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Korea International Cooperation Agency

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Together KOICA

2021 Vol.5

30th Anniversary



30 years of KOICA
PRESIDENT OF KOICA, SOHN HYUK-SANG GIVES 30TH ANNIVERSARY INTERVIEW

KOICA Live
Cambodia palm sugar business value chain establishment project

KOICA People
The Work of KOICA Young Professionals

KOICA has finally turned 30. Having started its journey in Yeongeon-dong on April 1, 1991, KOICA is now emerging as a leading global development and cooperation agency by working with more than 120 countries worldwide.
The 30-year history of KOICA is also the 30-year history of Korea's development and cooperation. The birth of KOICA itself proves that Korea had changed from a recipient country to a donor country.
When we look back on KOICA's 30 years, people have always been present. We would like to express our gratitude to the employees of the HQ and overseas offices, the activists at the development and cooperation sites, including overseas volunteer groups, and domestic and overseas development and cooperation partners, who have been making efforts toward "sustainable development" since the establishment of KOICA.

KOICA will continuously move forward to contribute to the common prosperity of humankind and the promotion of world peace through tolerant and win-win development and cooperation that does not leave anyone behind.

Together KOICA

2021 Vol. 5

<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.

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Cover Story

KOICA celebrating its 30th anniversary, full view







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KOICA's 30th Anniversary

"

30 years shared together
and 30 years to be created together

"





PRESIDENT OF KOICA, SOHN HYUK-SANG GIVES 30TH ANNIVERSARY INTERVIEW

KOICA'S 30TH ANNIVERSARY, ECO-FRIENDLY, DIGITAL ODA AND INTEGRATIVE APPROACH DREAMING TO BECOME A LEADING GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION ORGANIZATION.

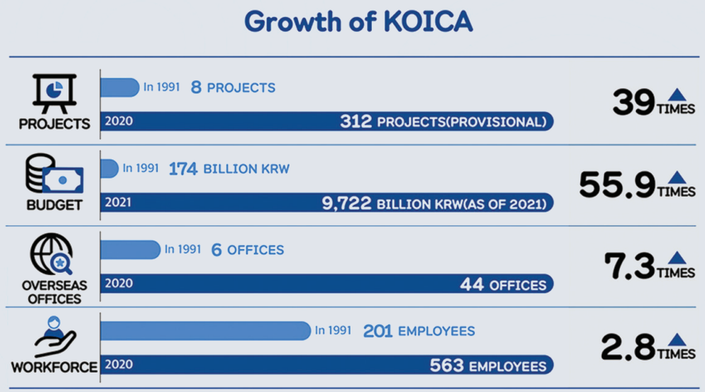
KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) marked its 30th anniversary on April 1st this year. Looking back 30 years ago, the 1990s was the time when Korea changed from a recipient country to a donor country.
In 1991, KOICA was established as an agency in charge of aid, laying the foundation for full-scale aid provision to developing countries. Afterward, it became an IBRD graduate country in 1995 and was excluded from the list of DAC recipient countries in 2000.
In 2009, Korea's contributions to ODA were recognized and Korea joined the OECD DAC, a group of advanced donors. KOICA's aid activities contributed greatly to this process.
Confucius (孔子), in his Analects (論語), referred to the age of 30 as 'irib (而立)', and cited it as an important period for laying the foundation for life. We met with the President of KOICA Sohn Hyuk-sang and asked him about the future plans of KOICA.

Q. KOICA celebrated its 30th anniversary. Please introduce what kind of organization KOICA is.

Hello. I am Sohn Hyuk-sang, the president of KOICA. KOICA is a development cooperation agency under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and we are in charge of aid activities of the Republic of Korea.
With an annual budget of about 972.2 billion KRW, we support economic and social development, fight poverty, and advocate human rights and gender equality in partner countries.
Cooperating with more than 120 countries around the world, we have carried out various projects in various fields such as ▲inviting trainees, ▲dispatching overseas volunteers, ▲carrying out cooperation projects with other countries, ▲cooperating with civil society, ▲providing global training, ▲humanitarian aid, ▲cooperating with international organizations.
Looking back 30 years ago, the 1990s was the time when Korea changed from a recipient country to a donor country.
KOICA was founded at the beginning of that stage, and the history of KOICA, which has grown together with major milestones of development cooperation in Korea, is in line with the 30-year history of Korea's ODA.

Q. How has KOICA grown over the past 30 years?

KOICA was launched in 1991, an important year in Korea's advancement into the international community. After the establishment of KOICA in April 1991, Korea became the World Bank's IBRD



graduate country in 1995. Korea's ODA began to expand qualitatively and quantitatively in the 2000s and was excluded from the 2000 DAC recipient list. In 2009, Korea's ODA contributions were recognized and Korea joined the OECD DAC (Development Assistance Committee), the group of advanced donor organizations. This is a symbolic transformation from an aid recipient country to a donor country. KOICA's aid activities contributed greatly to this process.

At the time of establishment, KOICA's project budget was 17.4 billion KRW, and there were six overseas offices including those in Canada, Argentina, Australia, and Japan. As of 2021, the 30th anniversary, KOICA's budget has increased more than 50 times to 972.2 billion KRW, and the number of its overseas offices has also increased 7 times by operating in 44 countries. If KOICA's bilateral projects and multilateral projects that are carried out through international organizations are combined, the project countries reach nearly 120 countries. In addition, based on the volunteer work that has been carried out until now, the number of target countries has greatly increased from 7 countries (37 people) to 53 countries (4,919 people).

As of 2020, Korea's ODA volume was $2.52 billion, ranking 15th among DAC member countries (29 countries in total). It is noteworthy that since Korea joined the DAC, the average annual growth rate of ODA for the past 10 years has been 11.9%, the highest among member countries. I am grateful because it means that the Korean people have supported ODA activities. However, KOICA's workforce has shown slow growth, from 201 employees at the time of establishment to 563 at the present, so it needs to be improved.

Q. The importance of ODA is growing in the international community. From the donor's point of view, what are the expected effects of ODA?

The '3rd Mid-term Strategy for International Development Cooperation (2021-2025)' adopted this year stipulates the realization of "national interest of coexistence" through development cooperation. It is worth noting the significance of this. It is emphasized that the international community, partner countries, and donor countries can increase mutual benefits and pursue common prosperity through this. However, we need to note the expression "national interest of coexistence". ODA should not be thought of simply as a give and take or short-term relationship.

Through ODA, donor countries can provide global public goods to the international community and build trust and solidarity, and in the long term, friendly relations with partner countries and the promotion of exchanges can be expected.

Q. What is KOICA's contribution to the international community regarding infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and do you have plans for support in the future?

Korea has accumulated experiences in health ODA for a long time and has a system that enables quick support. Based on this, KOICA established the 'ABC Program'[1] and provided a total of more than $150 million in aid to 116 countries according to this plan. In particular, Uzbekistan benchmarked Korea's Centers for Disease Control and Prevention with the help of quarantine experts dispatched by Korea, and as a result of active quarantine efforts, the infection rate was only 18% of that of neighboring countries. This is a case of synergy between Korea's help and the will of the recipient country.

This year, we are establishing specific COVID-19 support plans tailored to the characteristics and circumstances of each region, centered on the base countries by continent.

We plan to complete the plan by listening to a wide range of opinions from ▲recipient country governments, ▲overseas diplomatic missions, ▲overseas offices, and ▲development cooperation partners.

Vaccination has begun, but the COVID-19 crisis has not ended yet. Therefore, support will continue under the 'ABC Program'. We will continue emergency countermeasures like last year, but we will also push forward support for strengthening infectious disease management capabilities (health and infection prevention capabilities, response to climate crisis) in the mid to long-term perspective.

An epidemiological investigator that was trained by KOICA played a major role in Cambodia last year in the pandemic situation. We decided that it was necessary to have a health system and develop capacity, and in this regard, the Korean government will provide not only emergency measures but also the overall management of infectious diseases in developing countries. To support capacity building, we are actively seeking

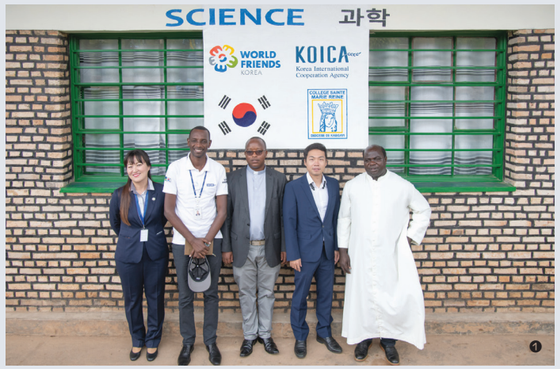
1) Immediately after the outbreak of COVID-19, the 'ABC program (Agenda for Building resilience against COVID-19 through development cooperation)' was established. Most of the contents are linked to the Korean government's COVID-19 development cooperation strategy 'ODA Korea: Building TRUST'. It encompasses health and socioeconomic support.



