

Since 2014, KOICA has been working on the Self-Supporting Rural Development Project in Cambodia based on residents' participation. Through this project, residents in Sovong Leu village could complete the construction of drinking water facilities and resolve the water access problem.

KOICA
Korea International Cooperation Agency

KOICA INSIDE ODA, as referred to by KOICA's Goodwill Ambassador Hong-gil Um

OVERSEAS KOICA Development and reality of 'Mindanao', the island of two faces

KOICA VIEW The smile of farmers found on 1000 hills

World's Friend KOICA

2017. Winter
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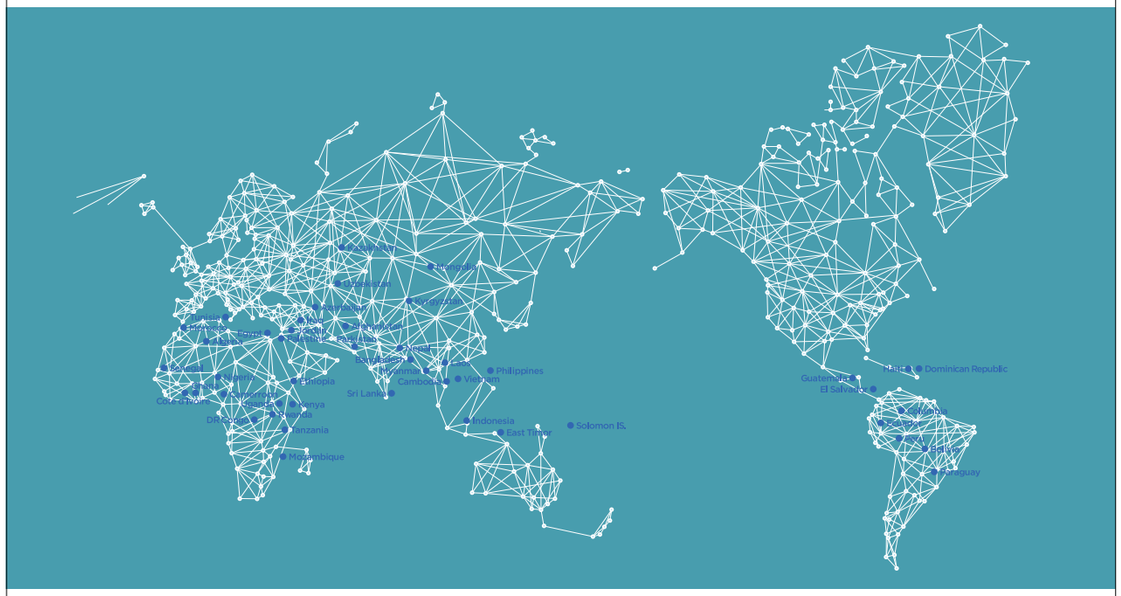


THINK ODA, WITH KOICA

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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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Written by Ja-rim Jung
Photo by Sang-hoon Bae(Um Hong Gil Human Foundation)

A more detailed account of the activities of Hong-gil Um, KOICA's goodwill ambassador, can be found in 'KOICA Inside' from October 2017 issue of the <KOICA Newsletter>.
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201710/eng/content1.php?code=201710_020101

ODA, as referred to by KOICA's Goodwill Ambassador Hong-gil Um

"Everyone on the globe should live well. This idea is the starting point of ODA"

KOICA Goodwill Ambassador Hong-gil Um, the world's first climber to reach all 16 summits of the 8000m Himalayas. Now, he is working on support activities for people whose lives are based on the Himalayas while conducting various humanitarian activities as the KOICA Goodwill Ambassador.

Q_You have been KOICA's ambassador since 2010. How did you become interested in ODA or KOICA as a climber?
A_"I first began my expedition on the Himalayas in 1985. The Himalayan Mountains are located in underdeveloped countries such as Nepal, Pakistan, etc. In particular, I developed a special bond with Nepal as I frequently visited the place. I felt terrible about the harsh conditions in which the locals had to live and naturally developed an interest towards NGO or international relief organization activities for them. As a result, I immediately wanted to join KOICA when I got a call from them. Thanks to this opportunity, I've been the KOICA Goodwill Ambassador ever since."

Q_You are very active in your work. Have you worked on any project in collaboration with KOICA through the 'Um Hong Gil Human Foundation'?
A_"Yes, I've participated in overseas volunteer work in Uzbekistan, Fiji, Africa and Sri Lanka as KOICA's Goodwill Ambassador. The 'Um Hong Gil Human Foundation' is working on a project for constructing schools in remote villages of the Himalayas and two of them have been established through cooperation with KOICA. Our partnership has grown more stable through these processes as well. Regardless, it's great that we can help each other for a meaningful purpose."

01
KOICA's goodwill ambassador Hong-gil Um at the top of the Mount Everest.

02
On the way to the summit, Lhotse Shar.





Q_It seems like you're not only active as a climber but also as a philanthropist in humanitarian efforts towards helping out children. Is there any special reason for this?

A_"When I go to these countries, I often come across heartbreaking situations. Adults and children all suffer from poverty and hunger. But I think it would be great if we could at least help the children escape from this suffering.
In fact, Korea was the world's poorest nation right after the Korean War. However, within just 67 years, we've advanced enough to boast one of the world's leading technological powerhouses and create the cultural 'Hallyu' boom. All of this is due to the power of education. We must learn and realize in order to create change and achieve dreams. Watching the children growing up in the mountains without any opportunities for basic education or hopes and dreams is truly heartbreaking. We must change that environment.
KOICA's projects for developing countries also aligned with my philosophy. Because our goals coincide, we are able to sympathize with each other and produce positive results through cooperation."



01



02

Q_The fact that 12 schools have been established within just 9 years of the establishment of 'Um Hong Gil Human Foundation' is extraordinary. You have also been participating in volunteer work in the countries in addition to the establishment of the schools. What is your motivation?

A_Actually, their substandard education facilities and medical conditions are things that cannot be changed overnight. Consistent and systematic aid is necessary. However, there are things that can be solved within a couple of days. Shabby facilities can be partially repaired and painting the school walls can be done through a short period of volunteer work. This type of work is actually a temporary and small act of kindness rather than a solution to the fundamental issue. However, I can feel how happy the children are with these changes when working with them during those few days through this process. When I see them excited, I feel so happy. I go there to help them, but in fact, when I come back home, I feel like they have given me an even greater sense of happiness.

Q_Working on the sites of the developments and seeing the activities of international development partners or relief organizations, you must have an opinion on the policies or projects of KOICA.

A_"Through the help from countries around the world, developing countries are also undergoing various changes. The conditions of Nepal are also very different from when I first visited there. Nepal's first tunnel and international airport were constructed due to the support from JICA (Japan International Cooperation Agency). These types of projects are large-scale and therefore, their achievements tend to receive more attention from around the world. In addition, the national image of the receiving country also improves.
Meanwhile, I feel that KOICA is good with handling details. Their support of schools, medical facilities or technology seems to be focusing on 'aiding the lives of individuals in a practical way' rather than support from 'one nation to another'. If roads are paved and airports are established, the facilities and infrastructure of the country improve and it provides a foundation for the economy to grow, but some people may not be affected by these changes. However, schools, hospitals and technology training are different. Treating illnesses, creating new dreams and motivation and gaining the ability to be independent may be a more urgent problem to them. In this sense, I think that KOICA is utilizing a relatively small budget very efficiently. However, it is difficult to say whether this is a 'strength' or a 'weakness'. The scope and method of support depend on the situation and capacity of each institution and group. Large-scale projects and detailed projects are both meaningful work efforts in that they provide the assistance these countries need."



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01
A commemorative photo with students from Pangboche Human School, the first Human School established by Um Hong Gil Human Foundation.

02
In March 2017, a ground-breaking ceremony was held for the Dhulikhel Human School, the 14th Human School.

03
KOICA's goodwill Ambassador Hong-gil Um with Tharpu Human School students.

Q_You told us about the difference in support scale and method of JICA and KOICA based on the changes that have took place in Nepal. What is the background to this difference? In terms of construction, Korea is more than capable.

A_"Probably the difference in budget. Large-scale projects that support tunnels or airports have an incomparable difference in budget. However, the budget problem is not an issue that can be resolved by KOICA alone. The government has to organize more budget for ODA and in order for this to happen, public awareness in Korea must change first. Trying to live a good life together with only the citizens of one's own country is a narrow-minded way of thinking. No country supports other countries because it merely has extra budget. Even though budgets are insufficient, they are thinking that we must stick together. Furthermore, we are a country that grew by receiving support from other countries up until not long ago. Therefore, I believe that it is time for us to take responsibility and have an open mind towards ODA."

