

KOICA is working on a project for reconstructing the school health environment that was ruined in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami in the Aceh region of Indonesia. We have secured health rights for over 40,000 students in approximately 209 elementary schools and improved the standard of health awareness by supplying equipment and medication for school nurse offices offering health education. KOICA plans to strengthen the capacity of health teachers and health center practitioners to establish a sustainable school health system by 2020.

KOICA
Korea International Cooperation Agency

KOICA INSIDE Prof. Sung-tae Hong of SNU taking the lead in fighting neglected tropical diseases in Sudan

KOICA VIEW KOICA offering clean water to Sierra Leone as a gift

OVERSEAS KOICA Flower among flower, which became the hope for the residents of Anao, Philippines

World's Friend KOICA

2018. Autumn
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World's Friend KOICA Newsletter

KOICA
Korea International Cooperation Agency

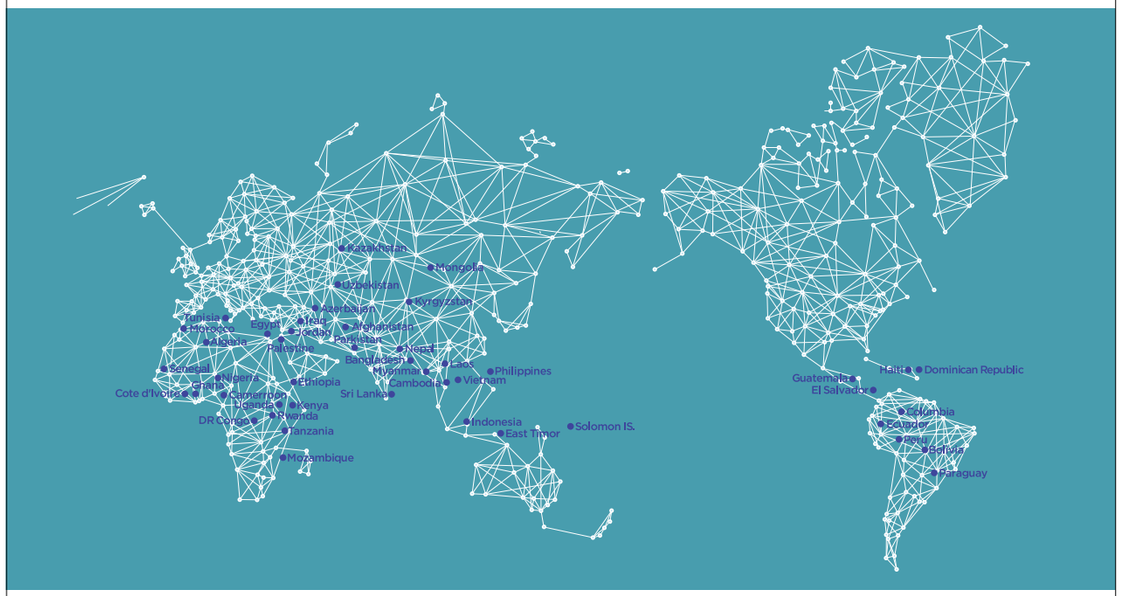


THINK ODA, WITH KOICA

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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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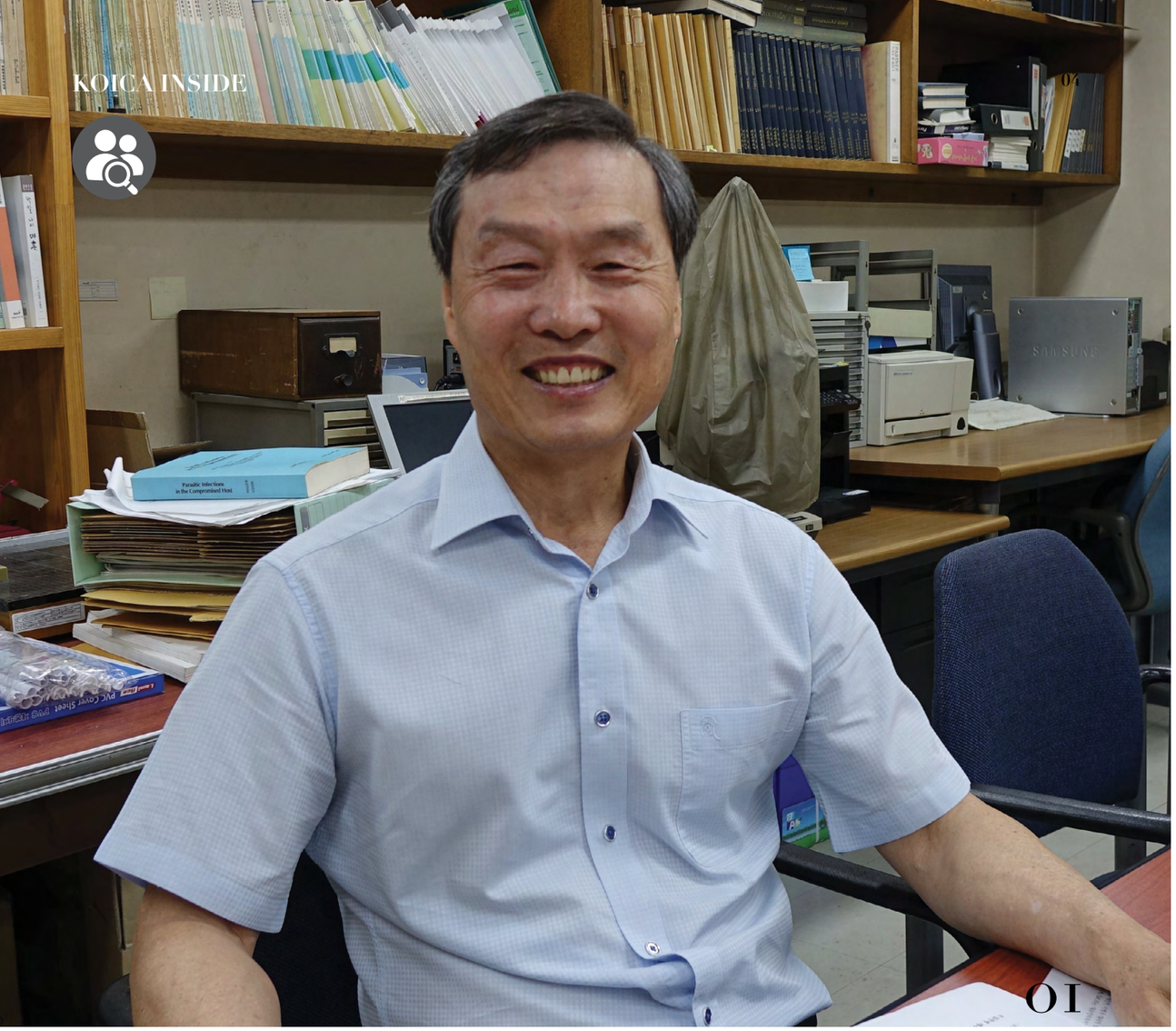
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01

You can learn more about Professor Sung-tae Hong, who has been working 9 years to fight neglected tropical diseases in Sudan in 'KOICA VIEW' in the July 2018 issue of the KOICA Webzine.
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201807/eng/content1.php?code=201807_020102

Prof. Sung-tae Hong of SNU taking the lead in fighting neglected tropical diseases in Sudan

"A project started in a county of the White Nile State nine years ago has been expanded to the entire state and an infection status map has been created"

Neglected tropical diseases(NTD) are tropical endemic diseases that occur mainly in low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asia. Unlike AIDS and tuberculosis, tropical endemic diseases have relatively low mortality rates and do not threaten the residents of high-income countries. Therefore, they are often neglected by the international community and it is difficult to raise funds to fight these diseases. For this reason, the World Health Organization(WHO) classified tropical endemic diseases as NTDs and is carrying out projects to eradicate them. Among the people who have been devoted to the extermination of these diseases is Hong Sung-tae, professor of parasitology at Seoul National University College of Medicine. He has striven to end schistosomiasis, one of the NTDs, in Sudan for the last nine years.

Q_Schistosomiasis is a disease unfamiliar to Koreans. Please briefly introduce the disease and your project.

A_"Schistosomiasis is not found in Korea but is one of the parasitic tropical endemic diseases known as Bilharzia in Africa. The larvae of schistosomes that grow in the bodies of snails living in the lakes or rivers of contaminated areas come into the human body by penetrating into the skin in water. So, contact with water is the main route of infection. Adult schistosomes live in the small intestine or bladder of humans and create lesions. Approximately 200 million people worldwide suffer from the disease.* Symptoms do not appear immediately after infection, but after 6 to 12 months, those infected can experience fever, diarrhea, bloody stool or urine, and even cirrhosis or bladder cancer. My team and I have carried out a project to fight the disease for nine years in Sudan and have been involved mainly in the extermination of the disease in the White Nile State(collective parasite extermination and drinking water projects) and the creation of a map showing the distribution of infectees based on national surveys on schistosome and intestinal parasite infections. We aim to complete this project by December of this year."

01
Prof. Sung-tae Hong in his office in the Seoul National University College of Medicine on the day of this interview

02
Prof. Hong is performing ultrasonic examination in the Alhidep village in the White Nile State

* **Source:** WHO_Schistosomiasis Fact sheets_ http://www.who.int/en/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/schistosomiasis

Q_How did the project start?

A_"Before the start of the project, the Sudanese government recognized the seriousness of the disease and set up a small department called the Schistosomiasis and NTD Program in the Federal Ministry of Health to lead national-level projects. However, the department had only one employee working in a small room. It was not able to play a substantial role, merely that of managing foreign aid. However, as there were note even any foreign aid projects to manage and the suffering of the people continued, the Sudanese government asked the international community to support their efforts to eliminate schistosomiasis. At that time, a local pharmaceutical company called GMC was producing praziquantel, a domestic drug for the treatment of schistosomiasis. Ambassador of Korea to Sudan Lee Byeong-guk, learning about this, contacted us and suggested starting a project in the country, emphasizing that it would be a good opportunity in which Korea could provide substantial support to the people of Sudan and Korean companies doing businesses in the country could also help them."

Q_I heard that children are more severely affected by the disease than adults when infected by it. Why is that so?

A_"Adults are less likely to be infected by schistosomes as they get old because they develop an immunity to them by repeatedly being infected and becoming cured from their childhood. However, since children are not immune to them, the accumulation of infections leads to a superinfection, which can cause much more severe symptoms. Those who are infected by schistosomes suffer from bloody stool or urine due to the destruction of mesenteric veins or bladder veins. On average, adults weigh 60 to 70 kilograms while children weigh 20 to 30 kilograms, so they are more likely to suffer from anemia due to infection. Malnutrition is also frequently suffered by children infected by the disease while growing."

Q_Please briefly explain the project that has been carried out in three phases so far.

A_"The first-phase project was carried out as a pilot project in a county of the White Nile State for three years from 2009. We built a water purification plant, to reduce the area's infection rate from 28.5% to 13.5%, and developed a disease prevention manual. The second-phase project was conducted for four years from 2011. We expanding the project area to seven counties within the state, providing ultrasonic examination, medication and education to the residents. As a result, the infection rate in the first project area decreased again from 13.5% to 9.5%. The third-phase project



02

Written by Chan-eung Park(Intern Reporter, KOICA Public Relations and Communications Department)
Photo by Sung-tae Hong(Professor of department of parasitology and tropical medicine at Seoul National University College of Medicine)

has been under way since 2016 for three years. Our goal has been to expand the project area to the entire White Nile State and to create a national schistosome and intestinal parasite infection map based on national surveys."

Q_What roles have you played in the project

A_"I planned the whole project and determined its orientations. I also played a role similar to that of a commander on the field. A project never works as planned on the field, but when the leader quickly makes necessary decisions, the staff faces less difficulties. From the second phase of this project, I performed bladder ultrasonography and provided simple treatment to general patients in need of care as well as patients targeted by the project. I have also published seven papers in international journals, presenting the results of the project that we have conducted, informing WHO of our activities and bridging the project area and other international organizations."

Q_You have created an infection status map during the third phase of the project to effectively fight schistosomes and intestinal parasites in Sudan. What kind of process was used to develop the map?

