KOICA
Korea International
Cooperation Agency

OPEN KOGL Korea Open Government License

Together KOICA

Together KOICA

2021
vol.4



KOICA

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) is the representative organization for development cooperation in the Republic of Korea. KOICA was established in 1991 to support economic and social development in developing countries. Based in 44 offices around the world, KOICA offers a wide range of programs including national (projects and development consultation) and global programs (overseas volunteer groups, development cooperative human resource development and global training, international organization cooperation, public-private cooperation projects, innovative development cooperation programs), humanitarian aid (disaster recovery support, emergency relief), and international disease eradication fund projects.

KOICA acts as a platform for national development cooperation through which various actors such as the government, public institutions, NGOs, companies, academia, and citizens may participate in partnership. KOICA's development cooperation projects contribute to addressing various global issues including those on human rights, the environment, disease, and global poverty eradication. Moreover, it contributes to win-win development between Korea and developing countries by laying the foundation for Korean companies to gain entry into global markets as well as by fostering Korean global talent.

As the representative agency for development cooperation in the Republic of Korea,

KOICA will achieve win-win development cooperation for people-centered peace and prosperity, the kind of which leaves no one behind.

Trainees of KOICA Korea-Vietnam Friendship ICT University Trainer Nurturing program 'Nguyen Si Thin' and 'Tran Van Dai'

Together
KOICA

2021 vol.4

<Together KOICA> is a newsletter that shares the stories of KOICA. Be inspired by heart-warming stories from all around the world delivered to you by KOICA, leaders in the field of creating social value.

Publisher	Sohn Hyuk-Sang
Registration Date	December 5, 1994
Publishing Number	홍보 2021-02-049
Publishing Date	April 14, 2021
Publishing Organization	Korea International Cooperation Agency(KOICA)
Address	825 Daewangpangyo-ro, Sujeong-gu, Seongnam-si, Gyeounggi-do, 13449, Republic of Korea
Tel	82-31-740-0260
Fax	82-31-740-0655
Website	www.koica.go.kr
Planning & Editing	KOICA Office of Public Relations & Communication
Production & Printing	Sungwooadcom

The KOICA newsletter <Together KOICA> follows the ethical guideline and code of conduct established by the Korea Publication Ethics Commission. Copying or modifying the content of this newsletter is not authorized. The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) is a Ministry of Foreign Affairs-affiliated organization dedicated to granting aid programs. KOICA establishes and strengthens friendly ties with developing countries, and supports their socio-economic advancement.

Cover Story

Dr. Young-il Song, KOICA Global Doctor in Uzbekistan



12


26



44

KOICA Live

06 Long-lasting Cooperation between Uzbekistan and KOICA, Achieving Fruitful Results
KOICA Vocational Training Project in Uzbekistan

08 Transforming Areas Damaged by a Dam Collapse in Lao, PDRs for a Better Place to Live
Integrated Program for Climate Resilience and Empowerment in Attapeu Province, Lao PDR

12 Virtual Meeting, Online Training, and Contactless Conferences
ICT Revolution is On-going in Nigeria

14 Final Touch for an Upright/Transparent Tunisia, KOICA updates on Tunisia's National Online Service

16 In an Untact Era, the Seed of Nonviolence will Sprout Online, Capability Strengthening of International Cooperation Experts for Peace-building in Asia Project

18 Beautiful Sustainable Development with KOICA BeautifulStore

22 Taegeuk Mark Waving at Overseas COVID-19 Response Hospitals?
Overseas COVID-19 Response Hospitals Supported by KOICA

KOICA People

26 "Thank God that You are Here in Uzbekistan"
Dr. Young-il Song, KOICA Global Doctor in Uzbekistan

28 "Now, to Vietnam for ICT Training" Who are these two Vietnamese receiving doctorate degrees in ICT?
Nguyen Si Thin & Tran Van Dai

30 We are coming for you online, rather than via airway
KOICA e-volunteering

32 Addressing Poverty and Hunger Issues is Filling a Piece given to me in a Large Puzzle
WFP Rwanda Office Resiliency Building Program Manager Seonghee Choi

36 Milk Mustache for Children, Sufficient Food for Grown-ups Jae Won Lee, CEO of Milk for Lao

38 Building the Foundation for Indonesia's Railroad Development, Indonesian Railroad Polytechnic Expert Wahyu Tamtomo Adi

40 Handling Everything surrounding Global Cooperation, Assistance, and Relief
Multilateral Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance Department

44 Taking Care of the Safety of All KOICA Colleagues Around the World, Global Safety Center

48 A message of hope from KOICA's overseas volunteers and immigrant women through fairy tales from around the world
Mother's Country Storybook

KOICA Lounge

54 How Are You? We Are Doing Fine!
Global COVID-19 Stories

56 Let us introduce movies about the human rights of women who changed the world



Long-lasting Cooperation between Uzbekistan and KOICA, Achieving Fruitful Results

KOICA Vocational Training Project in Uzbekistan

Having been friends for '10' years. You can imagine how strong the bond between these two companions would be. A decade is long enough to create a solid friendship. There is a country that has been cooperating with KOICA for more than 10 years, putting its efforts in enabling sustainable development through expert nurturing: Uzbekistan.

Written by Nam Jiyeon **Photos by** KOICA

Talent Nurturing Centers in Uzbekistan

KOICA has been cooperating with Uzbekistan for more than 10 years, establishing Vocational Training centers all around the country. Vocational Training Centers are established to support national and social development and modernization of Uzbekistan, enhance the quality of education by building infrastructure for vocational skill training and higher education, and nurture future industry talents through educational informatization including the provision of IT training and informatization system establishment. Since the opening of Tashkent Vocational Training Center in July 2012, Samarkand Center and Shahrisabz Center followed suit in 2016 and 2018 respectively with an enthusiastic welcome from the Ministry of Labor of Uzbekistan. KOICA is currently establishing Fergana Center, hoping to complete building by 2020, launched the construction of Urgench Center, aiming to open by 2022, and vocational training capability strengthening project this year.

Achievement after achievement! Samarkand Vocational Training Center

In particular, Samarkand Vocational Training Center is partnering with Keimyung College University to continue with the civil society cooperation project after completing KOICA multilateral development cooperation project. The transition led to other fruitful results such as expanding into diverse areas while partnering with a university and supporting self-reliance of Uzbekistan by maintaining the quality of education at a high level.

Through the civil society cooperation program, Samarkand Center newly added two departments including computer design and mechanical engineering CNC to its existing four departments of automobile maintenance, IT, electrical engineering, and welding. It also established Samarkand Startup Incubating Center (SSIC), in which nine startups have joined currently. The startups can use the SSIC facility at a relatively affordable price during their one-year residency and are provided with startup capacity building training programs such as consulting and workshop from business establishment experts once per month.

Samarkand Vocational Training Center recruits about 300 trainees each year who receive an 8-month training course including both theoretical lectures and practice sessions. As of July 2020, 1,943 trainees completed the course, and 95 percent of them, 1,287 to be precise, successfully got a job, demonstrating a high employment rate.

Likewise, Samarkand Vocational Training Center is evaluated as a highly successful case since it is proceeding with 'KOICA Comprehensive programs' consisting diverse projects such as multilateral development cooperation, private-public cooperation, WFK volunteering, and job training. This is especially symbolic that the Samarkand Center has established itself as a core institution that contributes to the economic development of the community through its cooperation with relevant institutions including local universities, companies and local government, enabling the achievement of the program to spread out overseas.

With Vocational Training Centers spreading their presence throughout Uzbekistan while achieving fruitful results, Uzbekistan also came up with a meaningful result by joining the World Skills International as its 83rd member in January 2020. Therefore, KOICA is planning to promote diverse activities to nurture skilled talents such as holding 'National Skills Olympic Uzbekistan' co-hosted by KOICA and the Ministry of Labor.

KOICA and Uzbekistan are achieving continuous results while cooperating with each other to enable sustainable development. That cooperation might be a model that reflects coexistence and prosperity, the concepts often regarded to be abstract from time to time.



Complete view of Samarkand Vocational Training Center


Opening Ceremony of Samarkand Startup Incubating Center

Transforming Areas Damaged by a Dam Collapse in Lao, PDRs for a Better Place to Live

Integrated Program for Climate Resilience and Empowerment in Attapeu Province, Lao PDR

In 2018, 6,000 refugees suffered from the collapse of Xe pien-Xe Nam Noy hydropower saddle dam located in Attapeu province, Lao PDR. KOICA, not to let the vulnerable who suffered from the disaster excluded from COVID-19 response, is supporting the people.

Written by Gweon Hyeok Ko, Sanghee Han of KOICA Laos Office
Photo by Hyemi Kim, Singkam, Chengof KOICA Laos Office

The Starting Point of Attapeu program. Thinking about disaster response and climate resilience

We have entered the mid-stage of the Korean government's consecutive response on supporting the damages of Xe pien-Xe Nam Noy dam collapse which took place in July 2018 as a result of a record high downpour.

Right after the accident, KOICA served as a control tower for relief supplies such as medicine and food for the emergency rescue team, and in 2019, encouraged residents of damaged areas to return to their daily lives by organizing an emergency budget to provide comprehensive support including healthcare, vocational training, disaster management, education, agriculture, and child protection.

In addition, KOICA installed a PIUs (Project Implementation Unit) in the capital and Attapeu site of the partner country to enable sustainable development through regular discussion with relevant organizations and residents.

Moreover, KOICA, to support local residents of the damaged area, who became more vulnerable due to socio-economic losses after the disaster, live a better life than simply going back to the life before, is proceeding with 'Integrated Program for Climate Resilience and Empowerment in Attapeu Province, Lao PDR (2019-2023).'



Children are looking at a preventive poster distributed by KOICA.

COVID-19 Safety Net Support for People of Attapeu, Lao PDR

COVID-19 response activities are connected with 'Integrated Program for Climate Resilience and Empowerment in Attapeu Province, Lao PDR,' which was launched last year, to provide COVID-19 preventative supplies to Sanamxay in the short-term, and to create a preventative measure to prepare for a second wave of COVID-19 pandemic in the long- term. This program is meaningful since KOICA supported residents living in temporary shelters, the most socioeconomically vulnerable in Lao PDR. By supporting the most vulnerable first, KOICA is trying to deliver its message that it will leave no one behind and accomplish mutually beneficial development cooperation.

Pursuing Sustainability from Supplies Support to Preventative Training

On June 29th, KOICA held 'COVID-19 Response Supplies Donation Ceremony' at Sanamxay district hall in Attapeu, and delivered COVID-19 preventative supplies including masks, thermometers, and soap to 1,000 climate refugee households not to leave the vulnerable damaged by dam collapse excluded from the pandemic response measures. In addition, KOICA supported preventative supplies including masks, alcohol, hand sanitizers, and thermometers to Attapeu Provincial hospital, four district hospitals and 32 health centers in order to strengthen local healthcare and medical system..

In addition to supply support, KOICA held COVID-19



The delivery of donated goods from KOICA

preventative activities for three days from June 29 to July 1. It aired COVID-19 prevention measuresincluding COVID-19 symptoms, spreading path, and prevention guidelines for individuals through village broadcast, produced posters to inform proper handwashing measure, mask-wearing guidelines and COVID-19 prevention guidelines and distributed them to public facilities including temporaryshelters , schools and hospitals.

Through COVID-19 prevention activities, KOICA not only provided supplies but also emphasized the importance of sustainable development cooperation by providing prevention training for local officials and residents. Moreover, centered on Lao PDR's Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare and Ministry of Health, KOICA's activities were established in cooperation with Attapeu provincial government. It was meaningful since it was not just a one-time activity, but a means to establish a systemic quarantine system.

Dreaming a Better Life than Before the Disaster

The world is suffering from climate change. Lao PDR is also exposed to disasters deriving from climate change including typhoons, floods, and drought, and other partner countries including Lao PDR are facing huge damage due to weak disaster response capability.