Q_So enhancing public awareness of ODA in Korea is key. Is there anything you'd like to request of the readers on this subject?

A_"I'd like to tell them more about the countries. In 2015 when Nepal was suffering from earthquake damage, I also went immediately over to partake in relief activities. Despite the ensuing chaos from the sudden disaster, I was able to see the scale of support from each country. Of course, the scale and power of support are inevitably related to national power. However, the government and public awareness is also a big aspect. We already have enough power to spare. We can do more, but it is unfortunate that we cannot do this. We need to be closer to the pain of other countries and try to live well together."

Q_Lastly, please tell us about your future plans and aspirations.

A_"Currently, I am still working on the project for building schools in Nepal through the Um Hong Gil Human Foundation. I also plan to actively participate in work that can help everyone in the global village and work to increase the national image of Korea. In addition, I will try to promote the support projects of KOICA, both internally and externally. If there are opportunities to participate in volunteer or support activities, I will engage in those endeavors as well. In this way, I will fulfill my duties as the KOICA Goodwill Ambassador and will make an effort to touch the hearts of our citizens."

Volunteer who teaches music at a school in Rwanda, Jung-im Kim

"The children who didn't know even one song are growing with a sense of happiness and passion for singing"

We met Jung-im Kim, a volunteer of World Friends KOICA, who went back and forth between schools of the Education Board of Rwanda to teach children, who are not provided with any music courses or don't know how to read music, how to express themselves through music.



Q_Please give us a brief introduction of yourself and the activities you are responsible for.

A_"My name is Jung-im Kim. I am World Friends KOICA volunteer, who is working at Teacher Training Department of the Rwanda Education Board. I am cooperating with the Education Board to train teachers on teaching methods for piano and music. I am also leading a children's choir at the Remera Catholic Primary School."



Q_What made you apply for a KOICA volunteer and what is your life like in Rwanda?

A_"I've always wanted to challenge myself to a meaningful job that can bring me personal satisfaction. This is why I consistently participated in various volunteer activities in Korea as well. I was very ill when I went to a short-term volunteer program in Cambodia a few years ago. However, I felt as if the volunteer work unlocked energy inside of me. That is when I truly realized that 'I love volunteering', which is why I decided to apply for a KOICA volunteer."

Q_Please tell us about the conditions of music education in Rwanda.

A_"First of all, because music is an optional subject, there have not been any tests and there are no music teachers at the schools. The teachers who are training now are also English or math teachers and they only teach music when they have the time. Each school has been given a piano, but since no one knows how to play, it just sits in the corner of the classroom. Because music education does not directly aid in economic development, it has been placed lower on the priority list. After hearing that there were no Rwandan songs that the children can sing, I wanted to teach them some songs, so I began a children's choir. It was difficult teaching them because traditional Rwandan music is rhythm-based rather than melody-based and therefore, the children lacked a sense of pitch and could not read music. Still, I was more satisfied with teaching the children than teachers because I could see them improving quickly."

Q_Please tell us about the importance of music education in Rwanda.

A_"Unlike other subjects, music expresses emotion. Therefore, regardless of economic status, age, era or country, everyone has his or her own music. It is natural just as it is natural to clap when you're happy without having to teach it. I believe it is very important to systematically teach music, which has the power to open up the hearts of people and help them communicate. In particular, Rwanda has been through a painful history with a long period of colonization and genocide and therefore, their traditional music has not been written down. I hope that they will be able to record their music through the education and share it with other countries of the world as well."

01
Volunteer Jung-im Kim teaches the children's choir 'Arirang'.

02
The Rwandan teachers are looking at various textbooks at the music conference.

03
Music conference group photo. Eung-joong Kim, ambassador of Rwanda, Hyeong-rae Cho, Head of the Rwanda Office, and the officials of the Rwanda Education Board participated.





Q_What were some difficulties during the volunteer work and how did you overcome them?

A_"Actually, piano is not an instrument that can be mastered within a short period of time. Even so, watching the teachers focus only on the results rather than the process is quite frustrating and unfortunate. There are times when the teachers cannot even participate in the class, lacking support from the Education Board. Each time there is an inquiry about whether they can receive financial aid to receive training, I say that I will try to make a better environment next time, but it is quite discouraging. However, I get motivated again when I see the children and teachers who have a passionate interest in music."

Q_Please tell us about your plan and wishes until you return to Korea next April.

A_"Firstly, when the conference is over, there will be a district unit training in December. After that, I plan to visit teachers who are experiencing difficulty due to lack of teaching skills, observe their class and give advice on teaching techniques. Ultimately, music education is the responsibility of the Rwandan teachers, so I hope they will take responsibility and the teacher training will continue even after I'm gone."

Written by Da-hyeon Kim(Young Professional, KOICA Rwanda Office)
Photo by KOICA Rwanda Office



01

College student who teaches Korean in El Salvador, Fatima Munoz

“Teaching Korean and Korean culture that I learned during my training at KOICA for free is warmly welcomed in my country”

We were able to hear Korean phrases such as ‘Annyeong-haseyo(Hello)’ or ‘Bangap-seumnida(Nice to meet you)’ at University of El Salvador. With the increased interest in Korean, the Korean teacher has also become busier. This teacher, Fatima Munoz, is also a student of Universidad de El Salvador. We learned more about the Korean craze spreading throughout El Salvador and the ‘Training Course for the New Generation of Korean Language’ of KOICA through talking to her.

KOICA’s differentiated ‘Training Course for the New Generation of Korean Language’ project

KOICA has been conducting the ‘Training Course for the New Generation of Korean Language’ project since 2014 to train professionals of Korean and Korean culture in developing countries. It is a project in which KOICA directly invites college students, who wish to come to Korea or have Korean-related majors, to Korea and provides basic Korean courses, cultural lectures and field trip opportunities. Munoz participated in this training course in 2016 and received a lot of valuable support for developing her career. She is currently an honorary journalist of Korea.net, the Korean government’s representative multi-language portal for Korean news, and is getting closer to her dream of coming to Korea.

A more detailed account of the KOICA’s training course for the new generation of Korean language project can be found in ‘KOICA Inside’ from October 2017 issue of the <KOICA Newsletter>.
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201710/eng/content1.php?code=201710_020102

Q_How did you apply for the training course?

A_“I learned Korean for 2 years with KOICA volunteer dispatched to my school. One day, my teacher said that KOICA was recruiting college students who were interested in going studying to Korea and that it would be very helpful to my career. Of course, it was a difficult decision at the time. If I participated in the training course, I had to leave school for 1 year and I was afraid of delaying my graduation. However, I thought that having some experience in the country, even for a short period of time, would make adjusting to Korea easier if I studied abroad in Korea in the future and I also wanted to cultivate my Korean teaching skills.”

Q_How did the training course help you and how did you utilize it?

A_“It helped me greatly with ‘self-development’ and ‘career development.’ I registered for the TOPIK* as soon as I got back to El Salvador so that I wouldn’t forget the Korean I learned while training and could utilize it properly. I was able to take the test thanks to the KOICA scholarship, and I succeeded in acquiring certification. The 4 months of training was very meaningful and valuable to me. I became more intrigued with ‘Korea’ after learning not only the Korean language, but also about Korean culture and history. I opened a Korean class when I came back to my country to share what I experienced and learned with friends. I applied the curriculum I learned from Soonchunhyang University, but the class conditions were not suitable. Nonetheless, my friends encouraged me, and because there were no other Korean classes, demand was high as well. As I received my training through KOICA at no cost, I conducted my classes free of charge as well, which made it more warmly received.”

01 **Fatima Munoz and other students who participated in the ‘Training Course for the New Generation of Korean Language’.**

02 **A Korean class taught by Fatima Munoz at University of El Salvador.**

03 **Fatima Munoz (right) receiving her certificate of completion from her teacher, Jeong-nan Lee (left).**



02



03

* **TOPIK Test of Proficiency in Korean:** a test that measures/evaluates the Korean language abilities of overseas Koreans and foreigners, which can be used for studying abroad at Korean universities or applying for jobs in Korea.

Q_How did you begin working for Korea.net and what is your role as an honorary journalist?

A_“Korea.net provides information on Korean news, economy, history, culture and tourism in multiple languages. After returning to El Salvador, I was lost as to what type of work I should do. I wanted to utilize my Korean skills, but as a student in my country, my choices were extremely limited. Then, my friend told me about the recruitment for honorary journalists at Korea.net and I gathered the courage to apply. In my application, I wrote about my experience with the KOICA training and my Korean class. The recruiter of Korea.net accepted my activities with interest and I became an honorary journalist. My main responsibilities include writing articles for Korea.net, taking photos and producing videos.”

