

KOICA established the ‘Women’s Business Center’ with the Asia Foundation, and is supporting women to become confident entrepreneurs. Ms. Unurjargal, who used to be a full-time housewife, has become an entrepreneur who sells soap and cosmetic products using lanolin, a Mongolian beauty ingredient, through support from the center.

KOICA
Korea International Cooperation Agency

KOICA INSIDE Photographer MJ KIM, Seeing KOICA through the camera

KOICA VIEW For a country where women can take pride in being women

OVERSEAS KOICA Improvement of water supply and sanitation project in the Gurage Zone, Ethiopia

World's Friend KOICA

2018. Spring
Vol. 8
World’s Friend KOICA Newsletter

KOICA
Korea International Cooperation Agency

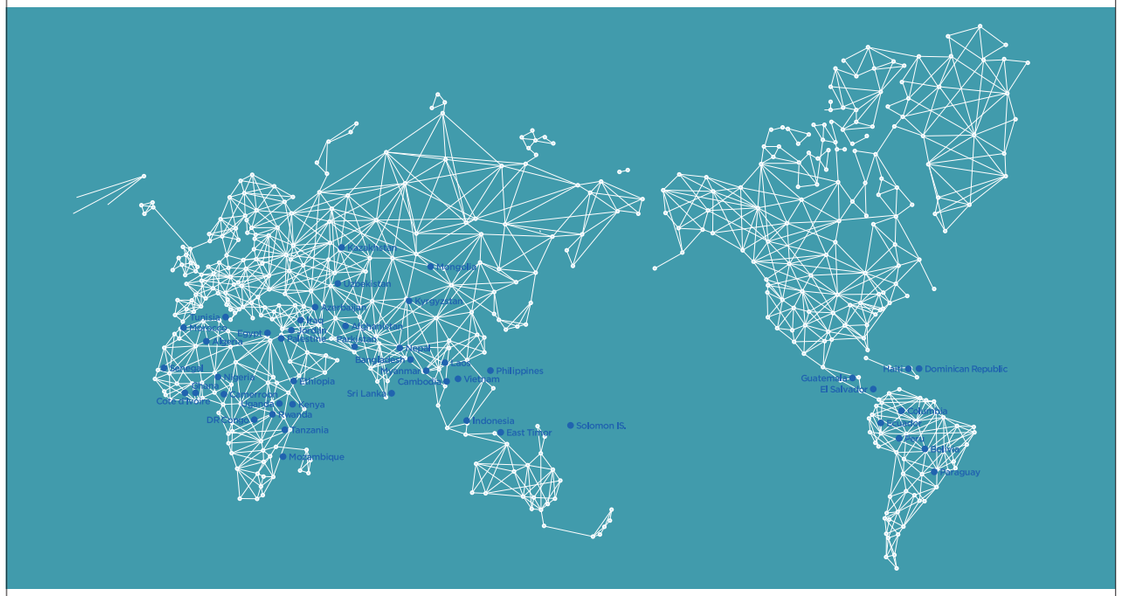


THINK ODA, WITH KOICA

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ABOUT KOICA

(Korea International Cooperation Agency)



In April 1991, the Korean government established the Korea International Cooperation Agency(KOICA) as a government agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aiming to effectively manage Official Development Assistance(ODA) programs by unifying foreign aid projects conducted by various ministries. KOICA aims to cultivate positive relationships among Korea and developing countries by sharing experiences and know-hows driven from economic development experiences and hence supporting poverty reduction and fostering sustainable socio-economic development. KOICA conducts various development cooperation projects, including overseas volunteer programs, global training programs, public-private cooperation, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief, with a focus on areas such as health, education, public administration, agriculture, forestry and fisheries and technology & environmental energy. KOICA serves as a development cooperation platform involving nation-wide participation via partnership with numerous entities including government, public institutions, NGOs, corporations, academia and the people involved in international development cooperation. Development cooperation projects, under KOICA's lead, contribute to mutual growth among Korea and its partner countries by not only resolving various global issues including poverty, environment, population, diseases and rights but also by providing grounds to nurture talented young people and to ensure domestic enterprises expanding their markets abroad.

KOICA Korea International Cooperation Agency

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World's Friend
KOICA

Publisher Lee Mi Kyung **Registration Date** December 5, 1994 **Publishing Date** April 18, 2018
Publishing Number Publicity 2018-03-120 **Publishing Organization** Korea International Cooperation Agency(KOICA) **Address** 825 Daewangpangyo-ro, Sujeong-gu, Seongnam-si, Gyeounggi-do, 13449, Republic of Korea **Tel** 82-31-740-0114 **Fax** 82-31-740-0247
Website www.koica.go.kr **Planning & Editing** KOICA Office of Public Relations & Communication
Production Chosun Newspress **Printing** Chokwang Printings
KOICA English Newsletter <World's Friends KOICA> abides by the ethical principles and their practical guidelines stipulated by the Korea Publication Ethics Commission.
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For the story on the KOICA photo exhibition with photographer MJ Kim,
please refer to 'KOICA View' in the January 2018 issue of the <KOICA Newsletter>.
http://koica.knhim.net/201801/eng/content1.php?code=201801_020103





Interview with photographer MJ KIM of the KOICA Photo Exhibition

Seeing KOICA through the camera that had preserved the Beatles

For the past 10 years, MJ KIM (Myung-jung Kim) has been loved as a photographer of famous celebrities including Paul McCartney and Johnny Depp. This time, Kim opened the KOICA Photo Exhibition by focusing on the project sites of KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) rather than the stars themselves. The exhibition, held under the title 'Into the World Off the Road' from November 21 to 26 at the Mapo Oil Tank Culture Park, was loved by many citizens. What kind of place was this 'World Off the Road' that Kim saw in the remote areas of developing countries, far from the glamorous destination cities like New York or London? Let's hear the story of photographer MJ KIM, who captured the vividness and inspiration of the KOICA project sites.

Q_You had attempted photography of a rather different variety after working for a long time as a photographer for famous celebrities. What made you decide to join the KOICA Photo Exhibition?

A_"When I first studied photography in England, I wanted to become a documentary photographer after seeing photos vividly portraying war, famine, and the hardships of refugees. This was because of both the shock I had felt at the reality of those on the other side of the world who have such a different life than mine just for living in a different location, and at the same time a sense of obligation that I should do something about it. I somehow ended up building my career as a celebrity photographer, but my passion for documentary photography still lives. That is why I was glad to be able to shoot on site for the KOICA projects."

Q_How did you feel when you photographed the sites of KOICA projects in Peru, Sri Lanka, and El Salvador?

A_"To be honest, I didn't know much about the KOICA projects from the beginning. But when I got there, the project was far more comprehensive than I had imagined. I was touched by the wide range of projects that were in progress for the world and for people, including not only education, culture, and medicine, but also solar power generation for the Amazon natives, prevention of environmental pollution caused by abandoned mines, and more."

Q_Were there any parts that you liked in particular?

A_"It was the fact that I didn't feel burdened when I came back. Whenever I go to photograph remote areas of developing countries, I always felt a little uncomfortable at returning to my comfortable home while the people there are left to continue living in such difficult circumstances. But this time I actually felt relieved, and was very thankful."

Written by Ah-yeong Lim (Intern Reporter, KOICA Office of Public Relations & Communication)
Photo by Myung-jung Kim (Photographer)









Q_We are curious as to your exact reasons for feeling that way.

A_"When I visited the site of the Sri Lanka project, I met some elderly women who worked in the tea fields. These people were not Sinhalese, but were from the Tamir tribe of India who were brought to Sri Lanka as slaves to cultivate tea during the colonial era. The problem was that these people were 'Indians living in Sri Lanka', and therefore were not protected by either the Indian or the Sri Lankan government. As a result, they were left to live in inferior conditions while earning less than five dollars for 20kg of tea leaves. KOICA, though, was working in cooperation with the UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Programme) and India to improve the living conditions of these people. Upon leaving that place, I felt surprised and proud rather than burdened, thinking, 'Ah, so a part of the tax that I'm paying is being used for a good cause like this through KOICA.' This is why I was able to return to Korea with a sense of gratitude."





Q_Most documentary photography shot in developing countries are focused on the difficulties and weight of life, but your pictures portray more joy, happiness, and hope rather than difficulties. What was your objective of this shoot?

A_"Difficulties in life always exist regardless of financial situations. What I felt during my stay was that there are in fact many people who live amid poor conditions, and yet feel joy and happiness in their lives. Just because they live in remote areas doesn't mean they endure hardship and difficulties every single day. These people also feel a special kind of happiness and joy, but many people have only taken photos highlighting the difficult and seemingly hopeless situations. This type of photography is also important, but personally I believe that the joy and happiness they have towards life deliver a more hopeful message. Rather than thinking that 'Those people are in need, so we must help them', I would like to deliver a message saying, 'These people experience joy and happiness in their lives just as we do, but let's help them with the necessities of life that they cannot provide for themselves right now'."

Q_In some ways, your photos remind us of our childhood memories. We can feel a sense of closeness, as if it were our own story.

A_"I would think so. One of the photos I like is of a little girl who I met at the project site in Peru holding her grandfather's hand. This girl holding her grandfather's hand could have been me when I was young, and it could be someone else in the present. In that sense, it could be any one of our stories. It's not the story of another person of another world. I think photos ultimately touch people's hearts because they correspond to each person's own story."



Q_Could you describe the significance of KOICA and its projects to help us understand it more easily?