Since its launch of the program in 2019, KOICA is contributing to the improved quality of life of Attapeu residents through various activities. Currently, it is running a continuous capacity-building program for healthcare and medical staff to create an emergency traumatic medical system in preparation for future disasters in the healthcare sector, and 8 medical staff have already completed the training. As most Attapeu residents work in the agricultural sector, losing farmland leads directly to livelihood issues. Therefore, KOICA is supporting them to prepare other means of livelihood through useful skill training, fish farming, and poultry farming. In addition, as establishing a disaster management system is important in a longer point of view, KOICA held disaster management training at schools located nearby the temporary shelters for swift disaster response, and also held meetings to deliver Disaster Management Act and a workshop to implement enforcement ordinance of Disaster Management Act. By 2023, KOICA has already planned important activities including the establishment of a new district hospital and health center installing a participatory rainwater harvest facility, and publication of guidebook on the enforcement ordinance of the Disaster Management Act.

KOICA will continue with its efforts to successfully proceed and Attapeu Disaster Recovery program and to accomplish sustainable development in the shoes of Attapeu residents. Moreover, KOICA hopes the COVID-19 response activities serve as a driving force for delayed activities due to the COVID-19 outbreak.





KOICA distributed Covid-19 preventive items to residents and measured their body temperature.

Interview of Residents from COVID-19 Response Activities Neighborhood (Beneficiaries)



Mr. Somchan, Head of Dongbak Village

We learned a lot of COVID-19 preventative measures including hand washing and social distancing through KOICA's COVID-19 response activities. We are very grateful that KOICA supported us with supplies for COVID-19 prevention and shared us with information regarding the virus.



Mr. Sitason, Head of Tamayot Village

We were able to learn the practical response measures regarding COVID-19 such as its symptoms, how to wear a mask and wash hands properly through KOICA's COVID-19 response activities. During the pandemic that is striking the world, I could not work nor move freely, and is experiencing financial loss. However, through KOICA's support, my neighbors and I got the strength to move on and overcome the situation.



Ms. Phok, nurse of Tamayot Village

It was excellent to receive detailed training on COVID-19 response guidelines. As a medical staff member, I wanted to support my community in responding to the crisis. I am so glad that I could be of help thanks to KOICA's activities. In particular, the preventative supplies handed out to residents in economically vulnerable villages will be of great help.

Virtual Meeting, Online Training, and Contactless Conferences

ICT Revolution is On-going in Nigeria

The Giant of Africa. This is the alias of Nigeria. At early 2010, Business Insider, a US business media, designated 6 post-BRICs emerging countries that will lead the second decade of the 21st century and Nigeria was one of them. The country was expected to experience rapid economic growth with a high population growth rate, and anticipated to have higher growth potential compared to other countries with abundant natural resources including oil, natural gas and coal.

Written by Hyunsoo Lee
Photo by KOICA Nigeria Office

Even with covid-19, we don't stop

Nigeria still has a long way to go. The country has to deal with various issues such as the gap between the rich and poor, insecurity coming from abductions and terrorist attacks, corruption, inefficient administrative process and a lack of infrastructure. Then, ICT rose as a means to overcome such issues, diversifing it's economy and strengthening its core education and health-related infrastructure. The potential of the ICT sector is as high as the oil and gas industry in terms of profit and job creation, and the sector could be effective in shortening Nigeria's technological gap with Europe. By investing aggressively in the ICT sector, the Nigerian government witnessed a rapid growth in the share of the communications sector in its GDP, from 7.7 percent in 2007 to 14.4 percent in 2020.





Nigeria did not stop here and started to draw a blueprint to strengthen its status based on the digital economy by announcing 'National Policy on Information and Communication Technology in Education' and 'National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy,' respectively in May and November 2019. To support Nigeria, KOICA has been strengthening Nigerian public workers' ICT capacity by enhancing their digital accessibility, establishing training facilities and nurturing trainers as a part of its first round of E-Government project.

However, such efforts faced obstacles with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. At the moment of crisis, KOICA lent a helping hand to strengthen Nigeria's capability to run non-face-to-face programs and address such issues. The organization helped the country equip meeting rooms with devices for the smooth preparation of virtual meetings. As the status report and relevant meetings took place swiftly through contactless meetings, Nigeria was able to process its programs smoothly. By holding more than 32 business negotiations with more than 500 participants from 40 different places, Nigeria steadily and passionately promoted its policies even under the pandemic.

How to prepare for Post-COVID perfectly

In June, Mr. Woochan Chang, the Country Director of KOICA Nigeria Office participated in G2C Conference with was cohosted by the Federal Ministry of Communications & Digital Economy of Nigeria and the World Bank to introduce KOICA's E-Government program and had discussions on ICT policies and G2C service cases. The government of Nigeria, after gaining confidence in promoting contactless businesses, held online training for essential staff members from major organizations. It was also the first online training provided by the KOICA Nigeria office. During the process, KOICA supported Nigeria by transferring its know-hows on contactless training system establishment and operation.

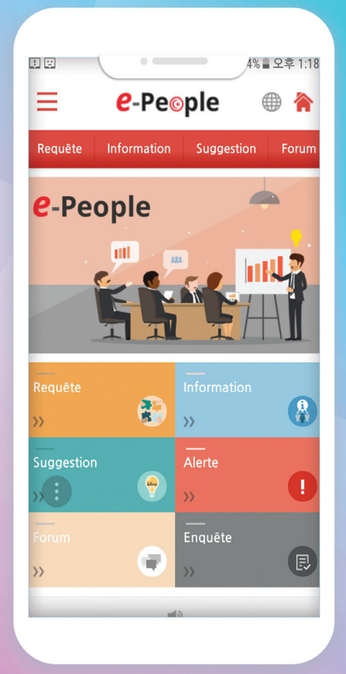
Last but not least, alumni webinar events should not be neglected. KOICA global training project, a regular human resources development (HRD) program to maintain the spirit of knowledge sharing, is being implemented since the organization's establishment in 1991 to support its partner countries. KOICA Nigeria office and the trainee alumni held the webinar for two days from 18 August 2020. During the event, 140 participants from diverse organizations including Nigeria Federal Ministry of Education, Ministry of Communication, Ministry of Education, USAID, UNICEF, and various start-ups gathered online to share information regarding the remote-education status and program results.

With the pandemic striking the world, many are going through difficult times. Still, KOICA is supporting the Nigerian government in these dire days to reduce the risk of COVID1-9 infection, saving time and money for mobility.

In addition, a sound ground was prepared in the country for the development of diverse programs in the future with the improvement of equipment used for real-time communication.

Final Touch for an Upright/Transparent Tunisia

KOICA updates on Tunisia's National On-line Service



Tunisia e-People App

Ludwig Miesvan van der Rohe, a German architect, once said that "God is in the details." It means that the details are the key to success. A business is made complete and successful by complementing shortcomings and practicing maintenance.
KOICA currently upgraded Tunisia's National on-line service that was opened in 2018. Let's look into KOICA's work on helping to establish a transparent government system by systematic analysis and improvement.

Written by Hyunsoo Lee
Photo by KOICA Tunisia Office

KOICA, the Choice for a Transparent Government

Tunisia has the hurtful past of a corrupt government. It was the government of former president Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. At the early stage of his presidency, he was supported by the middle class for coming up with policies to help the vulnerable. However, that changed. He began to suppress the opposition party and the media and control communities on top of failed policies that led to soaring inflation and high unemployment rates. There was an outburst of anger from the people, and they took it to the streets, resulting in the 2011 Jasmine Revolution. The most important thing that these people, who brought down a dictatorship, wanted was a transparent government, uprightness.

Tunisia, in the efforts to establish a transparent government, found the answer in Korea. With the help of KOICA, Tunisia established an e-government system in 2013 and implemented an e-government service in 2018.

System Enhancement by Systematic Supplementation and Improvement

This was an astonishing achievement, but there were few inconveniences after the introduction. There was a lack of intuition in utilizing statistics, a lack of transfer menus, and too complicated membership registration. In this sense, Tunisia asked for improvement, and KOICA responded by systematically complementing the site for over two years since 2019. KOICA first focused on enhancing the system. They started with the statistics system. There previously were statistics on registration, processing, and satisfaction, but they were difficult to check. Therefore, KOICA changed the system so it will be possible to check the numbers according to the categories such as processing duration and institution. This enables the civil servants to reflect the people's opinions efficiently. Also, transfer menus were added so that the inconvenience of writing down inquiries made to an irrelevant ministry was eliminated.

Though the system is improved, it would be useless if the civil servants and users are not educated in using it. KOICA also made it their interest to educate the users. Operation management education for the site has started early this year, and a total of 46 people have participated since.

KOICA's efforts to establish a better system are not limited to only users. Acknowledging that there are people not skilled in using the internet, KOICA supported interactive terminals, scanners, screens and system switches to Tunisia. Also, an annual education plan and publicity plan was established and operated so that more people could use the site.



Opening Speech for e-People by Director General of the Central Civil Service Bureau Media Interview regarding e-People



Enhance Trust between the Government and the People with Swift and Accurate Handling of Complaints

These efforts led to surprising results. With the improved access to the e-People system, Tunisia people started to use it more actively. During the 6 months, from April to September 2020, an astounding 1,175 civil complaints were filed. It is a huge hike compared to 9 complaints filed this April. Although it is true that the need for non-face-to-face work has increased as a result of COVID-19, it is also true that the system improvements made it more convenient for the people to access, and additional transfer menus enabled more accurate processing of complaints leading to the enhancement of trust between the government and the people, hence, contributing to more traffic.

Tunisia is planning to continue using the site to freely exchange opinions and enhance trust between the government and the people.

In this sense, the Tunisia e-People education center is planning to provide user education programs 100 times a year, and operate non-face-to-face on-line education for preventing COVID-19 infections. With the cooperation of KOICA, Tunisia established a communication system and improved it for a transparent and trustworthy government and a hopeful future.



Kwon Gu-soon, a professor at Seoul Cyber University, is recording an online lecture.

In an untact Era, the Seed of Nonviolence will Sprout Online

Capability Strengthening of International Cooperation Experts for Peace-building in Asia Project

As we have entered the era of 'untact' with the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, KOICA Online Fellowship Program is evolving in its forms. Last June, KOICA partnered with Seoul Cyber University to open an online fellowship program where the Korean experts shared their experiences and know-how with Cambodian participants. We reviewed the event which supplemented the weakness and maximized the strength of an online fellowship program.

Written by Hyunsoo Lee **Photo by** Choi Hangseok

KOICA's Swift Transformation in the Untact Era

In June, KOICA held the 'Capability Strengthening of International Cooperation Experts for Peace-building in Asia' program, whose goal is to share our development experiences and know-how with relevant stakeholders in developing countries to support their advancement. This year, KOICA swiftly switched online to respond to the 'untact' era forced by the spread of COVID-19. Cambodia was selected as the pilot country for the online transformation of the program.

International Cooperation Experts who will Lead Peace in Asia

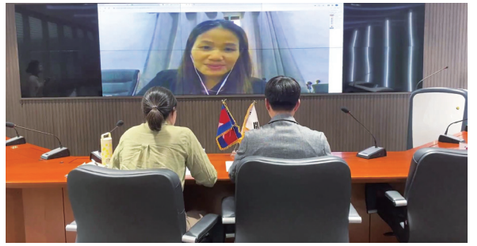
Social needs to nurture peace-related knowledge-skill-attitude is quite high in Cambodia. In Asia, many areas are facing risks deriving from ethnic, religious, socioeconomic, and hierarchical inequalities, including Cambodia. It suffered from a civil war, which hinders free expression even today, and the seed of conflict is growing. To help manage such a situation, KOICA invited 21 Cambodian experts from Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport (MoEYS), Cambodian Mine Action and Victim Assistance Authority (CMAA), and relevant private organizations and held an online fellowship program for 13 days from the 12 to 24 of June. The themes of the sessions mainly focused on peacefully handling conflicts through inducing nonviolent conversation and discussion, fostering global citizenship, and understanding cultural diversity. In fact, the training already started before the lectures were given. KOICA invited the trainees to a group chat application, and encouraged them to get to know each other by asking questions. This measure was taken to supplement the fact that it is hard to get close to the fellows in an online program.