A_"During the first eight weeks of the year 2017, we conducted a nationwide survey to create an infection status map. Cooperation with local personnel was essential for the nationwide survey. We divided them into management and field work groups, and provided the two groups with necessary training for a year. We offered the management personnel training in statistical target selection, questionnaire creation and data arrangements, and selected one person each week for training in Seoul. For the field work personnel, we educated them on the skills involved in stool and urine tests so that they could conduct tests meeting global standards. We also held several workshops for them in the local areas. At the same time, we secured instruments for the collection, transportation and examination of specimens*.

As a result of the nationwide survey carried out in cooperation with the trained local personnel, it was estimated that 1.5 million people were infected by schistosoma hematobium living in the bladder and 0.4 million people by schistosoma mansoni parasitic in the intestine. We are now encouraging Sudanese government officials to create a roadmap to combat NTD based on the map. Through this nationwide survey, the Sudanese Ministry of Health and state government officials gained confidence and are now actively participating in the project."

* **Specimen**: excreta of patient collected to check for infection.


01


02

01, 02
Mohammed had suffered from congenital cephalocele. The photos show him before the surgery in December 2010, and after two months of staying at the Seoul National University Hospital, receiving surgery and recovering, in June 2011

02
Prof. Hong with the students who received ultrasonic examination at the Marabae school in the White Nile State on February 7, 2018. His team is also carrying out a project to construct new restrooms in the school, which is in a poor hygienic condition

Q_What are the major achievements of the project?

A_"Above all, the project led to the publication of seven papers in international journals. Of course, you can simply publish the results of a project in the form of a report without presenting them in a paper. However, in this case, the results are reported only to the person in charge, and if he/she is replaced by someone else, the report is often not shared with the successor. However, if you archive the results of a project in an international academic journal in the form of a paper, it is shared among people all over the world who are interested in this field. So, in terms of impact, a paper is incomparably more effective than a report. Therefore, if a professor participates in a project, publishing its results in a journal is a good way to enhance the value of the project. For example, SCI*, an NGO based in the UK, learned about the project through the WHO and decided to provide support in the form of 1 million dollars worth of parasite extermination working expenses in Sudan yearly from 2017 through an annual review. The funds will be used for collective medication to combat schistosomiasis in the project areas. With the money, we can supply anthelmintic to all the schools in the country. This support from SCI is a good example of what we have achieved by promoting the results of our project in the international community."

* **SCI(Schistosomiasis Control Initiative):** a UK-led international NGO working to eliminate schistosomiasis in 17 countries

Q. What is the most unforgettable memory that you have had during the project?

A_"During the second phase of the project, I visited a village in a project area with ultrasonic equipment to check NTD patients. Having heard that a Korean doctor with ultrasonic equipment had come, not only NTD patients but also all the other patients gathered around the clinic. After treating target patients, I examined general patients. It was then that I met a child with congenital cephalocele. The young boy was named Mohammed Abakir and his brain was flowing under his skin through a hole on the front cranial bone that he had been born with, to cover his eye and nose. He was not able to go to school and had difficulties with daily activities. I brought him to Seoul and helped him to undergo neurosurgery. The surgery was successful and he returned to his village as a handsome boy. Through such experiences, the villagers grew a deeper trust in our team. The project was originally scheduled to be completed in two phases but it was extended for a third phase as 1,700 Sudanese villagers requested the continuation of the project through the embassy."


03

Q_This project has been recognized as one of the most successful projects in Africa. What made this success?

A_"KOICA was open to the opinions of experts and provided long-term support for this project. This has greatly contributed to the success of the project. In the field of parasite extermination, a short-term project is nothing but a one-off show. It takes a certain period of time to motivate local residents to voluntarily participate in a project and to gain the effects of education. It also takes a considerable amount of time to effectively reduce reinfection. We have continued the project for a long period of time and in a consistent direction and I think this led to the success of the project. In addition, there were a lot of talented people among the expert and field worker groups in our team. Also, the team members showed brilliant teamwork, maintaining a good relationship."

Q_What are the significance and expected effects of this project?

A_"International aid organizations including the WHO want efficient disease fighting projects, but the projects carried out in Africa so far have been inefficient and failed to achieve consistent results. So, with the completion of the project, the beneficiary area would return to its original state. This project instilled confidence and enthusiasm in the local officials throughout the country, and laid a foundation on which they can independently carry out disease control projects by providing them with project plans established based on nationwide surveys. In this sense, we can say that we have achieved the goals of the project.

Our project in Sudan is expected to provide a model for future infectious disease control activities in Africa. If Korea supports Sudan in their initial projects to implement the roadmap for NTD eradication, it will set a new example for foreign aid projects that support system construction as well as local personnel training."

The story of Volunteer Ho-gyeong Kim, who provides physical education and training project in Cambodia can be found in 'Overseas KOICA' in the August 2018 issue of the KOICA Webzine.
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201808/eng/content3.php?code=201808_020306

Story of Ho-gyeong Kim's physical education and training volunteer work in Cambodia

Building a gym and teaching primary school teachers in a 'wasteland' with no sports facilities and goods

I arrived in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on March 9, 2017, when the dry season was reaching its midway point. What came to my mind first upon arrival was the question 'How can I teach my PE classes in this hot country?' But problems bigger than the hot weather were waiting for me.

To a primary school teacher training center near a remote area sharing borders with Laos

During the local adjustment training period, each volunteer is given the opportunity to visit the institution where they will work. A 7-hour drive in a van took me to a primary school teacher training center in an area sharing a border with Laos where I will teach for two years. The center was established to train teachers to be assigned to elementary schools in the three most underdeveloped provinces: Stung Treng, Mondulkiri and Ratanakiri.

As soon as I arrived at the school, the first thing I wanted to look around at was the schoolyard that I will use for two years. The grass of the schoolyard had grown knee-high and the rusted soccer goal nets with broken poles seemed ready to collapse at any time. The basketball hoop stands were made with a single rim mounted on the deteriorating walls. The balls were too old and flat to be used for classes. In addition, I would have to teach all the two years while fending off the blazing sun, heat and long rainy season. All these conditions gave me a sense of stress at first thought. Also, while observing PE classes for several days, I found another problem. Due to the influence of the weather, PE classes had been often replaced by other classes, making it difficult to provide consistent and systematic education. In these conditions, it seemed impossible for future elementary teachers to cultivate expertise in PE through two-year training.



01

Purchase of sporting goods for classes with the help of KOICA

After the observation trip, I came to the conclusion that, to solve these problems, it was imperative to purchase sporting goods and establish a gym in order to provide PE classes regardless of the weather throughout the year.

One month after I arrived at the training center, I purchased 11 sports items including soccer balls, worth about USD 1,250 with the support of KOICA and used them for my classes. The students marveled at the new sporting goods and enjoyed their classes all the time, which made me feel so happy. Meanwhile, I conducted a preliminary survey before the construction of a gym to hold PE classes regardless of the weather.

With the help of my acquaintances in Cambodia, I analyzed the strengths and weaknesses of the existing gymnasiums in the country including those built through KOICA projects. I was surprised to hear that some gyms had collapsed due to a poor construction. The gym that I would build needed to be solid and offer shade from the sun. I decided to build a basketball court sized gym that would meet these requirements and then I searched for the right construction company.


02


03

Completion of the gym in a simplified form in January despite many limitations Cultivation of professionalism in physical education in the new gym

I first looked for a construction company for the gym in Stung Treng, but all the companies that I consulted with lacked necessary construction skills. I was forced to travel to Phnom Penh, which took seven hours in a single trip and 14 hours, round trip. Throughout the journey, I met several builders but they turned down my proposal saying that Stung Treng is too far from their business sites and that it was impossible to construct the gym with only USD 30,000. However, despite all these limitations, I managed to find and contract with a company and the construction started. Fortunately, the owner of the company had experience as an athlete during his school days, and he clearly understood the necessity of the field. He built a gym with at a height of 7.5m, a width of 18m and a length of 32m using H-beam pillars. In this way, the gym with only a ceiling but no walls was completed on January 25. The costs for setting the basketball, volleyball and futsal goal nets and badminton courts necessary for the gym were supposed to be supported by the school, but it was often difficult to receive that support due to the lack of budget. At that time, I was able to solve the problem with the active help of KOICA's Cambodia office.

In the newly constructed gym, there are currently 12 hours of PE classes taking place and three after-school club lessons(basketball, volleyball, futsal) a week.

In May, for the first time since the opening of the center, a volleyball competition among different classes was held in the gym. Students voluntarily participated in the planning and operation of the event and successfully completed it. Based on this experience, they will be able to organize and hold athletic meetings in the schools to which they will be assigned.

KOICA Cambodia Office's financial and mental support

According to Article 93 of the Korean Education Act, elementary education is defined as 'basic education that promotes the physically, mentally, socially, emotionally and intellectually balanced growth and development for the holistic growth of children rather than education focusing on specific areas or a preparatory one.' As a KOICA volunteer, I feel so proud and rewarded that the future teachers who participated in my classes will develop professionalism in physical education and practice the holistic education in the elementary schools where they will teach after this one to two years of training. I am also very grateful that my activities can contribute to elevating the status of Korea in the world. Lastly, I want to extend my sincere gratitude to KOICA Cambodia Office for its ability to financially and mentally support me.

01 **KOICA PE Volunteer Ho-gyeong Kim**

02 **The gym is being built as part of KOICA projects in Cambodia**

03 **Students are participating in the PE class in the new gym**

Written · Photo by Ho-gyeong Kim(World Friends KOICA Volunteer)

KOICA volunteer Yong-nam Kim teaching Korean in Uzbekistan

"Arranging the MOU with a Korean university, giving young students hope to 'study abroad' in Korea."

Volunteer Yong-nam Kim applied for the KOICA volunteer team to spend the second part of his life more meaningfully by doing some volunteer work. He is currently running after-school classes in which he teaches Korean language and culture in Uzbekistan, where many Koreans are residing. For the local people who have a strong interest in Korea, but not enough information, Yong-nam Kim is leading the cultural interaction as an evangelist of the Korean Wave.



Q_Could you introduce yourself to us, and tell us what your motivation was in applying for the volunteer position?
A_"After ending my 34 year long life in the public office, I searched for a life of service, and came to Karshi State University in Uzbekistan, located in the middle of the Silk Road, as a volunteer dispatched by KOICA. I am currently teaching Korean by running after-school classes targeting students of Uzbekistan Karshi State University, high school students in Karshi, or adolescents who are looking for employment after they complete their high school education. There are three different levels of classes depending on the proficiency- beginner, beginner to intermediate, and intermediate courses. The total contact hours are 26 hours per week. I have always had an interest in the nations located in Central Asia where there are many foreign Korean residents called 'Koryoin,' so I feel very happy and satisfied that I am volunteering to spread the Korean language and culture to them."

Q_I heard that you arranged the Memorandum of Understanding(MOU) between Hanbat National University and Uzbekistan Karshi State University. What was the background for that?
A_"Since the recommencement of the Korean class after more than one year's gap, Korean language education is booming again not only in Uzbekistan Karshi State University, but throughout the entire region. Furthermore, students of Uzbekistan Karshi State University have a strong desire to study abroad in Korea, but they lack the relevant information on Korean universities, and no Korean universities had established a sisterhood relationship or any kind of interaction with Uzbekistan Karshi State University before. Fittingly, Hanbat National University had the agenda of nurturing global talents and becoming one of the advanced universities with global standards. So that is how we came to bridge the establishment of a sisterhood relationship, and in November, 2017, the president and the persons concerned visited Uzbekistan Karshi State University to sign an MOU."

Q_What role did you play in the process of establishing the MOU?
A_"Both parties concerned agreed on the need for interaction, so I worked as a connecting link to Professor Hui-jeong Gang, director of the Office of International Affairs at Hanbat National University, whom I came to know during my study overseas in Renmin University of China."

Q_What was the result of the MOU?
A_"It became the first Korean university to sign an international cooperation agreement. Since the establishment of the sisterhood relationship, an additional MOU was signed last June regarding exchange and interactive programs for students and staffs. With this, an exchange program for around five undergraduate students and masters' students will be offered beginning in the second half of this year."

Q_What benefits can we expect from the MOU in the future?
A_"In Uzbekistan, there is a lack of information and interaction concerning studying abroad in Korea. We expect the recently established sisterhood relationship will satisfy the thirst of students at Uzbekistan Karshi State University for opportunities to study in Korea. Talented individuals who gain experiences in various interactive activities will grow to become young global leaders who will lead the mutual development of both nations based on understanding of the Korean-Uzbekistan relationship."