A_"KOICA is actively conducting assistance projects in developing countries with a portion of the taxes paid for by Korean citizens. As countries such as the US and Germany helped our country when we were in need, I believe that we are now giving back the help we had received. In addition, I think KOICA projects pursue 'coexistence'. 'Let's be happy together, then make the world a more beautiful place.' I think KOICA is the kind of place that does this kind of work."

Q_Is there anything you would like to say to everyone for the year of 2018?

A_"We have been hearing a lot of negative news in regards to taxes on the news. However, the tax money paid through our hard work is being used carefully and in a beautifully way. So I hope that even we will continue to work hard in the new year even if we get a bit weary or exhausted, and that year 2018 can become another beautiful year where we can help people who are even more weary and exhausted than ourselves."



MJ KIM presenting his thoughts at the KOICA Photo Exhibition.

KOICA Master's Degree Program Participants Thiri Mon and James Amoah

"We will apply the knowledge and advanced technology acquired in Korea to our countries"

What was Korea's first overseas aid project for developing countries? Korea's first ODA project was the government's invitational training program for overseas trainees launched in 1965. KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) has provided a master's program for trainees from developing countries with the aim of fostering talented individuals who can contribute to the social and economic growth of their countries. Let us meet two of the trainees of this program: Thiri Mon from Myanmar and James Amoah from Ghana. They are looking forward to this spring being the most special time in their life with their completion of the program. Let us listen to their stories.



01

Q_Please provide a brief description of the program.

Thiri Mon (T) and James Amoah (J)

"We participated in the KAIST Finance MBA Program for Government Officials of Emerging Economies* which invited 19 trainees from 14 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and South America. The program was designed for the acquisition of a wide range of knowledge in finance, with a curriculum including economics, statistics, accounting, corporate finance, and investment. We participated in lectures, case analysis, data collection, individual and group presentations, etc. We also engaged in various activities such as sports, company tours, and cultural field trips. All of these provided a good opportunity for us to learn about Korea's national reforms, economic growth, and political issues compared to those of our own countries."

* Invitation-based training programs by KOICA and certain programs directly run by KAIST

Q_What brought you to participate in this program?

T "Myanmar is a developing country and needs skilled workers, especially in the financial sector. Most of the subjects taught during the program were very useful to me as I am a financial civil servant in my country. I thought it would be very effective to learn high-level accounting systems and techniques in Korea and apply them to my job."

J "I had dreamt of an accountant and an astute finance professional since I was a child, so I started studying business papers since junior high school and majored in accounting in university. During my studies, I came to believe that the efficient allocation of resources based on financial management was necessary for economic development of a country. I applied to the program to acquire financial knowledge that would be useful for the national development of Ghana."



02

01
Students of KAIST Graduate School of Management learning Taekwondo.

02
Thiri Mon participating in the Gimje Horizon Festival.

"I liked everything in Korea. I'd like to voice my respect for the economic growth and good infrastructure that Koreans have achieved. I was also impressed by the 'jeong' culture of Koreans, which emphasizes their emotional connection with each other. I am really grateful to KOICA and KAIST for giving me the opportunity to study in Korea. I will miss Korea."

-Thiri Mon from Myanmar

Q_What impressed you most during your stay in Korea for 18 months?

T "I was impressed by the way Koreans think. Professors in Korea teach us how to think rather than give us answers right away. They teach us how to analyze and solve problems. I like this method. Myanmar's education system emphasizes memorizing answers

Written by Seung-hwan Song (Intern Reporter, KOICA Office of Public Relations & Communication)
Photo by Thiri Mon, James Amoah (KOICA Master's Degree Program Participants)



01

"What impressed me most was the educational conditions of Korea. All we needed to do was to concentrate on learning. We also had convenient contact with the faculty. I could send e-mails to my professors and visit them every week at the appointed times. This is something unusual in Ghana."

-James Amoah from Ghana

rather than understanding something. I would like to apply this way of thinking in Myanmar."

J "What impressed me most was the educational conditions that all program participants could enjoy. These include private study spaces, labs, dorms, books, online resources, and more. Of course it was hard for me to follow the high-level curriculum, but all the students, including me, were provided with the perfect educational conditions. We just needed to concentrate on learning. We also had convenient contact with the faculty. I could send e-mails to my professors and visit them every week at the appointed times. This is something unusual in Ghana."

Q_What was the hardest thing during your stay in Korea?

T "I am married, and have a daughter who is three and a half years old. My mother and husband are currently taking care of her. After arriving in Korea, I had a hard time being apart from my family for a while. I especially missed my three-year child. Fortunately, however, I was able to easily connect to the internet so I could make video calls to my family every night except during exam periods. I felt grateful for the well-developed internet environment of Korea."

J "The intensity of the program and the pressure of studying were something that I had never experienced before. I studied really hard, reminding myself of my goals every day, because I know how important it is to study now for the future."

Q_Have you traveled much in Korea?

T "Travel is the best way for me to relieve stress, so I tried to balance my study and rest. I preferred to take the subway rather than the bus. The subway in Korea runs on schedule, so I did not have to deal with traffic. The most memorable was my two-day trip to the Gimje Horizon Festival with international friends. We could try traditional Korean food, and enjoyed



02



03

kite flying, jwibullori, and other activities. Personally, the most enjoyable event was rice harvesting in traditional Korean costumes, singing traditional folk songs. Throughout the event, I could not stop laughing."

J "I have traveled so many places in Korea. I visited Suwon, Daejeon, Chuncheon, Gangchon, Pohang, and Ulsan. The most impressive place was the Hyundai Shipbuilding Yard in Ulsan."

Q_How do you plan to use what you have learned after returning to your countries?

J "When I return to Ghana, I will go back to work for my organization there. There I will apply the knowledge and advanced skills I have learned in Korea. I want to share my knowledge and skills with my colleagues in the finance department. I hope that it will contribute to improving financial policies and administrative procedures in Ghana. I am currently preparing for the Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) exam. This program has been a great help in preparing for my exam, because it covers much of the areas dealt with in the exam."

Q_Finally, what impression did Korea have on you?

T "I liked everything in Korea. I'd like to voice my respect for the economic growth and good infrastructure that Koreans have achieved. I was also impressed by Koreans' "jeong" culture, which emphasizes the emotional connection with each other. I am really grateful to KOICA and KAIST for giving me the opportunity to study in Korea. I will miss Korea."

J "Korea is a great country that provides a model to all developing countries. It demonstrates that development can be done within a generation. Korea's success also shows the importance of leadership. Outstanding leadership can transform a country from ashes into an advanced society. The story of Korea is simply amazing."

01
James Amoah, winner of the Academic Excellence Award at KAIST Graduate School of Management.

02
Participants of KOICA Master's Degree Program visiting the main campus of KAIST.

03
Thiri Mon is experiencing Gimjang (making kimchi for the winter).



01

Philippine KOICA Fellows Association, planting a seed of hope in the Philippines

"The experience and knowledge obtained in Korea will be a good seed in the local society of the Philippines"

KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) is fostering talented people to lead economic and social development in developing countries through 'CIAT'*, a global training program. After returning to their countries, trainees share their experience and knowledge from training with the local society to sprout the seed. The Philippine KOICA Fellows Association (hereafter PHILKOFA) has about 2,800 members, and we are going to see what kind of activities the members of PHILKOFA are doing through an interview with former president Ms. Judy A. Vermudo.

* **CIAT (Capacity Improvement & Advancement for Tomorrow)** A cooperation program where policy-makers, public servants and experts from developing countries are invited to Korea for technical training and knowledge sharing. Trainees are invited from more than 100 countries of the world, mainly from Asia and Africa, and 64,906 trainees from 174 nations have been fostered for 25 years as of the end of 2016.

Written by Won-gyeong Lee (Intern Reporter, KOICA Office of Public Relations & Communication)
Photo by KOICA Philippine Office

For the story on the Philippines KOICA Fellows Association, planting a seed in the local society, please refer to 'KOICA View' in the February 2018 issue of the <KOICA Newsletter>.
http://koica.knhim.net/201802/eng/content1.php?code=201802_020102

Q_I heard that you participated in the 'Meeting of Presidents of KOICA Fellows Associations' held last November in Busan. It must have been a rare opportunity to meet the presidents of KOICA Fellows Associations from all over the world. I'd like to know how you feel about the meeting.

A_"First of all it was good to see that KOICA is actively supporting the KOICA Fellows Associations as part of the global training program. We can maintain the solidarity with KOICA and the fellows associations through the annual meeting and strengthen the relationship with the KOICA Fellows Associations in many countries. We can help each other by sharing the unique experiences and cases of every KOICA Fellows Association. I think the meeting of the presidents of the KOICA Fellows Associations is the best way to help mutual development by gathering the KOICA Fellows Associations in one place."

Q_Would you please introduce 'PHILKOFA', the Philippine KOICA Fellows Association?

A_"Organized in 2001, PHIILKOFA is celebrating its 18th anniversary this year. After returning to the Philippines, we as the trainees of KOICA are trying to apply our experience and knowledge from training to the local society. Specifically, we do voluntary work, hold regular seminars for the spread of knowledge, and establish networks with various organizations including local universities and NGOs. Ultimately, our aim is to make a unique local mechanism for sustainable development. The most memorable among our activities last year is the donating of pumps for drinking water to San Pedro Elementary School in the Pampanga region".

Q_With about 2,500 members, PHILKOFA is a relatively large organization working actively. As a former president of PHILKOFA, what would you suggest for more effective operation and development of PHILKOFA?

A_"It is important to plan various events such as anniversary celebrations, annual meetings, alumni meetings, voluntary service and friendly match. Such events can strengthen the comradeship and sense of belonging of the members. In addition, all members should be able to be informed of the activities conducted by the association and participate in them. It is therefore important to inform members of activity plans and news about the association using various media including Facebook, Website, and newsletters."