Moreover, KOICA used Google Classroom and asked the participants to submit country reports before the starting day (June 12) to maximize the efficiency of classes. Since they all had their job, the expectation was that it would be difficult for all 21 trainees of 5 groups to hand the reports in. However, all submitted high-quality reports without any exception. It reflected the trainees' passion for the online fellowship program.

A New Paradigm of Online fellowship program, Preparing for New Normal

Professor Kwon, who led the sessions, shared his opinion that thorough preparedness to drive the trainees' desire to study was the key to successful training. "Based on the point that active participation would boost learning efficiency, our program prepared and used an assessment system that enabled the trainees to review and analyze their own academic achievement."

Ms. Ros Sophal of CMAA, one of the participants, agreed with the opinion. "I realized the thoughtful consideration of the organizers letting overseas trainees focus solely on the lectures. Thanks to that, I'll be able to present a new paradigm to CMAA." She shared future plans to share the concept of global citizenship and conflict management with 25 CMAA offices across Cambodia. Moreover, the trainees highly evaluated the 'action plan that realizes goals' saying it was 'a scientific and practical method that will be effective in future conflict management in Cambodia.' Based on the success of the global online fellowship program with Cambodia, KOICA will gradually extend the program to other countries and to other sectors, establishing a new training paradigm. KOICA will be holding a global training program for healthcare and medical sector experts from the Philippines. KOICA's global online fellowship program will contribute to establishing an Asian peace education network, handle conflicts by adjusting lethnic, religious and socioeconomic inequalities, and guarantee peace. It will build a peace education network not only with Cambodia but also with other Asian countries, becoming a seed to advance global citizenship around the world.





The students are listening to an online lecture.

Beautiful Sustainable
Development with KOICA

BeautifulStore

BeautifulStore is a social enterprise actively proceeding domestic as well as overseas business. Many people regard it as a store that sells used goods, but its good-hearted impact is blooming flowers hope in- and outside of Korea. We met the staff members of BeautifulStore, who are holding Disaster Victim Self-reliance Support program in Bangladesh with KOICA.

Written by Kyunghee Lee
Photo by Sungwon Lee
Photo provided by BeautifulStore



Borderless Support programs of BeautifulStore

BeautifulStore is a social enterprise with a quite long history. Launched as a low price market of People's Solidarity for Participatory Democracy, it existed as a part of Beautiful Foundation, and started its business independently in 2002, marking its 20th anniversary of establishment next year. There are a total of 450 staff members in BeautifulStore, taking care of domestic business and overseas business. Whereas people are familiar with its domestic business, many are unfamiliar with its overseas business.

We started our overseas program quite accidentally while supporting a kid from Nepal. Since then, we have been providing programs in Vietnam, Nepal, and Bangladesh and it has already been 10 years. Those programs include education program, library establishment, self-reliance support program, and agricultural project."

Hana Kim, the Director, answered our curiosity.

BeautifulStore and KOICA first partnered in 2015, since 'Disaster Victim Self-reliance Support program in Bangladesh,' a still on-going program.

"In 2013, an 8-story garment building in Bangladesh collapsed. The accident caught the attention of the international community. The building which was approved as a 4-story building went through illegal expansion up to the 8th floor. Then it was under construction for another expansion, which led to the collapse of the building due to a severe burden on the ground. It was estimated that 1,135 people lost their lives and 2,500 injured, but the scene was closed even before finding all the missing people. As many issues were entangled with the accident, Bangladesh government wanted to cover it since it was getting too much attention internationally."

This accident became even more significant for another reason. Bank employees, who were also in the same building, were able to escape swiftly, but as garment factory laborers were locked in the factory and were forced to work, they could not get out. It was an inhumane and the worst man-made disaster.



A ceremony to deliver emergency aid for the collapse of a clothing factory in Bangladesh.

Building Capacity of the Victims of the Worst Man-made Accident and Supporting their Self-reliance

Right after the accident, BeautifulStore provided emergency livelihood expense, and consecutively provided with medical support, psychological treatment and capacity building program. What is notable is the capacity building program that was launched during the third emergency relief in 2014.

"Export Processing Zone (EPZ) of Bangladesh is located in Savar. The local factory of famous Korean clothing company is also located near. The youth flow into this area seeking for job. That is, this area supplies clothing all around the world at low personnel expenses. In fact, there is a statistics data indicating that Bangladesh is the third-largest clothing exporter in the world as of 2018. In this country with low

human rights treatment for women and where the low rate of women enter society, textile and clothing industry is the only area where women can work in."

Hae-in Lee, assistant administrator (Overseas Department of Social Enterprise Center), explains that BeautifulStore held capacity building program since 'even though the workers worked in a clothing factory, little were equipped with actual skills.'

"Most of them were capable of simple labor such as holding garments, picking the seam, and putting buttons on. The labor was well divided, so only a little knew how to use the sewing machine. Our goal was to help them learn all the skills so that they could produce a completed product all on their own."

In 2014, BeautifulStore established a working room for the beneficiaries named Beautiful Works. It started receiving funds from KOICA the next year, and is continuing this project until today.

"We have local NGO partners in Bangladesh. They are in charge of the operation of Beautiful Works, and the victims of the accident are hired there. 18 employees are working currently, and we receive funds from KOICA and is monitored by KOICA Bangladesh Office. Beautiful Works produces garments, bags, accessories, and masks, and those products are not only consumed in the domestic market, but also exported to Germany and Korea.

Simple Employees Reborn as Artisans

BeautifulStore considered the self-reliance of both individual beneficiaries and Beautiful Works important.

However, during the early days, BeautifulStore faced an unexpected situation. The beneficiaries' concept of self-reliance was quite different from what BeautifulStore had in mind.

"Our idea of self-reliance was maintaining a livelihood by earning money while seeking their own

Beautiful Works workers making 'Jute Bag' in Bangladesh










Hae-in Lee and Hana Kim are smiling with a jute bag.

job. However, their idea of self-reliance was just simply earning a lot of money. We had to balance our differences one by one. As they were used to receiving orders, we told them how to exchange opinions through meetings and helped them express ideas about the operations at Beautiful Works. We had continuous conversation and communicated with each other."

"After experiencing such process, the laborers got the idea of 'the success of Beautiful Works will lead to my success.' Of course, it took a long time but now they all know that the success of Beautiful Works will help themselves improve their capacity and maintain their livelihoods."

Currently, it is told that workers at Beautiful Works are highly satisfied. No one curses on or abuses them, they have no reason to fear sexual assault or sexual abuse, no one forces them to work late, and the employer pays them on time. Therefore, their satisfactory level, as well as family happiness is increasing.

During the interview, Kim and Lee proudly presented us 'jute bag,' which is produced by Beautiful Works and is exported to Korea.

"From the complicated process of setting the angles to screen printing, workers from Beautiful Works takes care of all processes. Rather than the term employee, we call them artisan, which means craftsman, and in fact, they have pride on the products they made."

We are All Connected

This program with KOICA is planned to be continued until 2021. The plan is indeed experiencing changes due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but it still is thinking of expanding in the local Bangladesh market, and continuing with its export to Germany and Korea. Even when the unofficial unemployment rate of the textile sector is 80 per cent in Bangladesh, providing a stable workplace and securing the health of the artisans leads to happiness of the members of BeautifulStore.

As we almost reached the end of the interview, Kim and Lee told us a story about 'connection.' BeautifulStore's 'net' spirit resonates with it. As the current health crisis became an evidence telling us the whole world is connected with each other, 'connecting' domestic and overseas programs is natural.

In a world where the good-heartedness of Beautiful Store spreads away just like dandelion seeds when the seeds find their way back to us, the dream of BeautifulStore will come true.

※ The interviewers and interviewees were wearing masks during the interview except while taking pictures.

Taegeuk Mark Waving at Overseas COVID-19 Response Hospitals?

Overseas COVID-19 Response Hospitals Supported by KOICA

Many people in developing countries are not able to receive appropriate treatment due to a lack of well-prepared medical facilities. In times of a global pandemic such as the current COVID-19 crisis, the situation gets worse. To address such an issue, KOICA has been supporting the establishment of modern medical facilities in developing countries as a part of its development cooperation projects. Recently, a number of medical facilities established or supported by KOICA were designated as COVID-19 response hospitals, shedding light on developing countries that are shadowed by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Written by Nam Jiyeon **Photo provided by** KOICA



Palestine





Palestine National Rehabilitation Center for treatment of addiction

The Ministry of Health of Palestine Authority designated 'National Rehabilitation Center for treatment of addiction,' established by the Korean government through KOICA in 2019, as a treatment facility for COVID-19 confirmed patients. As a result of the prolonged conflict between Palestine and Israel, many people are relying on drugs to relieve the stress and the center was built to treat such addicts whose number has been increasing rapidly. It is the first public drug addiction rehabilitation center in Palestine, and a total of USD 5 million was funded by KOICA from 2013 to 2018 for its establishment. Although it mainly focuses on the treatment of drug addicts, it is also suitable for COVID-19 response as it has an ICU and is equipped with oxygen supply equipment. In addition, separated treatment per patient is possible.

Nepal Nuwakot District Hospital

Nepal's Nuwakot District Hospital was established by KOICA in its effort to rebuild the Nepalese healthcare system that collapsed with the 2015 Nepal earthquake. It was projected to open at the end of March 2020 to treat ordinary patients, but with the sudden outbreak of the COVID-19 crisis, KOICA and the Nepalese government gathered opinion to temporarily open the hospital in advance and run a quarantine ward.

In addition, recently, KOICA Nepal Office donated RT-PCR testing kits, which can be used to test 20,000 patients, to the Ministry of Health. Due to a shortage of testing kits compared to the number of suspected patients, Nepal has greatly reduced the number of people being tested. It even used more than 80 percent of RDT type testing kits already, which is more affordable but less precise compared to RT-PCR types, thus almost impossible to run further tests. KOICA Nepal Office's gesture to support testing kits came as a tremendous help in such a situation for Nepal.

Nepal





Philippines





Korea-Philippines Friendship Hospital

In such a dire situation that requires medical facilities to treat confirmed patients, Korea-Philippines Friendship Hospital in Cavite, located south of Manila, was designated as a COVID-19 test and treatment facility. The friendship hospital was established by KOICA in 2002, and KOICA has continuously supported it for the past 20 years to help it grow into a regional medical hub. Moreover, as if such a pandemic was expected, a public healthcare center with the capability to study and treat infectious diseases was established in 2012. In the research facility under the public healthcare center, the mass COVID-19 testing process started, serving as a hub for community cooperation for infectious disease response, where samples are stored and pneumonia is diagnosed.

Kenya





Kenya Kitengela Hospital

Hospital first opened as a small clinic in 1996, but with KOICA's support from 2008 to 2010 to expand its building, it got larger and achieved the status of a general hospital and was designated as a COVID-19 response hospital.

According to a medical chief in the county hospital under Kitengela hospital, although COVID-19 is spreading fast in Kenya, insufficient testing is making it hard to figure out precise status in the country. As a result, people are unaware of the severity of the virus. The Kenyan medical sector is worried that the number of confirmed cases would soar soon. Therefore, it is thoroughly controlling quarantine facilities and putting efforts to secure COVID-19 testing kits.

Peru Dos de Mayo National Hospital & Piura Peru-Korea Santa Rosa II Hospital

Dos de Mayo hospital was established in 1875, more than 100 years ago, but still is one of the largest hospitals in Peru. It was selected as a COVID-19 response hospital as it is equipped with high-level staff, and modern devices such as mechanical respirators and tomographs. Since 2010, to manage severe patients, it has been running an ICU in cooperation with the Korean government.