Q_Is there any certain student who left a strong impression on you while you were working as a volunteer teaching Korean? Otherwise, do you have a story of when you felt proud of your work?
A_"An Uzbekistan immigration officer who visited Korea early this year as a part of the KOICA's immigration administration skills training program said to me, 'I could learn and feel many things through the visit to Korea. I would like Uzbekistan to apply Korea's excellent systems, so please teach Korean to our staffs.' I gladly accepted the request as I was very impressed by his will. This story really stayed with me."





01
Volunteer Yong-nam Kim(the 4th from the left) is having a birthday party with the Korean class students from Karshi State University

02
In November last year, the persons concerned from Hanbat National University and Uzbekistan Karshi State University are taking a commemorative photograph together after the establishment of their sisterhood relationship. The second from the right in the back row is the volunteer in the Korean education division, Yong-nam Kim

Q_What is the current status of Korean language in the location where you are in now? Are there any challenges? If so, what do you think could be a realistic solution?
A_"Uzbekistan Karshi State University is located in Karshi, the capital city of Qashqadaryo with around 6,000 students, and KOICA's Korean language education team has been present here since 2011. It is true that there was a gap of two years in the volunteer work, but since the recommencement of the Korean language class, the Korean language and the Korean Wave are gaining popularity again with more than 200 students passionately learning Korean every semester. However, there are many dropouts, too, as the semester proceeds, because the classes are run after school. There is a need for improvement for a more stable operation of classes."

Q_What is your plan for the future?
A_"I am going to do my best to elevate the nation's reputation as an evangelist of the Korean Wave by teaching the Korean language and culture to around 200 students every semester. Furthermore, no matter how small it may be, I would like to contribute to the development of Uzbekistan, the country which so warmly welcomed and supported our fellow Koryoins in the time of hardship when they were wandering around Central Asia after the forced exile from the Maritime Province."

Q_Do you have any words of advice for those who are applying for a KOICA volunteer position?
A_"I believe a life of someone who only receives and who has never given anything to others is an unhappy one. So far in our lives, we have received many things from the both our country and society with or without even noticing it. Don't you think it is about time for you to live for the country, the society, and others? I recommend KOICA if you want to live a happy life dedicated to the elevation of the nation's reputation while serving and sharing with other people."

Written · Photo by Yong-nam Kim(World Friends KOICA volunteer)

The story of Volunteer Wu-tae Kim, who providing health service in Uzbekistan can be found in 'Overseas KOICA' in the September 2018 issue of the KOICA Webzine.
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201809/eng/content3.php?code=201809_020307





01
Volunteer Kim taking a picture with the students after introducing 3.3.3 Toothbrushing to the students of Karshi State University during the lecture 'Wise and Healthy Habits to Be Rich(Boylik sari yetaklidigan dono sog`lom turmush tarzi). They are saying,' "We love KOICA!"

02
On June 1, Children's Day, Volunteer Kim is delivering toothpaste and toothbrushes for disabled children to the Honorary Director of the charity house.

KOICA Volunteer Wu-tae Kim Providing Health Service in Uzbekistan

"I am a 'toothbrushing teacher' to three million residents of Karshi."

We can prevent various diseases that may occur in our old age if we properly brush our teeth since childhood. However, most people in the Karshi region of Uzbekistan have not been provided with such education and their dental health is not in a good condition. Mr. Wu-tae Kim, a KOICA Volunteer, has taken the lead in offering oral health education to the residents.

Q_Please introduce yourself to us and tell what your motivation was for applying to the KOICA volunteering program.
A_"I wanted to contribute to the health field of developing countries based on my 33-year experiences as a public health officer in Seongnam-si in Gyeonggi-do. So, I applied for the KOICA volunteering program to improve my capabilities while volunteering. I am currently providing hygiene and health education to the students of Karshi State University and participating in activities to improve community health."

Q_You appeared on local TV shows in the Qashqadaryo region. How did you get such a chance?
A_"I had come to recognize the need for oral hygiene education in Karshi, where most of residents, regardless of their ages, are wearing golden dental prostheses. At that time, Governor Zafarjon Ro`ziyev visited Karshi State University and proposed that oral health education should be provided to residents to address problems like early tooth loss and excessive medical costs. This led me to appear on the TV show of the Qashqadaryo region, Talk with the People(aired March 1, 2018)."

Q_Could you tell us more about what you did on the show?
A_"I appeared on the show for 30 minutes as a KOICA volunteer. The host asked me questions about dental health and I provided detailed answers and conducted oral health education introducing 3.3.3 Toothbrushing and gum massage skills. It was very meaningful to provide education to the 3.1 million Karshi residents. After that, I appeared twice on special shows for Children's Day. In the shows, I delivered toothbrushes and toothpaste to the charity house, a welfare facility for severely handicapped children that I visit with the students of Karshi State University every month. We also had a good time dancing and singing together as I taught the children about oral health."

Q_What changes have been made to the residents since the broadcast?
A_"After the broadcast, a lot of locals recognize me. People I see at the university and markets and on the streets address me pretending to brush teeth or massage their gums. One employee at the TV station told me, 'I used to feel uncomfortable because my gums were not healthy, but then I learned how to massage my gums by watching your show, and now I practice it with my family. Thank you.' His reaction left a big impression on me."

Q_What are the health service conditions of the region where you are currently working? If there are any problems, what specific improvements does the region need?
A_"Within the Karshi area, there are community health centers for families and children, hospitals at each level, and a medical center in the university. However, as medical equipment and other facilities are in a poor condition, the medical center can provide services to only about 2,000 students living in the dormitory. In addition, groundwater that has not undergone water quality control is being supplied to households, and that same tap water is consumed as drinking water. To solve these problems, it is necessary to understand the current status of local health conditions and to promote health projects such as health education and sanitary facility improvement through consultation with the local officials."

Q_What are your plans for the future?
A_"I am raising health educators at Karshi State University by conducting a course titled 'Wise and Healthy Habits to Be Rich(Boylik sari yetaklidigan dono sog`lom turmush tarzi).' I plan to educate 31 students so that they can qualify to be community health educators in the Qashqadaryo region by May 2019. In addition, I am trying to establish a network with local health institutions to improve community health."

Q_What advice do you have for those who want to apply for the KOICA volunteering program?
A_"You must overcome many adversities with confidence until you fulfill your goals although it is not easy to live abroad. If you steadily do what you can without losing your determination that you had when you first applied for the volunteering program, you can achieve what you want."

Written · Photo by Wu-tae Kim(World Friends KOICA volunteer)

Five volunteers creating murals for welfare facilities

"We want to be remembered as their aunts, friends and granddaughters"

Five KOICA volunteers, including Yu-jin Kim, Min-gyeong Lee, Na-ra Lee, Yeong-ju Kwon, and Pu-reun Oh gathered for the cooperative program 'Rohayhu KOICA(I Love You KOICA)' in Asuncion and Encarnacion, two cities of Paraguay. 'Rohayhu' means 'I love you' in Guarani, an indigenous language used with Spanish throughout the country. The volunteers who are in their early 20s to early 30s tour small social welfare facilities and provide mural painting service and hygiene education. I met them in Paraguay and talked about their activities.


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Written · Photo by Jeong-in Gong(Young Professional, KOICA Paraguay Office)

You can learn more about the 5 volunteers for the welfare facilities of Paraguay in 'KOICA Story' in the August 2018 issue of the KOICA Webzine.
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201808/eng/content4.php?code=201808_020407

Q_What made you plan and participate in the 'Rohayhu KOICA(I Love You KOICA)' cooperation effort?

A_Yu-jin : "There is a hygienic program called '333' with a long tradition in Paraguay. Most of the institutions engaged in the program are large in size. However, the social welfare facilities for which we work are mostly smaller, so it is not easy to carry out cooperative programs with them as a group. So we decided to group like-minded volunteers and tour small welfare institutions to provide mural paintings and hygiene education."

Na-ra : "One day, I saw children playing in the backyard of a welfare facility that had a poor environment. I thought it would be nice if they could play in a more pleasant setting. So, I decided to participate in the program."

Q_The murals you have created are being well received among locals. Where do you source the design of murals?

A_Yu-jin : "We talk about the images that we have in our minds with Yeong-ju and then she designs it. After Na-ra and Yeong-ju sketch on the walls according to the design, we color it."

Q_How are the reactions of the beneficiary institutions?

A_Yu-jin : "They often say, 'Que Lindo!(How beautiful!)' As most of the social welfare institutions have small budgets, they cannot afford environment maintenance or improvement. So, they are really happy to see our murals. I heard that child and youth facilities particularly like murals."

Yeong-ju : "Everyone loves murals. They hope that this service will be provided to other facilities."

Q_Before starting the mural painting service, I heard that you had held a drawing competition on the riverside of Encarnacion.

Na-ra : "We gathered our money and held the drawing competition on the riverside area. We taught a drawing class at each institution and then displayed the pictures created by children on the riverside and invited the residents to vote for the best ones. We presented four awards including the first, second, third and KOICA prizes. We also made prize certificates with our money. There had never been any such competitions here in the past, and children really loved it. I would like to try new events that have never been held in Paraguay so far."

01 The volunteers participating in the Rohayhu KOICA program (Min-gyeong, Na-ra, Yu-jin, Yeong-ju, and Pu-reun, from left to right)

02 Yu-jin (front) and Min-gyeong (back) (one of the 113th dispatch of KOICA volunteers) are creating murals in the dining room of the Fundacion Divino Nino Jesus

03 Materials used for painting murals

04 Yu-jin Kim, one of the 102nd dispatch of KOICA volunteers, is leading hygienic education in the Fundacion Divino Nino Jesus, as part of the program.

05 Volunteers (Yeong-ju, Pu-reun and Na-ra, from left to right) creating a mural at the Fundacion Divino Nino Jesus where Na-ra, one of the 113th dispatch of volunteers, is working.


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Q_What advice would you give to other volunteers who wish to plan such a program?

A_Pu-reun : "It is important to discuss with co-workers of the institutions about the program that you want and get assistance from them. The whole process can take longer than you expected because they often do not give feedback very quickly."

Q_When you leave Paraguay at the end of your volunteer service, how do you want to be remembered by the locals?

A_Min-gyeong : "A person like a grand-daughter(Most of the users of the institution that she works for are elderly people)."

Yu-jin : "A person like an aunt. Everybody in the institution calls me 'Tia(aunt)'."

Na-ra : "A person that they will want to see again."

Yeong-ju : "I wish they could remember me as their friend, not just a foreigner."

Pu-reun : "A friend of theirs. I want the children to remember me as a friendly person like their peers, not just a stranger. I think that programs like this would help children remember KOICA and its volunteers for a longer period of time."

Although the program is not a large and important one, nor garners the attention of media and the world, they will continue to run this program. It has only one purpose: to present small changes in environment to small social welfare institutions and beneficiaries that have been relatively neglected. Their sincerity is the best gift for the local children, who say, when they meet the volunteers, 'Rohayhu KOICA!'. And KOICA will be remembered as such.



01

KOICA offering clean water to Sierra Leone as a gift

Enhancing the country's health care system and the two nations' relationship

One day in December 2013, a two-year-old baby suddenly died in a small village in Guinea, West Africa. A week later, all his family members also died after complaining of the same pain. It was the beginning of the Ebola Virus Disease epidemic throughout West Africa. The virus soon spread to neighboring Sierra Leone, causing extreme social and economic damage to the country. In response, the Sierra Leone government set up the Post-Ebola Recovery Strategy to strengthen its response to future outbreaks of similar diseases and requested support for the implementation of the strategy from the Korean government and KOICA. Let's find out the detailed story.

Written by Eun-ju Lee(Intern Reporter, KOICA Public Relations and Communications Department)
Photo by KOICA West Africa Office

After the Ebola crisis claiming 4,808 lives… Sierra Leone asks KOICA to help it construct drinking water facilities

In 2015, the Sierra Leone government officially declared the end of the Ebola crisis, but the number of contamination cases amounted to 10,672, with the number of deaths reaching 4,808, and the GDP growth rate dropped to -20.5%. The Ebola outbreak caused a great loss to the country where the residents had already suffered from waterborne diseases such as malaria, tuberculosis and diarrhea before the crisis. The spread of these diseases had been caused by unstable distribution of drinking water and unsanitary water intake. In Sierra Leone, only 1.1% of the population boils water before drinking it and in most regions except for large cities and some western areas, it is difficult for residents to access drinking water. The establishment of water supply and sanitation infrastructure can make for effects such as the prevention of skin and eye diseases, the reduction of insects growing in water and the promotion of personal hygiene management, which lead to the prevention of waterborne diseases in the long term. However, the construction of such facilities requires relatively high investment costs.