Q_I'd like to know what influences PHILKOFA had on the local society and individual lives in the Philippines.

A_"Above all, we let PHILKOFA and KOICA be known to the local people through voluntary services with the donation of daily



02



03

01 02
Annual Meeting and Executive Meeting held in the Philippines.
03
Judy A. Vermudo, former president of PHILKOFA, participating in seminar for the spread of knowledge of welfare for the handicapped.



01
Former president Judy A. Vermudo (the woman in the middle in green clothes) and members of PHILKOFA.
02
Voluntary service in an elementary school in the Nueva Ecija region.

necessities and medical services, and were able to reinforce the capabilities of the local society through seminars for the spread of knowledge. Major cases include the donation of medicine and medical supplies and stationeries in Nueva Ecija, and the share of knowledge by 'reinforcing the capabilities of management and agricultural mechanization after harvesting high-value crops'. Personally, I had the opportunity to meet and serve the people living in poor regions through PHILKOFA. I am proud to have been able to find the time to serve the local society in the Philippines through PHILKOFA."

Q_Would you tell us about the most memorable experiences that you had through the activities of PHILKOFA?
A_"We came to have a spirit of comradeship while doing volunteer service in remote regions that are out of the reach of the government. The friendship formed in PHILKOFA for 16 years is a great asset for me. Now my closest friends are all 'PHILKOFAans'."



Q_Lastly, what goals do you want to fulfill with PHILKOFA?
A_"First of all, I would like to publicize 'PHILKOFA' well, so that any person in the Philippines can understand what it means at first glance. Also, we would like to be a partner for the local development project of the government. We believe that we can discover projects appropriate for the local society by sharing our experience of training and establishing networks with NGOs. In addition, we will be able to enhance the positive image of KOICA and PHILKOFA. To achieve this, we hope that KOICA will greatly support PHILKOFA for the execution of various projects in the Philippines."



Jeong-min Gwon (fourth from the left) is on board a Korean Navy cruise ship that arrived in Sri Lanka during a port entry ceremony with her students, who made time to accompany her as this day is a weekday (Oct 26, 2017).

KOICA Volunteer Jeong-min Gwon, who extended her work in Sri Lanka

"The joy of teaching Korean I am here thanks to them"

Overseas volunteers of KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) sometimes seem to have a superhuman power. They are so busy during their two years of volunteer work that they sometimes have no time to wash their faces or sleep. Their faces nonetheless always shine with vitality. KOICA Volunteer Jeong-min Gwon has already finished her two years of volunteer work as a Korean language instructor at the National Library of Sri Lanka in Colombo, the capital of the country, but recently extended her work for an additional six months. The message sent from her was also full of the vigor that ODA has delivered to many parts of the world.

Written by Jong-su Han (Intern Reporter, KOICA Office of Public Relations & Communication)
Photo by Jeong-min Gwon (KOICA Volunteer)

For the story on volunteer Jeong-min Gwon, who is volunteering for Korean language education in Sri Lanka, please refer to 'Overseas KOICA' in the February 2018 issue of the <KOICA Newsletter>.
http://koica.knhim.net/201802/eng/content3.php?code=201802_020306



01



02

Q_Please briefly introduce yourself and tell me why you applied for the KOICA volunteer program.

A_"My motto is to enjoy life. I always wanted to experience new things, so I chose a job as a broadcasting writer. But after 10 years of work, I started to get used to it. So I took a Korean language instructor training course to try a new path. At the time, I had the opportunity to meet a KOICA volunteer who had came back from abroad. After talking with him, I wanted to become a volunteer, too. Of course I also wanted to know if I could qualify as a Korean language instructor, so I applied for the program."

Q_You have undertaken Korean language classes in Colombo. How are the classes usually conducted?

A_"A total of 100 male and female students of various ages visit the Korean language classes at the National Library of Sri Lanka. Two hours of classes are offered to three levels of students from beginner to intermediate. In recent years, classes for the EPS-TOPIK* have also been in session.
There are four hours of classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays, and six hours on Saturdays. As most students are college students or office workers, there are more students on weekends. In class, students mostly practice conversation skills using textbooks in Korean and English. Korean TV show clips uploaded on YouTube are also used for classes. Students also learn about Korean food, Korean traditional culture, Taekwondo, Korean songs, and Korean dance with the other volunteers and myself."

* **Employment Permit System - Test of Proficiency in Korean (EPS-TOPIK)** Korean language test conducted by the Human Resources Development Service for overseas applicants who want to work in Korea.

Q_What influence does Korean language education have on the local people?

A_"Korean language education is the best way to improve the understanding of and interest in Korea by people overseas. As KOICA's ODA projects in various fields continue, interest in Korea has been growing among local residents. Currently, about 30 KOICA volunteers are dispatched in technical colleges and colleges across Sri Lanka to help students prepare for the EPS-TOPIK, although the human and physical infrastructure for Korean language education is still lacking. We are responding to the demand of Sri Lankan students preparing for the exam to work in Korea*."

* According to the 2017 survey of Statistics Korea on qualified and legal foreign workers for non-professional jobs in Korea, Sri Lankan citizens accounted for 8.7% (22,000 people) of the total, the seventh highest rate led by Vietnam (14.5%), Cambodia (13.2%), Indonesia (11.4%), Nepal (10.6%), Philippines (9.7%) and Thailand (9.2%).

Q_What gave you the greatest impression during your service?

A_"Recently, my students got first place in Korean speaking contest and drama competition. It was even more impressive that they won the first prize over the competitors from Korean language departments of Sri Lankan universities and KSI, a Korean language education institute. In particular, the winner of this speaking contest, Manjula, is a 40 year-old housewife who began learning the Korean alphabet last autumn. She studied so hard and had good pronunciation, which always amazed me, but I did not expect that she would get first place, defeating all the other excellent participants. She was practicing so much that even her ten year-old son, who did not even know the Korean alphabet, could recite her script. Also, there is Amali who won scholarship in the master's program in international relations at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies last August. Both of them started to learn Korean as a hobby at first, and had a goal to go to study in Korea or to become a Korean instructor. I am so proud of them."

Q_You have extended your period of service by six months. What made you want to continue to work in this country?

A_"It is of course the people. The family who is sharing their house with me, my EPS-TOPIK class students, and Manjula who participated in the competition. They cannot fully communicate with me, but they try to take care of me all the time and even wrote a petition to request the extension of my working period. Impressed with their sincerity, I chose to extend my service without hesitation."

Q_What is your future plan?

A_"I get energized by meeting my students every day, and enjoy giving lessons. I am amazed and grateful that so many people here like Korea and want to learn Korean. Teaching Korean is not just about language education, but about sharing Korean culture, history, ideas and much more. I will concentrate on improving my competency as a Korean language teacher rather than a broadcast writer in the future. I will go anywhere if another opportunity to teach Korean is given to me."

Q_What advice would you give to those wishing to apply for the KOICA volunteer program?

A_"Many KOICA overseas volunteers apply for the program once more after returning to Korea. KOICA volunteers can enjoy many benefits, including the overseas vacation system*. People who are dreamers, or even who are tired of regular life, are equally welcome. If you can give others something they need, do not hesitate to apply. And age does not matter at all. Older people have know-how and rich experiences from life, and younger people can also do many things simply because they are young."

* **Overseas vacation system** Overseas volunteers who have been active for more than a year can use the overseas vacation for up to three weeks to a third country including Korea once during their working period. The expense is borne by the volunteer, and the departure from another country without approval can be grounds for forced return.

01
Jeong-min Gwon (fourth from the left) and studunts after watching the "Nanta" performance during Korea Week to celebrate the 40th anniversary of diplomatic ties between Korea and Sri Lanka (Nov 13 to 20, 2017).

02
Jeong-min Gwon (fourth from the left) is eating bibimbap on board during the port entry ceremony for the Korean Navy cruise ship (Oct 26, 2017).

03
Jeong-min Gwon (center) and her students received awards at a Korean speaking contest held in Colombo (Nov 18, 2017)

04
The class in a new lecture room opened next to the Korea section (Feb 2017).



03



04



Persons with disabilities in wheelchairs receiving training at the Women's Business Center.

KOICA's project on entrepreneurship training and strengthening participation in economic activities for Mongolian women

For a country where women can take pride in being women

The 8th of March is designated as International Women's Day by the United Nations (UN) on which various events take place across the globe to advocate the abolition of gender inequality and resolve poverty experienced by women. Mongolia is one of the countries which celebrates International Women's Day, continuing the efforts to improve the social and economic status of women. However, the practical reality shared by half of the Mongolian population - its women - has seen little change over the years.

Written·Photo by Hyeon-jeong Kim (KOICA Young Professional, Mongolia Office)

For the story on Women's Business Center and Incubator Project in Mongolia please refer to 'KOICA View' in the March 2018 issue of the <KOICA Newsletter>.
http://koica.knhim.net/201803/eng/content1.php?code=201803_020102

According to the 'Women in Business and Management' report published by the International Labor Organization (ILO) in 2016, Mongolian women only take up 34.9% of the nation's small business sector with the majority of the women working in the small-scale cottage industry. In particular, female Mongolian entrepreneurs have limited access to funding due to the difficulty in securing loans from financial institutions. Not only that, opportunities to receive systematic training and education on business start-ups or management are hard to come by for these women. Such conditions have been creating a vicious cycle where most of the women who roll up their sleeves to start a business end up with detrimental failure. Various restrictions and limitations imposed on female entrepreneurs in comparison to their male counterparts attributes to gender inequality having a significant impact on the economic development of Mongolia as a nation.