Another hospital, Peru-Korea Santa Rosa II Hospital, is the only designated hospital by the Ministry of Health in Piura, which also represents all small-sized healthcare centers in the city as a COVID-19 response hospital. With the increase in the number of confirmed cases, more patients are being hospitalized and treated here.

Last May, just like in Dos de Mayo National Hospital, KOCIA Peru Office supported the medical staff in Santa Rosa II Hospital with masks, protective gear and face shields to help increase the number of fully recovered cases.



Cambodia



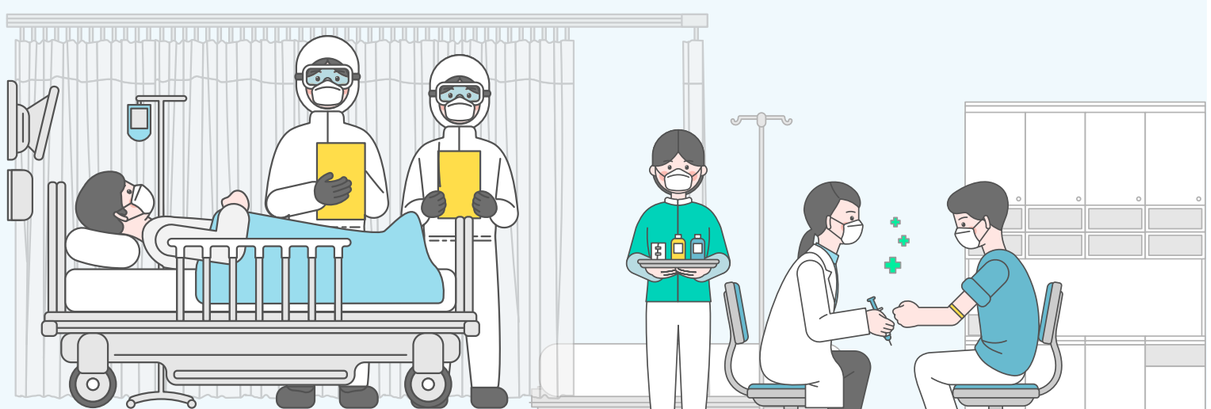


Cambodia National Pediatric Hospital

The National Pediatric Hospital, designated as COVID-19 response hospital in Cambodia, was established to treat pediatric patients, and KOICA supported the hospital's pediatric diagnosis center for 2 years starting 2005 with a fund of USD 2.4 million. Since then, to strengthen capability regarding intensive care of pediatric patients, USD 7.28 was supported by KOICA for remodeling and expansion of the facility, and to nurture medical staff.

Meanwhile, KOICA Cambodia Office also put a lot of efforts in addressing the COVID-19 pandemic. In May 8, facial masks, hand sanitizer, and testing kits were donated for the prevention of the virus to the National Pediatric Hospital and Khmer Soviet Friendship Hospital, and the poor were supported with relief goods.

Dr. Jungho Seo, a KOICA global doctor in Cambodia, delivered a message that mutual support would be a great help for everyone. "As a friend in need is a friend indeed, I hope Korea and Cambodia keep on with their cooperation and development efforts."



"Thank God that You are Here in Uzbekistan"

Dr. Young-il Song,
KOICA Global Doctor in Uzbekistan

There is a drawing of an envoy from Goguryeo* visiting Uzbekistan on the western wall in the reception room of Afrasiab Palace. This more than 1,300-year-old mural tells us that Korea and Uzbekistan established diplomatic ties quite a long time ago. Today, even after a thousand years, the two countries are connected with each other through 'K-medicine' and 'KOICA global doctor.'

Written by Lee Seongmi **Photo provided by** Young-il Song



KOICA Global Doctor Young-il Song introduces a translation of oriental medicine books.

Uzbekistan, the Second Home

Dr. Song thought he was going to Ethiopia. At the notice recruiting KOICA international cooperation doctor (currently, KOICA global doctor) substituting military service period, the destination read Ethiopia. After applying to the program, Dr. Song waited for the interview, studying a lot about Ethiopia. Then all of a sudden, during the interview, the interviewer spoke of a completely different country. "You could be dispatched to Uzbekistan. Is it okay with you?" Dr. Song answered with much determination, "I will even fly to the moon if you ask me to." That was how Dr. Song's relation with Uzbekistan, still closer than the moon, began.

"Come to think of it, I believe Uzbekistan chose me. Fortunately, I was enjoying my volunteering days in Uzbekistan, rather than worrying about all the exhausting tasks."

What energized him the most was the love he received from the people of Uzbekistan. The love Uzbekistan sent to Dr. Song and Korea was what made him happy every day, and the energy source that drove him.

During his stay in Uzbekistan, Dr. Song performed various activities including acupunctures for smoking cessation and paralysis treatment twice a week, regular medical rounding, and occasional medical volunteering in local areas. He not only provided services for ordinary people but also put in efforts to promote academic exchange between the Korean oriental medicine sector and the Uzbek medical sector, translate books on Korean oriental medicine, and establish an academic society on Korean oriental medicine.

Dr. Song spent the next six years preparing his return to Uzbekistan. Right after seeing the recruitment notice of KOICA global doctors in late 2015, he did not hesitate a second. Being selected as a global doctor, he applied to Uzbekistan, and finally came back to the country in March 2016. It was Dr. Song's honorable return to Uzbekistan, his second home.

Uzbekistan's K-Medicine Celebrity

Dr. Song is working in Uzbekistan-Korea Oriental Medical Center in Uzbekistan. It is the only Korean Oriental medical center in a national medical institution in the country. Here, Dr. Song is performing various activities including patient diagnosis, the ransmission of oriental medicine-related knowledge and skills, medical volunteering, and translation of books related to oriental medicine.



In December 2019, with the students who completed the 7th Chinese Medicine course.

"Textbook development is what I focus on the most in spreading Korean oriental medicine to Uzbekistan. To this day, I published four oriental medicine textbooks in cooperation with professors of medical schools in Uzbekistan. What is notable is that the basic acupuncture points in the textbooks are all based on Korean terms and pronunciation. Just like all official jargons of Taekwondo are in Korean, I am setting Korean to be the ground for oriental medicine in Uzbekistan. In this sense, I'm sure that I'm spreading K-medicine in Uzbekistan.

K-drama is also playing an important role in the spread of K-medicine in Uzbekistan. The popularity of K-drama is spiking that everyone in Uzbekistan knows 'Jewel in the Palace.' In fact, the popularity of this drama was what added reliability to Korean oriental medicine in the country. Thanks to such support, even though more and more Chinese medical institutions are being established in Uzbekistan for the past three to four years, Dr. Song is the only official foreign doctor with expertise in oriental medicine working in a national medical institution.

So Glad that You are in Uzbekistan

Dr. Song learned that the Uzbek thank Allah for sending him to Uzbekistan, and pray for his well-being.

"My patients tell me that 'You can't be ill. You are the one to take care of us. We always thank Allah that you are here in Uzbekistan.' When they offer an Islamic prayer, I answer by saying 'Bismillahi r-rahmani r-rahim.' I can see surprised patients and happiness spreading on their faces. That smile, I believe, is much more precious than any treatment I can offer them."

* An ancient kingdom on the Korean Peninsula

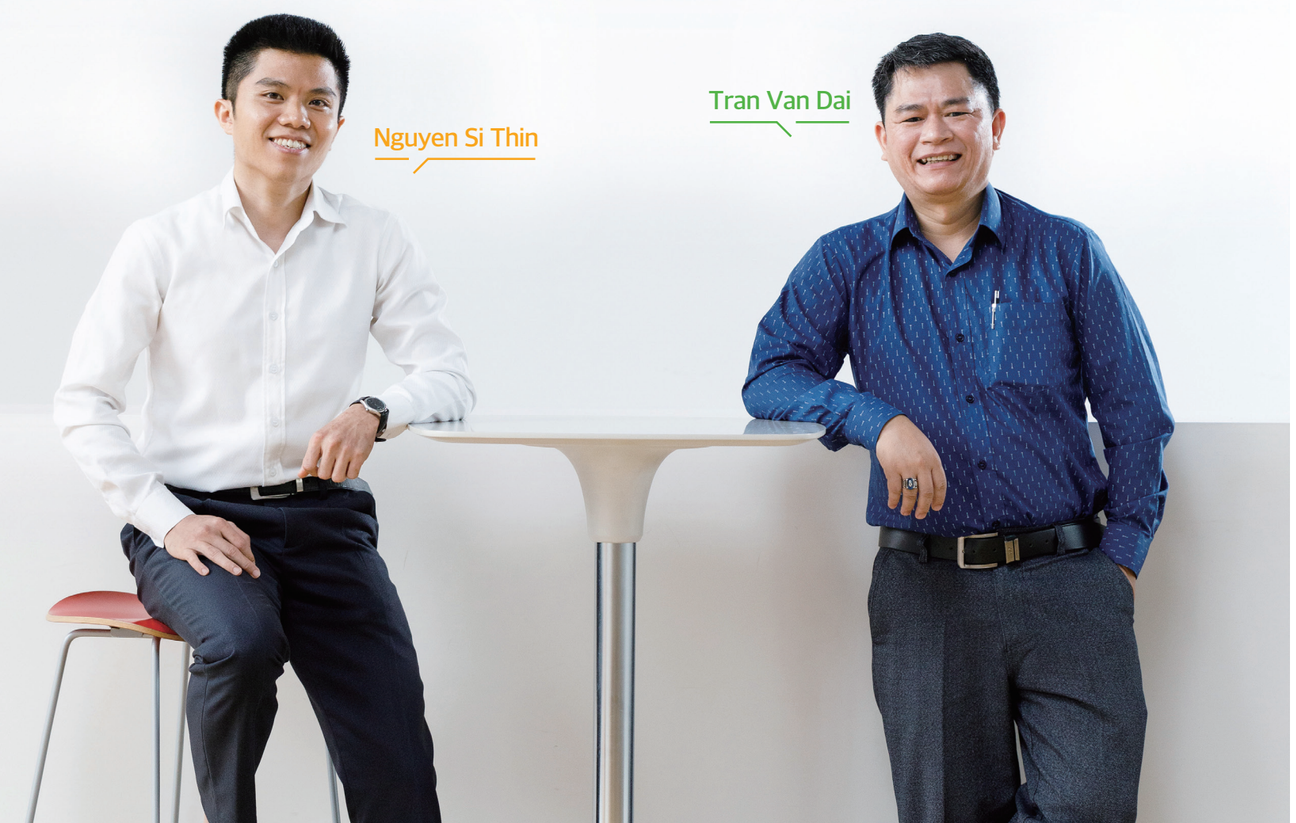
"Now, to Vietnam for ICT Training"

Who are these two Vietnamese receiving doctorate degrees in ICT?

Nguyen Si Thin & Tran Van Dai

After two chances of trying, a bright light is shining on IT growth of Vietnam. This bright future will be open by Korea-Vietnam ICT University, former Korea-Vietnam Friendship IT University, in Danang, a city located in central Vietnam.

Written by Hyunsoo Lee **Photo by** Sungwon Lee



Korea-Vietnam ICT University was established in 2007, with the financial support of USD 10 million from KOICA. Since then, while keeping an eye on the sudden growth of the ICT sector and insufficient IT manpower in Vietnam, KOICA supported another USD 10 million (including USD 3.4 million for devices and materials) to improve and expand the institution. The IT University, only with 2-3 year courses, was integrated with the IT department of Danang University to form Korea-Vietnam ICT University, a 4-year course institution, and held a commemoration event last June. This transformation is meaningful since it contributes to the development of higher education infrastructure and of advanced IT studies, as well as to balanced development in Vietnam. Not only that, realizing that talent nurturing is closely linked to an improvement of the lecturers, KOICA proceeded with Korea- Vietnam Friendship IT University Doctorate degree Trainer Nurturing program, and nurtured 16 outstanding professors until recently. We interviewed two doctorate degree earners. who will soon be heading back to Vietnam, to talk about why they participated in the program and their future plans back in Vietnam.