Q_What do you write about in your articles?

A_“I usually write about the unique culture of Korea and the fun times I had during the KOICA training period. I write about Korea’s nightlife, college life, cultural/historical tour experiences- things that cannot be found in El Salvador. Recently, I have been preparing an article on studying the Korean language. I also sometimes participate in events held in El Salvador that are related to Korea and write articles about them as well.”

Q_What is your plan for the future?

A_ “In 2013, when I began studying Korean, my dream was set. Participating in the KOICA training program and working as an honorary journalist at Korea.net is all part of the process of achieving my dream. I plan to continue my focus on studying Korean and earn a scholarship to study abroad in Korea while spreading Korean culture. My final goal is to obtain a master’s degree in international development cooperation from a Korean graduate school. At that point, I would like to come back to El Salvador and contribute to the development of education in my country.”

Written by Ji-yoon Kim(KOICA Intern Reporter)
Photo by Fatima Munoz(University of El Salvador)

A more detailed account of the KOICA's project for supporting Rwanda rural community can be found in 'Overseas KOICA' from October 2017 issue of the <KOICA Newsletter>.
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201710/eng/content2.php?code=201710_020203


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02


03

KOICA's Rwanda rural community support project

The smile of farmers found on 1000 hills

Written · Photo by Da-hyeon Kim (Young Professional, KOICA Rwanda Office)

Despite the fact that 75% of the population work in the farming industry, Rwanda's farming villages are still suffering from difficulties due to droughts and a lack of farming technology. In order to improve this situation, KOICA began the Rwanda rural community support project with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) since 2014 based on the technology and experience of our country's agriculture development.

01
The farmers are making terrace farmland on the hillside.

02
The Rwanda farmers are growing mango and avocado seedlings to plant on the hillside.

03
This woman is removing weeds that have grown along the canal and in the soil to create smooth irrigation for the tomato field.

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2017.WINTER



01

01
Rice paddy that was made by cultivating marshlands (Ruzigambogo District).

Solve rural poverty and enhance quality of life for farmers

Rwanda is known to have 1000 hills and over 70% of the land consists of mountains. The total land is about the size of Gyeongsang-do (24,210km^2) in South Korea and the size of arable land is quite small. With the addition of disasters such as droughts and the farmers' lack of agricultural technology, they are also suffering from low output and food shortages. Despite these weak conditions, 75% of Rwanda's population reside in farm villages and work in the farming industry. As a result, rural poverty is inevitable. Therefore, the Rwanda government is currently working on major policies to reduce poverty in farming areas by conducting agricultural research, working on extension services and improving infrastructure.

KOICA began the Rwanda rural community support project (hereinafter, "RCSP project") with the Ministry of Agriculture and Animal Resources (MINAGRI) from 2014 based on the technology and experience of our country's agriculture development. The Rwanda office is conducting a Project Community Unit (PCU) in 6 regions including Ruterana, Kajevuba, Bwanya, Kayonyomba, Ruzigambogo and Rwinkwavu led by 3 Korean professionals.

Up to 3 harvests with the development of marshlands and hillsides

In order to expand the insufficient farmland and create it in good condition, the RCSP project is developing marshlands in between mountains and mountainous hillsides near these marshlands. The climate of Rwanda consists of a dry season and a rainy season and usually can produce 2 harvests per year. The rice patties depend solely on rain for water and therefore, productivity is fairly low.

Fortunately, the irrigated marshland developed through the RCSP project has high productivity and can produce up to 3 harvests per year. Vegetable and rice farming have high yields in marshlands and therefore, is appropriate for expanding profits for farmers. Through the project, the farmland of marshlands increased by over two times and water was supplied to the farmland through the development of an irrigation system.

In the mountainous hillsides that surround the marshlands, the soil erodes due to the torrential rain during the rainy season and creates risks of landslides. In order to prepare for this, regions with relatively gentle slopes and deep soil were constructed as a stair-shaped farmland, or in other words, a terrace. In regions with steep slopes, erosion control crops that are also profitable such as fruit trees, avocados, acacia and eucalyptus were planted to protect the hillsides.

Agricultural experts dispatched··· Enhancing agricultural technology through on-site education

Most of the Rwanda farmers are farming using the traditional method. 'Traditional method' in this sense refers to planting various crops for self-sufficiency without even adding fertilizer. Crops produced in this way have very low yields and may even be insufficient for farmers to produce their own supply. Therefore, the RSCP project organized the local farmers into cooperative units such as the Self-Help Group* or Water Users Association, educated them on agricultural technology and is working on joint production and joint sales.

* **Self-Help Group:** a group that shares common problems, encourages each other, and receives and gives help.

The first step of the project involves a demonstration in which they show the farmers the agricultural technique they originally used and the agricultural technique taught by the experts so that they can compare the efficiency of both. A Farmer Field School is provided to the farmers for each primary farming period. During the demonstration stage, the farmers learn the importance of agricultural technology, gain motivation and gradually start putting more effort into their own farmland. Meanwhile, the dispatched agricultural experts conduct examinations at a suitable time for pest control and teach them how to correct certain aspects by monitoring the farming process. In addition, the project is actively supporting the farmers so that they may increase productivity and income by providing high-quality seeds and fertilizer, and having them visit more developed regions.

The smile of farmers found on 1000 hills



Nsanzumukiza Japhet
- Self-Help Group President, Kazebuba District

"Because KOICA made our marshlands into farmland with irrigation through the RCSP project, our farmland has increased by over two times. In addition, we were able to reduce the time until harvest and produce many high-quality tomatoes for a profit because they taught us about agricultural technology."



Seminega Aminadabu
- President of the cooperative, Ruzigambogo District

"We didn't have much knowledge about rice farming, but we learned about how to use fertilizer and seeds through the project. In particular, they gave the farmers connections to the market or purchasers and we were able to sell them at a good price."



Mukaremera Azela
- Self-Help Group Leader, Ruzigambogo District

"In the past, the farmers lacked motivation and only produced enough for their families to eat. Now, we are able to save profits and pay for our children's education and health insurance."

The Self-Supporting Rural Development Project in Cambodia
By and through the villagers

Cambodia has an annual economic growth rate of about 7% and the poverty rate, which was at 50% in 1990, has recently dropped down to around 10%. On the other hand, the poverty rate of farming villages in which over 70% of the entire population resides in is at 25%, a fairly high percentage. KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) is making a new effort to improve the quality of life in the farming villages of Cambodia and for sustainable development.


01




02

01
Cambodia-Korea Rural Development Center.

02
Before (up) and after (down) of the construction of Kol village, which is one of the model villages, using agricultural water.

Sustainable development based on resident participation

Cambodia's agricultural sector has high potential due to its expansive land in comparison to its population, abundant water resources including the Mekong River and climate that is suitable for rice farming. Nevertheless, the lives of the farmers are not improving very easily. Support from donor countries has been centered around hardware such as construction/facilities and therefore, related public servants are not able to develop competence, and the residents' reliance on aid has increased as well. In order to overcome the limits of the existing methods of support and help the farming village experience consistent growth, KOICA has been working on the 'Self-Supporting Rural Development Project with Participatory Approach' in Cambodia since 2014 in which the residents come up with issues affecting the village and participate in activities for improvement.

As part of the project, KOICA opened a Cambodia-Korea Rural Development Center in Kampong Speu Province for developing the competence of local public servants and training village leaders. They also selected 30 model villages and provided a budget for residents to create requests and execute the project by cooperating with Cambodia's Ministry of Rural Development(MRD).

In order to learn more about the conditions of the project, we met with Chen Chim, who is supervising the management of 10 local model villages and Aum Phos, the chief of the Sovong Leu village, which is one of the model villages.

Written by Hyo-jin Kang (KOICA Intern Reporter)
Photo by KOICA Cambodia Office

"Project could gather momentum with mutual trust between Village Committee and residents as well as sense of ownership"

Chen Chim, Deputy Director of Kampong Speu provincial department of rural development of MRD



Q_What were some difficulties you experienced in the development of the farming villages of Kampong Speu Province?

A_"The farming villages of Kampong Speu Province suffer from low productivity due to a lack of infrastructure and technology such as roads or irrigation facilities. Despite the poor environment, the government budget for agricultural development is the same as basic administration costs. Because only minor developments that generally rely on support funds are taking place, the villagers developed the thought that agricultural development was the responsibility of charities and did not actively develop their own capabilities."

Q_Which is the most successful model village out of the 10 model villages in Kampong Speu and what do you think brought about the success?