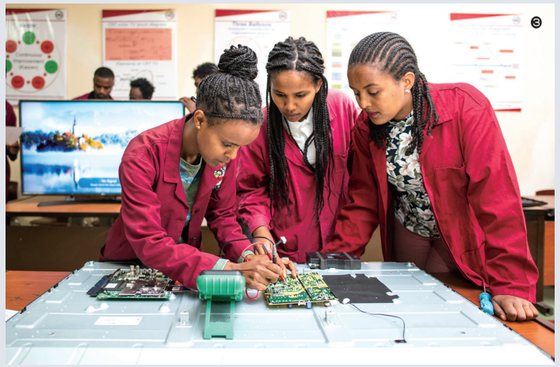
Cambodia's Minister of Health demonstrating a walk-thru test booth donated by Korea at the Covid-19 Walk-Thru Test Booth Donation Event held by the Cambodian Ministry of Health.



Medical staff in the Philippines wearing personal protective equipment provided by KOICA









❶ A launch ceremony for the science lab built with the support of KOICA at College Sainte Marie Reine Kabgayi, Rwanda.
❷ Volunteer Lee Bora, dispatched as art teacher, and students at Hibret Firre Primary School in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
❸ Students practicing at LG-KOICA HOPE TVET College in Ethiopia ❹ Student training plastering work at Nyanza Technical School in Nyanza, Rwanda

new projects regarding infectious diseases, such as the construction of the Senegal Diagnostic Lab.

In addition, I would like to point out that an integrated approach in consideration of the root cause is necessary to overcome infectious diseases.

It is difficult to separate the emergence of an unprecedented infectious disease, COVID-19, from problems such as ▲ destruction of the ecosystem, ▲ human-to-animal transmission, and ▲ the climate crisis. Therefore, efforts to overcome infectious diseases are in parallel with climate change response, that is, 'Green ODA'. KOICA has also newly established the 'Climate-Infectious Disease Crisis Response Room'.

While coping with the ongoing pandemic as it is, we will try to integrate infectious disease ODA and green ODA to prevent the root causes of future pandemics.

Q. What are your future plans in leading KOICA?

I have been working in the field of development cooperation for the past 20 years and have always been close to KOICA. After taking office as president, I feel the impact KOICA has on the domestic and international community, and I feel a greater sense of responsibility. I have set three major tasks for KOICA in 2021. It is an integrated approach of ▲Green New Deal ODA, ▲Digital ODA, and ▲Business.

The Green New Deal is a key element of the 'Korean New Deal' to overcome COVID-19, and is also linked to the root cause of the outbreak of infectious diseases. KOICA will promote the Green New Deal ODA, expand climate change projects, and double the share of ODA for climate change and the environment by 2025. Through this, we hope that we will be able to respond to climate change in developing countries and around the world and contribute to carbon neutrality.

Also, KOICA established the 'Digital ODA Business Promotion Strategy (2021-2025)' in March this year. The strategy has three main pillars: ▲expansion of digital mainstreaming, ▲promotion of digital core businesses, and ▲creation of ecosystem and its foundation.

Overseas offices and headquarters will try to seek various digital-related businesses in partner countries. Through this, we aim to achieve the digital mainstreaming rate[2] of new projects at 80% by 2023.

KOICA has dramatically expanded its number of business types, fields, and partner countries over the past 30 years. It is now time to consider a business method that suits its size. Rather than carrying out individual and sporadic projects, we want to promote a more integrated business that fits our strategy and plan.

Most of KOICA's current projects are individual projects based on regions.

Projects are inevitably driven by the departments or regions of each project. Therefore, creating a program that consists of multiple projects is an attempt to create synergy by linking many projects with a common goal.

In this regard, we plan to create a performance -based system with the core objective to resolve development problems in partner countries, while enhancing coherence with government policies and the effectiveness of individual projects.

To undergo this transformation, the competitiveness of employees and organizations must be reinforced. KOICA will expand its employee training programs to strengthen professionalism. In addition, we will establish a more rational HR system and strive to increase the enthusiasm and professionalism of our employees through transparent and open HR.

2) Digital mainstreaming rate: ratio of digital technology integration into business elements.









❶❷❸❹ Visit to Uzbekistan Infectious Disease Management Capacity Building Project site (2017-2018)

KOICA's 30th Anniversary Special Feature

Looking back at the 30 years of KOICA from 1991 to 2021

30 years ago, in 1991, the 'Korea International Cooperation Agency Act' was promulgated and KOICA was established. And in 2021, KOICA is celebrating its 30th anniversary. Let's take a look at the path KOICA has walked with the big and small incidents that have occurred over the past 30 years, and reflect on the growth of Korea's ODA and KOICA, the main agency for development cooperation in Korea.

1991



April 1, 1991
Establishment of the Korea International Cooperation Agency

August 8, 1991
Dispatch of the 2nd Korean Youth Overseas Volunteers



1993 - 1995

July 19~20, 1993
Participated in the World Aid Organization Heads Meeting (Tidewater)

January 7, 1994
Promulgation of 「International Cooperation Personnel Act」 (Act No. 4715)



March 4, 1995
Expanded regional offices (6 offices → 10 offices)

March 18, 1995
Initiation of a support project for private aid organizations (NGOs)

November 1, 1995
Business computerization following the introduction of the electronic payment system (MIPOS)

1996 - 1999

March 19~April 1, 1996
Signed an agreement with UNIDO and held consultations on aid policy with advanced aid organizations (Germany, Switzerland, Austria, USA, Canada)

January, 1997
International cooperation project included in elementary, middle, and high school textbooks

May 19, 1998
KBS Open Concert held to commemorate the 9th Overseas Volunteer dispatch (aired on May 24)



September 1, 1998
Launch of KOICA internet website

March 10, 1999
International Cooperation Training Center Opening Ceremony

2000 - 2005

July 20, 2000
The opening of the Vietnam Stock Exchange, supported by KOICA

November 5, 2002
Start of Afghanistan support project

February 2005
Establishment of Disaster Recovery Support Headquarters

2006 - 2007

September 30, 2006
1st Korea Overseas Volunteer Award Ceremony

November 2006
Establishment of medium-term strategy for foreign grant aid (2007~2009)

March 7, 2007
1st ODA Seoul International Conference



September 11, 2007
Introduction of the International Poverty Eradication Fund System



2008 - 2009

May 19, 2008
Relocation to a new building



May 7, 2009
Launched 'World Friends Korea', an integrated brand for overseas volunteers dispatched by the Korean government

September 29, 2009
Published <KOICA Footprints in the Global Village 1991~2009>



November 25, 2009
Korea joins OECD/DAC



2010

January 25, 2010
Dispatch of KOICA Haiti Earthquake Emergency Relief Team

March 15, 2010
Opened the KOICA ODA Education Center



June 29, 2010
Opened the KOICA Global Village Experience Center

2012 - 2013

August 13, 2012
Launched Development Alliance Korea (DAK)

March 4, 2013
The number of overseas volunteers dispatched by the Korean government reaches over 10,000



March 4, 2013
KMCO (KOICA Multilateral Cooperation Officer) inauguration ceremony

November 13, 2013
Support to defeat Ebola in West Africa

2014 - 2015

February 3, 2014
'KOICA's Three Major Innovations' declaration ceremony

August 14, 2015
Opened the World Friends Yeongwol Education Center



August 14, 2015
Launched the Creative Value Creation Program (CTS)

October 2015
Launched the ODA integrated information system



2017 - 2018

September 1, 2017
Reopening of Korea's only ODA library



February 2, 2018
Announcement of KOICA's Top 10 Innovation Tasks

2019

February 19, 2019
Launched subsidiary Coworks Co., Ltd.

May 17, 2019
Declaration ceremony for KOICA New Southern ODA Implementation Plan Vision

September 20, 2019
1st KOICA Supporters 'WeKO' inauguration ceremony

December 31, 2019
Opened a comprehensive safety situation room



2020

March 4, 2020
KOICA Training Center opens as a temporary living facility for COVID-19 contacts

June 1, 2020
Selected as an excellent institution for public data evaluation of 2019

December 9, 2020
KOICA Webzine wins the 2020 Korea Communication Awards



2021

April 1, 2021
30th anniversary

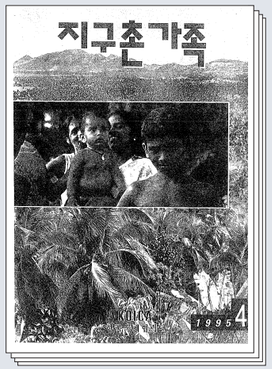
KOICA Korea International Cooperation Agency

From <Global village> to <Together KOICA>
and KOICA's newsletter that have documented

The 30-year history

A single sead became a dense forest. KOICA initially launched overseas office in only 6 countries, but is now running 44 offices around the world. The newsletter of KOICA was the diary and witness that followed KOICA's history. Let's look at how the newsletter has changed over the past 30 years.