01 **Residents are happy to see water coming out of repaired pumps**

02 **A geological survey conducted before the installation of a tubular well**

Hit by the Ebola outbreak that caused severe damage, the Sierra Leone government established the Post-Ebola Recovery Strategy and asked the Korean government and KOICA to provide support for the construction of drinking water facilities as a measure to implement the strategy. Accepting the request, KOICA launched a project named 'Post-Ebola Recovery Program with Drilling & Rehabilitation of Wells and Pumps for Improving Drinking Water Resources in Sierra Leone' with the aim of improving the resilience* of the nation's health care system.

* **Resilience :** This refers to the capacity of a country's health care system to react quickly and effectively when a crisis occurs(eg, outbreak of infectious diseases such as the Ebola Virus Disease), to return to a normal state with minimal damage. The supply of clean water is provides great help for the improvement of a health care system's resilience as residents can better cope with such diseases thanks to clean drinking water sanitation.

The first-phase project installed new tubular wells and repaired old pumps in 440 villages

For this project, KOICA selected a project executing agency and financed and monitored its activities. KOICA chose Team & Team, a corporation with expertise in drinking water and sanitation, as a project executing agency and implemented the "Post-Ebola Recovery Program with Drilling & Rehabilitation of Wells and Pumps for Improving Drinking Water Resources in Sierra Leone Phase I" from 2015 to 2016. Through this project, new tubular wells* (20) were installed in 440 villages in the northern part of Sierra Leone, Port Loko and Kambia and old pumps(440) and



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KOICA
KOREA INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AGENCY
2018.AUTUMN

hand-operated tubular wells(40) were repaired. This resulted in a 9-percent increase in national access to safe water(47% to 56%) and a 15-percent decrease in the number of users per pump(408 to 353). It allowed more residents to drink clean water, protecting them from the dangers of wildlife(snakes, wild monkeys, etc.) that they had been exposed to while drawing water from unsafe streams.

* **Tubular well :** A well in the shape of a tube for drawing groundwater. It is a small-scale water facility made by drilling deep into alluvial soil or rock bed to collect groundwater and draw it for use as irrigation water.

Satisfied with the success of the first-phase project, the Sierra Leone government asked KOICA to extend the project areas and launch a follow-up project, So, currently, it is carrying out the 'Post-Ebola Recovery Program with Drilling & Rehabilitation of Wells and Pumps for Improving Drinking Water Resources in Sierra Leone Phase II(2017~2018)' in the Kono and Bonthe areas of Sierra Leone. KOICA and Team & Team are jointly conducting the project focusing on the restoration of drinking water facilities(installation of 20 new tubular wells, repair of 500 broken pumps and 50 hand-operated tubular wells), the strengthening of residents' competencies(provision of drinking water management training, creation and distribution of pump maintenance manuals, distribution of drinking water management equipment, education on drinking water and hygiene management for local residents in 520 villages).


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01 Water is drawn from a newly installed tubular well

02 Residents are lining up to draw water from a new tubular well

The ongoing follow-up project and residents' competency enhancement activities

In June 2018, the installation of tubular wells(12) and repair of pumps(200) were completed in the Bonthe area. The Kono area also gained new tubular wells(3) and had all old pumps repaired(67). Follow-up activities are continuing in the two areas. KOICA and Team & Team plan to provide residents with education to enhance their competencies for the sustainability of the project after the completion of drinking water facility restoration. By the end of this year when the project is completed, about 208,000 people including local residents and the socially vulnerable(children and women) are expected to benefit directly from the project.

KOICA and Team & Team have encouraged local residents to participate in the project. Direct participation in the installation of drinking water facilities has instilled a sense of ownership in the residents and they are now willing to maintain the facilities by themselves. The first-phase project focused on supporting the people of Sierra Leone who were suffering from the Ebola Virus Disease epidemic. However, the follow-up project is more meaningful in that it is based on the continued support of the Korean government to improve the resilience of the Sierra Leone health care system despite the end of the Ebola crisis. The Korean government not only participates in the efforts of the international community to eradicate the Ebola Virus Disease, but also strives to improve the health care system of the Sierra Leone government and promote the relationship between the two countries. Clean water does not simply mean 'drinkable water' but also escape from poverty, education for women and a healthier life. From this point of view, this project has great significance as it contributes not only to the improvement of health and sanitation but also to the peace of the global community.



A group photograph on the day of a school visit

Health Promotion Project for Elementary Schools in Indonesia

Indonesia's school health environment destroyed by a tsunami in 2004, reconstructed with the support of KOICA

In December 2004, the third largest Indian Ocean tsunami in world history of the past 100 years hit the Aceh region of Indonesia. It caused great damage, with a death toll totaling around 170,000. Schools, the foundation for childhood education, were also struck by the gigantic waves of the tsunami. For the health of children who were exposed to danger, Aceh Province was desperately in need of help in reconstructing the region. KOICA and KAHP(The Korea Association of Health Promotion) joined forces to restore the school health system in the Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar areas in the province. From 2012 to 2020, they are carrying out a project to build health infrastructure, conduct health education, and help the locals restore and strengthen the health system by themselves.

Written by Ji-eun Yeo(Intern Reporter, KOICA Public Relations and Communications Department)
Photo by the Korea Association of Health Promotion


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A severe shortage of health service rooms and health workers in Aceh Province in the aftermath of the natural disaster

At the beginning of the project, Aceh Province had poor basic health services in the aftermath of the 2004 tsunami. In the Aceh Besar area, there were only one hospital and 39 physicians within a total area of square kilometers. The number of doctors per 1,000 residents was 0.1, only 3.1% of the OECD average of 3.2. Local elementary schools, which were responsible for health promotion activities for children, had worse conditions. Aceh Province was suffering from lack of school health budgets, with only two(0.6%) of 306 schools in the region(97 in Banda Aceh and 209 in Aceh Besar) having a professional health teacher. The other schools had two physical education teachers each, who practiced health education, but often lacked detailed health knowledge. In addition, most of the schools had no health service room and, if any, it was not equipped with medical devices or medicine. As a result, elementary school students in Aceh Province were easily infected with diseases, because they were not provided with correct health information or were not able to get treatment when they were sick. However, no countermeasures to prevent infection had been taken.

KOICA and KAHP got an award for their contribution to the region's reconstruction

Despite all these problems, health care was not given as the top priority among other tasks to be fulfilled. In consideration of this situation, KOICA launched the Health Promotion Project for Elementary Schools in Indonesia with KAHP.

The project was conducted divided into two periods from 2012 to 2017, with the goal of promoting the healthy growth of elementary school students in Aceh Province. Under the project, the two institutions carried out various activities, including health service room installations, health education, health check-ups for students, and academic and technical transfer of school health programs.

01 A project meeting
4. Students' health records
02 A health service room in a school
03 Students' health records
04 Health check-up for stuednts

KOICA cooperated with Banda Aceh's Permatahati Mazas Foundation(PHMF) and the local government departments(Ministry of Health, etc.) to provide health care devices, equipment, and medicine to 60 elementary schools in Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar. It also improved the perceptions of school health care services among parents, teachers, and students by establishing basic health care infrastructure and conducting regular health status surveys and health education.

The project secured the right to health of 40,292 students from 209 elementary schools in Aceh Province, and contributed to disease control and environmental enhancement by raising the level of health awareness of residents. KOICA and KAHP received the '2017 Award for Contribution to the Reconstruction of Tsunami-Hit Regions in Indonesia' from the local governments of Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar, in recognition of their contribution to the advancement of local school health services.

The third-phase project launched from this year for systematic capacity enhancement training

Encouraged by the success of the first and second phase projects, the Banda Aceh and Aceh Besar local governments asked KOICA to launch a third phase of the project, which will be ongoing from 2018 to 2020. The project will focus on strengthening the capacity of school health teachers and health check-up staff in community health centers to help local people maintain the school health care system that has been established through the previous projects. KOICA has developed educational programs and textbooks so far, and is making efforts to strengthen the competencies of health teachers, health center staff, and Dokter Kecil*. In addition, it is conducting activities such as health education for enhancing the health awareness of students and local residents, questionnaire surveys, and the establishment of a project operation committee for successful project activities and result monitoring.

* **Dokter Kecil(Little Doctors) :** These are specially selected students who play a major role in improving school health services in terms of simple first aid, disease prevention campaigns, and hygiene habits.

From the first phase of the project to the present, the project has benefited more than 60,000 people. The direct beneficiaries totaled 5,542, including 4,300 students who participated in health promotion activities, 120 teachers who received capacity building training, 60 officials from government agencies and project partner institutions, 162 local health workers, and 900 Dokter Kecil. The indirect beneficiaries are the 17,553 students from 97 elementary schools in Banda Aceh and 40,292 students from 209 elementary schools in Aceh Besar, totaling 57,845.

The third phase of the project(2018~2020) is expected to benefit more people. KOICA hopes that this project will be expanded to wider areas so that more students, parents, and residents can live a healthier life, breaking away from poor health conditions.

Health Equity Fund Support and Health Service Quality Improvement Project in Cambodia

Improved public medical services and low-income groups' access to health care

Cambodia is a low-income country with a per capita gross national income(GNI) of only USD 1,230. Due to national economic difficulties, the government of Cambodia has suffered from the lack of financial resources to independently build public welfare and social safety net systems. Furthermore, medical treatment is expensive in the country as it has no national health insurance system. This has limited the access to hospitals among economically vulnerable groups.

Out-of-pocket medical expenses three times higher than global average

In Cambodia, the share of medical expenses paid by patients(out-of-pocket) amounts to 60% of the total(based on the 2012 WHO report), which is three times higher than the global average(about 17.9%). This makes it much more difficult for people to access medical services, especially for the poor and the socially vulnerable who account for 20% of the population, threatening their daily well-being.

KOICA participating H-EQIP to support USD 7 million

The government of Cambodia is working with donor countries such as South Korea in a project to pay medical expenses for the poor and improve the quality of public medical services. The project was launched in July 2016 under the name the 'Health Equity and Service Improvement Project(H-EQIP)' and will be implemented until December 2021.

The project is being carried out in partnership with the World Bank, Australia's DFAT and the Germany's KfW Development Bank. The project costs USD 174.2 million in total, of which USD 80 million are supported by donor countries and the remaining USD 94.2 million are financed by the Cambodian government. Of these, KOICA supports USD 7 million. KOICA had implemented the Health Sector Support Program(HSSP2), the forerunner of H-EQIP, from 2014 to 2016.



Project highlight 1: Health Equity Fund

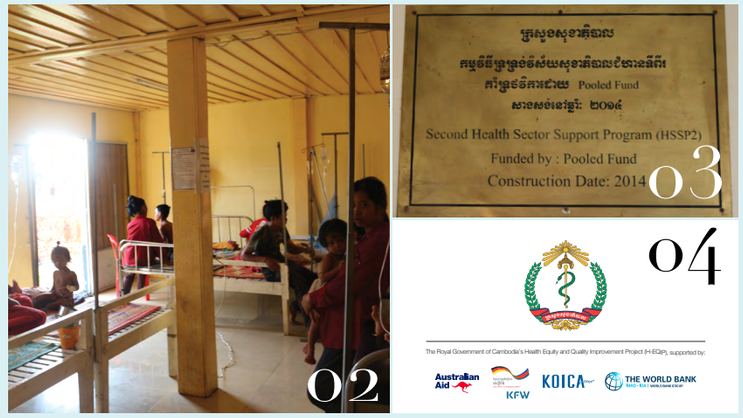
A key part of H-EQIP is the support of the Health Equity Fund. Under this system, the government pays medical and related expenses for the poor and the vulnerable. It is a kind of health insurance for the poor paid by the government.

To improve the health care environment of vulnerable groups in Cambodia due to the lack of a health insurance system, some international NGOs have supported the Health Equity Fund since 2000 to allow the poorest to be exempted from medical expenses when they receive treatment at public hospitals or community health centers. Since 2005, the Cambodian government has managed the fund and the coverage has been expanded to non-medical expenses such as transportation, funeral and household food expenses. Thanks to this fund, over 1,200 public hospitals and community health centers nationwide now exempt patients with an ID poor card from medical and related expenses. The hospitals and community health centers report monthly exemptions to the government to receive refunds.

