For our life, we cannot take the first type of pessimistic option. We can take the second option, reform of the UN, or the third option, creating some kind of norms such as regimes or sets of roles, rules, and relationships. Not only for reform of the UN but also for norm creating, the UN Secretary-General is very important key person.

In an age of global governance, not only sovereign states but also the other actors have a kind of norm creating ability. Among these multiple actors, the UN Secretary-General may take a critical role.

Definition of “Norm” and Normative Theory

What is the definition of a norm? Professor Agatsuma Sakae defines the norm as the principle of *sollen*, “as it shall be” in contrast with the fact of *sein*, “as it is”. *Black’s Law Dictionary* explains “1. A model or standard accepted (voluntarily or involuntarily) by society or other large groups, against which
society judges someone or something. 2. An actual or set standard determined by the typical or most frequent behavior of a group.”9 Paul Viotti and Mark Kauppi, political scientists, define “norm” as “A principle of right action; a standard to guide behavior, as in norms or obligations governing the conduct of war, transit on the high seas, diplomacy, trade and commerce. Normative judgments are often equated to value judgments and the idea of what ought to be; some norms may have the binding character of international law.”10 From these definitions, we can see that the notion of “norm” means not only a standard as it is but also a future model or idea of what it should be.

As you know, “a normative theory is a theory of values, of an ideal world.”11 The normative theory seeks a vision of what ought to be on the basis of value-oriented and philosophical thought. From the viewpoint of normative theory, it is very important for the UN Secretary-General to show what kind of values and ideas he has and how he can reflect his ideas in his work. The UN Secretary-General has to have a clear world vision and philosophical standpoint.

Normative Role of Former Secretary-Generals

Former Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali produced a lot of excellent reports of his opinions. It is famous that The Agenda for Peace,12 the report of the Secretary-General, introduced valuable notions into the field of peace and security for the post-Cold War era, such as preventive diplomacy, peacebuilding, and peacemaking. Nowadays the notion of “peacebuilding” is a very important key word for UN peacekeeping operations. One well-known and important reform for the UN in the twenty-first century was the establishment of the Peacebuilding Committee13 at the World Summit, High-level Plenary Meeting of the General Assembly in September 2005. This word “peacebuilding” was not proposed by the representatives of member states but was intro-
duced by former Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali.

Former Secretary-General Kofi Annan also introduced a lot of new notions, such as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which is a list of the goals of human beings on the earth. “The MDGs” are drawn from the actions and targets contained in the Millennium Declaration that was adopted by 189 nations and signed by 147 heads of states and governments during the UN Millennium Summit in September 2000.”14 This notion of MDGs is understood and accepted by other international organizations, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD, World Bank). MDGs drive and provide a common framework for the international development community to guide their policies and programmes and to assess their effectiveness.

To compare Secretary-General Boutros-Ghali with Secretary-General Annan, Boutros-Ghali proposed many opinions of his own. He had a clear-cut vision and intended to realize his own views and theories from the viewpoint of a scholar of international law. On the other hand, Kofi Annan was an international civil servant of the UN. Annan organized many kinds of panels composed of specialists. Kofi Annan could broaden his views by utilizing a lot of specialists in various fields. He published many reports of the Secretary-General; there are two types of reports. One type of reports are written solely by his name and another type of reports are written “note by the Secretary-General” which are created by panels composed of specialists. Boutros-Ghali and Kofi Annan, both of them, produced a lot of reports of the Secretary-General that are full of ideas and visions. These status reports are neither the annual reports prescribed in UN Charter Article 98 nor reports of operational activities in the field of peace and security, which are prescribed in UN Charter Article 99. They publicized not only the status reports of what they did but also their vision of what should be.
An important role of the Secretary-General is to show his vision and lead international society. The UN Secretary-General is not the president of human being in international society. In addition to being the chief administrative officer of the UN Secretariat, he is also the primary normative leader of the world.

Reports of Present UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

Since 2007, Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has produced some important reports. For example, he organized the Secretary-General’s High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis. This task force published its report, *Comprehensive Framework for Action*, in July 2008. This report does not have any UN document number, but it is an excellent accomplishment of his brains. It provides a brief analysis of the global food crisis and the threats it represents and outlines opportunities in several areas to improve global food security and promote further poverty reduction. The report proposes and decides on a policy on how to deal with the food crisis. This is a normative activity.

Ban Ki-moon also stresses the importance of ethics. He said in his oath of the UN General Assembly, “I will seek to set the highest ethical standard.” And he made up his mind to begin with the staffs of the UN, saying, “We must hold all UN employees to the highest standards of integrity and ethical behaviour. On this, I have sought to set an early example, by submitting financial disclosure statement to the UN Ethics Office, for standard external review by Pricewaterhouse Coopers...” He showed his ethical attitude by his financial disclosure form.