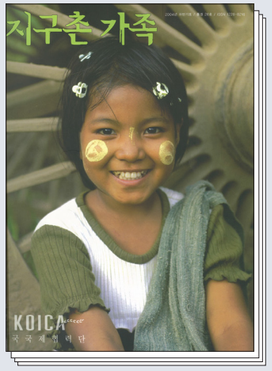
Written by Lee Hyunsoo, Nam Jiyeon **Photo by** KOICA



1990s

<Global village>, the newsletter that started with the launch of KOICA, had insight for the future.

KOICA was founded in April 1991 and received worldwide attention for its remarkable activities throughout the 1990s. Adding to the surprise of a formally least developed country becoming a donor country, KOICA started dispatching international cooperation personnel and supporting NGOs in 1995, and Korea became the 29th member of the OECD in 1996. With the domestic and international attention, KOICA put great effort into publishing a newsletter. In the early stages there was a quarterly publication of <International Cooperation>, and just before Korea fully repaid lending from the World Bank, KOICA began to publish a bimonthly newsletter called <Global Village > in November 1994. <Global Village > was about 40 pages, and usually composed of New Year's remarks, congratulatory remarks, columns, reviews and news of early activities.



2000s

The era of quantitative growth of ODA, planning interviews with prominent figures

The 2000s was a period of upheaval. After the 9,11 terrorist attack in 2001, the Afghan War broke out, the Iraq War broke out in 2003, and the South Asian tsunami occurred in 2004. With news about the horror of war and the victims of natural disasters, Korean people became more interested in ODA. Hence, KOICA's responsibilities were delated, and the newsletter was forced to change. The newsletter improved accessibility in consideration of general readers, and the design and items also changed. In 2005, a webzine of <Global Village > was created so that the newsletter could be viewed online. As a result, accessibility to the contents of the KOICA newsletter increased, and a channel was created to directly convey readers' opinions to KOICA, making the KOICA newsletter a two-way communication channel.

2010~2018

Joining DAC and entering the era of qualitative growth

The miracle finally became a legend. Korea, the first country to transit from a least developed country to a donor country, finally joined the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) on November 25, 2009. This showed Korea's willingness to actively contribute to the joint efforts for the sustainable development of the international community. KOICA's newsletter also faced a transfomation.
ODA-related news has expanded beyond consultation. Furthermore, the newsletter worked hard to communicate with readers. Following a natural trend, the role of the webzine directly connected KOICA with readers. The change was remarkable and the importance of webzine increased.









2019~the present

<Together KOICA>, the new name for cooperation and communication

2019 was the year when the work of KOICA yielded fruitful results in the international community. Korea was elected as the chair country of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Korea began to bring about change in each organization as a chair country and take the lead in building a cooperative relationship with the civil society and private enterprises. The KOICA newsletter also changed significantly. Firstly, <Global Village>, which has been the name since the launch of the newsletter, has been changed to <Together KOICA>. It was in line with the steps of KOICA becoming more active in the international community.
In addition, the newsletter, which was previously based on offline, has been moved online and has been refurbished as a full-fledged webzine.
In the newsletter (webzine) launched under a new name, articles tried to capture the vivid atmosphere of actual sites. The design became neater to match the characteristics of a web-based media where visual elements are important, and the proportion of photos and images was greatly increased. Now there were more light and fun contents that could interest general readers, attract new readers, and provide easy understanding of ODA.
In addition, activities expanded online to keep pace with the development of SNS. Along with the webzine <Together KOICA>, KOICA actively ran accounts on Naver Blog, YouTube, Instagram, and Facebook. Of course, the publication of semiannual newsletters (booklets) also continued.

"Thank you KOICA" We will work as a bridge between our home country and Korea!

Meet the 3 foreign trainees at KOICA

Celebrating the 30th anniversary of KOICA, we met some special guests. They are the foreign trainees who came to Korea after being selected as KOICA master's degree students. Let's meet these trainees, who have love and passion for Korea and are looking forward to going back to their home country to use the knowledge they learned here.

Written by Kyunghee Lee, **Photo by** Lee Seongwon, An Hoseong





"I look forward to KOICA's good influence and support in partner countries around the world."



Hakima Khellaf

Nationality: Algeria **Affiliation/Duty:** Public official at the Algerian Administrative office **Training institution:** Sungkyunkwan University
Major: Public Administration

Q Please introduce yourself.

I am from Algeria. I am from Algeria. After graduating from university in 2014, have been working in the HR team of the Algerian administrative office. Since I majored in public administration at university, I am also studying public administration in Korea.

Q Please tell us about the KOICA program you participated in.

The program I am currently participating in is 'KOICA-Sungkyunkwan University Master's Degree Program in Local Administration.' KOICA programs offer many opportunities for developing countries. As a KOICA scholarship student, I am learning the knowledge, abilities and skills for future growth, as well as how to solve problems related to public administration. I want to go back to my home country and focus working on solving problems in public administration and local government. I think that what I learned here can be applied to solving the problems of the central government.

Q How did you get to participate in the KOICA program?

First of all, I thought that Korea has many good administrative systems. I applied because Algeria needed Korea's support and I saw it as a good opportunity to compare the administrative systems of Algeria and Korea. Algeria is a resource-rich country, but what it lacks are leaders. There are many good resources for the country to prosper, but there are not enough leaders who can utilize them, so I wanted to gain experience here. The reason why I chose Sungkyunkwan University was because I was interested in the field of public administration and it is the oldest school in Korea. The reason I passed seems to be because my career was related to public administration, and they saw my willingness and interest for an opportunity to participate in the KOICA program.

Q What were some of your academic achievements while you were in Korea?

I learned a lot while doing assignments. The professor gave us assignments that asked each of us to find a problem in our own country and present a solution, and I focused on solving the problems of my home country. Since I am working in the HR team, I have solved some HR problems through academic materials. When I go back to my home country, I want to write a report on problem solving by gathering everything I have learned here.

Q What was the most memorable thing you did in Korea?

Every moment was good. A Korean friend invited me to spend the Lunar New Year together since I was alone on the holidays, so I tried on hanbok and ate New Year's food. I was lonely and sad because I was so far away from my hometown, but I was really touched by the warm welcome from Korean families.

Q What do you want to do when you return to Algeria?

I want to use the experience and knowledge I have learned here on my home country and share it with my colleagues. Also, if the opportunity arises, I want to provide training to other civil servants. While playing a leadership role in my home country, I would like to cooperate with Korea in the public and economic fields.

Q KOICA celebrated its 30th anniversary. Could you offer your congratulations?

Congratulations on the 30th anniversary of KOICA. I wish KOICA good luck and I hope that it will continue to give opportunities to as many people like there are doing now.

"I want to apply what I have experienced and learned in Korea to public policies in Ecuador.



Paola Hidalgo

Nationality: Ecuador Affiliation/Duty: Communication department employee in Ecuadorian financial institution Training institution: Sungkyunkwan University
Major: Public Administration

Q Please introduce yourself.

I came from Ecuador. In my home country, as a public official, I managed and supervised the financial system of public institutions and the private sector in the field of financial institution communication. The goal of our institution was to provide and inform people about the financial system. Koreans can use a bank app or go to a nearby bank, but in Ecuador, people don't have a lot of access to banks unless they live in a big city. The goal was to make the financial system more accessible to people living in the outskirts, and I want to play a role in making technology such as banking applications and ATMs more accessible as well.

Q Please tell us about the KOICA program you participated in.

I am also in the 'KOICA-Sungkyunkwan University Master's Degree Program in Local Administration'. Personally, I think the KOICA program is a very essential program for civil servants. I believe that public administration officials must receive training so they can understand why particular public policies have failed, what has failed in other countries, and what is needed in Ecuador now. KOICA's program is highly optimized for civil servants, so you can easily learn academic knowledge and compare it to Ecuador's level of education. In a nutshell, I think it is a program that you can accumulate a lot of knowledge and experience to understand various policies in the public sector.

Q What are you currently studying? Was there some progress?

I am studying public administration. Specifically, I am learning how to implement and solve problems through public policy. The biggest achievement is that I have an opportunity to openly discuss suicide-related issues, the subject of my thesis, with professors and colleagues. It is even more meaningful because suicide is a topic that people usually do not want to talk about in terms of social norms, kind of taboo, and it is not easy to approach suicide in Ecuador either politically or theoretically.

Q It seems to make you want to serve as a bridge between Korea and Ecuador.

Yes. It will probably become more specific as I study, how my study helps Ecuador and what kind of bridge I can become between Korea. Although I am in the research stage right now, I want to think about proposals for public administration when I return to my home country, and I want to suggest policies to the relevant authorities. In addition, there are many Korean companies in Ecuador, and if a public program is implemented for Ecuadorian high school students, I think that the progress of the program can be evaluated by Korean representatives.

Q Are there any changes in your perception of Korea before and after you came to Korea?

It definitely became more positive. Korea in the 1950s and Korea today are very different, aren't they? It's amazing how cultural, educational, and technological changes occurred so quickly in such a short period of time. This was a very powerful motivation for me. Usually, when Koreans set a goal, they work hard to achieve it, and I was greatly influenced by that trait, and these things developed my perception of Korea in a good way.
There are many memorable moments. Whenever I ask people for direction, they kindly answer and even use a translator app to help. There were many people who told me to contact them when I was bored or needed a friend, and gave me their SNS or messenger ID. I am still very grateful for their warm and considerate gestures.