KOICA and The Asia Foundation Establishes Women's Business Center in Ulaanbaatar

In 2016, KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) and The Asia Foundation established Mongolia's first 'Women's Business Centre (WBC)' in order to encourage women's participation in economic activities and to help improve the social status of women in the country. The WBC runs systematic support programs designed to assist Mongolian women including those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds such as persons with disabilities and single mothers to newly rise as confident female entrepreneurs and business founders. The City of Ulaanbaatar, capital of Mongolia, is striving to contribute to the nation's economic development by improving the adverse conditions which female entrepreneurs and business founders are experiencing while at the same time encouraging women's participation to achieve economic growth. The city has also included the 'Policy for Reinforcement in Women's Employment' in Agenda 2020, its development agenda.

Aligning with the Mongolian government's policy direction, KOICA and The Asia Foundation have founded the WBC to create more female entrepreneurs and business founders. In addition, they have also formed Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) to benefit from the comparative advantages of public and private sector organizations. Based on the strategic partnerships forged between various organizations across the civil, private, financial, and public sectors, the WBC has been able to develop systematic and professional support programs.

Women's Business Center's current status of progress



16% of Women's Business Center participants are from socially disadvantaged groups(unwed mothers, the disabled, low-income group)

Women's Business Center Participants : **2,000**

Women's Business Center's current status on programs related to business start-ups



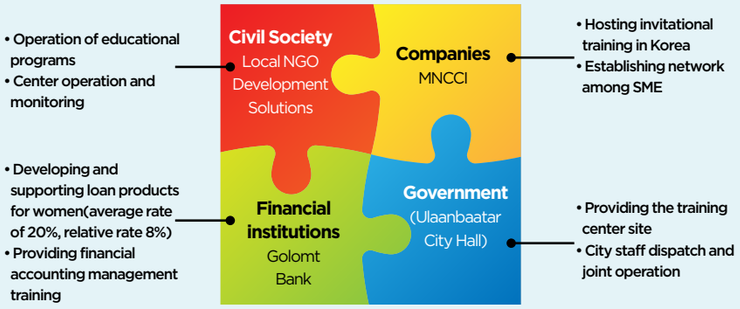
Education & training programs : **150**

Beneficiaries of Golomt Bank's small loans : **40**

Financial counseling programs : **149**

Total financial support

Women's Business Center which operates based on the strategic partnerships between various organizations



In the first 19 months since the opening, 2000 people have registered at the center including those from the socially disadvantaged group

The WBC has received an explosive amount of public attention having around 2,000 people registered at the center in the first 19 months since its opening. Of the registrants, 16% are from socially disadvantaged backgrounds including those from lower-income families, persons with disabilities and single mothers. In consideration of participants with special needs, the WBC is equipped with ramps for easy wheelchair access, facilities for the



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01
Female beneficiaries participating in the pop-up store held in the Shangrila Hotel displaying and selling their hand-made crafts.

02
One female beneficiary, Ms. Oyun-Undrakh, smiling while displaying clothes she made at a pop-up store.

03
Female beneficiaries promoting their hand-made products at a pop-up store held in the MCS Plaza (building where aid organizations including KOICA are housed).

04
Ms. Unurjargal (middle) receiving 'Excellent Young Enterpriser' award at the Vansemberuu Exhibition.

disabled, and a creche for single mothers to use.

The WBC is providing one-stop service programs encompassing educational sessions, financial consultancy, and financial support. Thus far, 150 educational programs and 149 financial consulting sessions have been provided, and around 40 female business founders have received microloans through Golomt Bank at an interest rate as low as 8%. The total amount of financial support that the WBC has facilitated amounts to a whopping 135 million tugriks (equivalent to approximately 57,015 USD).

331 female business founders have created profits worth approximately KRW 20 million

Through this undertaking, KOICA and The Asia Foundation have killed two birds with one stone, namely 'increased income' and 'business capacity enhancement.' Firstly, 42% of the participants in the women's business start-up education programs have acquired business registration certification, and have registered 25 new businesses. More than 46 pop-up stores* have also been opened where the trainees are able to directly sell their products to customers. 331 female business founders have created a total profit of 45,231,500 tugriks (approximately 19,092 USD) through the pop-up stores.

* **Pop-up Store** A type of 'open market' which provides opportunities for female beneficiaries to sell hand-made goods and products to a range of customers, and build networks.

Secondly, female business founders who have undertaken the educational programs provided by the WBC received a lot of attention from the local media as well. The founders have been granted with Excellent Entrepreneur Awards at the Asia Door Exhibition, Small-to-Medium Business Product Exhibition, and Vansemberuu Exhibition. Their businesses have been introduced as best cases on a documentary program called 'After Work' produced by Mongol TV5 Channel.

KOICA wishes for the WBC to continue to operate stably even after 2018 when its undertaking is scheduled to be finalized. With the WBC maximizing business opportunities for women and those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds, KOICA also looks forward to seeing the 'proud and confident women of Mongolia' through social and economic development achieved based on gender equality.



Participants receiving training at the Women's Business Center.

Women's Business Center Graduates, Ms. Unurjargal and Ms. Nomin-Erdene

"Begin with courage. You will live a whole new life"

Here we have Mongolian female beneficiaries of the Women's Business Center (WBC) who launched their own businesses for the first time in their lives through the incubating programs. Now leading completely new lives, the two female entrepreneurs have come to cheer for fellow women who are still hesitant to step into society feeling the heavy burden of child care and domestic labor.

The WBC has been running Business Incubating programs (BI) which provide women and those from socially disadvantaged backgrounds with brilliant business ideas and support for intensive business education for four months. From November 2016, four programs have been run leading to a total of 32 graduates. The BI programs have also resulted in high achievements with 42% of the graduates acquiring business registration certification. Such results became only possible by the passion and resolution of the female participants as well as the WBC's commitment to its cause. In order to hear more about their exciting stories, we have come to meet the graduates of the third round of the BI program, Ms. Unurjargal and Ms. Nomin-Erdene.

Written·Photo by Hyeon-jeong Kim (KOICA Young Professional, Mongolia Office)



Products of Suulkhen by Suulkhen, the start-up of Ms. Unurjargal.

"At first, my husband refused to use my soap as he could not trust what I produced. But as my soap turned into a beautiful product through the BI program, he started to use my soap along with other people around me. They started to acknowledge what I made."

Ms. Unurgargal, recipient of Excellent Young Enterpriser

Although Ms. Unurjargal had experienced numerous difficulties running her beauty start-up 'Suulkhen,' she was able to gain a second chance through the BI program which she participated in September of 2017. Through the know-hows she gained from the program, she has diversified her product line to include body lotions, body oils, body soaps, and bathing products made from sheep fat, one of the traditional skin care ingredients in Mongolia. This has allowed her to expand her customer base, and ultimately led her to receive the Excellent Young Enterpriser Award at the Vansemberuu Exhibition in 2017.

"We have a long way to go, but a good start means the half of the success. So, I will press on. Above all, what has changed the most is me. I really appreciate and thank the Women's Business Center for their complete support in allowing me to focus on my self development."

Ms. Nomin-Erdene, recipient of the Mongol Brand Award

Ms. Nomin-Erdene took a brave step in 2015, and opened her own business. However, it ended as a painful experience as it came close to bankruptcy. Through the BI program, Ms. Nomin-Erdene was able to design a new logo for her business, acquire trademark rights, and launch her product successfully in the market. Currently, organic honey produced by 'Necta' is being supplied to the majority of grocers and retail stores in Ulaanbaatar. She has also undertaken quality check procedures to secure the possibility of exportation. In the Small-to-Medium Business Product Exhibition, Necta was also awarded the Brand Award.



Organic honey products of Necta, Ms. Nomin-Erdene.

Q_You ran start-up businesses even before the WBC was created. What kind of difficulties have you had?

Unurjargal "In January 2017, I started making organic soap after I had given birth to my child, but it was just not good enough to turn into a commodity and launch it in the market. I did not have any knowledge on understanding customers, packaging, product naming and branding. I just had vague ideas about the business. If I had not met the WBC, this soap business would not have seen the light of day. I know there are many women in Mongolia who have brilliant business ideas, but have not seen the light of day because they do not know how to start their businesses due to a lack of business acumen."

Nomin-Erdene "In 2015, two friends of mine and I jointly started a snack business. We had a lot of trouble from the lack of professional knowledge regarding how to manage the business, and poor access to financial resources for the business, as well as the insufficient ability to commoditize our products. In the end, the business went bankrupt."

Q_How did you come to know the BI program?

For the story on Women's Business Center graduates Ms. Unurjargal and Ms. Nomin-Erdene, who are living a new life as respectable businesswomen, please refer to 'KOICA View' in the March 2018 issue of the <KOICA Newsletter>.
http://koica.knhim.net/201803/eng/content1.php?code=201803_020103

Unurjargal "A friend of my cousin is a graduate from the first round of the program. I came to know the WBC through my cousin, and visited the center for the first time in May of 2016."

Nomin-Erdene "I was participating at a weekend seminar organized by the NGO, Women for Change. The lecturer at the seminar worked for Development Solutions, which is one of the local partners of the WBC. The lecturer introduced me to the center."

Q_What was the most useful part of the BI program?

Unurjargal "A three-day seminar called 'Planning Business Idea' was the most useful. In order to participate in the BI program, you have to submit a business plan. At that time I had no idea how to write a business plan. Then, through the seminar, I was able to transform the ideas floating inside my head into a business proposal, and even get selected for the program. The seminar really helped me pass the first big hurdle before the real business commoditization process."