Project highlight 2: Service Delivery Grant

Service Delivery Grant constitutes the mainstay of H-EQIP together with the Health Equity Fund. Public hospitals, community health centers and health authorities all over the country receive a certain amount of the Service Delivery Grant every quarter and use it as incentives for medical staff, facility improvement and capacity building expenses.

The Cambodian government motivates public healthcare facilities to improve their services by evaluating all public hospitals, community health centers and local health departments nationwide on a quarterly basis, and by paying the grant differently based on the evaluation results.



01 A community health center's facilities improved with the SDGs Fund
02 A patient's room in a regional hospital
03 A logo for HSSP2 support
04 A logo for H-EQIP support

H-EQIP for the achievement of universal health coverage in Cambodia

One of the core goals of the health sector of the Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs) is the achievement of universal health coverage. H-EQIP has directly contributed to the achievement of this goal in Cambodia. The system is recognized as one of the important social safety nets in the country that Prime Minister Hun Sen declared that the Cambodian government will extend the coverage of Health Equity Fund to non-public sector workers in 2018. Sixty percent of the project costs are funded by the Cambodian government, and the project is carried out by the Cambodian Ministry of Health and local health departments.

As a beneficiary country, it has exhibited a strong sense of responsibility by heeding the technical advice and monitoring offered by donor countries.

In addition, the Cambodian government established the Payment Certification Agency(PCA), which conducts the assessment of fund operations and SDGs achievements, starting from the end of 2017, to continue the project after the completion of H-EQIP in 2021. The PCA will directly manage the fund from the end of this year and will conduct post-evaluation of SDGs achievements from 2019. This means that the institutional and technological basis for the Cambodian government to operate its own health insurance system has been established through HSSP2 and H-EQIP.

Korea has directly contributed to strengthening the social safety net of Cambodia by participating in HSSP2 and H-EQIP. In addition, KOICA has also laid the foundation for the qualitative enhancement of Korea's ODA based on its experience of offering support through the PBA approach, an innovative approach that uses the finance and procurement system of a beneficiary country for an aid program.

* **PBA :** Program-based approach. It uses the systems of a beneficiary country to support a development project led by the country.

Written · Photo by Ji-yun Kim(Vice Country Director of KOICA Cambodia Office)

You can learn more about the 'Health Equity and Quality Improvement Project in Cambodia' in 'Overseas KOICA' in the August 2018 issue of the KOICA Webzine.
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201808/eng/content3.php?code=201808_020305

KOICA and Korea Invention Promotion Association's public-private cooperation project in Philippines

'The Flower of All Flowers', becomes hope for the villagers

Anao, in the province of Tarlac, is one of the local governments in the Philippines that is suffering economically. Ylang-ylang flowers are grown here, which are an ingredient for making luxury essential oils. This city, which used to fall short of creating a tangible income from the raw ingredient despite its high added value, is now dreaming of redeeming itself as the place of origin for this premium ingredient through the introduction of optimal technology. Let's have a closer look at the project where the cooperation of KOICA and KIPA(Korea Invention Promotion Association) stood out.





01

Anao Village: the place of origin for the premium essential oil ingredient, ylang-ylang flower

In Tagalog, the language used in the Philippines, ylang-ylang means 'the flower of all flowers.' Originally grown in the Philippines, the essential oil extracted from the flower is known for being an ingredient used in luxury fragrances. The people of Anao hold such pride in the flower that they host a festival celebrating the ylang-ylang flower every year. However, the local specialty ylang-ylang flower is not making a tangible contribution to the creation of income for the local people. According to an investigation on the current status, the oil extractor used by the local people was so old and deteriorated that it had very low productivity, and it was difficult to guarantee the quality of the extracted oil. A lack in the labor force and marketing capacity to manage and support the business was another obstacle. This situation posed difficulties in the production of oil itself as well as the production and sales of the manufactured goods.

KOICA, transferring technologies suitable for the local situation

In order to solve the problem, 'optimal technology' developed in consideration to the local environments and unique conditions was required. This was also the most suitable technology for the world's poorest countries and developing countries, as the cutting-edge technology can help operate businesses at a low cost. The agenda was to first extract the oil in a safe and easy way, and also find technology that can develop an oil extractor repairable using existing technology. During this process, KIPA, which specializes in developing and providing optimal technology through the use of patent information, joined forces with KOICA, which has various international cooperation experiences.

During the initial stage, we took our floor plans designed in Korea for the manufacturing of an oil extractor and searched for various manufacturers in the Philippines, but it was not easy to find a company fit for the task. After painstaking efforts, we found a manufacturer through an agricultural research center under the Ministry of Agriculture in the Philippines who would produce the oil extractor.

Until the completion of the final product, we had to go through a number of changes due to small and big problems such as poor welding jobs which caused water leakages, and molten rubber due to high-heat steam. The fact that we had to travel to the manufacturer every time we had a problem, which was a 10-hour round trip from the village, was not easy, either. However, it was important that we solve every problem at the site. Finally, after many trials, we were able to accomplish our goal of providing 10 oil extractors.

01 Products made with the oil extracted from ylang-ylang flowers
02 Ylang-Ylang Center's outside view
03 Ylang-ylang flowers grown by the local residents
04 The distributed oil extractors engineered with optimal technology



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Written by Bo-reum, Kim(Intern Reporter, KOICA Public Relations and Communications Department)
Photo by KOICA Philippines Office

You can learn more about the project for supplying technology for ylang-ylang extractors in the Philippines and the story of the volunteer, Byong-youp Cha in 'KOICA VIEW' in the September 2018 issue of the KOICA Webzine.
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201809/eng/content1.php?code=201809_020101
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201809/eng/content1.php?code=201809_020102

A step towards becoming a sustainable business: Establishment of a management center

After being provided with the oil extractors, the 'Ylang-ylang Center' was established to support the systematic management of product quality with the proper establishment of equipment. We manufactured secondary products using the essential oils centered on the Ylang-ylang Center, and we started technology and brand education in order to secure business leadership through product quality management. Through this, the business model was optimized, leading to research for the connection and increased income for the local community. Furthermore, the village of Anao successfully carried out requests made by the Korean side to establish a strong and reliable business by establishing a labor union, a ylang-ylang farm, a ylang-ylang harvesting system, and registration of trademark for the provided brand.

In addition, according to the performance report published by the city council of the local government in Anao, around 2,650 people received, or are currently receiving, benefits from the project as of April to August, 2017. Of the reported people, 2,356 people are comprised of normal households. Also, we ensured a sustainable flow of income for the locals by legally protecting the ownership of the ylang-ylang trees in the surrounding area.

Deputy Director Sang-baek Lee of the KOICA Philippines Office, who is in charge of local projects, said, "We are seeking to work on KOICA IBS* projects to achieve synergistic effects through partnerships with private enterprises. Since the stable supply of raw ingredients is fundamental to the business, we are currently expanding the government-run ylang-ylang farms and farming families in cooperation with the city of Anao. In the future, we plan to cooperate with the larger province of Tarlac to ensure a steady supply of ylang-ylang flowers. Once a sufficient, steady level of raw ingredients can be supplied with the established sales network, we plan to encourage participation in the project through crowd-funding. We also plan to apply for the 'B-Corp' certification, an international certification for social enterprises."

* **IBS(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 businesses. The goal is an increase in earnings for the lowest income groups in developing countries.



Ylang-Ylang Center commencement ceremony

INTERVIEW

Volunteer Byong-youp Cha teaching how to grow crops at a high school in the Philippines

"Planting the seeds of Korea's advanced agricultural technology to grow dreams to lead agriculture in the Philippines"

In various areas throughout the Philippines, there are people who volunteer to spread the advanced farming technologies of Korea, help increase income for the locals and develop the local community. Byong-youp Cha, who has 38 years of experience as a farming instructer in Paju-si, Gyeonggi-do, is one such volunteer. He is in charge of crop cultivation training at the Kilicao National High School in the Philippines and is spreading the seeds of hope as he teaches students whose dreams lie in the Philippines farming industry.

Written by Ji-eun Yeo(Intern Reporter, KOICA Public Relations and Communications Department)
Photo by Byong-youp Cha (World Friends KOICA volunteer)



01
Byong-youp Cha, World Friends KOICA volunteer

Q_Can you introduce yourself to us, and how you came to join the volunteer team at KOICA?

A_"Since 1978, I worked as a civil servant at the Paju city hall working with farmers until my retirement. I believed KOICA's volunteer team was where I could fully utilize my past experience and skills, and also where I could lead the second chapter of my life with passion."

Q_What is the most difficult aspect of the training?

A_"At the first time, it was quite difficult to proceed with the class without the farming tools and materials that I needed for the practical cultivation class. So I shared the situation of the school and the difficulty of leading the practical farming education with the KOICA Manila Office and requested their help. Fortunately, I was able to receive support from the KOICA office to purchase 45 types of farming tools such as shovels, hoes, pickaxes, rakes, sprayers, trowels, pruning shears, pruning hand saws, vegetable seeds, and flower seeds, as well as materials for practical education such as composite fertilizer, urea fertilizer, pesticide, and spray."

Q_You also created environmentally friendly pesticides with your students to prevent diseases and control insect pests. Is there a background as to why you started doing it?

A_"There is no winter in Philippines, but the year is divided into the dry and wet seasons, which makes it more prone to various types of blight and harmful insects. What's more, unlike in Korea, some of the farming families do not have enough economic stability to afford pesticides. Environmentally friendly pesticides are more effective when they are applied thoroughly in advance, so in order to create learning benefits, it is enough for me to just explain such a difference to the students, and help them do it themselves in the practical exercise."

Q_I'm curious to hear about your accomplishments so far since the commencement of your work in May, 2017.

A_"I believe our greatest achievement was that we gave the students hope for a brighter future by introducing Korea's advanced agricultural technology. When we introduced Korea's advanced agricultural practices* which utilize modern and automated processes and produce pristine-quality products, the whole school including the principal of Kilicao National High School applauded. We showed the students how agriculture can be mechanized through scientific farming, and I believe many students gained hope for the development of agriculture in the Philippines and its future because of it."

* Vinyl sheathes that can be attached to tractors, automation of riding type rice transplanters, combine paddy harvest, and automated facilities for Rice Processing Complexes (RPC), etc.



Establishment of Cameroon e-Procurement Master Plan

Contributing to elevating the transparency and fairness of the government

The e-procurement system allows the processing of the entire procurement procedure on the Internet. It standardizes all document formats and can be shared with related industries, thus enhancing the transparency and fairness of public procurement work and streamlining work formats and procedures. KOICA Cameroon Office completed the first Establishment of Cameroon e-Procurement Master Plan project with the Cameroonian Ministry of Public Contracts(MINMAP) from 2013 to 2015. This year, the two are carrying out the second project: the System and Capacity Enhancement project.

Written · Photo by Gyu-mun Na(Young Professional, KOICA Cameroon Office)

You can learn more about the establishment of the Cameroon e-Procurement Master Plan and interview with the coordinator, Aye'e Jacques in 'Overseas KOICA' in the July 2018 issue of the KOICA Webzine.
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201807/eng/content3.php?code=201807_020306
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201807/eng/content3.php?code=201807_020307

Cameroonian Government establishes the Ministry of Public Contracts for increasing e-procurement efficiency

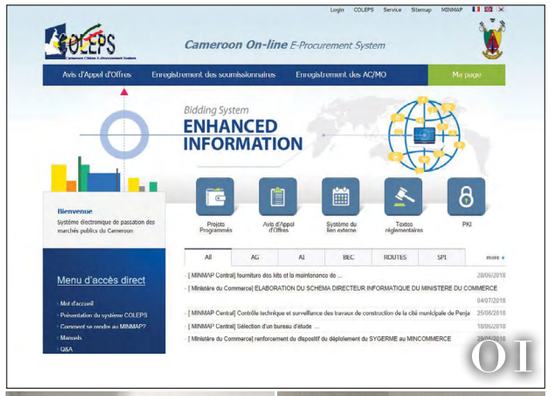
The Cameroonian government created the Ministry of Public Contracts in 2011 directly under the presidential office with the aim of building an e-procurement system to fight corruption and improve work efficiency. The ministry is responsible for the procurement and contracting procedures of the government. It cooperates with procurement regulatory agencies to play various roles including managing bids, approving requests for the payment of deposits, supervising the enforcement of contracts, reforming related policies and strengthening procurement capacities.
At the time of analysis of the status of the procurement sector in 2012 before the commencement of the first project, about 3,000 contracts equivalent to XOF 255.4 billion(USD 0.45 billion) were being made by the central ministries and regional procurement commissions every year in the country.* Although it had infrastructure including the newly established Ministry of Public Contracts and its own e-procurement system, it showed a low penetration rate of the system, which led to the low use rate of it, as well as a lack of related laws.