Q Congratulations on completing KOICA Korea-Vietnam Friendship ICT University Trainer Nurturing program (hereafter Nurturing program). What were your previous jobs?

Nguyen Si Thin I was a lecturer and I also established startup companies. In 2014, I got my master's degree in Computer Science at Danang University, and started giving lectures to students on e-commerce. I also established and ran two startups named 'Digital Library' and 'Flower Mobile' with my acquaintance. I lived a rather busy life.

Tran Van Dai I was a server developer. I proceeded with a diverse array of projects including DB, human resources management, workflow system development using C#, MS SQL Server, and PHP. Then, since 2011, I gave lectures in IT University and started my career in education.

Q How will the Nurturing program support IT advancement in Vietnam?

Nguyen Si Thin The IT industry in Vietnam is growing at a rapid pace. Not only hardware but also IT service, software, and digital contents area are growing swiftly, and there are more than 100 Korean ICT companies in Vietnam. According to 2019 data of the Vietnam ICT Ministry, there are only 250,000 IT manpower in the country when we need 400,000. In this situation, us trainees who received doctorate degrees will serve as a positive sign to nurture ICT experts with quality training in Vietnam.

Q The pandemic has set the ground for non-face-to-face online education using ICT. What are your thoughts on this transformation, and what are your plans once you go back home?

Tran Van Dai As soon as I return home, I will actively use the online lecturing system. During face-to-face lectures, sometimes it is difficult to figure out whether a student is catching up with the lecture. I will prepare my lecture note and materials thoroughly to advance in this contactless era. I personally was able to study more about deep learning, machine learning, and AI through the Nurturing program. When I go back, we will complement our learnings and give passionate lectures at Korea-Vietnam Friendship ICT University.

Nguyen Si Thin When I return home, I will start my e-commerce lecture again. I studied ITPM (IT Policy Management) a lot during the Nurturing program, and I will lead my students while reflecting on the things I learned. Thank you.

※ The interviewers and interviewees were wearing masks during the interview except while taking pictures.

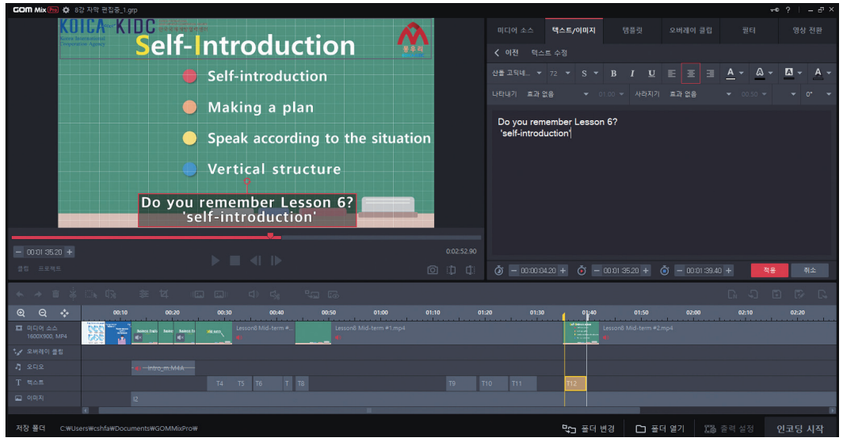
We are coming for you online,
rather than via airway

KOICA e-volunteering

With the worldwide outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic, KOICA global volunteering teams had to return home early this year. When all teams thought they had to just wait without knowing exactly when they would return, KOICA suggested remote volunteering (or e-volunteering). Remote volunteering is now rising as the most optimized option to provide continuous support to partner countries in the COVID-19 era.

Written by Lee Seongmi **Photo by** provided







Young-hoon Ko (left) and Seung-hun Choi (right) during e-volunteering. Video editing screen for e-volunteering (middle)

Non-face-to-face volunteering in COVID-19 era

Remote volunteering refers to non-face-to-face volunteering using ICT. By combining 'e,' which stands for electronic with volunteering, it is also called e-volunteering. E-volunteering started as a means to secure continuity in volunteering activities and minimize the potential education gap in beneficiary countries after all-out cessation of volunteering due to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Upon hearing the news that KOICA is recruiting an e-volunteering team, Young-hoon Ko, Seunghun Choi, Jae-young Choi, and Woo-joo Hong, members of the KOICA volunteering team, gathered together. Among them, Jae-young and Woo-joo have been to the Dominican Republic as part of a project volunteering team since last July, and met the local teenagers to provide leadership training and campaign to prevent underage pregnancy.


Visiting a local school in Ethiopia

E-volunteering, the new hope in the post-COVID era

At the same time, Ethiopia and another Korean volunteering team are connected to each other online. Through e-volunteering, the team is providing computer and science lectures to elementary school students, teachers, and students from the University of Education in the Oromia region. Even though the Ethiopian government kept on providing computer training sessions, it did not show adequate results due to difficulty in consistent electricity supply. However, the effort reached a turning point since the Korean volunteering team suggested unplugged activities that use education tools that do not require electricity. Unplugged activities that do not require electricity and e-volunteering. They might seem awkward to be together. Therefore, the team distributed unplugged textbooks to the elementary school and University of Education through KOICA personnel and provided training videos related to the textbooks to entities that had a relatively better connection online in Ethiopia. In addition, the team also prepared video material on infectious disease prevention, elementary school teaching methods and medical treatment methods for teenage girls. Members of KOICA volunteering team, such as Seung-hun Choi, who taught English in Mongolia, are continuously providing volunteer services. The members are providing computer, Korean, English courses, interpretation and translation, and promotion to improve the IT and language-related (Korean, English) capability of Mongolian teenagers. Seung-hun says that in the past, the team could only give lectures to a limited number of students in schools, but now, with the e-volunteering system, is able to help more students as video material of English lecture has been distributed to all participating schools in Selenge province.

Despite the time difference, we are still passionate

E-volunteering is meaningful as volunteer teams could keep on pursuing their dreams and overseas teenagers could still be provided with learning opportunities. Woo-joo Hong, who witnessed that girls younger than herself could not pursue dreams in the Dominican Republic also passionately participated in volunteering projects.

"Underage pregnancy rate in the Dominican Republic is 22.3 percent which is extremely higher than the average in Latin Americas and the Caribbean. This leads to loss of learning opportunities and poverty, which are passed down to the next generation, creating an endless vicious cycle. To cut the cycle, improvement in sexual perception and education for self-development are essential."

Even though airways are blocked due to the COVID-19 crisis, KOICA volunteering teams are meeting teenagers around the world online. As the sincerity of KOICA and its volunteering teams will not change even after the pandemic comes to an end, they will keep on communicating with partner countries leading to the continuous development of youth around the world.

※ This interview was conducted by phone and in writing.

Addressing Poverty and Hunger Issues is

Filling a Piece given to me in a Large Puzzle

WFP Rwanda Office Resiliency Building Program Manager Seonghee Choi



Ms. Sunghee Choi of UN WFP, is currently working as a manager in KOICA Rwanda Office. While those who wish to work in an international organization envy her, the mission and responsibility she feels are quite heavy. Let's take a glance at her journey from a UN volunteer worker supported by KOICA to a WFP staff.

Written by Kyunghee Lee Photo by Sungwon Lee

Step by Step, One by One. Moving along the Road to Realizing her Dream

A kid had a huge interest in the world. Too young to go overseas, that girl endlessly read books about countries around the world, looked at the world map, and watched global documentaries

"Spending my childhood always wondering about the world, I more and more got interested especially in poverty and conflict issues."

Jumping into conclusion, Choi achieved her goal. Her childhood curiosity turned into real life. However, once finding out how much effort and passion she put in during the process, you might want to eliminate the term 'lucky' from your mind.

"As an undergraduate, I majored English and studied International Development in graduate school. In the early to mid mid-2000s there were little Korean students who studied international development. I could not even see one when I was studying abroad."

Choi searched for ways to get into the United Nations right away, and visited Afghanistan as a volunteer worker without hesitation while taking her time as a university student. Choi, who wanted to work in a country that experienced war, wanted to see if she could really do the job. Fortunately, it was a right fit for her, and she took good care of both her work and life.

Choi went to the United States and came back to Korea after graduating from her graduate school. Her audit and assessment work there was a perfect fit for the UNV (United Nations Volunteers) position at the WFP Liberia office. Without hesitation, she applied and finally got the chance to work on-site.

"In fact, UNV is a trial for both yourself and the organization. If you are fit for the job and recognized by the organization, you will be able to stay in the UN. That was my case, too."



Choi, in a meeting on livelihood support program with local residents during her days in WFP Sierra Leone office in 2013







What You Need is an Outstanding Communication Skill and Open-mindedness

Many ask, “What is needed to work at an international organization? What kind of skills are required?” According to Choi, the answers are “international and wide point of view,” and “open-mindedness that can accept different opinions and communication skills.”

“As people from all the different cultural backgrounds gather in international organizations, communication skill is the most important. That is, you need to have the skill to understand others and deliver your opinion precisely. I am not just referring to English skills. Above all, your character should be fit for the job since what we do in the organization is a lot different from the works at ordinary workplaces.”

Staff members of international organizations go from a country to another every several years, and some have to work in a so-called ‘rough environment’ according to their position or the organization. If only equipped with a fantasy of working at an international organization, that is the moment when you fail to continue the career.

“To lessen these trial and errors, you need to figure out whether you are actually fine with the job through other organizations or international NGOs, and experience the actual site.”

Choi once again emphasized that even though having a fluent English skill is important, it is more important to have communication skills.

KOICA, the Supporter of my Dream

Choi mentioned that she could not leave out KOICA while talking about her dream. She was able to enter WFP through the UNV position at the Liberia office, once KOICA prepared the position. As many international organizations usually rehire someone with experience in the group, it is important to set foot in the first place. Thus, KOICA played a huge role in assisting Choi to where she is today.

“I’m going to Rwanda office as a manager in charge of Resiliency Improvement program which is supported by KOICA. Of course, KOICA served as a bridge for me this time, again. It is no exaggeration that KOICA’s role was extremely important. As a matter of fact, the status of Koreans and interest in Koreans are improving in international organizations. I, as a Korean working in an international organization, also have my responsibilities. The mission that I will do my job properly.”

Choi’s dream is clear. First, she wants to be an outstanding staff in an international organization. Even though she will be serving the organizations in various countries under different positions, she wants to be a staff that the organization and beneficiaries could feel proud of.

Choi, while evaluating that Koreans’ efforts to enter international organizations is quite encouraging, said that we still have to expand a bit more. In fact, countries such as Japan, are putting in both official and unofficial efforts to designate their people not only as JPOs or UNVs but as dispatched experts or program managers.

“These efforts are considered important to strengthen the country’s status in UN. Still, those people should be prepared with outstanding skills and quality required at the organizations. I believe it is also important to establish and manage a system to help people be equipped with those qualities. Even though there are many experts who have the exact quality required by international organizations in Korea, people still find ODA, international cooperation, and international organizations unfamiliar. I hope it will be nice if KOICA can put more efforts in letting these people develop an interest in such activities. Reflecting on my experience, I saw experts and junior staff members being hired for both short- and long-term positions with the support of their Ministry of Foreign Affairs or even the embassy and relevant Ministries (such as Agriculture or Healthcare). It will be a good decision for KOICA to establish a partnership with Korean Ministries, too.”

“While working in the field of international development, I learned that even with the huge dream of eradicating poverty, I alone cannot change the world itself. I believe performing my best from where I am standing is the way to complete a piece in a large puzzle named poverty and hunger eradication. Moreover, I want to help people, especially the youth, to have more interest in poverty and hunger issues, find vision in this area and prepare for the future.”

The one who was regarded to be the ‘perfect fit, the perfect candidate’ for the WFP Rwanda office position. We, together with KOICA, are looking forward to her spreading the wings in the world, a stage for her.

※ The interviewers and interviewees were wearing masks during the interview except while taking pictures.