Nomin-Erdene "Every part of the program was useful for me. For example, we received training for each and every stage regarding the business idea or product commoditization. After the final products are complete, we are able to attend exhibitions through the advocacy of the WBC, and promote our products. Different seminars and events were inter-connected to complement the shortcomings of each program, and the overall experience could be as effective as possible."

Q_What has changed the most since you participated in the BI program?

Unurjargal "Actually, my husband refused to use my soap as he could not trust what I made. I can say it with a smile on my face now, but back then it was very hurtful. As a founder of a business, it was very sad to have my product refused by the very first customer. But as my soap turned into a beautiful product through the BI program, he started to use my soap along with other people around me. They started to acknowledge what I made. Not only that, I was able to gain significant knowledge in business management, not being second to those with degrees from business schools."

Nomin-Erdene "I stepped into the market with nothing, but now I have a level of respect from customers. Of course we have a long way to go, but a good start means the half of the success. So, I will press on. Above all, what has changed the most is me. I really appreciate and thank the Women's Business Center for their complete support in allowing me to focus on my self development."

Q_I heard that you have received awards at exhibitions. How did the WBC help in the process?

Unurjargal "In September 2017, I had the opportunity to participate in the Vansemberuu 2017 exhibition through a recommendation from the WBC. There, I was awarded the Excellent Young Enterpriser Award*. Without the help from the WBC, I could not have even turned my business idea into a product, let alone receive an award."

* Granted to 6 enterprises·enterprisers amongst the participating 57 businesses. 4 of the 6 recipients were BI graduates.

Nomin-Erdene "In May 2017, I was able to participate in the Small-to-Medium Business Exhibition hosted by the Mongolian Chamber of Commerce through the support of the WBC. There, my business was nominated as the World Competitive Mongolia Brand. After that, I participated in other international events such as an exhibition held in September 2017, in Hohhot, capital of Inner Mongolia. It was only possible for me to enter into domestic and overseas markets and attend various events through the recommendations and support provided by the WBC."

Q_Can you tell us about your vision?

Unurjargal "Currently, 96% of soap distributed in the country are imported. Domestic products only take up 4%. My goal is to fill at least 50% of the domestic market with my product. I would like to open the very first soap factory built after Mongolia's transition to democracy, and create a brand that is widely acknowledged in the mongolian market*. Just as the WBC gave me a golden opportunity, I would also like to open up doors for many Mongolians from socially disadvantaged backgrounds."

* Mongolia used to have 9 organic soap factories under the community government, however the factories have been shut down post regime collapse.

Nomin-Erdene "I am looking to launch new products using cinnamon, honey ginger tea, and nut honey, which are effective for flu prevention. We are also developing a special gift set. Our target is to penetrate the overseas market."

Q_Please give a word of support for fellow potential female entrepreneurs who are still experiencing various limitations in Mongolia.

Unurjargal "Many women in Mongolia are trapped in a box of child care and domestic labor, and are missing out on their opportunities. In fact, there are so many women out there who are just making their products at home and selling them around people they know, even though they are brilliant business ideas. I would like to say to those women that you need to broaden your horizon. Take courage and spread your wings. Then, surely, an opportunity will come knocking on your door."

Nomin-Erdene "A start is the most important part. I want to say that you just need to start, then an opportunity will come in any kind of form. I believe the Mongolian WBC is providing very timely and efficient business know-how to nurture female entrepreneurs in Mongolia, and to vitalize the nation's economy. I hope it provides the same service to more women out there for a long period of time."



01

Improvement of water supply and sanitation project in the Gurage Zone, Ethiopia

3,800 modern toilets are built

Each year in Ethiopia, around 73,700 children lose their lives due to contaminated water sources from unsanitary sewage and toilet systems. In order to resolve such predicament, KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) supported a developmental project in cooperation with local villagers which aims to improve the drinking-water conditions across 24 villages.

Written by Seo-hyeon Hwang (Intern Reporter, KOICA Office of Public Relations & Communication)
Photo by KOICA Ethiopia Office

For the story on the improvement of water supply and sanitation project in Ethiopia, please refer to 'Overseas KOICA' in the March 2018 issue of the <KOICA Newsletter>.
http://koica.knhim.net/201803/eng/content3.php?code=201803_020305

Excreta the cause of water source contamination··· Around 70 thousand children below the age of five lose their lives each year

A shallow pit that does not even reach one meter. That is the reality of the toilets commonly shared by people in the Gurage Zone*, a Zone in Southern Nations, Nationalities, and Peoples' Region (SNNPR) in Southern Ethiopia. With the toilets in their near non-existent forms and shapes, it was easy for people to urinate on the streets. Even if there were suggested areas of toilets, there were often old squatting-style toilets without any sort of sewage system.

* **Gurage zone:** A zone located 215km south of Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia.

Unsanitary sewage and toilet systems constantly threaten the health of the locals. The villagers of the Gurage Zone typically use rivers or gushout water located 2 to 3 kilometers away from their residential areas as the drinking-water source. If human excreta is not processed properly, it can contaminate the water source leading to an outbreak of contagious waterborne diseases* such as typhoid and diarrhea. Solely in Ethiopia, diarrhoeal disease is responsible for a whopping number of 73,700 child deaths each year. Such crushing reality has brought our attention to the urgent need to improve clean water and sanitary conditions.

* **Contagious waterborne diseases:** Diseases of the digestive system spread via contact with contaminated water

Provision of clean drinking water to 73,000 villagers

In 2013, the KOICA Office in Ethiopia initiated a developmental project to construct new toilets and increase local awareness* on sanitation in the Gurage Zone in Ethiopia. Through the so-called WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene) project, 3,800 sanitary toilets have been newly constructed as of March 2018, securing access to clean drinking water for 73,000 local villagers. The project has also assisted the local residents to enjoy a healthier lifestyle by increasing their awareness on the importance of sanitary drinking-water. The secret to the sustainable change in the form of improved awareness among those local residents whose lives are at stake is an operational approach called CLTS.

* **Drinking-water condition improvement project in the SNNPR, Ethiopia (2013-2018/ $US 8.4 million)**



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01 Children of the Gurage Zone in Ethiopia.

02 Toilets in Gurage Zone villages prior to the project.

03 Ending ceremony for the first round of the improvement of water supply and sanitation project(Fed 2017).

KOICA maximizes the efficiency of the project by including local participation

The KOICA WaSH project team has adopted the Community Led Total Sanitation (CLTS) approach to increase the efficiency

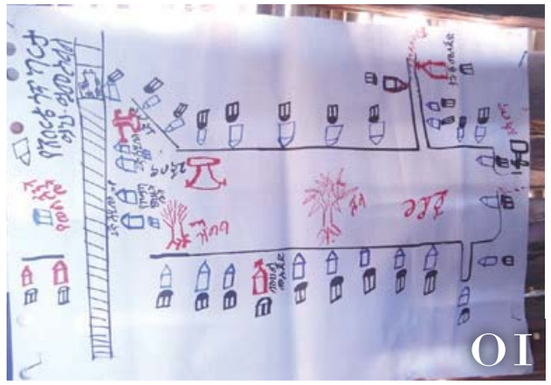
of the project. The CLTS approach was first devised by social development specialist Dr. Kmal Kar in 2000 to improve sanitation conditions in Bangladesh. The approach educates local residents on the importance in improving the local sanitary conditions, ultimately encouraging proactive engagement among the local residents. By applying the CLTS approach, the WaSH project team focused on introducing a broad societal change in the behaviors of the local people instead of simply building new toilets.

The core principle behind the CLTS approach successfully introducing voluntary behavioral changes among the local villagers is the creation of motives. The WaSH project team took a tour of the villages with the villagers to check the current status of toilets, and drew a sanitation map denoting areas that the villagers use to relieve themselves. This process naturally revealed how the urination around the residential area was being commonly practiced. At the same time, the team practiced a sanitation education exercise, Glass of Water Exercise, which exposed the threat of human excreta scattered throughout the villages contaminating their drinking-water source.

In order to encourage local engagement, KOICA also formed 'WaSH Promoters' constituted of 36 local volunteers selected throughout the 24 villages (one or two volunteers from each village). The Promoters act as an effective supporter of KOICA's WaSH project monitoring the project's progress while helping the local villagers construct the toilets using local resources.

Realization of Sustainable Development Goal 6, 'Clean water and sanitation'

The KOICA WaSH team collected data to scientifically examine the effects of the CLTS-type sanitary conditional improvement project on the rate of diarrhea among children under the age of five. For this purpose, KOICA conducted five rounds of surveys (from January 2016 to February 2017) in those 24 villages where the WaSH project has been conducted as well as another 24 villages which had not experienced any intervention as a control group. In order to gain more accurate data, the team distributed calendars to individual households, instructing them to keep a thorough record of when their children had diarrhea. Based on the analysis of the collected data, the rate of diarrhea in children under the age of five from the subject 24 villages decreased by 12.4% post intervention (the control group villages experienced only a 7% decrease). The frequency of diarrhea in adults also decreased post intervention by 8.4% (the control group showed a 6% decrease). A research paper reporting the achievement was published in the academic journal 'Trial'* in April 2016, through which the validity of the research objective and mythologies have been verified.


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Activity of drawing a sanitation map and the completed map.