* **Source :** 2012 Analysis results for the Establishment of Cameroon e-Procurement Master Plan project

Introduction of Korea's advanced e-procurement system with the help of KOICA

Korea is known world-wide for a leading e-procurement system, which served as a foundation for the country's economic growth. It is now providing its know-how in regards to e-procurement systems to countries interested in reforming the public procurement sector.
Cameroon established the Cameroon Online e-Procurement System(COLEPS) through bilateral cooperation with Korea in 2013.* KOICA renovated the server room of the Cameroonian Ministry of Public

01
The main page of the Cameroon Online e-Procurement System(COLEPS) website
02, 03
The server room for the e-procurement system in the Ministry of Public Contracts office
04
On June 8 last year, a letter of appreciation was presented to Project Manager Sang-wu Song(right) from Soft I Tech by the Minister of Public Contracts Abba Sadou(left) in recognition of his contribution to the Establishment of the Cameroon e-Procurement Master Plan project







Contracts to install the e-procurement system server and software. The system is currently being used to computerize business documents, open and analyze bids made by companies, and select optimal bidders.

* Cameroon Online e-Procurement System(COLEPS) website: www.publiccontracts.cm/index.do

The e-procurement system, established through close cooperation between the Ministry of Public Contracts and KOICA, has had a positive impact on strengthening the transparency of public contracts and improving management efficiency. This system enabled online corporate information registration and bidding information protection, enhancing the transparency of contracts, and positively affected the credibility of information by certifying and encrypting the work of each stage of the e-procurement procedure.

01
A meeting to plan in-depth investigation for the System and Capacity Enhancement projectDirector of the KOICA Cameroon Office Je-ho Yeon(middle), officials from the Cameroonian Ministry of Public Contracts(left) and the staff of the KOICA Cameroon Office and delegates from Korea(right)

02
A meeting to plan in-depth investigation for the System and Capacity Enhancement project


01



02

The second project to add functions such as e-shopping and e-payment to be implemented by 2020

KOICA has also strived to strengthen the competencies of the Cameroonian government in maintaining the e-procurement system. With the help of KOICA, about 10 government officials in charge of the operation of this system visited Korea's e-procurement agencies for about a week(November 7 to 17, 2014) and received training to enhance their system operation and procurement management capacities. The Cameroonian Ministry of Public Contracts also provided 23 e-procurement system engineers with one-week of practical training(September 27 to October 5, 2015) in analyses on related legal systems and department needs, system design and other topics.

At the request of the Cameroonian government, KOICA will implement the System and Capacity Enhancement project by 2020. Through this follow-up project, KOICA will add functions such as an e-list information system, e-shopping, e-file management, e-payment and e-contract management within the current e-procurement system. This follow-on project is expected to contribute to the continuous growth of the public administration sector in Cameroon.

INTERVIEW

Coordinator Aye'e Jacques, who is in charge of the e-procurement system of the Cameroonian government

"It is a system essential for the development of Cameroon"

Q_Could you briefly introduce yourself?

A_"My name is Aye'e Jacques and I have been serving as the head of the Information System Division in the Cameroonian Ministry of Public Contracts since 2012. I'm also the coordinator of the Establishment of Cameroon e-Procurement Master Plan project."

Q_KOICA and the Ministry of Public Contracts completed the first Establishment of Cameroon e-Procurement Master Plan project in 2015. What changes did this project bring to the Cameroonian government and its institutions?

A_"We have been working with KOICA since 2014. Through this project, an e-procurement system was established in Cameroon and is now successfully operating. This e-procurement system allowed many stakeholders, as well as the Cameroonian government, to access the procurement system to obtain information."

Q_What kind of efforts have Cameroonian officials made to continuously use the e-procurement system?

A_"The Ministry of Public Contracts has held workshops to train stakeholders in the use of the e-procurement system. It has held workshops in eight regions of Cameroon this year and will operate them in two more English-speaking regions.*"

* Cameroon is divided into English- and French-speaking regions due to the influence of the colonial period.

Q_What difficulties have you had while working with KOICA?

A_"I can confidently say that the cooperation between Cameroon and KOICA is going very successfully. But if I have to pick one, we often needed an interpretor for smooth communications when having meetings with Korean Project Management Consultants(PMC) in English and French. So, we required a little more time to understand the main issues. But as we are working on the project to achieve the common goal of building the e-procurement system, we are overcoming difficulties in communication by sharing information."

Coordinator Aye'e Jacques

Q_The second Establishment of Cameroon e-Procurement Master Plan project is under way this year. Could you explain the difference between the second and the first projects.

A_"The second project is to complement the limits and weaknesses of the first project. So it is proceeded in a more elaborate way. While the goal of the first project was to distribute the e-procurement system in Cameroon, that of the second is to add more functions to it, such as e-file and e-contract management as well as e-payment. More detailed work that goes beyond the mere creation of e-bidding and e-procurement portal sites is carried out for the second project."

Q_The second project is likely to upgrade the e-procurement environment in Cameroon. What do you expect from this project?

A_"The e-procurement system is an essential system for Cameroon. Thanks to this project, we can now manage legal documents online. We look forward to continuing to cooperate with KOICA for the next two years to successfully complete the project."

You can learn more about Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum Archives Preservation and Digitization Project in Cambodia in 'KOICA VIEW' in the August 2018 issue of the KOICA Webzine.
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201808/eng/content1.php?code=201808_020102

KOICA's Tuol Sleng Museum Archives Digitization Project in Cambodia

From a symbol of the Cambodian killing fields to a center of peace

One day, a high school in the Cambodian capital, where students studied and romped peacefully, was transformed into a prison filled with screams. Of the about 20,000 innocent people imprisoned here, only seven survived, and numerous torture instruments and many records containing detailed information about the prisoners remained. To prevent the recurrence of such a tragic event, the records had to be preserved in a proper way, but they were being damaged by a harsh environment. To solve this problem, KOICA has rolled up its sleeves.


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The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, a living witness of the killing fields

The Cambodian killing fields refer to a genocide committed by the Khmer Rouge, a radical communist regime of the country, between 1975 and 1979. Statistics show that two million Cambodians, which amounted to a fourth of the eight-million total population, were killed during the three-and-a-half-year rule of the Khmer Rouge.* The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Cambodia witnesses the brutal history of the killing fields. The museum was originally a high school, but the Khmer Rouge changed this place to a horrible prison for questioning and torturing the officials and intellectuals of the previous regime. Indiscriminate human rights violations were committed that only seven of the about 20,000 people detained in this prison survived. Today, this prison has been remodeled into a museum that preserves more records about the Khmer Rouge, such as the statements, resumes, and photographs of the victims, and the regime's propaganda magazines, than any other prison in Cambodia.

* **Source :** United States Holocaust Memorial Museum

The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum was included in the UNESCO World Heritage List in 2009, but due to the harsh conditions of the facility, there were difficulties in preserving its collection. Due to the lack of archiving skills, sometimes important records were damaged due to contact with sweat or other contaminants from the museum staff while being viewed. In addition, although the long-term preservation of records requires a system that helps maintain a constant temperature and humidity, there were only air conditioners in the depository. It also lacked antioxidation techniques and special boxes and folders to eliminate and prevent insects. There were many other problems in data sharing as well. The collection was serviced only in the form of paper documents so that victims' families or researchers were able to view them only by requesting in advance and visiting the museum, which made the data accessible to a very limited number of users.

Engraving the fading painful lesson in history

Previously, the Cambodian government, through the support of Cornell University and other institutions, carried out a project to improve their archiving skills and to scan the records to help solve this problem, but it did not yield successful results. To address many of the remaining challenges, the Cambodian government and UNESCO called on the Korean government to launch a project to strengthen Cambodia's archiving capacity and support its record digitization efforts. KOICA, in cooperation with UNESCO, started a historical records digitization and database construction project on January 29, 2018, to permanently preserve about 400,000 records from the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum. KOICA is providing project costs of USD 1.15 million and monitors the project together with UNESCO. Digital Divide Data(DDD)*, a US social enterprise, is also participating in the project and has engaged in activities to digitize data and enhance the archiving capability of Cambodia.

* **DDD(Digital Divide Data) :** A social enterprise based in New York State, US, that distributes digital content, data, and research services to customers worldwide

What is important in the digitization process is to offer the full description of records rather than simply scanning and uploading them on the related website. Therefore, DDD will help the museum to process the data in a more detailed and accurate way, with the help of the Cambodian Ministry of Culture and the Khmer Rouge regime researchers. In the past, foreign universities have conducted several projects to scan the museum's collection, but these turned out to be unsuccessful because the local staff had not acquired the skills necessary for the management and operation of digitized records. So, the current project focuses on training the staff in record and system management skills.

01 Country Director of KOICA Cambodia Office Yun-gil Jeong, is giving his speech at the launching ceremony for the project

02 (From left) UNESCO Cambodian Director Anne Lemaistre, Cambodian Minister of Culture and Fine Arts Chun Phoeun, and Country Director of KOICA Cambodia Office Yun-gil Jeong

03 This space had previously been a classroom, but was used as a jail under the Khmer Rouge regime, where prisoners were tortured

KOICA and UNESCO will set up a repository with a system to maintain constant temperature and humidity in the museum to effectively preserve the original records and enhance the staff's archiving capacity. They also plan to hold two international conferences in 2019, one in the beginning and one at the end of the year. At these international conferences, experts from the US, Poland, Rwanda, and Argentina will gather to establish measures to prevent the recurrence of such tragic events, based on the world's experiences of wars and massacres. In this way, KOICA will help the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum turn into a historical space like Auschwitz concentration camp, providing full support, from data digitization to the establishment of a data sharing system.

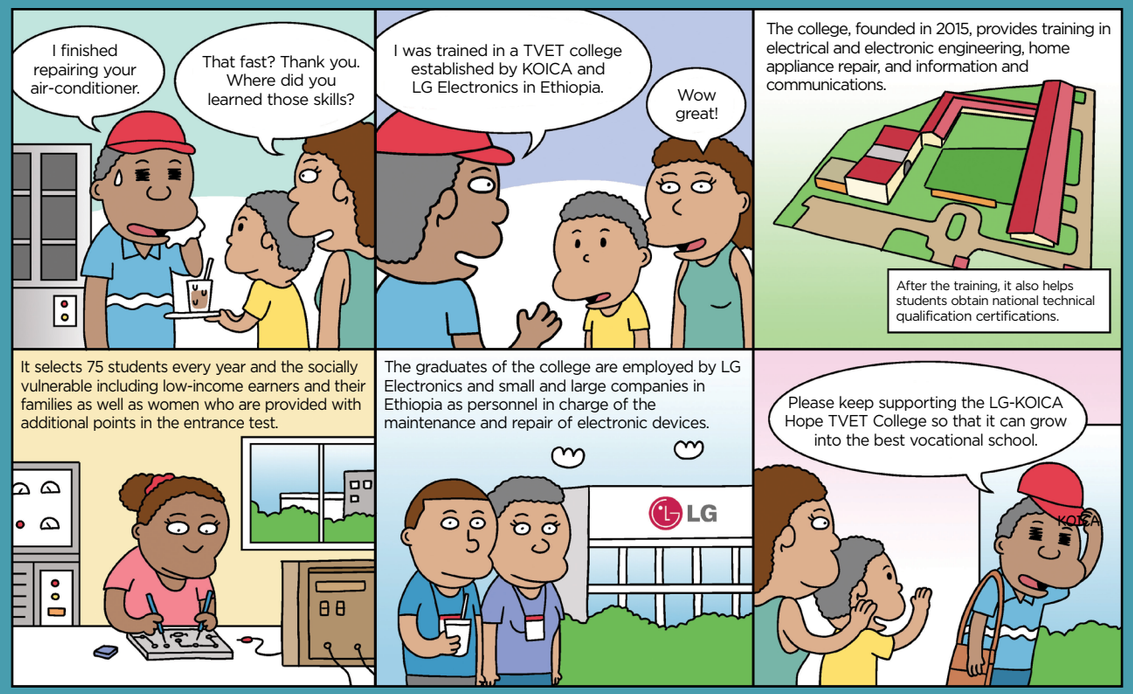
KOICA taking the lead in healing Cambodian wounds and opening the post killing-field era

The genocide committed by the Khmer Rouge is one of the most tragic events in world history, remembered as one of the three biggest massacres along with the Holocaust and the Rwandan massacre. It is a wound from which the Cambodian people cannot be easily healed. This project provides an opportunity for all people around the world to freely access the museum's collection and to learn specifically about the total destruction of the social system and brutalities committed by the Khmer Rouge regime. The digitized data will contribute, not only to the preservation of historical sites, but also to the prevention of the recurrence of such an incident, serving as a resource for peace building.