Q KOICA celebrated its 30th anniversary. Could you offer your congratulations?

I wish good luck and hope KOICA will achieve its goals. KOICA's program offers so many opportunities to many partner countries, especially in that it provides educational opportunities that are the basis for development and change. I think it's like handing out weapons on the battlefield. In that sense, I hope that KOICA will continue to do what it has been doing for the past 30 years.

"By experiencing Korea, I realized that a country's most important assets are education and people.



Nachinja Gmachin

Nationality: Ghana Affiliation/Duty: Public official at the Ministry of Transport of Ghana Training institution: University of Seoul
Major: Urban and Regional Development Policy

Q Please introduce yourself.

I came to Korea from Ghana in February. I was originally scheduled to come to Korea in the fall of 2020, but it was delayed due to COVID-19. In Ghana, I am working as a planning officer in the Ministry of Transport, a civil servant who implements and plans government policies. In addition, if international organizations such as KOICA or other countries plan to invest in Ghana, I share and mend investment plans on how to form the partnerships.

Q Why is KOICA's role important in Ghana?

The reason why KOICA is important to Ghana is that it can serve as an advisory body to the government and provide opportunities to nurture talent. Ghana is rich in resources, but lacks output. The potential is limitless, but it has not yet been fully realized. Though there are many young civil servants, it is difficult to perform to their fullest and the future is not guaranteed. Therefore, it is very important to train human resources in Ghana. I think what makes KOICA's impact greater is that it is possible to learn culture, economics, and politics through its program and apply it to Ghana.

Q What process did you go through to participate in the KOICA program?

Before coming to Korea, I had the opportunity to get a scholarship and go to England, the United States, and Sweden. However, as I got to know KOICA, looking at the contents and academic course, I felt that it was more optimized for me. I decided that I could further develop my skills and that it would be of great help to Ghana, so after much serious thought, I finally applied to KOICA. I also liked that KOICA is an institution that values transparency and fairness.

Q What is the biggest achievement you have achieved in Korea so far?

First of all, the biggest achievement was coming to Korea. Last semester, I took online classes in Ghana, and after I came to Korea I started face-to-face classes. It was great to be able to share various knowledge. I am sure that studying here now will help me have a big impact on Ghana in the future. Public investment management is very important not only in Ghana but also in many countries, and I am conducting research on how to properly coordinate and manage funds and investments. I am currently studying urban development, with a more emphasis on public investment. The goal is to enable governments to make the best use of their many resources so that more people can benefit equally.

Q Has there been any change in the image of Korea that you had while living in Korea?

Before applying to KOICA, I participated in a program run by a Korean counselor in 2015. There was a lecture on attitudes and mindsets, and the instructor taught me that I must remember that the only person who can help develop a country is me and have to keep studying. By learning that it was thanks to education that Korea achieved its current development, I realized that it is up to Ghanaians to develop Ghana. What surprised me the most when I arrived in Korea was the tremendous level of development. It was very different from what I had imagined and seen in books. Since Ghana and Korea have a similar period of independence, I thought they would be similar. I vividly remember being shocked by the advancement, when Korea has much fewer natural resources.

Q You will go back home in December. What are your future plans?

As a civil servant, the biggest challenge is to utilize the knowledge I gained in Korea after returning home in Ghana. If possible, I would like to find a way to further develop relations with Korea and think about how to reflect my knowledge in government policy. I want to focus more on my studies during the remaining period in Korea. I believe that an expert's role is to turn knowledge into asset. I have confidence and the ability to execute. When I go back, I want to put what I have learned into practice. Finally, I hope that cooperation with Ghana, Korea, and KOICA will progress further.

Q KOICA celebrated its 30th anniversary. Could you offer your congratulations?

I hope that KOICA will continue to provide opportunities not only to developing countries, but also to various countries and institutions. KOICA is an institution representing development cooperation of the Korean government but also globally, so I hope that it will continue to support this kind of experience.

You're 30? So am I!

Meeting the 30-year-olds who have grown together with KOICA

KOICA, Korea's representative organization for development cooperation, celebrated its 30th anniversary this year. We talked about how to live life wisely with three KOICA family members who have spent their teens and 20s building the basis and have reached a stable phase at 30.

Written by Lee Kyunghee, Photo by Lee Seongwon



Part 1 welcome 30!

Q Today we gathered under the theme of '30'. Please introduce yourself.

Kim Tae-il I am Kim Tae-il, I joined KOICA on December 31, 2019 and is currently working in the national programs team.

Jeon Ji-hyun I joined KOICA in 2018 and is currently working in the East Africa Office. I started at the end of the year and now it's my 4th year.

Kim Soo-jin I am a third-year employee who joined on March 31, 2019. I am in charge of the Algeria/Tunisia project in the Middle East and Central Asia Office.

Q All three of you were born in 1991, which makes you 30 years old. What did the age of 30 looks like when you were in your 20s?

Kim Tae-il I thought that when I was in my 30s, everything including my path would become clearer. But when I turned 30, I was only getting older and my worries remained the same.

Jeon Ji-hyun There are many people who are afraid of turning 30 when in their late 20s, but I looked forward to it because I felt like I would be more mature and become an adult when I turn 30.

Kim Soo-jin I actually felt like I was turning 30 when I became 28. I felt like I was already in my 30s. It was a process of finding answers in the past, but I felt pressure that I now actually have to know the answers.

Q All three of you joined KOICA in your late 20s. How did you feel when you turned 30?

Kim Tae-il I entered my 30s on December 31, the end of my 29th year which was when I joined KOICA. What is different from my 20s is that I am thinking about how to develop competence and professionalism for the future, unlike before when I was preparing to join the agency.

Jeon Ji-hyun I joined KOICA at the age of 28, so I turned 30 after two years of working. I myself feel that my capabilities have improved compared to then, and as I spend time thinking about what kind of work I will do in the future, I feel more motivated and have more strength to achieve what I want.

Kim Soo-jin When I turned 30, I was in my second year at KOICA. 30 is an age that is considered an adult by others, but in reality, I was a newcomer with limited authority for what I could do at work. I was 30 years old but felt I was still young at the agency and had a long way to go.

Q Have you ever felt that the way you are looked at has changed since you turned 30?

Kim Tae-il It was difficult to become financially independent before, but when I joined KOICA at 30, I thought, 'Now I can take responsibility for my life on my own.' I feel like I have achieved "real independence".

Jeon Ji-hyun It was the opposite for me. I felt less pressure because people around me and my family didn't see me from the perspective of 'Now you have to be an adult.' So entering my 30s was fun and it helped me to live more independently. It was also a motivation for me to go on with what I was supposed to do naturally.

Kim Soo-jin Being the youngest in the family, their perspectives didn't change at all. The average age in KOICA is high in general, so I feel we are aging slowly together. These days, I want to put pressure on myself to become more mature, but at the same time I don't want to become a 'kkondae* (condescending older person)'

Q What kind of conversations do you have with your friends in your 30s?

Kim Tae-il It differs depending on the friend, but when I meet friends working at companies, we usually talk about housing issues. Friends who are studying usually talk about how to improve their studies.

Jeon Ji-hyun When we were in our 20s, we were searching for jobs, so we talked about what kind of company we would join or what our dreams are. Now most of us have jobs and are in a more stable stage of life, so we talk a lot about stocks and finance.

Kim Soo-jin Everyone's life has diversified. When I was in my 20s, me and my friends usually went in the same direction in life, but now our directions have changed a lot depending on the choices we made at that time. So, there are friends who talk about marriage, and there are friends who talk about stocks or real estate.

* kkondae: A slang noun used by young people to refer to a condescending and stubborn older person with an outdated way of thinking. It is usually attributed to older men. The characteristics and customs of the so-called "kkondaes" is called the "kkondae culture".

Q What is the biggest concern you have right now?

Kim Tae-il Since financial income or investment is a trend recently, I worry about my financial investments. I think everyone around my age has similar concerns.

Jeon Ji-hyun Similar to me, I talk a lot about housing and stocks. I also think a lot about what kind of career I should build at the agency.

Kim Soo-jin I've been assigned to Cameroon so I have to leave in two months. There are a lot of things to prepare and take care of before I leave. I have a lot of decisions I have to make and lots of worries, but the thought that is mostly stuck in my head is, 'How much will I have changed as a person when I come back from Cameroon?

Q They say the average life span will be 120 in the future. In that sense, 30 is very young. Can you picture yourself 30 years later, in your 60s?

Kim Tae-il I am who I am now because of the decisions I made for the last 30 years. For the next 30 years I would have probably grown in professionalism and competency, so I want to use those traits and deliver them to others.

Jeon Ji-hyun My dream is the same as before joining KOICA. My ultimate dream is to become a professor. I would like to teach young people ways to strengthen their international development cooperation capabilities based on my academic knowledge and project experience I accumulated at KOICA.