A_"It was the construction of drinking water facilities at the Sovong Leu village. A drinking water facility was the biggest necessity for the village, and it also had the advantage of being able to expand to surrounding villages in the future. The element that made it successful was trust between the Village Development Committee and the residents. The committee made efforts to manage the project transparently with a strong will, and the villagers participated in the project with a sense of ownership and responsibility, putting their utmost trust in the committee."

Q_What is the Ministry of Rural Development's plan for Kampong Speu?

A_"This project received positive feedback from numerous organizations, development partners, local authorities and villagers. We plan to expand projects like this one by sharing our experience of managing successful model villages with more villagers."

"Creation of written business requests with help from public servants-Construction of drinking water facility through KOICA experts"

Aum Phos, chief of Sovong Leu village



Q_Please give us a brief introduction of Sovong Leu village.

A_"Sovong Leu village amounts to 68ha with rice fields of 35ha, plantations of 15ha and living space of 18ha. A total of 110 households and 525 residents reside in the village.

Q_We heard that the construction of the drinking water facility for the villagers was a big success. Could you explain the process?

A_"First, we came up with the issues of the village with the villagers. Our village was far from the nearest water source and our villagers were not supplied with sufficient water. The biggest issue was the fact that we had to buy water at a high cost from businesses. In order to resolve this, we created a written business request for the construction of a drinking water facility with the help of the public servants of the Ministry of Rural Development.
The public servants learned about the agricultural development experiences of Korea and accumulated expertise. The completed written business request was evaluated by an expert dispatched from KOICA and they helped conduct the project according to the detailed plan. After gaining approval for the project, the residents contributed or provided labor to participate in the construction of the facility. Through this drinking water facility, the residents were able to obtain water at a low cost."

Q_What other changes did the village experience?

A_"The villagers received training on farming, animal husbandry, and culturing from KOICA, and were able to increase productivity and income by applying the skills they learned. In addition, they received training on the environment and hygiene, and installed a fence that separates the area for dwelling and raising livestock, installed restrooms, fixed roads, etc."





01

A KOICA Volunteer Da-young Lee, who is teaching 'smart agriculture' in Indonesia

"I want to plant a flower of hope in Indonesia"


02

107th member Da-young Lee was dispatched to the Riau Agriculture High School in the Riau Province of Sumatra Island, Indonesia. She majored in agriculture simply because she 'liked soil and flowers' and after 10 years of accumulating experience in the farming · floriculture field, she gave up everything and headed to Indonesia. Since she was in university, she always dreamed of becoming a KOICA volunteer member and planting seeds all over the world. We reveal our interview with Lee, who is now teaching about new crops and cultivation techniques in Indonesia and planting meaningful seeds, just as she dreamed.

Q_We heard that you are volunteering at the largest agriculture high school in Riau Province. What is the environment like?

A_"Riau Province is nicknamed 'oil land' because it produces oil from both below and above the ground. It is a place blessed with the climate and resources that can produce petroleum from below the ground and palm oil from above the ground.
The Riau Agriculture High School where I work is one of 3 special high schools affiliated with the Riau Provincial Office. Unlike general schools, the students are exempt from paying tuition (fees for school-supporting association) 4 times a year and the dormitory is free of charge as well. The system mainly supports students who had good grades in middle school, but could not afford to go to high school due to a difficult family background and students from rural areas with no high schools."

Q_What are the activities and goals you are focusing on?

A_"The activities I have been focusing on since being dispatched to this school include education on agricultural techniques and new crops. I am teaching about crops that are currently not being produced in the area, but have the potential to be. In particular, I am concentrating on flowering plants rather than that of vegetables and fruit trees. The unit cost of flowering plants is generally higher than that of vegetables and fruit trees. The unit cost of flowering plants is expensive in Indonesia as well. In particular, flowers or firewood is sold at a slightly higher price.
This school has many students who come from difficult family backgrounds. I hope that the lives of these students can improve when they graduate after learning the cultivation techniques of high-income crops."



03

04

05

Q_We heard that the prospects for the seedling culture business and flowering plant market are bright in Jakarta. Why is this so? What type of changes have you felt in Indonesia?

A_"The GDP of Indonesia is 15th place in the global ranking as of 2017. The sector that is developing more and more as the competitiveness of countries increases is the landscaping sector. This is clearly exemplified in the countries with the highest GDP ranking including U.S, China, Japan, Germany, and U.K in that order. As the competitiveness of Indonesia is also increasing, I can feel that the capital of Jakarta has planned its urban landscaping very well.
In addition, one of the world's top agricultural pesticide/seed companies called Syngenta created a research institute and plantation in Sulawesi Island and Jakarta, Indonesia and is flourishing in the floricultural industry. These situations alone prove that the future of Indonesia's floricultural industry is bright."

Q_It has been about 1 year and a half since you have been dispatched to Indonesia. What is your biggest achievement so far?

A_"A notable achievement is the construction of a nursery in the school. My biggest achievement is the fact that the cultivation techniques and cultivation of plants that have not yet been taught are in progress. Secondly, for the first time at the school, sunflowers did not naturally sprout, but were made into a landscape through the creation of an artificial lot. I taught the students how to cultivate and replant plants using a port rather than the method of direct sowing (sowing directly into the ground). The students and teaching staff learned that sunflowers had other purposes than to consume the seeds. The city I am living in consists of landscapes that are made with mainly trees. It is the same for the school. This was the first landscape to use flowering plants instead of trees, so it received much attention."

01 The nursery of Riau Agriculture High School, which Da-young Lee chose as the biggest achievement.
02 Da-young Lee going to work. On Mondays and Tuesdays, she wears the same uniform as public servants of Indonesia.
03 The beginning stage of the sunflower bed landscape and a recent image of the successful cultivation.
04 Class that is conducted based on hands-on activities.
05 Public officials of Indonesia including the vice governor of Riau Province joined to support the opening ceremony of the nursery, which is called 'Green house'.

Q_We heard that you are trying to secure funds for a work scholarship system. Is this the first time making a work scholarship system?

A_"There is a scholarship system, but it is the first time adopting a work scholarship system. We have selected 10 3rd grade students based on their family backgrounds and diligence, and are working as a team. We have completed the class on the theory of the plant to be cultivated, and from mid-November, we plan to begin cultivating. If the cultivation is successful, we plan to sell the entire harvest to the Riau Education Office, with which we concluded an MOU, and 40% of that amount will go towards scholarships for the students."

Q_What is your plan for the future?

A_"I plan to focus on cultivation in Indonesia. My goal is to succeed in cultivating and selling the crops and providing the first scholarships to the work scholarship students. From mid-November, we plan to try producing new bed soil as well. If we succeed in not only cultivating the crops, but even producing bed soil, I believe it will be very helpful in gathering school development funds.

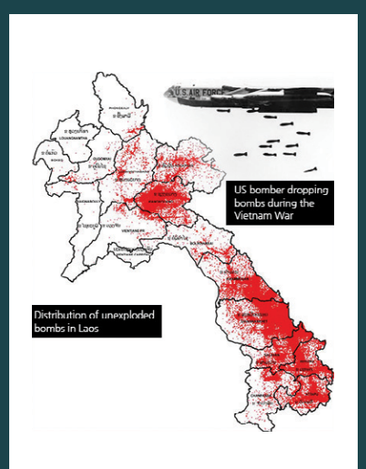
Written byJa-rim Jung
Photo by KOICA Indonesia Office



Hot Potato for the Past 40 Years: The Anti-bomb War

Pursuing Safety and Growth by Removing Unexploded Bombs

Laos, the country on which the largest number of bombs were dropped during the Vietnam War, is still exposed to the dangers of explosion. The unexploded bombs and landmines dropped during the war still have threatened the safety of residents and hindered the development of the country. Let's learn about what the international community, KOICA has done to address the issue.



Written · Photo by Ji-eun Kim(Young Professional, KOICA Laos Office)

Bombs Distributed in 14 States Bordering Vietnam Among the 17 States of Laos

The United States dropped numerous bombs using bombers during the Vietnam War that took place on the Indochina Peninsula between 1964 and 1973. Laos is the country in which the largest numbers of bombs were dropped.

Unexploded bombs are spread out along the 14 states of Laos bordering Vietnam among the country's 17 states. Savannakhet, Xiengkhuang, Salavan and Khammouan are the most serious among them. 25% of the 9100 villages in Laos are exposed to unexploded bombs, with a total number estimated to be upwards of 80 million. Unexploded bombs shift around as well due to natural disasters including floods and landslides, thereby expanding the potential area of pollution.

An average of one person per week suffers an injury or dies from unexploded bombs. The number of victims who either died or became crippled has exceeded 20,000 since the end of the war. 40% of the victims between 2000 and 2009 are children. Most of them were injured through an explosion while playing with the unexploded bomb, not knowing what it was.