Written by Chan-eung Park(Intern Reporter, KOICA Public Relations and Communications Department)
Photo by KOICA Cambodia Office

You can learn more about LG Electronics fostering masters of electronic device maintenance and repair through the Hope Technical and Vocational Educational and Training(TVET) College in Ethiopia in 'What's ODA' in the July 2018 issue of the KOICA Webzine.
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201807/eng/content2.php?code=201807_020203

LG Electronics Fostering Masters of Electronic Device Maintenance and Repair in Ethiopia
"We train millennial MacGyvers!"



Manager Hyeon-jin Jeon of LG Electronics Leading

"All graduates found jobs or started up their own businesses. The college will grow into the best vocational school"

In south of Saharan Africa, Ethiopia is the second largest country in population but is the poorest country in per capita income, which only amounted to USD 861 as of 2017. But, the country has striven to break away from agriculture-led economic growth, strengthen the private sector and foster the manufacturing industry. To contribute to the steady growth of Ethiopia by nurturing technical professionals needed in the industry, LG Electronics has carried out the LG-KOICA Hope Technical and Vocational Educational and Training(TVET) College Project with KOICA. We interviewed Manager Hyeon-jin Jeon of LG Electronics regarding the project.







Q_The first two phases of this project have already been completed. Could you explain the achievements made in the last two phases and why you decided to continue the project?

A_"We did not aim to complete the college project in a short period of time. We intended to establish a school, train students and foster them into professionals, and help the school create income. The first phase of the project started in 2013 and it took a lot of time to gain construction permission, select a site and build all the infrastructure. The college opened in November in 2014, the season when the new school semester begins in Ethiopia. Since 2015, we have directly operated the college. It offers a 3-year program and has produced graduates twice. The third-phase project focuses on seeking ways for the college to create income for the sustainability of the school."

Q_What is the curriculum of the college like and how does it operate?

A_"The college has electrical and electronic engineering, home appliance repair, and information and communication departments. It selects a total of 75 students every year, with 25 students in each department. At the entrance examination, children of war veterans, the socially vulnerable such as low-income earners and their families and women are provided with additional points. As the college specializes in electronic device repair, the number of female students accounts for only 15% of the total. The number of graduates was 64 last year and 55 this year. Ethiopia has a four-level vocational training system. Our college provides all levels of training. The scores that students get at the entrance exam determine the levels of training that they can receive and when they complete each level, they take a national exam to obtain a certificate. The higher the level of training they have completed, the better the jobs available to them after graduation. The passing rate of the national exam is about 98%. One of the reasons for this high passing rate is that the school was designated as a venue for national technical qualification certification exams immediately after its opening. Also, the college provides highly intensive training. In the entrance test, we interview students in English. This is because all textbooks are written in English, and language skills are important for them to get a job abroad. All training is provided free of charge, and meals are offered to the socially vulnerable."

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(from left) Assistant Manager Gi-hyeon Kim of KOICA, Project Director Suk-hui Chae of IOM, Head of the KOICA Development Innovation Department Nam-sun Lee, Assistant Manager I-na Ha of the KT Sustainable Management Planning Team, Project Manager Hyeon-jun Song of the KT Group Hope Sharing Foundation

02
The main page of Maheshkhali Island's e-commerce website

03
Teachers are learning to use computers in the IT Space in Maheshkhali Island, Bangladesh

Q_Please share a case of a Hope TVET College graduate who succeeded in finding a job or starting a business.

A_"This college produced its first graduates in 2017, all of whom either succeeded in getting a job or started their own business. I attended the graduation ceremony at that time and a student who founded a business gave me his business card. It was a small company specializing in the repair of LG Electronics products including photocopiers. Of course, LG Electronics provides repair service for our products, but many Ethiopians use smuggled electronic devices. I think that his company has competitiveness due to high demand for the repair of these products. In addition,

Written by Bo-reum Kim(Intern Reporter, KOICA Public Relations and Communications Department)
Photo by LG Electronics·Illustrations by Se-hun Hong



A Service Master of LG Electronics is offering training in the college

four of last year's graduates were employed by our center, and some students found jobs in companies where they had been trained through industrial-academic cooperation projects. Also, as general companies need personnel in charge of the maintenance and repair of electronic devices, many students are also employed by these companies."

Q_How did you find the atmosphere of the college when you visited it?

A_"Students have a strong passion for learning, they also have a keen interest in Korea, and some of them sang Korean songs at their graduation ceremonies. Two times a year, LG Electronics' Service Masters* visit the college to introduce the latest technology in the industry. Students are extremely happy to be able to learn with them. We also provide excellent students and teachers training in the company's service branch in Dubai. Many students who participated in the training said that they not only had learned the latest technology, but also had been impressed by the service process of Korea, including how Korean employees treat customers."

* **Service Master :** a title given to LG Electronics service engineers who have made excellent performances

Q_What difficulties have you experienced while carrying out the project?

A_"When we started the project, we had to complete the college building in only six months before its opening. So we were very much pressed for time, and after the opening of the college, we increased our budget and conducted a one-year maintenance and expansion of the building. With regard to the employment of students, we initially expected that the demand for technically skilled manpower would be very high as the industry was growing very quickly in the country, but in reality, it was not as high as expected. However, we found that most companies in local communities needed employees with the skills that our college teaches to student when they had problems with electronic devices. Since then, many of our graduates have been employed by large and small local companies. Korean employees working in Ethiopia played a big role in finding this breakthrough."

Q_What are the advantages of the IBS program that you have experienced during the projects?

A_"Above all, it is a great help in the field. If you carry out a project with KOICA in a country where the government has strong power, like Ethiopia, the locals are very interested in it and give much importance to it. From a practical point of view, LG Electronics is a private company and does not have expertise in international development cooperation. KOICA gave us a lot of advice on the sustainability of the business that we would have not taken into account."

Q_How do you expect that the LG-KOICA Hope TVET College Project will contribute to the growth of both LG Electronics and Ethiopia?

A_"We hope that the LG-KOICA Hope TVET College Project will grow into the best vocational school, helping the young people of Ethiopia stand on their own feet and become highly skilled manpower that can contribute to the development of the country, as the projects intended."

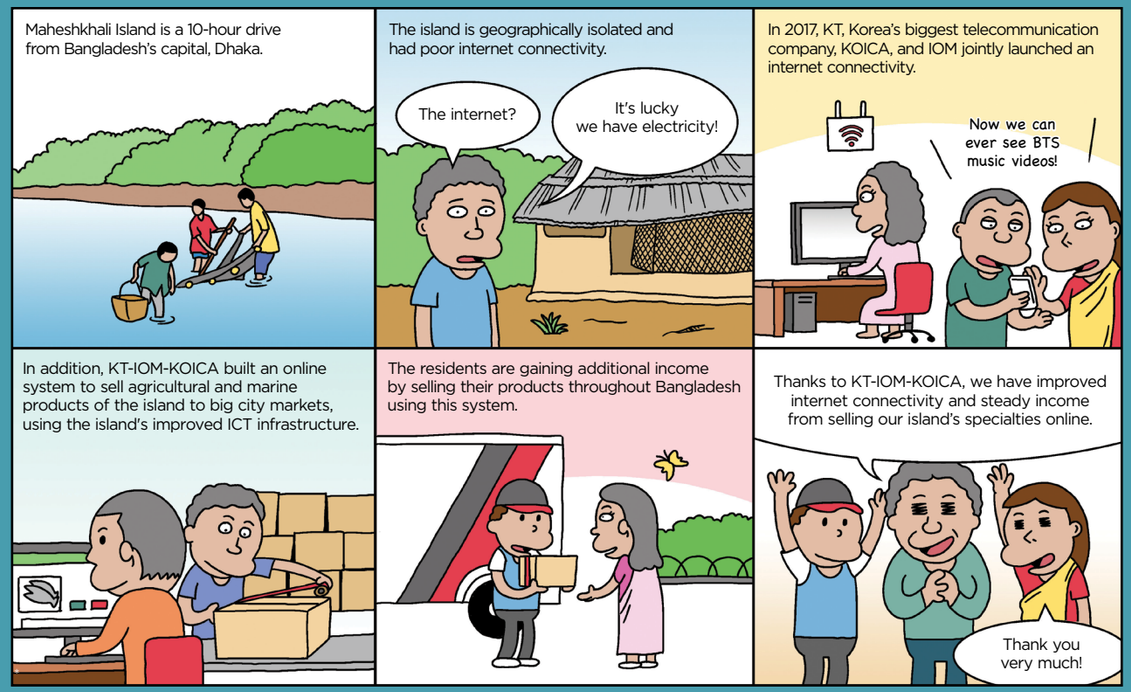
Q_What are the future plans and goals of the ongoing IBS project?

A_"First of all, we will continue to proceed with the project for three years until 2020 focusing on the advancement of the college's operating system. In the long term, we will gradually establish measures to secure the sustainability of the college by expanding industrial-academic cooperation."

Q_Do you have any advice for companies that want to participate in the KOICA IBS program?

A_"If you are considering starting a project, I recommend you consult with the officials of KOICA. Based on their long experience, they will unsparingly provide all supports to help you find a better direction for your project."

A Project to Install an Internet Communication Network on Maheshkhali Island, a Remote Area of Bangladesh KT-IOM-KOICA Dream Team Contributed to the Increase in Income of the Island's Residents



The project leaders of KT, IOM, and KOICA

"We are building an e-commerce distribution network using advanced communications technology"

In 2017, thanks to efforts by the Bangladesh government to use ICT in solving various social problems, such as poverty and unemployment, the nation saw a growth rate of 29% in the e-commerce sector(compared to 2014). But shopping online was still a dream-like story for the 250,000 people living in Maheshkhali Island, a remote area in Bangladesh that can be reached in 10 hours by car from Dhaka, the country's capital city. KOICA, KT(South Korea's largest telephone company, formerly Korea Telecom), and IOM(International Organization for Migration) are installing an internet communication network on the island to help residents communicate with the wider world and pioneer markets for their agricultural products.

Written by Eun-ju Lee(Intern Reporter, KOICA Public Relations and Communications Department)
Photo by KT, IOM · Illustrations by Se-hun Hong

Q_What project are KOICA, KT, and IOM carrying out together?

A_"We are currently conducting the project 'Poverty Reduction through e-Commerce Platform in Remote Rural Community' in Maheshkhali Island, Bangladesh. It is a project to help the islanders, who are geographically isolated and have limited access to the market, build an e-commerce system so that they can access big city markets and generate income through the sales of agricultural and marine products."

Q_I heard that the residents have had difficulty accessing the internet.

A_"Although they had internet access on the island, it was very limited. They had difficulty even using the computers supplied by the government. But the situation quickly changed as KT, Korea's representative telecommunication company, launched a social contribution project called 'GiGA Story'* in 2017. KT has installed microwaves that enable long-distance communication between the mainland and the island, securing sufficient bandwidth for internet connectivity. Throughout the island, we built wired communication infrastructure, to enable internet access from all over the island. The town hall was transformed into an 'IT Space' that provides free public Wi-Fi, and solar energy generation facilities were installed to create an environment where residents can enjoy stable communications without power outages."



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(from left) Assistant Manager Gi-hyeon Kim of KOICA, Project Director Suk-hui Chae of IOM, Head of the KOICA Development Innovation Department Nam-sun Lee, Assistant Manager I-na Ha of the KT Sustainable Management Planning Team, Project Manager Hyeon-jun Song of the KT Group Hope Sharing Foundation

* **GiGA Story :** The name of KT's social contribution project to improve the living environment of the people living in islands and mountains by utilizing the Giga Internet infrastructure. As of October 2014, the company operates the project in six locations of Korea including Imjado, Daeseongdo, Baengnyeongdo, and Gyodongdo Islands, and Cheonghak-dong and Pyeongchang. In addition, it has expanded this project overseas, starting with Maheshkhali Island in Bangladesh.