Lastly, Ban Ki-moon places importance on the following six matters: peace and security, non-proliferation and disarmament, development, climate change, human rights, and UN reform. He has published some important reports in which
his policies are reflected. For example, he published reports in the field of non-proliferation and disarmament, such as *Promotion of Multilateralism in the Area of Disarmament and Non-Proliferation:*\(^{18}\) *United Nations Disarmament Fellowship, Training and Advisory Services Programme,*\(^{19}\) and so on.\(^{20}\)

I think that these UN Secretary-General reports, which reflect his ideas, policies and visions will play a very important role in UN activities.

**Conclusion**

This paper has examined the reports of the UN Secretary-General. The UN Secretary-General has not only a political and administrative role, which are stipulated in the UN Charter, but also a normative role to show his policy and vision. He has a responsibility to lead the norms in the world. Traditionally, international laws, which are the most important world norms, are created by the sovereign states in international society. But nowadays, in reality the normative role of the UN Secretary-General is more important. On the one hand, the norms created by sovereign states have an “international” vision, but on the other hand, the norms created by the UN Secretary-General have a “global” vision.

Professor E. B. Haas introduced the theory of “Epistemic Community.”\(^{21}\) From the viewpoint of his theory, not only the military and economics but also ideas and knowledge have power. The UN Secretary-General can express his views and organize and mobilize his brains.

It is a very good opportunity for the Korean people to reflect on their ideas about UN activities on this occasion. Furthermore, an East-Asian perspective can be reflected on the earth in the age of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.
Lists of the Reports of Secretary-Generals

Compiled by Mariko Shoji

I. The List of SG Reports, Boutros Gahli and Kofi Annan


3) International cooperation in space activities for enhancing security in the post-Cold War Era (A/48/221) 1 July 1993.


13) An agenda for democratization ([ST/] DPI/1867) 1996.


15) The United Nations and the independences of Eritrea ([ST/]...
17) Preventing war and disaster: a growing global challenge (A/54/1) 31 August 1999.
18) Report of the Secretary-General pursuant to General Assembly resolution 53/35.
The fall of Srebrenica (A/54/549) 15 November 1999 (Srebrenica).
20) Road map forwards the implementation of the United Nation Millennium Declaration (A/56/326) 6 September 2001.
26) Uniting Against Terrorism: Recommendations for a global counter-terrorism strategy (A/60/825) 27 April 2006.
33) Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban declaration and programme of action: report of the Secretary-General (A/61/337) 12 September 2006.

II. The Reports by the Brains of SG
4) A more secure world: Our shared responsibility: Report of the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel on Threats, challenges and change (A/59/565) 2 December 2004 (Report of the Secretary-General’s High-level Panel).

III. SG Reports by Ban Ki-moon
1) Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism (A/61/210) 1 August 2006.
3) Study on all forms of Violence against Women (A/61/122/Add.1) 6 July 2006.
8) World Programme of Action for Youth to the Year 2000 and Beyond (A/62/61) 9 November 2006.
24) Children and armed conflict Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (A/62/228) 13 August 2007.
36) Optimizing the International effort to study, mitigate and minimize the consequences of the Chernobyl Disaster: Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/467) 4 October 2007.
38) Global efforts for the total elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban declaration and Programme of action: report of the Secretary-General (A/62/480) 11 October 2007.
47) Overview of United Nations activities in relation to climate change: report of the Secretary-General (A/62/644) 10 January
2008.

55) Status of cases for death and disability for formed police units, military contingents, civilian police officers and military observers processed and currently in process and comprehensive review of the administrative and payment arrangement for such cases: Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/805) 18 April 2008.
61) Integration of the economies in transition into the world econ-
65) Implementing the responsibility to protect (A/63/677) 12 January 2009.
69) Strengthening the capacity of the United Nations to manage and sustain peacekeeping operations (A/63/702) 3 February 2009.
73) Objective information on military matters, including transparency of military expenditures (A/64/113) 24 June 2009.
79) Strengthening the role of the United Nations in enhancing the effectiveness of the principle of periodic and genuine elections
and the promotion of democratization (A/64/304) 14 August 2009.


Notes
1. This research note is a totally revised version of the paper presented at the 8th Korea-Japan Seminar on UN System, September 5–6, 2008, “Global Issues and the United Nations” at Cherry Room (3rd fl.), Seoul Palace Hotel, Seoul, Korea.
2. The UN Charter, article 99.
3. Ibid., article 98.
4. The commission on Global Governance defined the notion of Global Governance as following passage. “Governance is the sum of the many ways individuals and institutions, public and private, manage their common affairs.” And the report continues that a wide range of actors may be involved in any one area of governance. The Report of The commission on Global Governance, Our Global Neighborhood, Oxford University Press, 1995, pp. 2–3.
7. Ibid.
17. UN News Center, 26 January 2007.
20. I think these reports have to be put on the homepage of the UN Secretary-General’s site.
21. Erst B. Haas, When the Knowledge is Power; Three models of Change in International Organizations, University of California Press, 1999.
22. It is important to list important reports of the Secretary-General, because these connote the UN global norms in the future. Reports that I picked up are not the routine reports of activities of the Secretary-General, but reports that have a possibility of developing into UN global norms.