Kim Soo-jin Putting my job aside, I want to be an independent person financially and not depend on people around me for health problems. Also, I want to be a fun person to be around even in my 60s.

Q Aside from work, how do you have fun in life?

Kim Tae-il As I entered my 30s, I gained weight. Maybe a process of aging? I couldn't believe it at first but it was happening. So I started working out again and it's really fun. I lift weights and go jogging after work.

Jeon Ji-hyun I like taking videos, so I recently started posting vlogs on YouTube. I'm doing this because I want to record my daily life, and these days, it's the most fun thing for me.

Kim Soo-jin Actually, I think I will regret it later if I say this (laughs), but recently, I've been fangirling over a member of the boy group SF9, Rowoon. Originally, I had no interest in idols at all, but at some point I fell in love with them. Life became more fun (laughs).



Part 2 Looking forward to continue working with you, KOICA!

Q How did you join KOICA?

Jeon Ji-hyun I have been interested in diplomacy since childhood, and wanted to work for an international organization. Then I thought of applying to KOICA, an organization representing international development cooperation in Korea. I prepared for about a year, it was helpful to read a lot of development cooperation documents during my master's degree.

Kim Tae-il I also wrote a thesis on international politics while doing my master's degree. I got to read papers on the authoritarian system. As I started working at an NGO, I was contemplating between academic study and field practice, so I joined KOICA to make some practical changes.

Kim Soo-jin Since college, I naturally developed an interest in international development cooperation by visiting various countries, including developing countries. The opportunity arose and I got a job at the KOICA Research Center. I wanted to join KOICA because I was very satisfied with the working environment.

Q What is KOICA like from the inside? Is it different from what you thought from the outside?

Jeon Ji-hyun What surprised me is that the organization is younger than I thought, and there are many areas that are trying to make innovative changes. Also, personally, my goal in life is to be happy and have fun, and I think this is a place where I can work happily because the work-life balance is good and there are many opportunities for self-development.

Kim Tae-il Before joining the agency, I perceived it as the group 'KOICA', but after becoming a member, I felt different things because I experience the micro details. But when I think that all my work contributes to the group KOICA, it motivates me for what I am doing.



Kim Soo-jin Sometimes, while working, I wonder if I might form an 'anger addiction', a word I saw in a column(laughs). But there are times when the rewarding feeling is overwhelming. Every time I feel it I think, 'There is no way I could find such a rewarding job like this.'

Q If you are in your 2nd or 3rd year, you would pobably be in the youngest group. Have you ever felt the so-called 'kkondae culture'?

Kim Tae-il Since the agency is paying a lot of attention to that part internally, I don't think I've ever experienced it myself. Maybe I might laugh a little louder at my boss's jokes… (Laughs), but I don't think this is a kkondae culture.

Kim Soo-jin Rather than the 'kkondae culture', I heard about the great "in the old days". Approvals can be made electronically now, but in the past, documents were written by hand and delivered directly to the accounting office, which amazed me.

Jeon Ji-hyun It's not something I've experienced, but I heard that in the past, when a new employee wrote and reported a document, bosses were very strict about letter spacing, line spacing, and spelling. This is still very important of course, but I think they put more emphasis on the content. It became more flexible.

Q Now you have junior colleagues in their 20s. Have you ever had an experience of becoming a kkondae yourself?

Jeon Ji-hyun I get along a lot with juniors, but when I spend time with them, I ask personal questions like, "Where do you live?" "Do you have a boyfriend (girlfriend)?" before I realize. It might be rude to ask such a thing these days. So I sometimes become surprised with myself and think, 'Am I a kkondae?'

Kim Tae-il I was working on a YouTube project with an employee in his 20s. and there was a talk about buzzwords used by people in their 20s these days. I really couldn't understand the new buzzwords. So I thought that I had become a generation that could not communicate with young people (laughs).

Kim Soo-jin I had a meal with my seniors and juniors. I thought that the middle-aged female boss who was there was obviously married. But a junior employee who was 5 years younger than me was surprised to find out that the boss was already married. Without realizing it, I thought that older people would have obviously gotten married. I was surprised to see that marriage is not taken for granted in people in their 20s.

Q KOICA celebrated its 30th anniversary. Could you offer some congratulatory remarks?

Jeon Ji-hyun I would like to express my pride and gratitude to be a part of KOICA. The agency worked hard traveling between offices in 47 countries amid times of unclear regulations and trial and error.

Kim Tae-il I hope KOICA will become an institution that can further develop professionalism and demonstrate its capabilities to the world, like becoming a 30-year-old who has experienced the challenges of a teenager and the worries of a 20-year-old.

Kim Soo-jin It's like what I want for myself in my 30s. I hope KOICA will always live a youthful life, not getting stuck in old customs. I wish KOICA will always be cautious of that and live a blossoming young life.

'The Killing Fields' That Should Never Be Forgotten, Now Available Online

Cambodia's Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum

The quote "those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it" is written on the wall of the Auschwitz concentration camp. Painful histories should not be overlooked but must be closely studied. The Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum captures the painful history of Cambodia. KOICA and UNESCO currently digitized the museum's documents, and the historical documents are now searchable online.

Written by Hyunsoo Lee





Source: Digital Archive of the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum, Cambodia (archives.tuolsleng.gov.kh)



2 Million people killed at the Killing Fields

Tom Phillips summed up the history of mankind in <Humans: A Brief History of How We F*cked It All Up> published in 2019, saying, "When viewed from a distance, human history is the story of empires rising, falling, and slaughtering each other." As he said, the scars of violence are evident all over the world. Examples include the Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, the Stasi Museum in Germany, the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall in China, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial in Japan, and the Tiger Cages of Vietnam. The Tuol Sleng Museum in Cambodia is also one of the places that preserves the history of cruel torture and slaughter.

A communist dictatorship was behind this. Pol Pot (real name: Saloth Sar) was born in 1928 into a wealthy family. After studying in France, he returned to Cambodia with the determination to establish a primitive communist society based on Maoism. At the time, Cambodia was outraged by Nixon's random rural bombings and massacres. With public sentiment on his back, he ousted Ron Nol of the pro-American regime, and became the mainstream.

Pol Pot's Khmer Rouge (Khmer means Cambodia's major ethnic group and Rouge means red) regime declared that they will build an agrarian paradise and began to renovate Cambodia in earnest. The policy was to eliminate banknotes, trade, cities, and families, and forcibly relocate urban people to rural areas to work on collective farms, and eradicate opposition. The problem was dichotomous thinking. The extreme perception of "either on my side or the enemy" led to massive slaughter, combined with the ability to eliminate the obstacles to the purpose.

Later on, people were caught, tortured and killed for absurd reasons such as giving a late answer to a question, not being able to speak English, having the ability to read a book, and even for wearing glasses. The number of casualties was huge. During the three years and seven months of his reign, about two million people, one-quarter of Cambodian citizens, were sacrificed.[1)]

A movie depicting this tragic incident, <The Killing Fields>, came out in 1984, shocking people all over the world. Thereafter, "Killing Fields" became a proper noun for the locations of Khmer Rouge's massacre and the massacre itself.

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* It is not known exactly how many people died during the three years and seven months of the Khmer Rouge rule. It is only presumed because the regime did not properly lea ve data.

Toul Sleng Museum preserving the wounds of the past

Toul Sleng is one of the main locations of the Killing Fields. It was originally a girls' high school, but became a secret prison named 'S-21' by the Khmer Rouge. From 1975 to 1979, 12,000 laborers, peasants, businessmen, artists, athletes, engineers and teachers were captured and tortured, forced to make a false confession, then executed. All sorts of cruel torture were used in this process.

The madness of Khmer Rouge continues to hold back Cambodia to this day. The biggest problem is the severance of education. Although the massacre included the general public, it was mainly concentrated in the intellectual class. Since the intellectuals disappeared, there was no one left to educate the next generation, and the means of knowledge reproduction were severed. Since doctors were classified as intellectuals and were no exception to the massacre, the medical system was also demolished. Cambodia has a poor medical condition, with only 20, 00 doctors as of 2012.

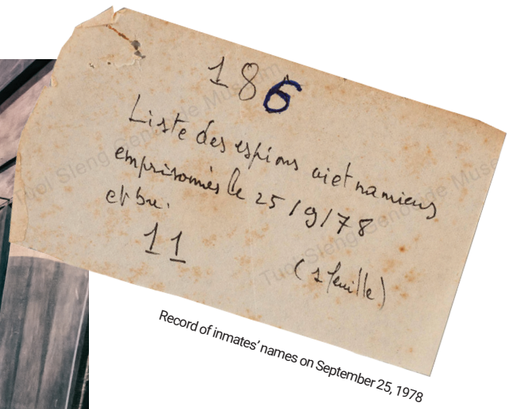
After the fall of the Khmer Rouge regime, Cambodia turned the Tuol Sleng prison into a Royal public museum affiliated with the Ministry of Culture and Arts. It was from the determination to remember the history of madness and not to repeat it again.