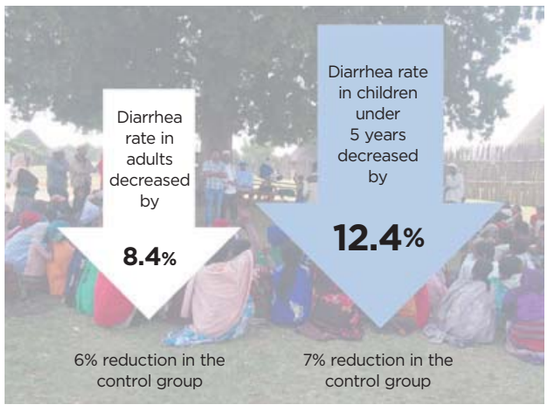
02
'WaSH Promoters' encouraging the participation of local villagers.

03
Monitoring the occurrence of diarrhea on a calendar.

04
Completed toilet.

* **Trial:** An international journal which mainly introduces field research conducted in the area of health.

'By 2030, achieve access to adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene for all and end open defecation, paying special attention to the needs of women and girls and those in vulnerable situations' is one of the targets of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goal 6. With increasing significance of the health agenda related to sanitary toilets and clean drinking water, the KOICA Ethiopia Office is looking to expand its improvement of water supply and sanitation project from 2019 based on the accomplishments achieved through project conducted in the Gurage Zone.



Local residents participating in the improvement of water supply and sanitation project

“A change starting from clean toilets Our quality of life has been improved”

A local volunteer, Arebo Hassen, residing in the village of Degag in Ethiopia is a WaSH (Water, Sanitation and Hygiene; a program designed to build new toilets and improve local awareness on hygiene) promoter*. Encouraging the participation of local residents in the program designed to improve toilet conditions while building new toilets, he has led the new change in his own village as a reliable helper of the operation. Today we accompanied Mr. Hassen to visit the new toilets built by him and other local villagers to hear more about their story

* **WaSH Promoter:** A volunteer group selected to encourage local participation in the toilet condition improvement program, and to provide technical support. One or two volunteers are selected from each village among 24 villages. As of February 2018, 36 volunteers are actively on duty.



Around 3,800 new toilets have been built in the Gurage Zone in Ethiopia over the past four years as part of KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency)’s WaSH program. Residents of the Gurage Zone are exposed to the dangers of waterborne diseases as the local water source is prone to contamination due to unsanitary toilet and sewage systems. In fact, around 73,700 Ethiopian children lose their lives to diarrhoeal disease each year. The WaSH program has been initiated to tackle this problem, and it is leading a change in perception and behaviors within the local villages.





01
Hassen(Second on the right) introducing the toilets that the villagers built for themselves.

02
Toilets exposed out in the field before the operation, and the toilets after the operation.

03
Ethiopian local health officer, Tashome.

Toilets with compartments and ceilings… Although they are old squatting style, they have taken the form of a toilet stool

WaSH promoter Hassen looked confident standing in front of the new toilets. The toilets that used to be only covered by thin pieces of cloth are now built with solid walls and a ceiling. With the walls woven by hard wood and a door installed with a lock, the toilets are high enough to cover adults, promoting comfortable defecation activities while protecting personal privacy.

As we went inside a toilet, we could see how they have built 3-meter-deep holes and covers to resolve the problem of discharged filth overflowing or flowing into the water source. Another change was the addition of a toilet stool. Installed with foot steps made with the traditional method of using wood and mud, the toilets now finally have the form of proper conventional squatting style toilets. The fact that the toilets have been produced solely using locally supplied materials in combination with labor from the villagers suggests the project has high sustainability.

Local villagers’ awareness on sanitary toilets

An Ethiopian health officer, Tashome, in charge of the WaSH project had a chance to witness the change the project made in the lives of local villagers. In fact, before the WaSH project came into effect in Ethiopia, the local villagers had shown little interest in improving the sanitary conditions of their toilets. After the commencement of the project, however, the local villagers started to better understand the importance of clean toilets. As a result, toilets with improved sanitation and facilities have been built. Tashome emphasizes that improving sanitation in toilets has pertinent importance in the improvement of the health of local villagers.

Local residents have also shown good responses. A local villager, Sadik Kemal, used her personal resources to dig a four-meter-deep hole, and to raise walls and a ceiling for a toilet. It cost her a total of around 400 birrs (approx. 15USD). She received the technical training and information from the WaSH Promoter and local officials. “Even though it was not an easy task to carry out, I was able to complete the toilet knowing the changes that a clean toilet will bring.” said Sadik.

Written by Won-gyeong Lee (Intern Reporter, KOICA Office of Public Relations & Communication)
Photo by KOICA Ethiopia Office



The Capacity Building Project for Sri Lanka's Forensic Science Agency and Relevant Officials

Foster 21st century's detective Colombo in the country

In Sri Lanka, the number of intelligent crimes and cybercrime incidents is increasing as a side effect of rapid economic growth, but the government's investigation system and capacity has remained without advancement, bound by many constraints. KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) is working with NFS (National Forensic Service) of Korea to open an era of high-tech scientific investigation in Sri Lanka.

Written·Photo by Ji-su Lee (KOICA Sri Lanka Office)

For the story on the capacity building project for Sri Lanka's forensic agencies and officials, please refer to 'Overseas KOICA' in the February 2018 issue of the <KOICA Newsletter>.
http://koica.knhim.net/201802/eng/content3.php?code=201802_020305

Sri Lanka, known to many Koreans for Ceylon tea, had been in a civil war for 36 years until 2009. Since the end of the war, the economy grew by an average of more than 8 percent between 2010 and 2012, and the country has emerged as one of Korea's important development cooperation partners pursuing growth into a middle to high-income country. However, various social problems are emerging as a result of such rapid economic growth, and the country is especially suffering from the increase of intelligent and cyber crime.

Sri Lanka's GAD with Rudimentary Scientific Investigation Capacity Despite 110-Year History

The GAD (Government Analyst Department) of the Sri Lankan Government is responsible for analyzing criminal evidence, but despite its 110-year history, it has displayed a lack of capacity in the introduction of analytic methods using new technology and carrying out analyses of digital evidence. Police and individuals have entrusted analyses to private institutions or university research institutes, as there was no public authority to analyze evidence which nowadays consists mostly of smart phones, computers, CCTV footage, and black boxes. As a result, the rate of crime resolution has also remained very low at 40 to 46 percent annually.
The Sri Lankan government has struggled to improve the government's judicial credibility by advancing various related public agencies and GAD since 2013. However, the nation's first DNA (gene) analysis lab, launched in the same year with the support of USAID, has had difficulties in analyzing a significant number of consigned cases on time. In 2014, the department conducted only 73 gene analyses due to the absence of digital evidence analysis facilities, an imbalance of DNA expertise focused on bloodstain analysis, and a lack of standard procedures.



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Gene Analysis Department of the GAD of the Sri Lankan Government.

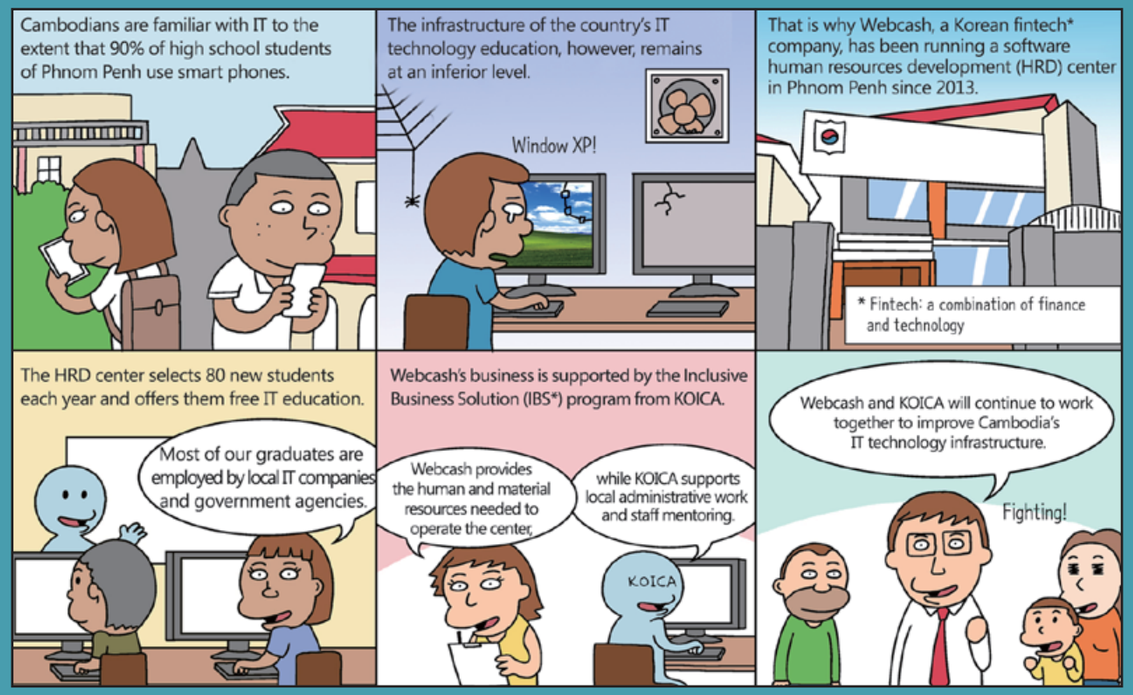
KOICA Cooperates with NFS to Boost Sri Lanka's Modernization of Investigation Systems

To solve this problem, the KOICA Sri Lanka Office has carried out a project to enhance investigation capacity of the country with a focus on supplementing the gene analysis capacity and supporting digital analysis labs. The project has been conducted through cooperation between KOICA and the NFS, providing the latest equipment and labs and fostering GAD experts through education in local agencies and invitational training in Korea, as well as local training with NFS experts for over six months to transfer analysis expertise in an apprenticeship system. In addition, the project has provided a long-term development plan for the establishment of legal basis specifying the authority of the GAD's digital forensics* as well as the staff increase and expansion of the GAD to ensure sustainability after the project ends.