Milk Mustache for Children,
Sufficient Food for Grown-ups

Jae Won Lee,
CEO of Milk for Lao

We have met Jae Won Lee, CEO of Milk for Lao, who, in the past, departed for and accumulated experiences in Lao PDR, a rather unfamiliar country, as part of KOICA NGO internship program to make his dreams come true, and currently is trying his best to increase the income of farmers and develop rural areas in partner countries to ask him to share his success stories of starting a business.

Written by Hyunsoo Lee **Photo by** Choi Inho



Q Would you please introduce yourself?

Hello. My name is Jae Won Lee, CEO of Milk for Lao. We first started as a research and volunteering group under the Graduate School of International Agricultural Technology of Seoul National University in 2015 and developed ourselves into a business. As our goal was to provide milk for children in Laos, we named it 'Milk for Lao'.

Q What kind of work does Milk for Lao do?

As you can guess from the name, we mainly focus on livestock industry. The people of Laos are suffering from imbalance in nutrition as their meal mainly consists of carbohydrate and consume the least amount of milk in South-east Asia. To address this issue, we are constantly running a campaign to provide milk to children in the country, and trying hard to improve the people's quality of life in Laos through nutrition improvement as well as provision of livestock industry locally.

Q How did you get the chance to participate in KOICA Young Professional (YP)* program?

My experience for over a year as a part-time worker in KOICA Education Center directly affected me to apply for KOICA YP program. In fact, I was just thinking of getting an ordinary job but changed my career route after learning that the field required a vast number of experts via the YP program. Back then, the condition of water supply facilities in Xaysomboun province was quite poor. As livestock was raised near wells, many residents suffered from waterborne diseases after drinking water contaminated with livestock manure. I remember a lady in her 60s bursting with tears of joy after the completion of a ten-month-long water supply facility construction. She had difficulties carrying water from the well due to a weak knee, and being able to get clean tap water was a huge change for her. She repeatedly thanked me, and it made me proud since I believed it was an appreciation toward Korea.

※ This interview was conducted before the Covid-19 Pandemic.

Q How did you develop your idea from the beginning stage of the business, and how far have you come?

When starting my own business, I focused on the fact that I needed to differentiate myself from others, and discovered a chance in the livestock industry of Laos after numerous research. In Laos, cows are still grazed and raised without expertise, distribution costs are not systemized, and the quality of the cows is not valued as their meat is tough. Therefore, I was convinced that if we share Korea's livestock knowhows with farming communities in Laos to improve the quality of domestic animals, it will lead to a tremendous transformation in the industry.

Our efforts paid off. In 2016, Milk for Lao was selected as a KOICA Public-Private Partnership Incubating Program** group, was registered by the Ministry of Agriculture of Lao PDR, and will perform KOICA public-private cooperation programs together with Good Farmers.

Q Would you like to share any words with future applicants for KOICA YP Program?

My one-year YP program experience was not only happy but was also precious and made me who I am today. My experience back then led to my interest in development cooperation, and the establishment of Milk for Lao. I hope you could experience a similar kind of joy.

---

* Young Professional (YP): A program where institutions, businesses, NGOs and other groups in the ODA field provide the youth with opportunities to participate in ODA programs as interns, and provide the basis to develop themselves into ODA experts.

** KOICA Public-Private Partnership Incubating Program: A development cooperation nurturing program that supports the whole process from local research to business formation to help domestic civil society organizations, universities, and educational institutions, and economic organizations pursuing social solidarity participate in new ODA programs and discover business models.



When 'Milk for Lao' was in Laos



Building the Foundation for Indonesia's Railroad Development

Indonesian Railroad Polytechnic Expert

Wahyu Tamtomo Adi

Indonesia is notorious for having serious traffic jams. Therefore, the Indonesian government is heavily investing in the development of transportation infrastructure such as roads, railroads, airports to relieve traffic. The Indonesian government showed interest in Korea's high-speed railroad system and management. In this regard, KOICA carried out Railroad Infrastructure Expert Training Program through CIAT in 2019.

※ The training program took place in 2019, and this interview was conducted in writing.

Written by Nam Jiyeon
Photo provided by Wahyu Tamtomo Adi

Q Nice to meet you. Please introduce yourself.

Hello. I am Wahyu Tamtomo Adi, currently working at Railroad Polytechnic, a transportation human resource development agency under the Indonesian Transportation Ministry. Railroad Polytechnic is a training institution that nurtures experts on railroad-related areas.

Q How was the program?

We had opportunities to share Korea's knowledge, experience and technology by participating in workshops, action plans, and site visits during the program. I got to know Korea's railroad history and experience, planning and management, safety and facility management, asset development, and so on. Korea has achieved astonishing growth despite political, economic, social difficulties following the Korean War. In the program, I learned that Korea has successfully adopted new technology for bullet trains and achieved technology transition by importing railroad technology. Based on Korea's experience, I felt that Indonesia also has to work hard to develop various fields including the railroad.

Q What was most helpful for you during the program?

The action plan workshop inspired me the most. While preparing the action plan I was able to grasp the problems and challenges of the Indonesian railroad industry. For instance, Indonesia is planning to introduce high-speed trains, and also light rail transit in major cities. When introducing such new systems, talented human recourses that have professional knowledge are needed. Various experts including technicians, planners, infrastructure/train design, and railroad safety managers are necessary for developing technologies regarding trains, railroads, signal systems and establish appropriate regulations, carry out R&D and create the right economic and industrial strategies. In this regard, I planned a way to reinforce human resources for preparing the new train systems, based on the action plan I established.

Q As you said, you signed an MOU with KORAIL.

Yes. KORAIL was in charge of training in the KOICA training program I participated in. I contacted the overseas affairs department of KORAIL under the decision that training in management, safety, policy, energy system etc., was necessary to operate a stable railroad system in Indonesia like the case of Korea. I discussed the competency reinforcement program that was needed in Indonesia with the manager and signed an MOU with KORAIL for cooperation





When Wahyu Tamtomo Adi visited Korea.



Wahyu Tamtomo Adi is participating in the 'Expert Training Program' in 2019.

Currently, it is difficult to execute due to COVID-19, but when conditions get better I plan to carry out an exchange program where employees of KORAIL and Indonesia Railroad Polytech visit each other and learn railroad working culture.

Q Do you have anything left you would like to say?

KOICA's CIAT program helped concretize the vague idea I had about enhancing railroad HR into an action plan and executing it. Through this cooperation, both countries benefited and understood each other's railroad system. Also, I think the biggest achievement from the KOICA program was the relationship with KORAIL, the largest railroad organization in Korea. It was possible because Korea was eager to share the experience and technology they possess. I hope Korea and Indonesia will continue to cooperate and accomplish great things together. Thank you.

Handling Everything surrounding Global Cooperation, Assistance, and Relief

Multilateral Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance Department

Multilateral Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance Department mainly focuses on three tasks including multinational cooperation program, emergency relief program and private-public partnership program. It will not take long to figure out that these tasks cover a wide range of areas, but it would take more time if you were to learn about the details. The department, burdened with a huge amount of tasks due to the COVID-19 outbreak, has been going through hectic period of time since early 2020. Let us look at how they've spent their time.

Written by Kyunghee Lee **Photo by** Sungwon Lee



Q Would you introduce your department to us?

Minkyung Our department largely consists of three types of work centering around multinational cooperation programs, emergency relief programs and public-private cooperation programs, of which the latter two falls under the category of humanitarian assistance programs. In other departments, multiple members deal with a single task. However, the task of our department is divided into three parts. Therefore, even though the size of our department is among the top three in the organization, it is not easy to realize the full scale of our work.

Q Would you tell us about the tasks you are in charge of?

Minkyung The most distinctive feature of a multinational cooperation program is that it is not a bilateral program that deals with a single country. The main agents that perform activities are various international organizations such as the WHO, UNHCR, WFP, UNDP and UNICEF. For refugee resettlement support and natural disaster prevention, providing support through international organizations is more effective. As international organizations could propel multinational projects neutrally, we select ones that could perform projects in partner countries regarding the two main areas for support every year.

Myeonjwa Emergency relief programs are funded not by KOICA, but by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Therefore, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is in charge of the practical decision-making process. The government considers how to provide support in case of a massive disaster outbreak. The aid could take the form of cash support, relief supplies delivery or dispatchment of a Korea Disaster Relief Team (KDRT). We perform the task on the field once the government makes the decision on how to provide support by considering the scale of damage, the needs of the affected country and the efficacy of support measures.

Jieun Sung Public-private partnership programs are implemented to respond to urgent or chronic disasters based on cooperation with domestic civil society. It aims to support the targets where the interest and access of international organizations such as the UN could be missing or limited with the help of civil society. As of 2020, we have implemented and managed humanitarian assistance programs in areas including emergency relief, refugee support, sexual violence in conflict-affected regions, and disaster risk mitigation efforts with twelve organizations.

Q What kind of projects is currently being implemented?

Myeonjwa As the COVID-19 pandemic is widespread around the world and shows no sign of cooling down, we mainly focus on the COVID-19 response. We are supporting provisions of medical devices such as diagnosis kits, sample collection kits and nucleic acid extraction kits, and providing financial aid to both advanced and partner countries under the name of 'K-quarantine.' As face masks can be now exported for humanitarian assistance purposes, we recently started to provide masks to other countries.



South Korea is donating Covid-19 preventive items to the Kurdish government.

Jieun In addition to the twelve regular programs, we have selected 10 additional emergency relief programs worth KRW 2.2 billion in order to respond to the COVID-19 crisis since last June. We are mainly focused on programs that target the most vulnerable, including refugees and migrant women and children, in seven partner countries such as Bangladesh, the Philippines, Nepal, Ethiopia, Kenya, Egypt and Peru.

Minkyung Our division is also propelling programs under the issue of humanitarian assistance. As Africa, Latin America and the Middle East are hit hard by the refugee crisis we are currently trying to seek programs to support refugees. Moreover, we are planning and promoting programs that could help prevent natural disasters.

Q What are the hardships you face during work?

Minkyung We work with many different stakeholders. It is challenging to communicate with different stakeholders including the headquarters of international organizations, Korean offices, local offices and overseas KOICA offices while propelling the programs in the right direction. As time difference act as an obstacle when communicating with international organizations, our employees are putting efforts to diversify the communication channels via conference calls or online video conferences.

Myeonjwa The government has downsized the budget for KOICA as it had to focus more on COVID-19 response. However, our department saw a rise in the allocated budget amount. Our budget regarding the COVID-19 response is about USD 80 million. This year's budget was around KRW 87 billion, and the additional budget amounted to more than KRW 8.3 billion. That is to say, while the number of our department members has not changed at all, the number of tasks we have to handle has doubled. We are facing time pressures, and even for 'emergency relief' programs, it takes quite some time as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has to investigate and manage the recipient country and then pass down its decisions. Swiftness matters the most in relief programs, but no matter how busy the employees become, it is difficult to meet the expectations of those who are waiting for support. If we focus on other tasks just for a minute, about sixty e-mails are stocked up within a half-day, and the smartphones and office telephones of the person in charge ring together simultaneously. We always have no time left to handle own work.

Jieun Public-private partnership program is small in scale and less recognizable even within KOICA, but is of high significance as it is almost the only public program that cooperates with domestic civil society in the field of overseas humanitarian support, regularly. Even though interest in a partnership is rising lately, its scale is facing limits. That is why I hope the program receives more attention from both in- and outside of KOICA to be developed further.

Q Would you share the future plan of the multi-Cooperation and Humanitarian Assistance Department with us?