When you visit this place, you can vividly feel the atmosphere of the past. Iron beds, steel handcuffs, torture tools, gallows, and solitary rooms that only one person can barely lie down, are preserved. There are countless pictures taken of victims with blank, empty eyes.

Today, Toul Sleng has established itself as a memorial center where hundreds of thousands of tourists visit each year to commemorate the souls of the victims, retrace the lessons of history, and pledge that such terrible things should never happen again.

Opening of a digital archive for peace and social integration





Record of inmates' names on September 25, 1978

The Toul Sleng Museumpreserves the appearance of Toul Sleng Prison as an expression of the determination not to repeat the painful history of the time.

Exterior and interior views of the Toul Sleng Museum.



However, a problem has arisen recently. Cambodia's hot and humid climate increases the risk of damage to the preserved data. There was also a need to improve accessibility. In addition to the government's control of information disclosure, it was only possible to access the data in the capital city Phnom Penh, so it was difficult for Cambodian citizens to see the original data of Tuol Sleng.

KOICA helped to solve this problem. Since 2014, KOICA has collaborated with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) to digitize Tuol Sleng's data and build a database. On January 29, the website (archives.tuolsleng.gov.kh) was officially opened. It contains information and photos of 3,616 inmates, 29,401 confessions, and 63,732 documentary materials including handbooks used at the time.

It is in English and Khmer, the local language of Cambodia, to increase accessibility for the Cambodian people. A total of 745,494 pieces of other real documents were preserved in accordance with international standards to prevent fading from light and moisture.

In addition, an international conference was held to educate and reinforce capacity of the staff members of the Ministry of Culture and Arts and the Tuol Sleng Museum. With the smooth operation of the conservation project, it served as a platform for contemplating peace and social integration in Cambodia.

The reason why the phrase "human greed is endless and repeats the same mistakes" has been quoted on the internet for a long time is because many people sympathize with it. Philosopher George Santayana also warned that "he who forgets the past will repeat it again."

With the establishment of the Toul Sleng archive, it is possible to quickly and accurately search the history of Cambodia online.

We hope that Cambodia will overcome the past and write a new history of miracles by healing the wounds of the civil war and massacre, using it to educate history and peace for the future generations.

Gems that grow from trees gaining international attraction

Cambodia palm sugar business value chain establishment project

The Asia Pacific Social Innovation Partnership Award(APSIPA) was hosted by the Taiwan Ministry of Economy on April 11th. Hesed, a Cambodian company, won the award. Let's take a look at the palm sugar business, which started to bloom with the support of KOICA. The project finally got recognized internationally.

Written by Hyunsoo Lee **Photos by** KOICA



Sugar substitute found in Cambodia

Sugar has recently become infamous for being unhealthy. Sugar is a sweetener whose consumption has rapidly increased worldwide along with industrialization, and Korea is no exception. In 1962, the average per capita sugar intake a day was 4.8g, but in 2013, it was 72.1g, a 15-fold increase. Excessive sugar intake is known to be associated with diabetes, cardiovascular disease, aging, cancer, and cognitive decline. The World Health Organization (WHO) also referred to sugar as the cause of adult diabetes, which increased nearly four times compared to the 1980s. The US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) research team found the link between sugar and heart disease after 15 years of follow-up study.

As a result, healthy natural sweeteners that could replace sugar have started to attract attention, and one of them is 'palm sugar' discovered in Cambodia. Palmyra palms are a type of palm tree that grows spontaneously in the mountains or fields without cultivation and grows only on uncontaminated soil. Palm sugar is a healthy unrefined sugar that can be obtained from this tree that is at least 15 years old. It is made by removing only the moisture from the sap of the flower, so various nutrients are vividly alive. It is known to contain many beneficial nutrients such as a lower glycemic index than regular sugar or honey, a polyphenol content 22 times that of honey, coenzyme Q10, vitamins, folic acid, and selenium.

However, due to the nature of palm sugar production, which requires a lot of resources, time, and labor, the traditional Cambodian production method alone has limitations in increasing production and maximizing the value of products.



1



2



3

1. Palm sugar processing center established in Cambodia **2.** Palm sugar produced in Cambodia.
3. Asia Pacific Social Innovation Partnership Awards (APSIP) Awards Ceremony

Cambodia's palm sugar business, business route, and local jobs

In response, Cambodian local company Hesed and Korean business Cconma started the 'Cambodia Palm Sugar Business Value Chain Establishment Project' together with KOICA.

This is KOICA's Inclusive Business Solution (IBS) program, which is jointly funded by KOICA and a private company. Our goal is to contribute to improving the quality of life. In this project, KOICA categorized the entire business value chain into production, processing, development, distribution, and sales. We promoted a project to build and supplement the business value chain based on problem analysis and improvement plans for each process.

Through the KOICA IBS project, Hesed established a farmer's cooperative in two regions in Cambodia, Kampong Chhnang, and Kampong Speu, to lay the foundation for the business. A modernized processing plant was built to improve quality and increase production. Hesed researched prototypes and established the brand through the launch of various derivatives, and made it possible to smoothly sell products by upgrading package design. In addition, through online shopping malls and open markets, it took the lead in diversifying domestic and overseas sales channels to secure distribution channels and create a stable profit structure.

This has yielded amazing results. First, production has increased significantly. Exports of palm sugar were previously only around 30 tons but improved to 80 tons in the third year of business. In addition, the GI and SGS certifications raised the brand value, and securing a stable distribution and sales network through these certifications led to positive results of not only increasing the income of the underprivileged but also creating local jobs.

Recognized at the Asia Pacific Social Innovation Partnership Awards

Recently, the project has finally attracted international recognition. The APSIPA was held on April 11th, hosted by the Taiwan Ministry of Economy. This is a contest established to contribute to social innovation with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a core value.

Its main purpose is to discover startups and social innovation partnerships that are making a positive socio-economic impact in the fields of bio-environmental sustainability, inclusive business, and social prosperity. With the participation of 77 organizations from 13 countries, Hesed, which has developed the 'Cambodia Palm Sugar Business Value Chain Establishment Project' with KOICA, was honored with the award in the inclusive business sector. With this award, Hesed will be able to participate in the social innovation network in the Asia-Pacific region and the Asia Pacific Social Innovation Summit, the most prestigious event in the Asia-Pacific region in the field of social innovation.

As the famous self-help book writer, Napoleon Hill said, "Patience, persistence, and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success." Palm sugar was difficult to produce because only 1kg was obtained per tree and it was hard to stably collect the sap. However, without giving up, everyone worked on it and solved the problem, and was able to achieve an accomplishment.

This project is a positive example of applying the know-how of K-Agriculture in the field, and it has great significance as it has been recognized not only in Korea and Cambodia but also internationally.

Going forward, KOICA will continue to work hard to improve the quality of life of local residents and build an international consensus on sustainable development by faithfully carrying out projects in KOICA partner countries.

We can overcome COVID-19 with persistence!

How KOICA is moving forward with partner countries

With the prolonged COVID-19, people experience a feeling of walking through a long, dark tunnel that seems to go on forever. Under such circumstances, KOICA is becoming a beacon of hope for partner countries. We are overcoming COVID-19 with our partner countries by sharing and encouraging each other.





Establishing an infectious disease prevention system and creating jobs in the local community

In February, KOICA donated 20,000 masks and 5,000 protective suits made by local Korean company to a maternal and child health hospital in Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

The Huehuetenango region has the highest malnutrition and mortality rate for infants and children under the age of 5 in Guatemala. It is located on the Mexican border, so there is a high risk of spread of infectious diseases by outsiders. Accordingly, the Huehuetenango Maternal and Child Health Hospital, established in 2018 with the support of KOICA, treats approximately 45,000 patients annually and is dedicated to safe childbirth through prevention of COVID-19.

The quarantine products donated were locally produced by Korean companies in Guatemala. It was an opportunity to create local jobs and lay the foundation for improving the quarantine capability by securing an in-house production system for quarantine products in Guatemala.





KOICA fighting against COVID-19 and crime!

On March 23rd, KOICA donated 7,000 medical gloves, 600 protective suits, and 800 N95 masks to the headquarters of the Crime Investigation Bureau of the National Police Agency (DIRCRI PNP) located in Lima, the capital of Peru.

The donation was for the protection of Peruvian police officers. The Criminal Investigation Bureau of the Peruvian National Police Agency is a department that responds to various crimes such as murder and drugs. It is reported that 72% of police confirmed cases occur here due to frequent contact with an unspecified number of people.

The Peruvian National Police Agency expressed its gratitude, saying, “I hope that the cooperative relationship between KOICA and the National Police Agency will continue in the future.”