* **Digital Forensics:** Collecting and analyzing crime-related data on digital devices such as mobile phones and PCs and providing the results to investigators.

With the successful completion of the project in 2017, the Sri Lanka GAD firmly established its foundation as a scientific investigation agency with specialized personnel, and the number of annual entrusted gene analyses increased by 620% during the three years of the project, while the analyses of hair and bone DNA, which had never been performed before, were also conducted for more than 80 cases. In the digital field, since the first analysis started in early 2017, about 60 consignments have been made each month, confirming the GAD's status as a digital analysis specialist in Sri Lanka. In November 2016, the department was certified as an institution at an international standard of analytical capabilities, and solidified its recognition in Sri Lanka as a criminal investigation support organization that provides prompt and accurate analyses.
The enhancement of the analytical capacity of the GAD through this project is expected to contribute not only to raising the status of the nation in the judiciary sector by improving the speed and accuracy of investigation and trials, but also to the search for missing persons (currently more than 65 thousand) that has emerged as a major challenge since the end of the civil war, laying the foundation for the resolution of social conflicts and the reconciliation of the Sri Lankan people.

||| STRENGTHENING ICT CAPABILITIES THROUGH CAMBODIAN SW PROFESSIONAL TRAINING 'SOFTWARE PROFESSIONAL PERSONNEL TRAINING PROJECT' BY FINTECH SPECIALIZED COMPANY WEBCASH



* **IBS (Inclusive Business Solution) program :** A project that contributes resources related to corporate social responsibility (CSR) and creating shared value (CSV) to the economic/social development of developing countries in connection with KOICA's development cooperation businesses. The goal is an increase in earnings for the lowest income groups in developing countries.



Korea Software HRD Center in Cambodia Director Tae-kyung Kim

"We feel proud when we see students who couldn't even dream of getting married, get married after finding a job."

Like Koreans, young Cambodians are also interested in IT technology such as mobile and internet platforms. However, the educational infrastructure of IT technology is relatively poor compared to this high demand. That is why Webcash, a Korean fintech (IT finance business) company, has established and has been operating a Human Resources Development (HRD) Center in Phnom Penh, Cambodia since 2013 through the KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) IBS program. Let's hear more from Tae-kyung Kim, director of the center.

Written by Jong-su Han (Intern Reporter, KOICA Office of Public Relations & Communication)
photo by Webcash · Cartoon by Sehoon Hong

For the story on the 'Software Professional Personnel Training Project' with Webcash, please refer to 'What's ODA' in the January 2018 issue of the <KOICA Newsletter>.
http://koica.knhim.net/201801/eng/content2.php?code=201801_020205

Q_Tell us about the 'Software Professional Personnel Training Project' by Webcash.

"In 2013, Webcash established the Korea Software HRD Center (HRD Center hereafter) to strengthen Cambodia's ICT capability. Each year 80 students are selected from Cambodian IT colleges, with the 5th group currently being selected. A total of 212 students have graduated, and over 95% of the graduates are already working in the IT field. In addition, high-performing graduates are given the opportunity to participate in a 1 to 2-year technical training course at a Korean IT company. Cambodian authorities were able to reduce reliance on outside ITC by applying the graduates of the HRD Center, and they have even planned their own projects. For example, a few of the recent graduates are playing important roles in the 'online tax payment system construction project' jointly conducted by KOICA and the Cambodia Department of Taxation."

Q_In that case, what is the HRD Center's specialized training method or strong point?

"The HRD Center curriculum consists of a 9-month course with basic ICT courses (5 months) and employment intensive courses (4 months), in that order. The entire curriculum is free of charge so that students can focus on their studies, and they are even paid a training fee. The HRD Center education includes seminars and projects, leading the students to grow into IT professionals that are strong in both theory and practice. In addition, we frequently visit local corporations to monitor the main technology and projects, and incorporate the results into the educational program. As a result, the students can prepare for the latest software technology flow in connection with big data, artificial intelligence, VR, etc. The HRD Center will continue to train talented individuals into researchers with bachelors and master's degrees, and become an institution that can support a portion of entrepreneurship."





01 Completion ceremony of the Cambodia Software HRD Center.
02 Students working on projects.

Q_What are some of the achievements of the HRD Center graduates?

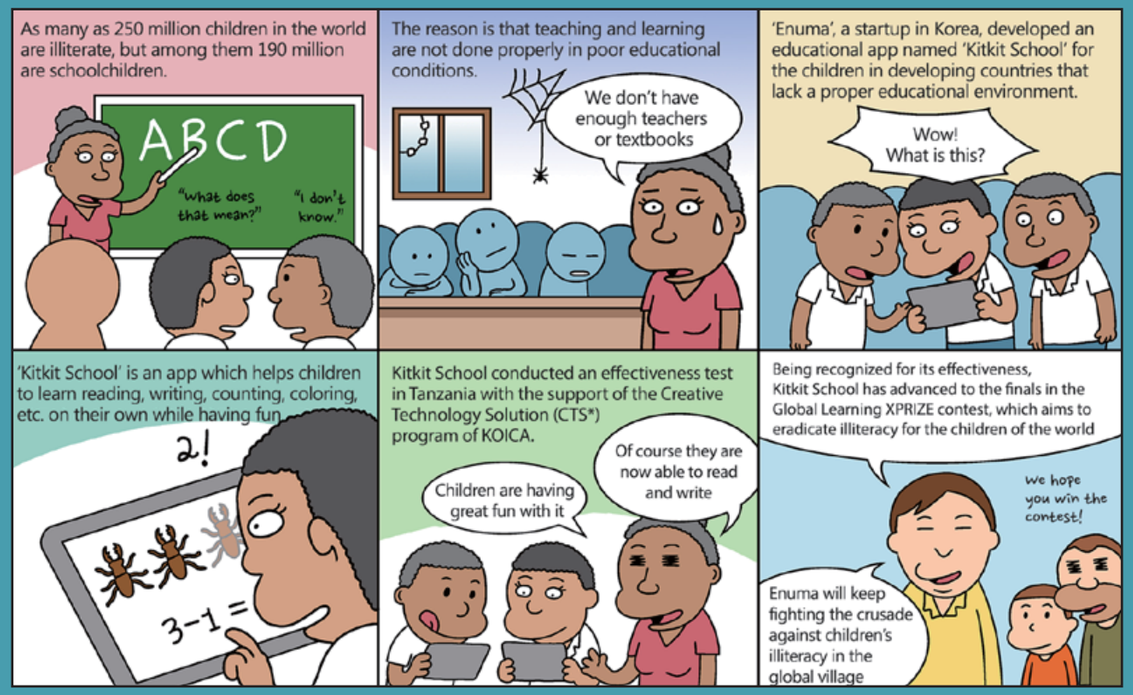
"Currently, about 20 local corporations are aggressively headhunting for new HRD Center graduates. It turns out that 100% of the graduates get a job immediately upon graduation. Most of them work at local IT companies, financial institutes, or government organizations. In 2017, a total of 48 graduates received technical training at a Korean IT corporation on B2B fintech technology, mobile solution development, etc. 16 of these graduates are currently taking a bachelor's or master's course in IT at their respective Korean universities. We feel proud when we see students who couldn't even dream of getting married due to their poor financial situations when they first entered the HRD Center, get married after finding a job and raising children. Moreover, we are happiest when we imagine the changes they will bring once they become leaders in the IT field of Cambodia."

Q_What are the advantages of conducting projects in cooperation with KOICA?

"As the general supervisor of IBS projects, KOICA has jointly invested around 700 million won annually with Webcash, and provides local administration advice and Webcash employee mentoring. More than anything, KOICA's brand value gives locals a sense of trust. In particular, we clearly saw the benefits of KOICA when we were visiting local universities, corporations, and government institutes for student recruitment promotions. We were also able not only to strengthen ICT capability on a national level by training Cambodian IT professionals through the IBS projects, but also to raise expectations for the entrance of Korean companies into Cambodia in the mid to long term. Webcash also has plans to establish a non-profit organization to train global SW professionals. We would be more than happy to cooperate with KOICA again in the future if we receive a request from other developing countries."

For the story on the child education app for developing countries 'Kitkit School',
please refer to 'What's ODA' in the February 2018 issue of the <KOICA Newsletter> .
http://koica.knhim.net/201802/eng/content2.php?code=201802_020202

KITKIT SCHOOL, EDUCATIONAL STARTUP ENUMA'S CHILD EDUCATION APPLICATION FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
TANZANIAN CHILDREN STUDYING WITH APPS



* **CTS (Creative Technology Solution) program :** A program created by KOICA to link technology-based startups and Official Development Assistance (ODA). Portable malaria diagnosis kits, mobile ultrasonic diagnostics, and a lantern that runs on edible oil are among the major items developed for the program.



Enuma Korea Office Director You-taeg Jeon
"Children are eager to go to school even in spite of opposition of their parents. This makes me so happy."

According to UNESCO, the number of illiterate children worldwide is 250 million. What drew the attention of Enuma, an educational startup, was the fact that 190 million of them were being schooled. This suggests that they cannot experience proper learning because of a poor educational environment. Enuma has developed an educational app for them, "Kitkit School". The company was supported by the CTS program of KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) in the process and proved the effectiveness of the app in Tanzania. Enuma Korea Office Director You-taeg Jeon gave a detailed explanation of the app and the project.







