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PLACE: Seoul, Korea

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Refugees tell stories in 'Invisible People' exhibition

UNHCR, Cheil Worldwide, Seoul Museum of Art present refugees in 3D mini-figurines

SEOUL, Korea, February 4 (UNHCR) -- Stories of refugees, still relatively little-known to the people here, will be unveiled to tech-savvy visitors this week in an exhibition co-organized by UNHCR Korea, Cheil Worldwide and the Seoul Museum of Art.

The exhibition, "Invisible People," is aimed at turning refugees in and out of Korea "visible" to people via advanced technology that helped create 3D miniature figurines of the refugees. As of the end of 2013, some 370 refugees are residing in Korea and more than 35 million people have been displaced around the world.

The exhibition of 3D refugee figurines will open on February 7 and run through March 2 at the Seoul Museum of Art, central Seoul. The opening ceremony will be held on February 11 under the attendance of Representative of UNHCR Korea Mr. Dirk Hebecker and other partners. No admission fee will be charged.

A refugee, under the UN Refugee Convention, is defined as someone "who, owing to a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group, political opinion, or because of generalized violence, is outside the country of his or her nationality, and is unable or unwilling to return."

Although many people here might think refugees are people who exist in another world, Korea was once a producer of a large number of displaced persons half a century ago due to the 1950-52 Korean War. Refugees are people who leave their homes and even their family, not because they want to, but because they have to.

A growing number of people are seeking asylum in Korea, seeing the country as the "homeland of Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon" and a "country of advanced human rights."

As of the end of 2013, more than 6,600 people sought asylum in Korea from countries such as Pakistan, Syria and Myanmar, and some 370 of them were recognized as refugees by the Korean government. Around the world, there were more than 35.8 million persons of concern to UNHCR as of the end of 2012, and 17.7 million were internally displaced while 10.5 million were refugees.

Organized as part of Cheil Worldwide's CSR activities, UNHCR and the firm together met refugees in Korea and in Niger, West Africa, producing 3D mini-figurines based on their images, and creating in-depth video clips based on interviews.

PRESS RELEASE

The figurines, no larger than a man's handspan, will be displayed in "hidden" places such as stairways, shelves and windowsills of the gallery. Visitors who find the figurines will be able to listen to stories of the refugees by connecting their mobile phones with the QR/NFC codes inserted in the figurines. They will also be able to send refugees messages of hope via a separate social media page.

The small size of the figurines and the unusual places where they will be displayed go in line with the goal of the exhibition to help visitors find refugees and "make the invisible, visible," organizers explain.

"We are thrilled to be part of such a great exhibition made possible by a creative, dynamic team of young advertisement professionals," Mr. Hebecker, Representative of UNHCR Korea said. "I hope more people will get to know about the plight of refugees in and out of Korea, and recognize them as visible people."

Exhibition Details

Title: Invisible People

Period: Feb. 7 – March 2

Visiting Hours: 10:00 – 20:00 (Weekdays) 10:00 – 18:00 (Weekends)

*Closed on Mondays

Location: 3rd Floor Project Gallery of Seoul Museum of Art

Organizers: UNHCR, Cheil Worldwide, Seoul Museum of Art

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qHY4QDLvLcE>

To download exhibition images:

www.webhard.co.kr

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