Unexploded bombs are untraceable, making the construction of roads and buildings difficult. They are a threat to daily life and one of the factors that hinders the economic development of Laos.

01 UXO Information Center in Xiengkhuang.
02 Meeting with beneficaries in Xiengkhuang.



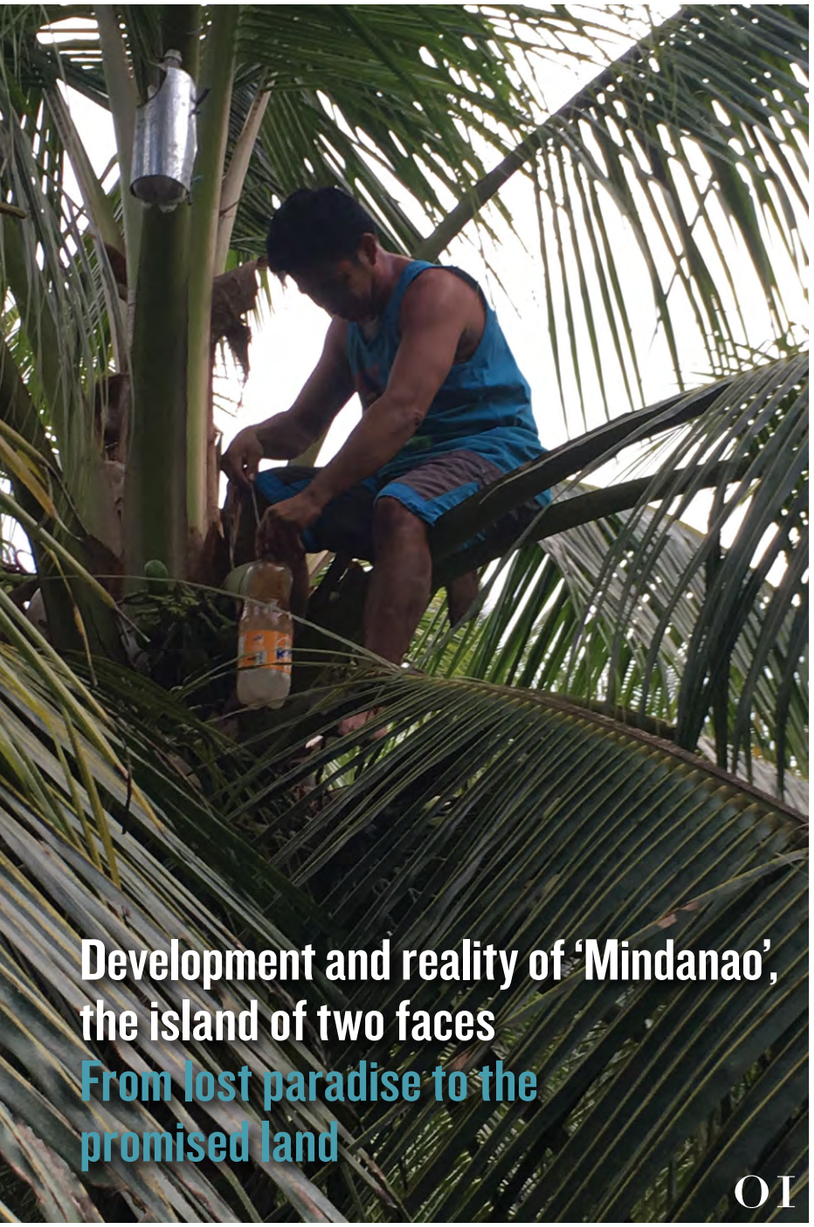


Participation by International Community including the UNDP… KOICA Actively Removes Bombs

In consideration of the fact that unexploded bombs seriously threaten the safety of the people and hinder rural development, the Laotian government requested help from the international community. Thanks to the UN Development Plan (UNDP), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Laotian government was able to establish UXO (Unexploded Ordnance) Lao, an organization tasked with removal of unexploded bombs in 1966. And in 2006, with support from UNDP, the National Regulatory Authority (NRA) for the UXO and Mine Action Sector was established.

NRA is an organization that establishes and adjusts policies regarding unexploded bombs. All unexploded bomb project support agencies in Laos are operating under the supervision of the NRA. The Laotian government has selected Reduce the Impact of UXO as the 9th Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) of the UN in 2010 and has selected Lives Safe from UXO in 2015 as the self-development goal of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The United States decided to supply three times more what it did in the last two years and also 90 million dollars over three years following 2016 to remove unexploded bombs in Laos. Australia, Canada and Switzerland are continuing to cooperate with and support the common goals of Reduce the Impact of UXO through UNDP. KOICA has also removed unexploded bombs in cooperation with UNDP in 11 states contaminated by unexploded bombs in Vientiane, the capital of Laos, in the amount of 3 million dollars between 2014 and 2017. Conducted projects include landmine hazard training, support of unexploded bomb victims, training unexploded removal teams, support for unexploded bomb removal activities, and strengthening of capacity for the unexploded bomb removal office. Through continued help from the international community, we hope for a future where the children of Laos would be able to play anywhere without fear of explosives.



Development and reality of ‘Mindanao’, the island of two faces
From lost paradise to the promised land

01

In February, Deputy Country Director of the Philippine Office, Sang-back Lee, traveled across Mindanao Island as a preliminary investigation for KOICA’s new project. We ascertained the conditions of Mindanao and KOICA’s development plan through the 4 day trip from Cotabato in the far west to Davao in the far east.

When we think of ‘Mindanao, Philippines’, we easily think of martial law or anxiety over public safety due to the recent Marawi incident. The Mindanao region suffers from the greatest poverty and difficulties even within the Philippines due to the long civil war and political/religious conflict. However, referred to as an example of paradise on earth due to its abundance of fruits and reputation for Del Monte juice, Dole bananas and coconuts, Davao, which is located in the Mindanao Islands, is also deemed to be the cleanest and safest city in the Philippines thanks to the efforts of President Duterte during his service as mayor for over 20 years.

Enthusiasm of the Philippine government on development of Mindanao

In the Philippines, interest in the regional development of Mindanao is very high. Although it has come to a lull due to the Marawi incident, interest in and importance of the development of Mindanao has been increasing since the Duterte Administration gained power. When I participated in the Philippines Development Forum last November, one of the five sectional meetings was on the development of Mindanao. The Philippines even made a separate government organization called the MinDA·(Mindanao Development Authority) and is amassing efforts to develop Mindanao in the fields of politics/economics/society/culture. According to the plan of the MinDA, they are aiming for the five development goals of 1) the rule of integrity, accountability and participation 2) decline in poverty and strengthening of rights of the poor and weak 3) rapid, comprehensive and sustained economic growth 4) justice, peacekeeping and constitutional government 5) adaptation and mitigation of environmental maintenance and climate change, and are beginning projects in relation to each field to implement these goals.

Is sustainable development in Mindanao possible?

I visited Mindanao Island because of the ‘Support to Agriculture and Agribusiness Enterprises in Mindanao for the Sustainable Development Project in Philippines’ requested by the Philippine UN Food & Agriculture Organization (FAO). The aim of the project is to achieve sustainable regional development through the recovery of the agriculture and fishery industries and business invigoration in Maguindanao and Southern Cotabato of the Mindanao Islands, Philippines.

We visited one region in Bangsamoro of the Mindanao Island and the location of four projects that are not part of Bangsamoro. Despite our thorough preparation such as verifying safety through discussion with Korea’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Philippine Embassy and the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS), and moving in sync with the guide of UN vehicles, I still felt anxious in one corner of my mind.

However, after arriving in the Mindanao region, it was not much different from any other countryside village in the Philippines. Except for the endless banana and coconut trees, some canyons and the mountainous area in the background, it was a place filled with the laughter of pure children just like anywhere else. The FAO employee, who was our guide, said that there was a military base of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) just five minutes down the road we were passing by, but we were too afraid to go further.

KOICA opens vocational training center and supports invitational training to Korea

For the development of Mindanao region, KOICA has been working in various forms such as conducting projects, dispatching volunteers, hosting invitational training and making cooperation with private organizations (NGO). The biggest project among these is without a doubt the Korea-Philippine project for construction of a vocational training center in Davao (2003-2005/$5 million). The Davao vocational training center is the Davao office of the Philippine Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TEDSA) and it has been maintaining the highest standards in terms of scale or ability within the Philippines.

Since the establishment of the vocational training center, a total of 24 KOICA volunteers have been dispatched since 2005, who are not only volunteering, but also successfully fulfilling their roles as civilian diplomats of Korea.