01 Tanzanian children studying with Kitkit School.

02 Salasala Elementary School students showing their favorite games.

03 Teachers at Yombo Elementary School participating in the Kitkit School Teacher Workshop.

Q_Please introduce Enuma and Kitkit School to our readers.

"Enuma has developed learning content that can help children around the world to receive quality education anywhere, anytime, regardless of disability, poverty, or any other constraints. Todo Math, an app that helps children learn math on their own in spite of disabilities, is one of the major products of Enuma. With our new app Kitkit School, we recently advanced to the finals of the Global Learning Xprize*, which aims to tackle child illiteracy around the world. Participants were given a mission to develop educational software on the prerequisite that 'Tanzania schools will be provided with only tablet PCs'. Kitkit School is a basic education app developed to provide quality education to children in developing countries."

* **Global Learning Xprize:** A contest held by the Xprize Foundation, the world's largest nonprofit venture foundation, for solving global problems. Its goal is to develop software that helps children living in regions lacking teachers and schools to study and learn on their own.

Q_What problem area was your focus during the development of Kitkit School?

"Children in developing countries usually start to attend school without a basic education in their early childhood. As a result, there is a wide gap in learning ability among children, and many of them have difficulties in studying without the help of their parents at home.
To solve this problem, we wanted to create a Universal Design for Learning* product for children of all levels. The Kitkit School helps children to achieve basic developmental tasks step by step through activities such as drawing lines, counting, and learning numbers. The app enables effective learning for children who are not provided with level-specific education at school due to their lack of teachers, as well as for out-of-school children."

* **Universal Design for Learning:** The designing of a teaching and learning system for ensuring easy access to education for all types of learners regardless of disability or age

Q_How can Kitkit School improve the poor educational environment in developing countries?

"I'd like to focus on the infinite potential of digital devices. We can provide a lot of educational content through a single tablet PC. Children in developing countries rarely have access to activities that promote child development and interest in learning, such as puzzles, singing, and coloring, that children from developed countries can easily experience. We have included all of these in Kitkit School's program so that children in developing countries can experience various learning activities. Such intellectual and aesthetic activities can boost the academic achievement of the learners and promote their growth."

Q_What was the reaction of the students who used Kitkit School in Tanzania?

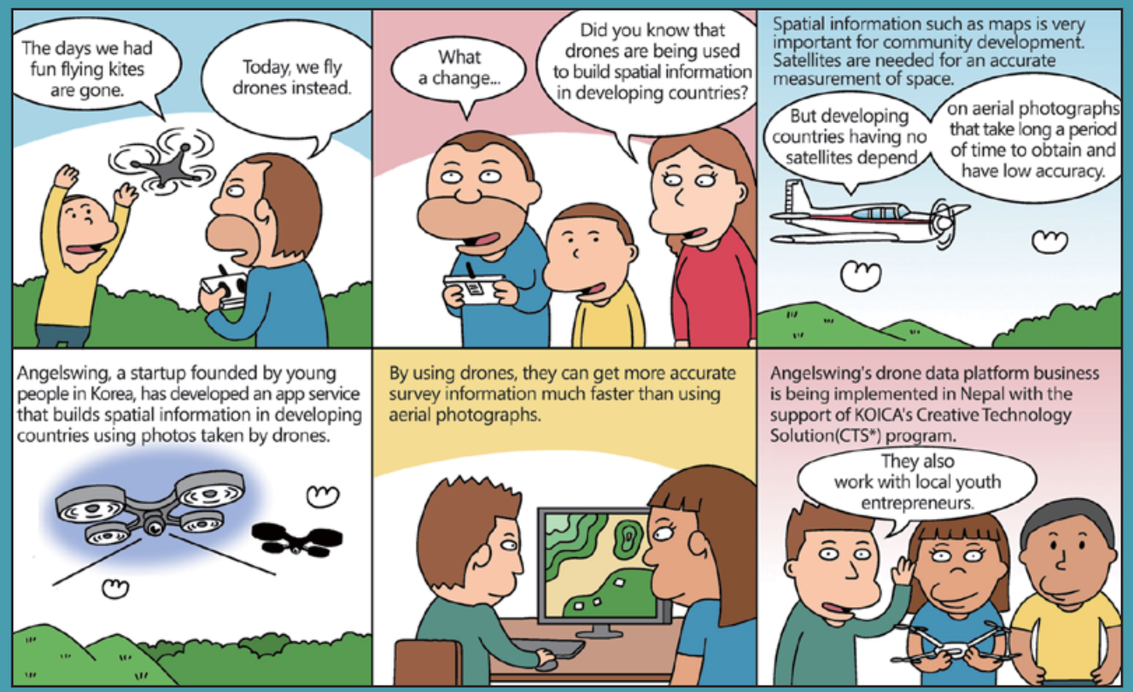
"All of the students enjoyed learning with Kitkit School, and it was effective. In the past, children were often absent from school for many reasons such as bad weather or housework. However, I was told that many of children are eager to go to school even in spite of the opposition of their parents."

Q_How do you want Enuma to contribute to the educational environment in developing countries?

"Education using digital technology is a field that many people are looking to in order to achieve good educational effects in a short period of time in the educational environments of developing countries with many constraints including limited education finances, lack of teacher training, and inadequate dissemination systems. I believe that if good products continue to prove the economics and effectiveness of digital education, there will come a time when learning is done with digital technology in many places."

Written by Seo-hyeon Hwang (Intern Reporter, KOICA Office of Public Relations & Communication)
Photo by Enuma · Cartoon by Se-hoon Hong

DRONE DATA PLATFORM OF ANGELSWING, A STARTUP FOUNDED BY KOREAN YOUTH PRESENTS "A MAP OF DREAMS" TO NEPALI YOUTH



* **CTS (Creative Technology Solution) program :** A program created by KOICA to link technology-based startups and Official Development Assistance (ODA). Major project items developed through the program include a portable malaria diagnosis kit, a mobile ultrasonic diagnostic apparatus, and a lantern that uses cooking oil.



Angelswing CEO Won-nyoung Park
"I am happy to help the Nepali youth in starting businesses"

Many developing countries that do not have satellites usually use aerial photo maps, but even they often fail to provide accurate information due to late updates. Angelswing, a startup founded by young people in Korea, has launched a web service to build spatial information of developing countries with pictures taken with drones. The project, carried out through CTS program of KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency), is also helping the local youth to open businesses and generate profits. How does map making help the Nepali youth in starting businesses? The reporter interviewed Won-nyoung Park, CEO of Angelswing, and listened to their story.

Written by Ji-eun Won (Intern Reporter, KOICA Office of Public Relations & Communication)
Photo by Angelswing · Cartoon by Se-hoon Hong

For the story on the 'Angelswing's Drone Data Platform',
please refer to 'What's ODA' in the March 2018 issue of the <KOICA Newsletter>.
http://koica.knhim.net/201803/eng/content2.php?code=201803_020204

Q_Please tell us about Angelswing's Drone Data Platform.
"It is a project to construct and provide two-dimensional or three-dimensional spatial information using photographs of specific areas taken from drones. They are not only clearer than aerial maps, but they also enable you to obtain survey information or compare past and present photos of the areas. One of the characteristics of our business is that it grows with local youth entrepreneurs. Angelswing purchases drones and provides them to Nepali youth entrepreneurs, and they take aerial photos of various areas using the drones. The drones zigzag above the areas and take pictures every few seconds, which is called 'drone mapping.' When they upload the photographs to Angelswing's website, they are automatically processed and used to make precision maps (2D orthophotographs) and 3D models. Young entrepreneurs earn profits by selling the photo data to companies such as construction companies that need maps and videos. It is revolutionary that such field survey and analyses can be done quickly and at low cost using drones and map making web services."

Q_Are there any difficulties in conducting business overseas compared to Korea?
"There are differences in the policies regarding management of national data, such as geographic information. This project has raised no issues yet, since it is local entrepreneurs or businesspeople who collect data and the data are managed only within the platform. But I always try to consider policy-related issues very carefully."

Q_I heard that you visited Nepal recently. How is the response from the local community?
"The response from local young people is positive. Angelswing has also signed an MOU with Dronepal, a local youth startup. I also met officials from a hydroelectric power plant that will be a main customer







01 Angelswing members flying drones in the relief site in Nepal in 2015.
02 The signing of an MOU between Angelswing and Dronepal, a startup established by Nepali youth.
03 With Nepali students.

of the local partner companies. They wanted to see how the pictures taken from the drones can be used for field survey data, as they have never surveyed land with drones. If local builders understand how quickly land photography and analysis can be done using drones, many of them will entrust field surveys to the partner companies. (The conventional way of field surveying using an airplane took 15 to 20 days for 100 hectares, while a drone can complete the same survey in a day.)"

Q_How did you get involved in KOICA's CTS program?
"When I visited Kathmandu University at the time of the earthquakes, KOICA was carrying out a project to strengthen university capacity in developing countries. I got to know about KOICA's CTS program there and applied for it since it has the same vision as Angelswing, which is to provide innovative technologies to developing countries that do not benefit from technology. To be honest, I failed in my application in 2015 for the CTS program with a project to supply drones. After that, I established this project for providing web services to create maps and help local people to build their own data and strengthen their capabilities, and it ended up being selected for the CTS program."

Q_What have been the achievements of the project so far?
"In my opinion, the greatest achievement is that the young entrepreneurs of Nepal are actually starting their businesses and making profits. Some of our partners are the students that I had met when I had visited Kathmandu University after the earthquakes in 2015. When I see them, I feel so happy that my efforts so far have been fruitful."