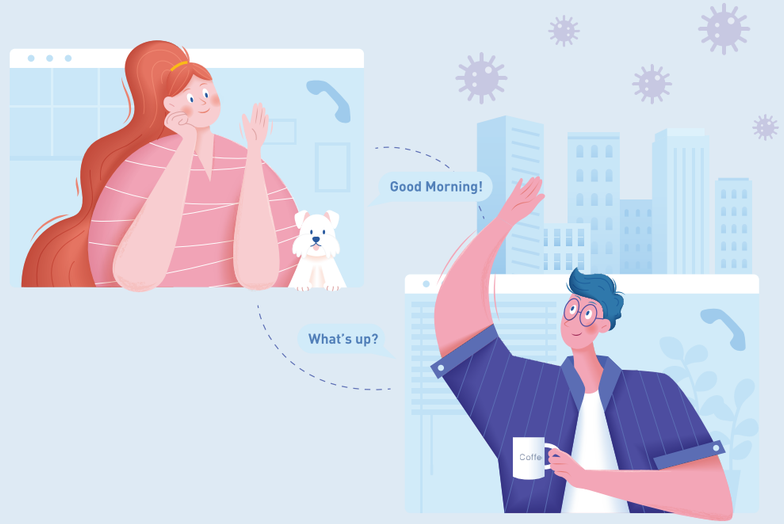


COVID-19 prolonged, now we are strengthening our treatment capacity

Since July of last year, KOICA has been conducting the ‘Ethiopia COVID-19 Comprehensive Emergency Support Project’ in consideration of the local situation where it lacks the capability to diagnose and treat COVID-19. Accordingly, KOICA plans to deliver 21 types of COVID-19 products through the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

14 types of COVID-19 items, including 10,000 oxygen masks, 2,000 protective suits, and 20,000 oxygen infusion tubes, are planned to be distributed to Ethiopian hospitals through the Ethiopian Ministry of Health’s medical supply channel.

Through this project, KOICA will focus on improving Ethiopia’s overall COVID-19 diagnosis and treatment capabilities.





Comprehensive support in all areas related to COVID-19

KOICA plans to launch a $5 million-dollar comprehensive emergency assistance program in Uzbekistan this year. On May 12, we delivered a total of 97 types of medical equipment worth 4 million dollars to seven organizations including the Uzbekistan Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Hygiene and Epidemiology.

In addition, in the health field, we provide invitation training for health and quarantine policy makers, establishment of an infectious disease diagnostic laboratory quality control system and national disease monitoring system, and support for COVID- 19-related research and capacity building. We plan to provide job support for the underprivileged in connection with the project.

KOICA
Korea International Cooperation Agency

Overcoming COVID-19! Listen to lectures on infectious disease response in your language

KOICA supports the online training of the ‘Korean Infectious Disease Response Master Class’ in Korean, English, and Spanish, and promotes global distribution of knowledge on infectious disease response.

The training, conducted in collaboration with the Korea Institute for Health and Welfare Human Resources Development and KOICA, consists of content to strengthen the capacity for managing infectious diseases and responding to COVID-19 in general.

Koreans/foreigners wishing to participate can take online lectures in Korean, English, and Spanish through the Health Welfare Learner (https://edu.kohi.or.kr) of the Korea Human Resource Development Institute For Health and Welfare.











Changes in Daily Life of Overseas Offices Due to COVID-19

The Work of KOICA Young Professionals

KOICA's overseas offices located in partner countries around the world are experiencing great difficulties due to the unexpected COVID-19 pandemic. In order to keep the quarantine rules and work for the safety of all, it cannot be the same as before the pandemic in the post-corona era Let's take a look at the changes in the daily life of KOICA Young Professional (YP) working at overseas office, and find out how KOICA copes with COVID-19.

Written by Kang Naeun **Photo provided by** YP

Global talent that will lead Korea's ODA

'KOICA Young Professional (YP)' is a project that connects outstanding youth talents with organizations, companies, and NGOs participating in ODA projects. It is a program that helps young people form careers and expertise in the field of development cooperation. It also helps to secure and cultivate human resources in the field of development cooperation.

This year's YP has changed not only the recruitment and employment process but also the work environment of overseas offices to cope with the coronavirus pandemic.

Cha Kyung-hoon, Han Su-min, and Choi Jae-young were selected as YP this year and are working in overseas offices. Let's look at the business being carried out in overseas offices and how KOICA's work environment changed due to COVID-19.



Timor-Leste office
Han Soo-min YP

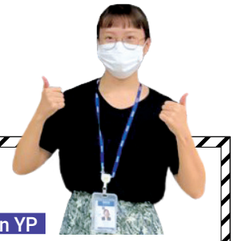


Algerian office
Cha Kyung-hoon YP



Colombia office
Choi Jae-young YP

A precious year that was hard earned



Timor-Leste office - Han Soo-min YP

YP Han Soo-min had to return to Korea due to the coronavirus pandemic while working in the volunteer group for the 'Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Project' in the Dominican Republic last year. After returning to Korea, she participated in KOICA's step-up programs and contests to promote international development cooperation and applied to become a YP.

She had concerns while participating in the selection process which was conducted online from start to finish. The day before the interview, she practiced with a friend who also applied for YP. They turned on the actual online platform and conducted a mock interview while checking the audio and internet connection. Fortunately, the video interview went smoothly, and Han Soo-min was selected as Young Professional and left for Timor-Leste.

YP Han Soo-min worked online during the 14-day self-quarantine period after landing in Timor-Leste. As soon as she went to work at the office, she assisted preliminary investigations for youth employment support projects in Timor-Leste, and worked in gender-based violence prevention projects, administrative affairs and PR.

All employees of the KOICA Timor-Leste office checked their body temperature every morning and worked with masks on. However recently, the coronavirus situation in Timor-Leste has become worse, so they are now working from home.

Due to COVID-19, the number of teleconferences and events using online platforms is increasing, and local employees visit business sites or collect data on behalf of personnel who are currently unable to dispatch overseas. Thus, the responsibility of overseas offices is escalating. Accordingly, YP Han Su-min does video shootings necessary for online events and collects data requested by the preliminary investigation team in Korea.

She also manages equipment by visiting the Ainaro Maternal Health Center with local staffs and reviews and shares related data. She is playing her part for the office in a way that fits the Corona 19 era.

Turning a crisis into an opportunity



Algerian office - Cha Kyung-hoon YP

YP Cha Kyung-hoon, who was working as a KOICA international development volunteer last year, returned to Korea urgently due to COVID-19, but he still vividly remembers the six months he worked overseas. For him, the announcement of YP recruitment for KOICA's 21st overseas offices/diplomatic missions was good news.

Changes caused by the pandemic could be witnessed from the stage of selecting YP, as the interview for YP selection was originally face-to-face but now replaced by a video interview. It was an unfamiliar experience, but Cha Kyung-hoon decided to relax as he could take the interview in a space he is comfortable in rather than a tense interview room. When the interviewer's question or instructions were not accurately heard due to the unstable internet situation, he noticed the situation and asked if it was okay to answer the question after the next interviewee answers, thereby securing time to prepare an answer to the question. The shortcomings of a video interview were used as an opportunity. Due to the pandemic, the departure date was not confirmed after the final pass, and Cha Kyung-hoon used this time to learn the local language in preparation for the dispatched life.

YP Cha Kyung-Hoon arrived in Algeria after such twists and turns. He started working online after a two-week self-quarantine period. He reflects that it was difficult to realize that he was finally in Algeria because he couldn't go outside during the period.

In addition to participating in a preliminary survey of the vocational training center capacity building project to cultivate Algerian ICT-specialized professionals at the Algerian office, he worked on an on-site inspection of the Algerian shrimp feed manufacturing capacity-building project. He participates in training, public relations, and administrative work as well. Cha Kyung-Hoon YP is particularly satisfied with the wide range of tasks that he can learn as the size of the Algerian office is relatively small.

Positive energy that can't be broken by COVID-19



Colombia office - Choi Jae-young YP

YP Choi Jae-young had to return to Korea in March after working as a volunteer member of the Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Project in the Dominican Republic since July 2019. That is why the YP announcement was particularly good news to him.

It was the first time he took a video interview, but it didn't feel difficult because he was informed on how to proceed with the interview in detail and tested with a microphone or camera. A week of domestic education followed which was also conducted virtually. He felt regrettable that there was no opportunity to meet YP colleagues in person, talk together, and become friends, but they are sharing information through group messenger apps.

Among the countries with KOICA overseas offices, Colombia is the country with the largest number of COVID-19 confirmed cases, and although the situation is gradually improving, the daily number of confirmed cases is still increasing. So, for the safety of employees, the Colombian office is working from home, and one or two people come to work only when necessary to avoid contact between employees as much as possible.

YP Choi Jae-young participated in business trips for monitoring field projects in the Colombian office, visiting organizations for E-Volunteering activities, and follow-up management for field projects for volunteers. He is also doing data research and translation work for the planning of the 2021 trainee alumni association.

Besides, he is also participating in the activities of KOCO, a supporter group for local college students who are interested in Korean culture. Currently, KOCO is working on uploading posts related to international development cooperation and Korea on social media. In the future, KOCO plans to conduct various activities such as online seminars, live events, and national competitions.