Q_What made you focus on e-commerce among the various businesses that use ICT infrastructure?

A_"There are various projects currently ongoing on the island. Since the island is a remote area, it has limited access to education and medical welfare. The improvement of the internet environment has enabled video education and mobile medical treatment. But for the ultimate development of the island, residents need a steady income. Dried fish and salt, which are the specialties of the island, were evaluated as cheap and good in quality, but they were produced in amounts too small for commercialization. Due to the lack of transportation means, farmers had only limited opportunities to sell their products to the larger market. As they were mainly sold to intermediaries who monopolized distribution, producers did not get paid their fair shares. We thought that we could contribute to solving this problem if we built an online e-commerce distribution network that would directly link farmers and land consumers, and supported product branding and productivity improvement."

Q. Can you explain how the e-commerce distribution network operates in detail?

A_"When a producer registers their products on the website (http://amardesheshop.com), consumers across Bangladesh order these products, which are collected by young people hired by the e-commerce logistics center, who directly visit the producers. The center is located in the IT Space* where the goods are stored and packaged. When the packaging is completed, the goods are shipped to every corner of Bangladesh via the distribution channels of ADAG (Amar Desh Amar Gram), a social enterprise of the country."

* **IT Space :** Its first floor is composed of the e-commerce logistics center and agricultural education space, and on the second floor are an IT education center and cultural space for local residents.

Q_What is the branding strategy for products?

A_"People in Bangladesh have a strong distrust of the goods that they have not seen with their own eyes. Therefore, they often purchase the products that they have experienced or are recommended by people around them. In particular they are unsure about the safety of food delivered from afar. In many cases, the foods delivered in Bangladesh are often processed with chemicals such as preservatives and formalin for freshness. Because of these cultural characteristics, when we promote the specialties of this island, we emphasize that the website only sells chemical-free products. We also stress that all our products are safe and trustworthy."

Q_Even if you emphasize that you sell only trustworthy and safe food, e-commerce has the limitation that consumers buy products sight unseen. How did you solve this problem?

A_"The main consumers of Maheshkhali Island's specialties are the residents of wealthy villages in Dhaka. ADAG opened a pop-up store directly in these areas and introduced and promoted ADAG and the island's specialties. As most of the residents of these villages are wealthy, many of them enjoy jogging at dawn. ADAG's employees jogged with them to explain how the payment is done via the e-commerce website and how fresh the specialties are, breaking through the obstacle: the culture of not believing before seeing."







02
Teachers are learning to use computers in the IT Space in Maheshkhali Island, Bangladesh
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The main page of Maheshkhali Island's e-commerce website
04
Assistant Manager Gi-hyeon Kim of KOICA is explaining financial inclusion and income growth

Q_What is your future plan?

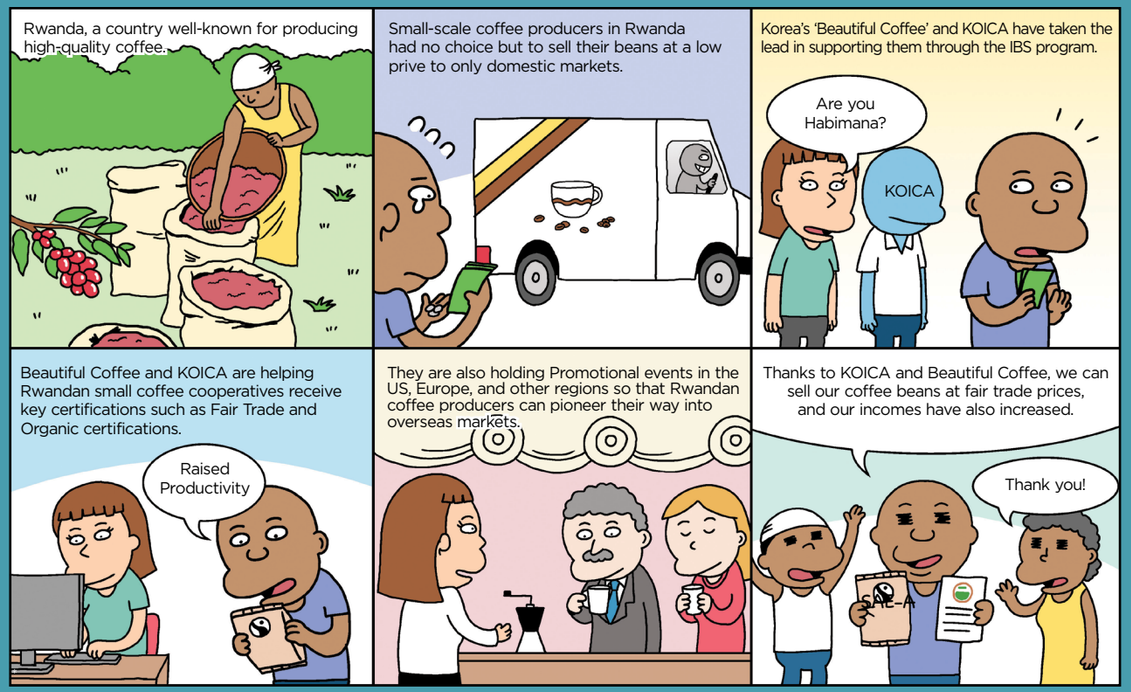
A_"ADAG has 60 centers throughout Bangladesh. In addition, since the e-commerce market in Bangladesh is expanding, we plan to make use of it. We are currently focusing on dried fish, but we plan to expand the distribution of other specialties in all 60 centers."

Q_What is special about this project?

A_"This project is meaningful because it contributes to the increase in the income of people in developing countries through financial inclusion. The residents of Maheshkhali Island were alienated from the existing financial system and ignorant of the management of their income. Bank Asia, a commercial bank in Bangladesh, created a bank branch on the island, helping its residents with financial activities and safe integration into the existing financial system. We are helping the islanders earn more income by expanding their distribution channels. Through all of these activities, the island's inhabitants have created a foundation for not only generating extra income, but also safely managing their income."

You can learn more about 'KT', which constructed an internet communications network on a remote island in Bangladesh Helping improve income for island residents with IT power in 'What's ODA' in the August 2018 issue of the KOICA Webzine.
http://webzine.koica.go.kr/201808/eng/content2.php?code=201808_020204

'Beautiful Coffee' Helping the Development of the Rwandan Coffee Industry
Pioneering the overseas markets for fair trade presenting an 'Aromatic' smile to local coffee producers



Da-yeong Kim, the Head of the Producer Partnership Team at Beautiful Coffee

"We need to create a fair business environment and contribute to revenue generation and poverty eradication in developing countries"

Rwanda produces good-quality coffee, but it is not traded at fair prices due to the lack of business competencies of small-scale farmers. This puts an obstacle on revenue generation and poverty eradication in developing countries. KOICA and Beautiful Coffee have joined together through the IBS program to resolve this problem. Their goal is to strengthen Rwanda coffee cooperatives' business capabilities and support their advancement into foreign markets so that they can establish foundations for selling their coffee at better prices and independently stand on their own feet. The following is an interview on the project with Da-yeong Kim, the Head of the Producer Partnership Team at Beautiful Coffee.

Q_What kind of enterprise is Beautiful Coffee?

A_"Beautiful Coffee is a Korean social enterprise and a corporation certified by the Ministry of Employment and Labor. It was the first Korean company that started Fair Trade business in 2002, and started out with handicrafts. In 2006, it received much attention by introducing the Fair Trade coffee brand called 'Gift from Himalaya.' We purchase coffee and chocolate that are mostly produced in developing countries directly from producers at Fair Trade prices, contributing to the eradication of poverty for neglected small-scale producers in these countries, and expand ethical consumption at home and abroad to realize social value through business."

Q_Please give us a brief overview of the Rwanda Coffee Cooperative Accelerating Project.

A_"This is a business that supports small farm owners' cooperatives that produce high-quality coffee but have no choice but to sell it to the domestic market at a low prices compared to its quality. It helps small-scale cooperatives increase their business capacities, acquire key certifications, and expand sales channels so that they can trade directly with foreign buyers at better prices. Beautiful Coffee directly purchases Rwandan coffee, sells it in Korea and Rwanda, and promotes it to other foreign buyers. These activities ultimately aim to enable small coffee cooperatives to advance to more promising markets, trade under fair conditions, lay the foundations for breaking the vicious cycle of poverty, and become independent."

Q_Could you explain the current state of the first-year project in detail.

A_"In 2016, Beautiful Coffee began site-surveys in Rwanda to develop the project. In 2017, it independently launched a small-scale pilot project and starting from 2018, it has carried out the project with the support of KOICA's IBS program. In the first year of the project, we established Beautiful Coffee Rwanda Ltd. and started to support four small cooperatives. The foremost goal of the project is that the coffee of these cooperatives get to be sold in overseas markets under better conditions than in the domestic market. So, in the first half of the year, we visited the Specialty Coffee Association in America(SCAA), the Specialty Coffee Association Coffee Association in Europe(SCAE), and other institutions to promote their coffee.
Also, it provided business capacity enhancement coaching to these cooperatives. The education was about obtaining the Fairtrade Label, the Rainforest Alliance Certification, the Organic Certification, and other key certifications which will enable them to find better markets by themselves, while helping them meet the requirements to achieve such certifications. In the second half of the year, we plan to visit Cafe Show Seoul to introduce and promote Rwandan coffee."

Q_What are the roles of KOICA and Beautiful Coffee in this project?

A_"KOICA planned and developed the project through the IBS program and helped Beautiful Coffee in supporting the Rwandan coffee cooperatives and purchasing their coffee to launch new coffee products in Korea. In addition, KOICA also supported Beautiful Coffee in promoting Rwandan coffee in the Korean



Da-yeong Kim(Head of the Producer Partnership Team, left)

Written by Ji-eun Yeo(Intern Reporter, KOICA Public Relations and Communications Department)
Photo by Da-yeong Kim(Head of the Producer Partnership Team at Beautiful Coffee) · Illustrations by Se-hun Hong

market, using its various domestic and foreign networks. Beautiful Coffee is making its best efforts to find better buyers for Rwandan coffee through the network that it established in the country."

Q_What are the greatest achievements of this project?
A_"In June, Rwandan coffee cooperatives' coffee was first evaluated and tasted at an specialty coffee fair held in Europe. Small cooperatives' coffee had never before been introduced to overseas markets, and thus had not been directly evaluated by foreign buyers. It was a remarkable achievement that we received good evaluations and feedback at this fair during the first year of the project. Also, it is expected that these coffee cooperatives will be able to acquire the Fair Trade Label by the end of the first-year project. So, we anticipate even greater accomplishments in the future."

Q_What is your favorite memory from the project?
A_"The coffee cooperatives participating in the project were cheered on and gained momentum by the encouragement and support for their business from Beautiful Coffee and KOICA. Initially, it was planned to support only a small set of equipment to help them obtain major certifications. However, as the equipment needed to prepare for the achievement of these certifications increased, the cooperatives voluntarily reviewed the items that they could procure themselves and then asked us for additional support. The fact that they were trying to lead their business with a sense of ownership left a big impression."

01
A farmer who visited Washing Station, a coffee farmers' cooperative, to sell his beans
02
Workers participating in handsorting, part of the coffee quality control process
03
Rwandan coffee cooperative members and Beautiful Coffee employees in an international coffee fair


02



03

Q_Could you tell us about your future business plan and your expectations?
A_"Our goal is to help Rwandan small coffee cooperatives participating in the future projects acquire major certifications such as the Fair Trade Label and meet more buyers. More than anything else, it is very important that small-scale farm owners who have established sales channels in the domestic market, sold their coffee at low prices, and thus suffered heavy debts are able to secure a variety of customers and select better trade terms. With their potential in terms of quality and their willingness to pioneer into overseas markets, Rwandan coffee cooperatives are growing as a small social enterprise. Beautiful Coffee will work together with them so that they can serve their members, small coffee farmers, and contribute to the community."


01

KOICA
Korea International Cooperation Agency

People, Peace, Prosperity!

KOICA was established as a government agency
responsible for Korea's grant assistance in 1991.
KOICA has made great efforts to support poverty reduction and
sustainable socio-economic development of partner countries.
As Korea's unique development assistant platform,
KOICA is committed to playing a leading role
by maximizing inclusive development experience and expertise
as well as extensive networks at home and abroad.