Minkyung ·Myeonjwa·Jieun

Our department deals with the current strategy of the organization and overall management of the multinational cooperation program as well as the three programs we have mentioned above. Until recently, no one managed the overall programs by providing common guidelines or managing performance. That is why our department took charge of overall works regarding multinational cooperation program since the end of last year, and is handling detailed guidelines and performance management tasks since this year. We believe this is a welcoming change as we can tighten our organization's basis. In addition to the overall management role, we try to support Koreans enter international organizations and strengthen the international expertise of Korean organizations. Therefore, by establishing a mandatory Korean hiring system regarding multinational cooperation programs, we are ensuring at least one Korean member could be hired for each program. We expect they will have a broader opportunity to join international organizations by accumulating meaningful experiences while working internationally through KOICA programs. The mandatory Korean hiring system will take effect starting 2022 and be applied to overall multinational cooperation programs of KOICA.

※ The participants in the interview followed prevention rules including temperature check and hand sanitizing. All the participants were wearing a mask during the interview except while taking picture.



KOICA
SAFETY FIRST

Taking Care of the Safety of All
KOICA Colleagues Around the World

Global Safety Center

Various types of dangers threatening safety every moment reside in the world. Despite all the unpredictable threats, KOICA is providing humanitarian assistance in diverse countries. And there is KOICA Global Safety Center, which is backing up its colleagues by performing safety tasks.

Written by Kang Naeun
Photo by Won Sanghee



Shifting paradigm through preventative measures instead of follow-up measures

'Safety' is no doubt the value to be prioritized every moment. However, it could be neglected unless there is a crisis. Still, in 2018, KOICA established Global Safety Center under direct control of President to handle safety tasks, which were previously under the responsibility of Administrative Management Department. It was an essential move since many of KOICA operations are performed overseas, and the safety of employees and volunteer teams had to be guaranteed.

The Global Safety Center, identifying risks around the world and preventing safety accidents of dispatched personnel and volunteering teams, focused on creating a safety management system to boost efficiency of KOICA. The focus of safety management moved from follow-up measures to preemptive and preventative approaches.

Global safety risk factors can be largely categorized into five: Terror and political unrest, diseases, natural disaster, public security accident, other accidents including traffic accident. Among these five, typhoon in natural disaster, diseases, terror and political unrest could be somewhat predictable, whereas earthquake in natural disaster, public security accident and traffic accident are unpredictable. If predictable, dangers could be prevented by acquiring safety information and notifying them swiftly to dispatched personnel. If unpredictable, training should be provided constantly so that the personnel could act with swift decision once danger approaches.


Sang-cheol Kim, the Head of Global Safety Center, is briefing the Covid-19 situation around the world.

Establishing a safety system that collects information, sends alert, and provides safety training

After setting goals, the Global Safety Center ensured its collection of information from relevant institutions and global information institutions. In terms of training, the Center trained not only the volunteering team but also the coordinators before dispatching and started to provide local training twice a year instead of once. Currently, it is also preparing materials to be used at safety training sessions.

Meanwhile, the Center did not forget to establish a safety management system in overseas offices. To identify the situation in overseas offices in 52 countries, it created a reporting system by sharing materials via the cloud and sharing real-time situations through social media.





"We tried hard to establish a simple yet useful system. To us, all the colleagues in overseas offices are also the source to guarantee the safety of those dispatched overseas."

Sang-cheol Kim, the head of Global Safety Center told us with pride. Overseas offices even share potential risk factors weekly and monthly, respectively. For example, if there is a chance of protest and suppression due to an election the next month, the office informs the headquarter in advance. Real-time information is identified swiftly via social media. In fact, during the terrorist attack in Sri Lanka last year, the local KOICA office shared information more rapidly than the media, and KOICA HQ was able to take measures to urgently evacuate 69 dispatched personnel.

A daily safety check routine to secure individual safety has also been implemented. To be sure, it is easy to check during the weekday. However, as it is the opposite during the weekends, the Center improved the situation by firstly checking safety via social media, and contacting once again for those who could not be reached.

To strengthen the safety network of overseas offices, The Korean safety officer will be dispatched to each office "As we improved the safety system in HQ, overseas offices can also reinforce safety experts to create a system just like us, manage safety and prevent safety accidents."

Moreover, the Global Safety Center had to prepare not only the system but also the infrastructure. Therefore, under active support of the board, a comprehensive safety situation room was established at the end of last year. The situation room serves both as a control tower and a meeting room. Virtual meetings with overseas KOICA offices take place in the room, and it is also possible to monitor the situation in the covid-19 community community treatment center, located at KOICA Training Center.

Keeping KOICA safe during the COVID-19 crisis

The swift response of the Global Safety Center was also notable during the current COVID-19 crisis. Since the beginning of the outbreak in January, the Global Safety Centers have kept track of the situation overseas, took measures against the risk, and rapidly brought the dispatched KOICA personnel back home. It was possible since the center was aware of the rapid spread of the crisis by identifying the situation in Japanese and US donor institutions and by collecting information from overseas offices. As a result, KOICA volunteering teams started to return home on March 16, and all the members were able to come back without a single safety accident.

Even after their temporary return, the Global Safety Center is continuously analyzing COVID-19 status as there are still people working overseas KOICA offices. The center is analyzing the daily situation of different countries and identifying the risk to provide safety measures.

Fortunately, as the Global Safety Center and safety management system was established before the outbreak of the pandemic, swift judgment and measures were made.

Mini Interview



Mr. Sang-cheol Kim, the Head of Global Safety Center

"Our colleagues overseas are working under a more difficult environment compared to those in Korea, but still doing their best to guarantee the safety of others. I would like to send my gratitude to them. Even though we are trying our best to support those who are still working overseas, I believe they are experiencing a more difficult situation than us. The Global Safety Center exists to take care of your safety. We will try our best to ensure the safety of yours."

Upon leaving the center after the interview, a phrase on the wall in the hallway touched my heart. "You are precious. No other task could come before keeping your safety"

※ The interviewers and interviewees were wearing masks during the interview except while taking pictures.

A message of hope from KOICA's overseas volunteers and immigrant women through fairy tales from around the world.

‘Mother’s Country Storybook’

Since overseas volunteer work became impossible due to Covid-19, KOICA is seeking ways to practice their passion through domestic work. One of their attempts has made fruitful progress. It is the production of storybooks that show various cultures from around the world. Immigrant women writers that have a deep understanding of each culture participated in creating ‘Mother’s Country Storybook’ and dwelled over the meaning and level of completion.



Written by Kang Naeun **Photo by** KOICA





Traditional tales that embody various cultures are told

After a sudden return due to Covid-19, KOICA has made fun and instructive content for the vulnerable and children from multicultural families. It is ‘Mother’s Country Storybook’, traditional tales that embody various cultures around the world. This project took 4 months with the cooperation of 14 immigrant women and 43 KOICA members, a sign language interpreter, Asian Herb, a business specialized in multicultural families, global citizen education instructors, etc.

The completed 'Mother’s Country Storybook’ consists of 15 traditional tales in and is produced in 11 languages including Mongolia, Uzbeki, Kyrgyz, Burmese, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Cambodian, Philippino, French, Ethiopian, and Persian, and also could be read in Korean and in English. Also, it is produced in videos including sign language for the disabled.

Sending hope as a bluebird in the fairy tale

Everyone came to participate in the project differently, but all of them had the same heart. It is to give hope to those who are having a difficult time due to COVID-19. It was also the case for Jung Ji-eun, a member of KOICA overseas volunteer work.

“When I was in Senegal, I was assigned to a national arts university to teach students. With the outbreak of the coronavirus, everything came to a halt and I came back to Korea. I participated to send the message of hope that we can continue to do volunteer work at where we are.”

Immigrant women and KOICA members participated in every process including story selection, writing scripts, language translation, illustration, recording storytelling, etc. There were difficulties and burdens since it was the first time for everyone, but the pride of introducing each country with a traditional tale was bigger.

Nuri, an immigrant woman and writer from Iran also participated in the project with the hope to serve as a bridge between Korea and Persia.

“There are many similarities between Persian and Korean culture. The similarities and captured in the tales. I am very pleased to introduce a Persian tale to Korea and record it in the Persian language.”

Members of KOICA also had high hopes. Kim Hyung-ja, a member of KOICA, explained the meaning this project holds to the readers as follows.

I hope children from Korea and overseas could learn to appreciate the differences and mature as global citizens through.”

With the Covid-19 pandemic, we need a message of hope that we could overcome any difficulties with cooperation based on mutual understanding of various cultures. And this has been produced as the ‘Mother’s Country Storybook’, made with the cooperation of KOICA members and immigrant women. Now it is time to open the storybook and read the message of hope.

How Are You? We Are Doing Fine!

Global COVID-19 Stories

Written by Nam Jiyeon **Photo source** yonhapnews, Twitter @Abiadmk



‘Coronavirus Hairstyle’ gaining popularity in East Africa!

On a relaxing Sunday afternoon last May, kids are having fun while having their hair styled in the shape of the novel coronavirus in a beauty salon in Nairobi, Kenya. The hairdresser of the salon is having quite a busy time braiding girls’ hair into antenna-like spikes which people refer to as “coronavirus hairstyle” for about 1 USD, saying that the purpose of such a design is to raise awareness of the crisis.

Since you can raise awareness of the pandemic and keep social distance due to the spikes at the same time, maybe it could be regarded as killing two birds with one stone, couldn’t it?







An Old Cuban Lady wearing a ‘COVID-19 Precaution’ Box

On the 8th of July, Feridia Rojas, a retired Cuban nurse was walking around the streets in Havana, while wearing a cardboard house she built to protect herself from the spread of the coronavirus disease. On the box in the shape of a house with a red roof reads a message saying, “I am at home, what about you?” in Spanish. While expressing the stress from being stuck in the home due to the pandemic, she also delivered a message that we all should avoid going out as much as possible in her own creative and adorable way.







Is being a hairdresser tough?!

A man wearing personal protective equipment is taking a look at another man sitting on the other side of the screen. Could it be a picture from a COVID-19 treatment facility? No. It is a scene from a barber shop in Manila, Philippines.

In the Philippines, barbers are giving a haircut to customers while wearing personal protective gears. Barbers in the Philippines are strictly following government guidance as the recent reopening of barber shops was approved under the condition that they abide by social distancing measures.

As the hair gets lighter after a haircut, we hope the barbers’ clothes will get lighter soon with the easing of the COVID-19 pandemic.





Enjoy the Bread, and Wear a Mask!



‘Mask Parotta,’ a new mask-shaped bread from Hotel Temple City in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, India, is gaining popularity. Parotta is a flat bread that is well-known and frequently consumed ni Southern India. “Lately, the number of COVID-19 confirmed patients are skyrocketing here in Tamil Nadu. However, some people are still not wearing a mask even in these serious times. We developed this new menu to remind them to wear one,” said a relevant party from the hotel’s restaurant. The mask-shaped parotta is quite a popular menu. Compared to 50 parottas sold daily in the past, the new version is selling more than 500 per day. Of course, when going out to enjoy mask-shaped parotta, don’t forget to wear a mask!

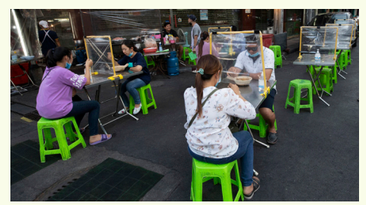


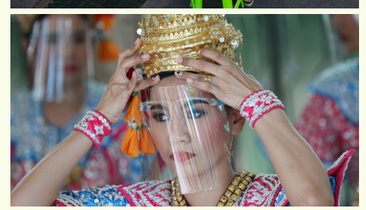
COVID-19 Prevention in Daily Lives

People are responding to the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic in their own ways, holding themselves tight in these dire days. Outdoor restaurants in Thailand are places where not only the tourists but also local residents pay their daily visit.

The tables at Bangkok’s outdoor restaurants are now equipped with vinyl screens to filter respiratory droplets. It may seem stuffy, but we should adjust ourselves to changing situations to protect our daily lives, shouldn’t we?

Changes are also shown in Erawan Shrine to respond to the COVID-19 crisis. Dancers are now wearing not only fabulous costumes and makeup but also facial shields. After the reopening of certain fields were approved by the Thai government, people are still responding thoroughly to the COVID-19 crisis.