Moreover, in February, they held an invitational training program to Korea for the civil servants of the Mindanao MinDA in an effort to pass down the development experience of Korea and establish a development strategy.

Even though it is a land of conflict and pain, people’s efforts to send their children to schools and stably develop the village are the same as any other place on the globe. I truly hope that the residents of Mindanao including the Marawi region, where people who survived still remain as victims not being able to return to their hometown, may find stability. And I also hope that Mindanao region may regain peace and its reputation of being paradise on earth again.

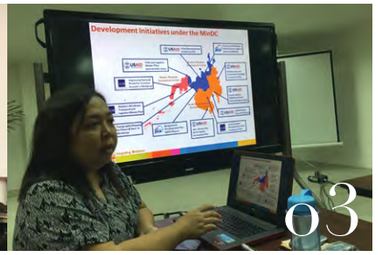
Written by Sang-back Lee(Deputy Country Director, KOICA Philippine Office)

A more detailed account of the KOICA’s development plan for Mindanao Island of Philippine can be found in ‘Overseas KOICA’ from October 2017 issue of the <KOICA Newsletter>.
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201710/eng/content2.php?code=201710_020205



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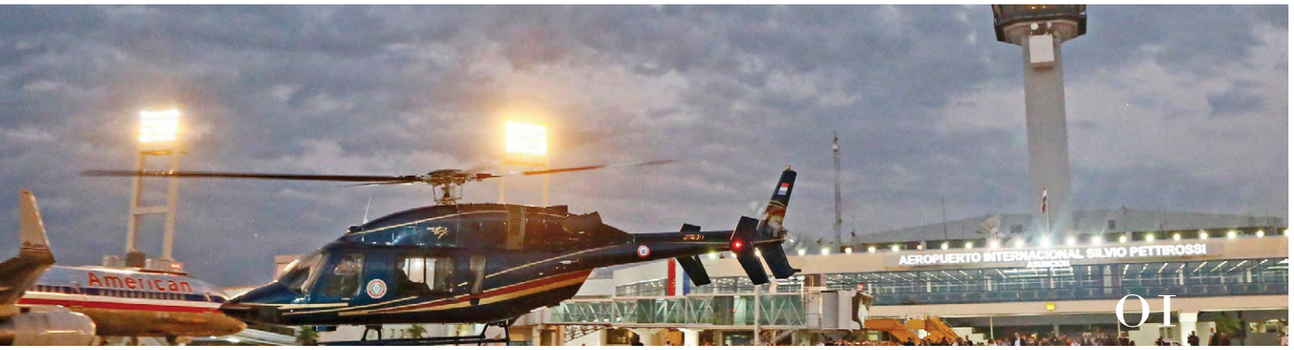


03

01 **A coconut tree in Mindanao island.**

02 **A business trip to Mindanao.**

03 **The development plan and project for Mindanao.**



01

KOICA's project for Establishment of the Master Plan for the Development of Civil Aviation

Planting the seeds for an aviation hub in the heart of South America

Paraguay has an annual growth rate of 3.6% and is continuing to experience steady growth. However, in order to sustain this growth, resolving Paraguay's chronic issue of improving infrastructure is urgent. Among these issues, KOICA has conducted a project for 'Establishment of the Master Plan for the Development of Civil Aviation (2014~2017/$3 million) to support the development of Paraguay's aviation infrastructure.



02

Written · Photo by Dal-hae Park(Young Professional, KOICA Paraguay Office)


03



04

Aviation advancement necessary due to inland area…

Paraguay is a landlocked country located in the center of South America. The Paraguayan people cannot use sea routes due to this geopolitical characteristic, and therefore, if a land route is blocked, all directions are blocked and it is difficult to get out of the country. However, if the land·flight transportation methods are effectively connected, the situation would change. Because Paraguay is located in the center of South America, it can also become the hub of the aviation/logistics industry based on transportation infrastructure.

Paraguay is continuing to make efforts to overcome this geopolitical limit and utilize it for national development. The Paraguayan government has proposed the improvement and construction of transportation infrastructure and the development of efficient transportation as part of the 2030 National Development Plan (Plan Nacional de Desarrollo Paraguay 2030) and has been dedicated to the expansion of infrastructure. In order to help Paraguay grow into the hub of the South American aviation/logistics industry, KOICA has made a partnership with the Incheon International Airport Corporation(IIAC) and conducted a project for 'Establishment of the Master Plan for the Development of Civil Aviation' from 2014.

01 Silvio Pettirossi International Airport in Paraguay.
02 Group picture for final briefing on the project for 'Establishment of the Master Plan for the Development of Civil Aviation' on June 27, 2017.
03 Han-deok Cho, Head of KOICA Paraguay Office (far left), Min-sik Ahn, Ambassador of Republic of Paraguay in Korea (center).
04 Han-deok Cho, Head of KOICA Paraguay Office, and President Luis Manuel Aguirre Martinez of Civil Aviation Agency of Paraguay.

Benchmarking against International Airport 'hub model'

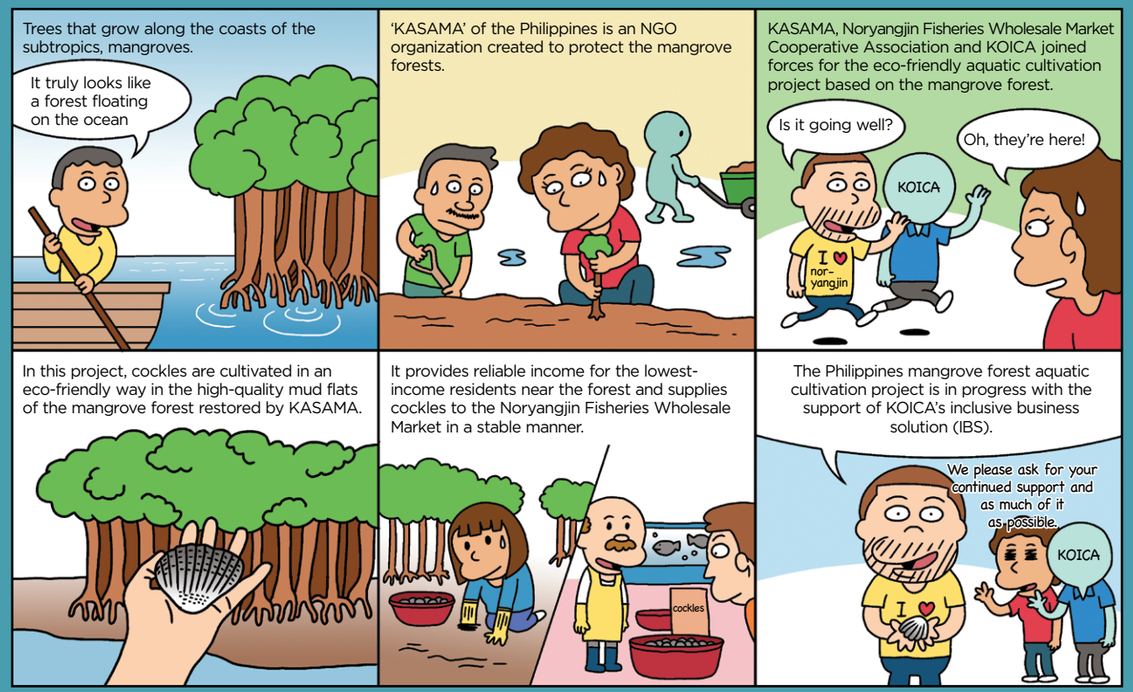
KOICA has provided a foundation for the Silvio Pettirossi International Airport to grow into the hub of the aviation/logistics industry within South America, which has the capacity for the surrounding countries as well as the coastal countries of the Pacific. More specifically, it proposed the establishment of national and low-cost airlines, establishment of cargo air routes and the reorganization/invigoration of 12 main airports. KOICA also created a vision for the 'development of a complex air city' that develops the region surrounding airports in connection to the invigoration of airports by cooperating with various professional institutes.

As part of the master plan project, affiliates of the Paraguay airport visited Incheon International Airport in April and received training. IIAC shared their experience on the development and management of the airport through training programs and tours. After completing the training program on 'IIAC's strategy and management for transforming into an airport hub', the Paraguay affiliates debated on the method of applying the experiences of Korea to their own country. In addition, they came up with a rough outline for the development of the Paraguay airports and a plan for the integrated aviation infrastructure project utilizing their visits on various facilities related to the development and management of the airport.