Mr. Kenneth Mahuni, Zimbabwe Alumni Member of KOICA Master's Degree Trainee

Winner of the 'Amartya Sen Prize' hosted by the international Economic Association

There was recent good news to KOICA. Mr. Kenneth Mahuni, a Zimbabwe alumni member of KOICA master's degree trainee, was awarded the "Amartya Sen Prize" hosted by the International Economic Association (IEA). Let's look into his story and his impressive achievements.

Written by Nam Jiyeon **Photo provided by** Kenneth Mahuni



Mr. Kenneth Mahuni, Winner of the 'Amartya Sen Prize'

Inheriting the spirit of the world-renowned economist 'Amartya Sen'

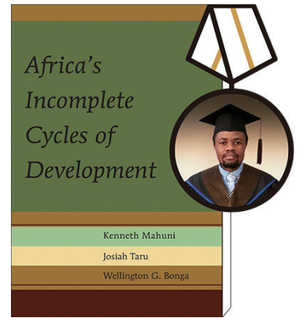
The Amartya Sen Award is organized by the International Economic Association, and was newly established last year after the economist Amartya Sen, who is called "Mother Teresa" in the economics world. Amartya Sen (1933~), born in India, restored ethics and philosophy in economic problems, and contributed to welfare economics focusing on inequality and poverty. He was the first Asian to be awarded the Nobel Memorial Prize in Economic Sciences.

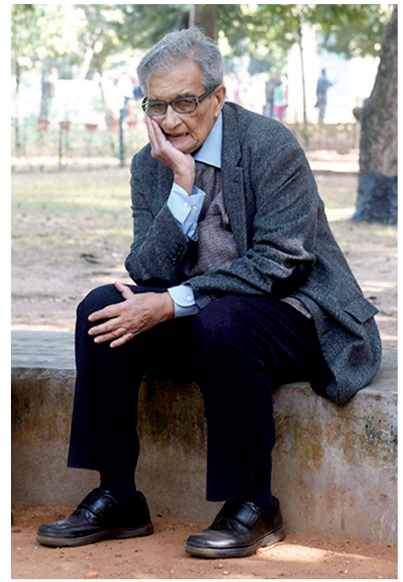
Recently, the IEA established the "Amartya Sen Award" after Amartya Sen. The Amartya Sen Award selects and confers excellent thesis and essays on welfare economics and moral philosophy written by scholars under the age of 40 residing in countries with a per capita national income of less than $10,000.

Kenneth Mahuni's thesis <Climate Change 'Proofing'Sub Saharan African Women, A Step Towards Sustainable Development>', which was selected as the winner of the Amartya Sen Award, deals with the devastation of the Earth, which is the biggest problem not only in Zimbabwe, but also in Africa and around the world, and the alienation of women that follows.

When a major disaster or crisis occurs, including climate change, it is the marginalized who are the first and most affected. This fact was once again realized through the COVID-19 pandemic that afflicted the world in recent years. And now that the world is facing a crisis caused by climate change, the author focuses on women who are facing difficulties as the socially underprivileged, and explores various ways to help African women facing climate change in his paper.

Mahuni's recent book,
<Africa's Incomplete Cycle of Development>





Amartya Sen
Photo source: IEA(http://www.iea-world.org/amartya-sen-prize/)





At the time of traininorea

Africa's present and future

Kenneth Mahuni is currently working as an economic expert at the Ministry of Industry and Trade in Zimbabwe. He participated in the KOICA CIAT training program in 2015 and completed a master's degree program (economic and industrial policy) at Ajou University in Korea for 16 months until 2016. After returning to Zimbabwe, he was in charge of various tasks in industrial development, including monitoring the development of new industries, promoting import substitution and export-led industrialization, and creating growth value in the industrial and commercial sectors.

Mahuni said, "By training in Korea, I was able to improve my critical thinking skills, which helped me discover my own future academic abilities." In fact, during his stay in Korea, he won the Korea-Africa Essay Contest and a contest in Ajou University, and he also won the Grand Prize in the KOICA Global Training Program Best Practices Contest in 2018.

Mahuni recently published a book titled <Africa's Incomplete Cycle of Development>. Co-authored with Josiah Taru and Wellington G. Bonga, the book explores the widespread development in the African continent. The book deals with how far Africa is (especially when it comes to sustainable development) compared to other countries and continents, and asks questions about the current reality of Africa and how Africa's development is bound to stagnate.

Mahuni says he conceived ideas for this book at the time of KOICA CIAT training. What started with a small idea got bigger with the great inspiration and help he got from the course of lectures, study tours, and seminars held at Ajou University. Mahuni is currently writing a second book and plans to publish it as soon as it is finished.



Harare, the capital of Zimbabwe

The beginning of a long and exciting journey

An unexpected answer was given to the question of how Mr. Mahuni felt about winning the Amartya Sen Award. He conveyed the joy of being given the opportunity to interact with so many economists, rather than the honor and glory of this award.

"This Amartya Sen Award is a very meaningful and important achievement for me. Winning this award allowed me to interact with more than 500 economists from every corner of the world. These experiences will give me the confidence to achieve higher goals in the future. For me, this award is just the beginning of a long and exciting academic journey that I have passionately pursued."

He says that the academic journey for him has only begun and expressed his excitement. He did not forget to thank KOICA which was the start of this exciting journey.

"I would like to express my great appreciation for KOICA for providing such opportunities to students with such diverse backgrounds. We hope that KOICA will continue to conduct global training programs in the future. It is really encouraging that Korea, which used to receive aid from other countries, has become what it is today. It is a model for many other countries. Alumni from around the world who received training through KOICA are showing their competence in their respective positions. I think it will form a great platform someday if they all gather back to Korea and share their cases together. That way, we will be able to unearth countless treasures from all over the world. If I have such an opportunity someday, I would definitely want to work together."

KOICA was with him at the beginning of his journey. He would probably smile and nod if someone asked him if his journey all started in Korea. Just as the small seeds he planted in Korea sprouted and yielded their present results, we believe that the day will come when this sprout will grow and become a large tree beyond Zimbabwe and Africa. We do not doubt that he will contribute to global economic development.



KOICA's 30-Year Anniversary Video

The Story of 30 Years, KOICA in Youth

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) was founded in 1991. It has become the center of Korea's ODA history as it celebrates its 30th anniversary. It is the first country in the world to become an aid donor of the world's poorest country, and its 30 years of hard work and sweat in each position to return the help received from various countries around the world has paid off!

Based on the video commemorating KOICA's 30th anniversary, we will retrace the steps of the people who have been at the center of its history for the past 30 years, and listen to their aspirations for the future to steadily reach our goals.

Written by Kim Jeonghyun **Photos and footages excerpted**

#1. The 1990s – Is KOICA off to a bumpy start?

The vivid story of KOICA in its early years, which had never been told until today, will be revealed from the time when it was laying its foundation by expanding not only into Asia, but also the Middle East and the Central and South America in the 1990s, the reason behind the establishment of KOICA and the situation at the time, and an episode with the indigenous people of Papua New Guinea when the first unit of KOICA overseas volunteers was dispatched.

#2. The 2000s – ODA making use of our strengths

With the announcement of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), we set the goals that made use of our strengths and expanded the scope of KOICA ODA by participating in efforts to achieve the "Eradication of Poverty" goal.

The story of a dispatcher, who left for the restoration support during the Iraqi Civil War, faced with the scenes upon arriving in Iraq and KOICA's efforts and the touching acts will unfold!

#3. After the 2000s – KOICA, the new powerhouse in development and cooperation

KOICA is recognized for its performance to achieve MDGs in the international community's efforts. On November 25, 2009, KOICA was given the honor of becoming the 24th member of the OECD DAC. Afterward, KOICA led a global talent cultivation project both domestically and globally by building the ODA education infrastructure, and spared no effort in strengthening the capabilities of the technology sector, which became the driving force for the development of Korea.

The following are the voices of many people who worked tirelessly with KOICA for the past 30 years in order to achieve the goal of "Global Social Values", including the Korea Disaster Relief Team (KDRT)'s relief dispatch to Nepal, creative solution partner (CTS), human rights and gender equality, ABC Program against COVID-19, etc.

#4. 30 years shared together and 30 years to be created together

Following the pandemic, we will take a look at the direction that KOICA will take in the post-COVID era through a message from KOICA President Son Hyuksang. First, how will we realize the Green New Deal ODA in order to respond comprehensively to climate change? Second, how do we overcome the non-face-to-face era? Third, how do we achieve localization of the aforementioned projects, which is the most basic foundation issue? KOICA will prepare for the post-pandemic situation by focusing on these three topics.

Watch "The Story of 30 Years, KOICA in Youth"

Check out the video of the 30-year history of KOICA, which is rising as a leading global development and cooperation agency under the core values of people, peace, prosperity and planet partnership!

A diary that followed in the footsteps of KOICA



#1. The 1990s – Is KOICA off to a bumpy start?

#2. The 2000s – ODA making use of our strengths



#3. After the 2000s – KOICA, the new powerhouse in development and cooperation

#4. 30 years shared together and 30 years to be created together

홍보자료
홍보 2021-04-203

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