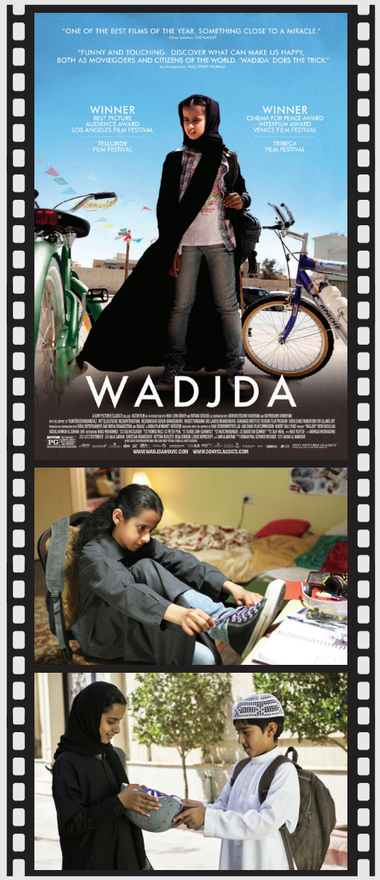
Let us introduce movies

about the human rights of women who changed the world

Women's violence is a global problem. Today, many people are trying to improve the status of women around the world.
Together KOICA introduces a film about women's rights that contains a serious consideration of women's rights.

Written by Yeongju Kim

Women's Rights



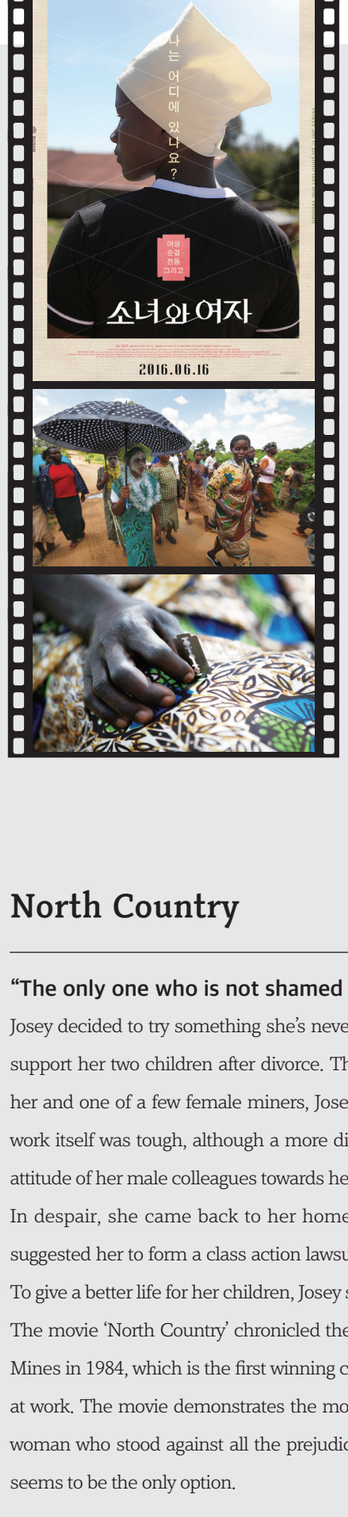
Wadjda

Saudi Arabia

"Not possible because I am a girl?"

A girl Wadjda never understands why girls and women can't ride bicycles and is always jealous of her neighbor Abdullah riding a bike. When she heard the news that there was a new green bike that she would love in stock at the store that she often goes to, Wadjda begged her mother to buy it for her. However, her mother refused by saying, 'women can't have babies if they ride bicycles'. In the end, Wadjda decides to buy it after saving her own money. Problem is, she doesn't have enough money. In time, there was a recitation competition of the Quran with big prize money at her school. Wadjda has been a rebellious student, but can she win the competition and win the prize money to buy the bike?

The movie illustrates a society whereby there is immense discrimination towards women in Saudi Arabia in the eyes of a cheerful girl. The movie 'Wadjda' is the first movie made by a female Saudi director in a country where women are not allowed to go watch movies in the movie theater. You can imagine how difficult the production process of the movie was: the director wanted to film the whole movie in Saudi Arabia, while she had to do the directing in a vehicle as the Islamic law never allows men and women exist in the same place. The director's life has also been threatened by some Muslim groups. Against all the obstacles, what kind of story has she created?



Where am I? Beyond Girl and Woman

Kenya

Somewhere Between a Girl and a Woman

There's a village where there is still female genital mutilation (FGM) or female circumcision for those between the age of girls and women in Africa. The background of the movie is in Kuria, Kenya: the rainy season each year is also the start of the FGM. The scene introduces Elijah(Age 17) who escaped to the camp against the FGM after being threatened by the FGM in contrast to Anata(Age 14) who came back to the village after her circumcision with all the congratulations from the villagers. By comparing these two girls, the movie bluntly reveals the reality of human rights infringement happening in Africa.

The movie strives to report the reality through interviews with those who experienced the FGM, which helps the public understand what is happening by featuring both those who advocate the tradition and those who are against such a tragic tradition in the movie.

North Country

USA

"The only one who is not shamed here is my daughter"

Josey decided to try something she's never done while looking for a job to support her two children after divorce. Thanks to Gloria, a good friend of her and one of a few female miners, Josey got a job at a mining site. The work itself was tough, although a more difficult challenge for her was the attitude of her male colleagues towards her only because she is a woman.

In despair, she came back to her hometown where Lawyer Bill White suggested her to form a class action lawsuit against sexual discrimination. To give a better life for her children, Josey started her fight.

The movie 'North Country' chronicled the true story of Jenson vs. Eveleth Mines in 1984, which is the first winning case of a lady from sexual assault at work. The movie demonstrates the moment of new opportunities for a woman who stood against all the prejudice in circumstances that silence seems to be the only option.



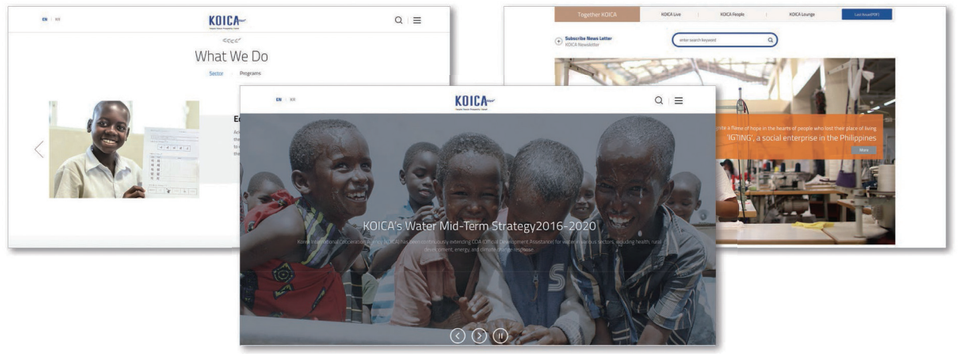
Meet 'Together KOICA' on the Internet

KOICA's online magazine, Together KOICA, is updated frequently with meaningful and interesting news, keeping you up to date with all things KOICA. Subscribe to our e-mail magazine and get the latest from KOICA anytime, anywhere.



◀Mailzine subscription QR code
If you scan the QR code with your mobile phone, it will lead to a page where you can apply for 'Together KOICA' mailzine subscription.

Subscribe to <Together KOICA> e-mail magazine

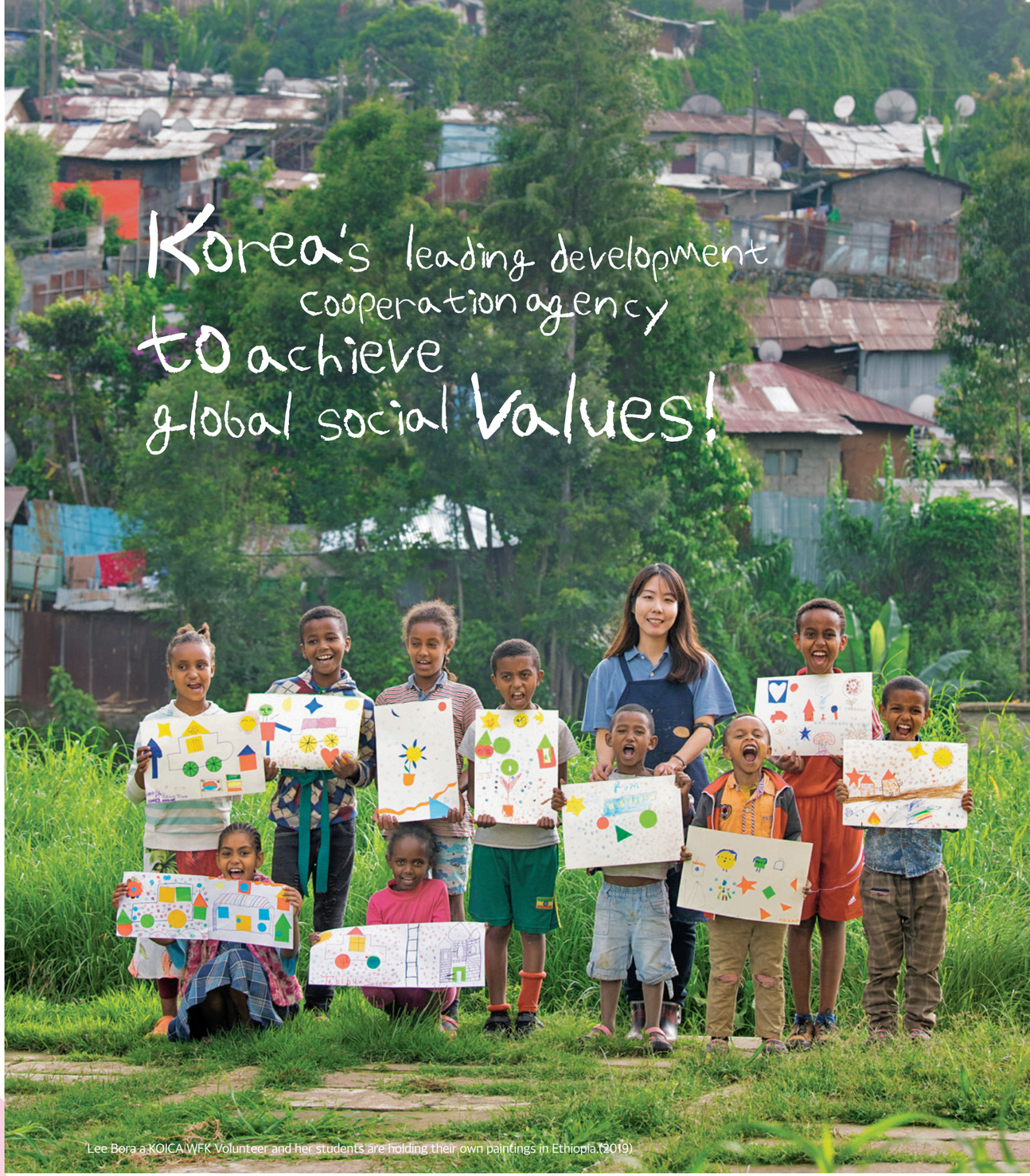


STEP 1 Visit the official KOICA homepage.
http://www.koica.go.kr/sites/koica_en/index.do

STEP 2
Process ①
Click the Webzine Newsletter icon at the bottom of the homepage
Process ②
Click on the menu at the top right of the homepage ⇢ Publications & Data ⇢ Webzine

STEP 3 Sign up for the newsletter by clicking the **'Subscribe News Letter'** button on the left side of the web-magazine page

STEP 4 KOICA e-mail magazine **subscription completed!**
You will now receive monthly e-mails updating you of any interesting news surrounding KOICA



Lee Bora a KOICA WFK Volunteer and her students are holding their own paintings in Ethiopia.(2019)

People Peace Prosperity Planet

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) will realize global social values and leave no one behind while promoting development cooperation of coexistence for people-centered peace and prosperity.

KOICA