Investment strategy briefing in Asuncion

On June 26, KOICA held a final briefing and investment strategy briefing for the project for 'Establishment of the Master Plan for the Development of Civil Aviation' to review and conclude the progress of the past 19 months at the World Trade Center Asuncion. At the opening ceremony, President Luis Manuel Aguirre Martinez of the Civil Aviation Agency of Paraguay delivered a message of gratitude to all who provided efforts for the construction of the master plan and said, "We will actively incorporate this master plan into the aviation policies of Paraguay, give impetus to the aviation industry of Paraguay and transform the paradigm of South American aviation."

Digging up cockles in the mud flats of the Philippines?
Noryangjin Fisheries Wholesale Market provides farming technology



* **KOICA Inclusive Business Solution:** a project that contributes to the economic and social development of developing countries by connecting Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Creating Shared Value (CSV) with KOICA's development cooperation projects. The project aims to increase the income of the lowest-income class in developing countries.



Chairman of Noryangjin Fisheries Market Cooperative, Yong-kyeong Kim

"Producing high-quality, eco-friendly fishery products is a win-win project for both fishermen and for us"

Mangrove forests are referred to as the 'forest of the sea' because it absorbs carbon dioxide, the main cause of global warming, prevents floods and forms high quality mud flats. The Noryangjin Fisheries Market Cooperative, carried out a project to increase the income of residents using the mangrove forest through KOICA's IBS program.

Written by Myoung-ji Lee(KOICA Intern Reporter)
Photo by Noryangjin Fisheries Market Cooperative · Cartoon by Se-hoon Hong





01
Eco-friendly shrimp farm.

03
KOICA employees and executives of the Noryangjin Fisheries Market Cooperative pose for a picture in front of the aquatic product refrigerator truck. From the left, Auditor Jun-ho Kim of the Noryangjin Fisheries Market Cooperative, Employee Ye-ji Lim of KOICA, Chief Director Yong-kyeong Kim of the association, Assistant Director Sang-baek Lee of KOICA Philippines Office.

Q_Please give us an introduction to 'the Noryangjin Fisheries Market Cooperative KASAMA* Mangrove Forest Environmental Friendly Aquaculture Value Chain Development Project'.

A_"This is a project that ensures stable income for the lowest income residents of the mangrove forest region and a consistent supply line of high-quality fishery products for the Noryangjin Fisheries Market Cooperative through eco-friendly aquaculture. We are installing the facilities and equipment necessary for cultivation and conducting training on farming technology. The fishing industry is a means of living for the local residents accounting for 60% of their income. However, income is unstable and marketing channels are limited because of its small scale and therefore, it is difficult to generate significant income."

* **KASAMA (Kalibo Save the Mangroves Association):** an NGO established in 1989 for the mangrove forest recovery project.

Q_How did you begin eco-friendly aquaculture project in the Philippines?

A_"One of our members suggested the idea after seeing the expansive mud flats of the mangrove forest during his visit to the Philippines. We thought it would be good to cultivate cockles in an eco-friendly way in the high-quality mud flats restored by KASAMA and officially began the project after being selected for KOICA's IBS program."

Q_What are the benefits of the project to the Noryangjin Fisheries Market Cooperative?

A_"About 80% of the Korean aquatic product consumption relies on deep-sea fisheries and imports. Therefore, the supply of imported fish and shellfish is unstable and issues related to quality occur as well. If we conduct this project, the Noryangjin Fisheries Wholesale Market will be able to distribute high-quality, eco-friendly aquaculture products at a low price and obtain long-term competitiveness."

Q_What are the responsibilities of KOICA, the Noryangjin Fisheries Market Cooperative and KASAMA?

A_"KOICA has provided as much as 70% of the total budget and consulting on local business structures, etc. The majority of our cooperative association's members are middlemen/retailers who operate small-scale businesses and lack professional knowledge on this type of business management. Therefore, we received a great deal of help from KOICA. The the Noryangjin Fisheries Market Cooperative is responsible for construction and maintenance of the cultivation facilities, and KASAMA is responsible for local resident networking, protection of the ecosystem and local resident welfare."

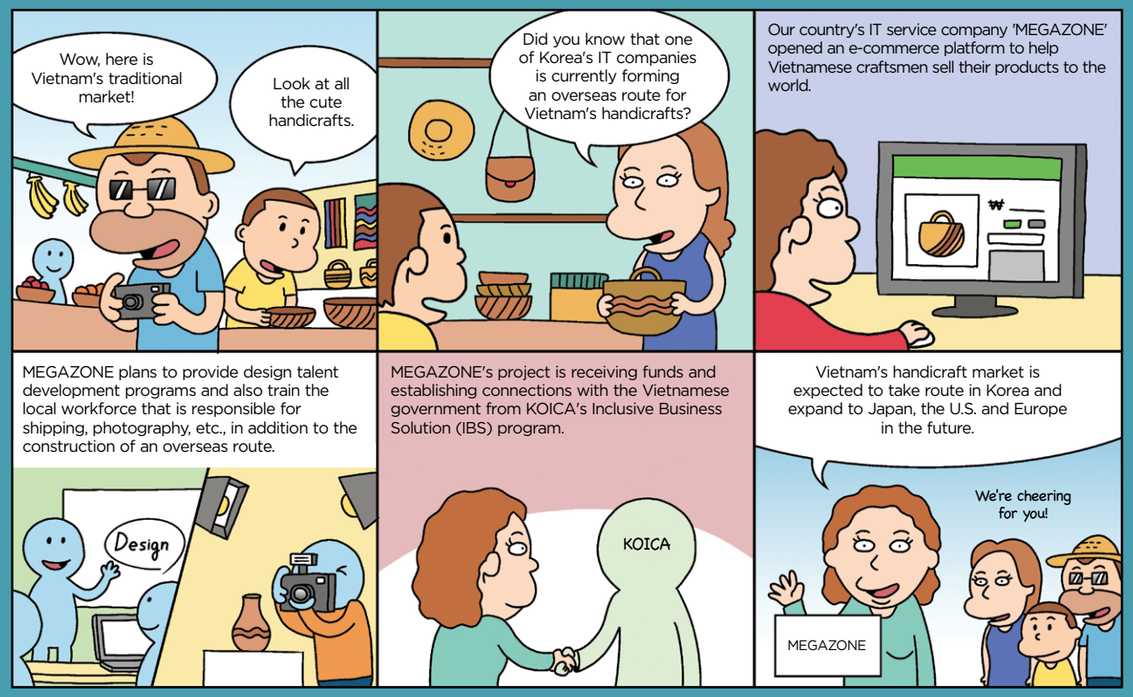
Q_What is the most difficult aspect of conducting the product?

A_"It is not easy to create a business structure that 'guarantees income for the lowest-income class', which is the essence of the 'inclusive business.' After much thought, we created a cooperative association composed of local residents. The local cooperative association, KASAMA and the Noryangjin Fisheries Market Cooperative jointly established the social corporation, 'THE TWO FISH COMPANY', and managed the project. 40% of the proceeds were appropriated to the local cooperative association and that entire amount was distributed to local residents."

Q_What are your future plans?

A_"We plan to increase the domestic market share while conducting this project for 3 years until 2019. We also plan to expand from aquatic products to agricultural products. For example, we are considering engaging in cooperation with the mango factories near the mangrove forest for frozen mangoes utilizing the refrigeration warehouses of the farms."

Providing overseas routes to craftsmen of Vietnam through commercial platform.
Mega support from the IT corporation, Megazone



* **Inclusive Business Solution:** 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 projects. It aims to increase income for the lowest-income bracket of developing countries.



The project supervisor, Director Young-Ian Choi of Megazone

"Once we satisfy the picky taste of Korean consumers We plan to expand the market to the US, Japan and Europe"

Handicrafts have long been a means of pride and the main source of income for Vietnamese people. However, due to a lack of product distribution routes or markets, Vietnamese craftsmen are selling their products at a price that is only 1/10 of the price being sold at shops. Therefore, Korea's IT service corporation, Megazone, has decided to provide an overseas route for these craftsmen through KOICA's IBS Program.

Q_Please tell us about Megazone's 'project on strengthening the value chain of Vietnam's handicraft industry'.

A_"This project began from March and will be conducted for 3 years. It is a project for expanding the overseas route for Vietnam's craftsmen using a global e-commerce platform and strengthening design capabilities to improve the product and added value. On one hand, it strengthens the value chain of Vietnam's handicraft industry by training the local workers on e-commerce such as delivery, quality reviews, photography, product sourcing, etc."

Q_Why did Megazone, which is operating a cloud · hosting, digital marketing and digital agency business, decide to focus efforts on the handicraft industry in 'Vietnam'?

A_"While going back and forth for business trips to our branch in Vietnam, I learned of the fact that the craftsmen of rural areas, which the majority of the poor reside in, were producing high-quality handicrafts, but only earning less than 10% of the final sale price due to poor accessibility and insufficient outlets. We thought that if we utilize the shopping mall solution based on Megazone's Cloud Computing Technology called 'Glomerce', the handicrafts could be sold not only in Korea but throughout the world as well."

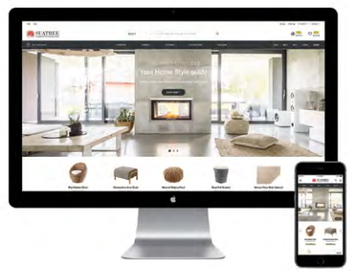
Q_Unlike other IBS program, this one is being conducted as a 'consortium'. Why is this project being conducted as a 'consortium'?

A_"We were looking for a national policy that supported corporate social contribution efforts so that we could provide benefits to more beneficiaries when we came across KOICA's public-private partnership project. We then proposed a project utilizing the e-commerce management know-how of Megazone. However, we couldn't directly help the poor or small-scale craftsmen with e-commerce alone, and therefore, we decided to conduct a consortium with the Korea Institute of Design Promotion to establish the design center and with K.O.A to offer product development training, as KOICA suggested. Megazone and KOICA created a project together."

01
Handicrafts and craftsmen in Vietnam. room.
02
A meeting is in progress with the Vietnamese government in relation to the project. VIETRADE, Megazone and the project managers of KOICA.
03
Main screen of the e-commerce platform to be provided online and on mobile.







Q_We heard that you went on a business trip to Vietnam recently. What was the reaction like from locals?

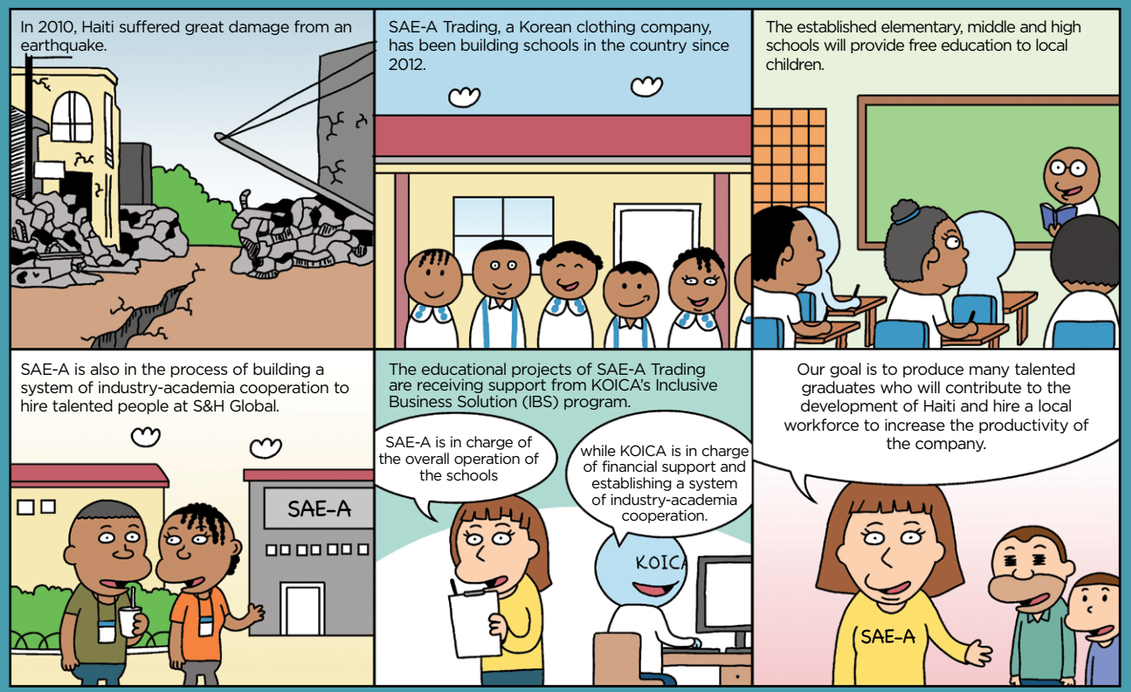
A_"During the business trip, I met with small businesses and craftsmen, and checked for the sales value of the relevant product in Korea, the inventory surplus and if the products were delivered to Korea without being damaged for product sourcing. Most of the beneficiaries I met during my business trip were very interested in the new distribution method, e-commerce. In some ways, I thought sharing this new opportunity with these people could be a source of value in itself."

Q_What is the plan for the project in the future?

A_"It's only been 6 months since we started the project, so we have a long ways to go. Firstly, we plan to develop products by connecting designers and craftsmen through a competition, and provide design training at the Korea-Vietnam Design Center, which will be open in December. In February of next year, when the global e-commerce platform is opened, we plan to establish an operating system by selling the Vietnamese handicrafts to Korean consumers. Once we satisfy the picky tastes of Korean consumers, we plan to expand the market to Japan, US and Europe."

Written by Myoung-ji Lee(KOICA Intern Reporter)
Photo by Megazone · Cartoon by Se-hoon Hong

Forming an Up-to-date Educational Environment in Haiti, One of the World's Poorest Countries. SAE-A Trading Builds a School to Spread Hope



* **Inclusive Business Solution (IBS):** A project that connects resources for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) and Creating Shared Value (CSV) to KOICA's development cooperation business to contribute to the economic and social development of developing countries. It aims to increase the income of the lowest income groups in developing countries.



Director Jin-ah Kim of Global SAE-A leads the project

"Educating children for the future of Haiti, Benefiting both the company and Haiti"

In 2010, 23% of the schools in Haiti collapsed due to an earthquake. This exacerbated the already poor educational environment of Haiti, one of the poorest countries in the world. The Haitian government tried to reconstruct the educational environment, but efforts rarely reached the countryside. In 2012, SAE-A Trading, a Korean clothing export company, has established the S&H School in Karakol through KOICA's IBS Program.

Q_You've already built an elementary school for 390 students along with KOICA in 2012. What made you build a middle & high school this time?

A_"After operating an elementary school for four years, the idea occurred to me that we needed a system which can offer sustainable education. Unfortunately, there was no middle school or high school for local children to attend. That's why we built the new schools."

Q_Is there a reason why you operated the project in Haiti?

A_"Besides humanitarian reasons to help Haiti recover from the earthquake, Haiti is a long-term strategic investment for SAE-A Trading. Because of the US-Haiti Trade Agreement, clothing made in Haiti can enter the United States duty-free. We have built six sewing factories in the Karakol Industrial Complex since 2012 and hired over 10,000 local employees, providing regular technology training. The local employees' skills have greatly improved. We also firmly believe in the idea of 'Education is the Future of a Nation.' For these reasons, we've established the S&H School with KOICA to raise the learning capacity of local children."

Q_How did SAE-A Trading come to participate in the KOICA IBS program?

A_"For a company with an overseas production base like SAE-A Trading, coexistence with the local community is a must. Rather than providing unidirectional support through CSR efforts, we wanted to promote mutual benefits through utilizing the expertise and capacities of the company. That's how we came across the IBS project. We determined that by using the expertise of SAE-A and KOICA, local employees could increase their income by learning about clothing production skills and the children of these employees could gain financial independence through receiving an education."

01 The outside of S&H secondary school.
02 The inside of S&H secondary school.
03 The classroom of S&H secondary school in 2017.



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03

Q_What were some of the challenges of conducting the project in Haiti, often regarded as the poorest country in the world?

A_"Residents, in the beginning, mistook us for an international school with a high tuition. We had to explain that our school is under the Ministry of Education in Haiti that provided free education. To create ties to the local community, we opened up the school grounds and other facilities to the local community as a regional exchange center. Each year, we provide the opportunity to medical volunteers from the Pusan National University School of Medicine and George Washington University School of Nursing."

Q_What are your future plans?

A_"S&H School is a top school that educators in the area wish to visit for the purpose of benchmarking. Once it starts to accept high school students and begins operation as an educational institute for elementary, middle and high school students, we plan on offering tours of clothing manufacturers and teaching industry-academia linking classes. We also hope to build a local plant that manufactures boxes for the clothing products in cooperation with KOICA and eventually hand it over to a social enterprise in Haiti."

A more detailed account of the SAE-A Trading's 'Haiti-Karakol Industrial Complex Middle&High School and Clothing Business Human Capacity Building Project' can be found in 'What's ODA' from December 2017 issue of the <KOICA Newsletter>.
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201712/eng/content3.php?code=201712_020306

Written by Myoung-ji Lee(KOICA Intern Reporter)
Photo by SAE-A · Cartoon by Se-hoon Hong

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