MAGAZINE

KOICA

2022 VOL.1

COVER STORY

Enhancing transparency through e-procurement in Tunisia

THEMATIC FOCUS

Protecting biodiversity through ICT in Ecuador

STATISTICS

Accelerating digital transformation in partner countries

DIGITAL TRANSFORMATION

Toward integrated & strategic development cooperation



Looking to the future, we sow seeds of hope around the world.

Our planet continues to suffer from disease, climate change, water scarcity, and food insecurity.
As one of the top 10 global economies, Korea will contribute to a better future based on our capabilities and vision.

KOICA will cooperate with developing countries and the international community in various areas including education, health & medical services, transportation, science, technology & innovation, and energy.

KOICA was established in 1991 to support the economic and social development of developing countries. We implement Korea's Official Development Assistance (ODA) including bilateral projects, the dispatch of volunteer groups, fellowship program, multilateral projects with international organizations, civil society and private sector partnerships, disaster response, and emergency humanitarian assistance.

KOICA

Contents

Foreword

05 **KOICA's Digital Transformation: Toward new opportunities with partner countries**
President of KOICA Sohn, Hyuk-sang

Cover Story

06 **Korean e-procurement emerges as key form of digital ODA**
Middle East, Africa adopt Korean electronic procurement systems

By automating processes and allowing remote work, electronic procurement secures transparency in administration, and saves costs and time. Many countries are introducing e-procurement into their systems for this reason. Korea's e-procurement system in particular has been spreading throughout the Middle East and Africa as on effective model.







Thematic Focus

08 **International development cooperation, and the opportunities and challenges of digital transformation**
Professor Ko Kilkon
Graduate School of Public Administration at Seoul National University

09 **Digital ODA, striving to turn crisis into opportunity**
Digital transformation, accelerated by COVID-19

12 **Digital Transformation, the intersection where past meets present**
Jung Jun-young, Assistant Manager, Digital Transformation Team, KOICA Digital Innovation Center

14 **Accelerating digital transformation in partner countries**
KOICA's digital ODA in numbers

16 **A classroom of the future, created by teachers' learning community in Azerbaijan**
Changing the educational paradigm through interactive online training, Korean approach of student-led classes

18 **Countering youth unemployment by fostering field-oriented tech talent**
The Egyptian-Korean Technological College Project

20 **Nurturing core talent in ICT industry in Vietnam**
Supporting the Vietnam-Korea University of Information and Communication Technology

22 **Protecting Ecuador's biodiversity through Korea's Information and Communications Technology**
Supporting the establishment of the national data bank of genetic resources for conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use





The 15th Seoul ODA International conference

24 **Expanding development cooperation horizons through new, inclusive partnerships**
Korea seeks to play pivotal role in bridging advanced and developing countries, based on unique development experience

Project Review

28 **Narrowing the gap in health inequality**
KOICA's health-related ODA in numbers

30 **Creating a sustainable local healthcare system: 24 years of efforts**
The Korea Hospital Project in El Alto, Bolivia

32 **Improving health of children in Cambodia: National Pediatric Hospital project**
Support for construction and capacity building for new ward

34 **Breaking the cycle of poverty by addressing adolescent pregnancy issue**
Project for preventing adolescent pregnancy in the Dominican Republic

36 **CHPS marks new milestone in health enhancement projects**
Enhancing health system in Ghana through Community-based Health Planning and Services

38 **Strengthening agricultural value chain in Colombia**
Project to enhance market competitiveness of fruits and vegetables

40 **Efforts to overcome the pandemic and prepare for post-pandemic era**
KOICA's ABC program responds to COVID-19 in developing countries

42 **Assisting Nepalese workers resettle in home country**
Supporting Nepalese migrant workers' resettlement and start-ups

44 **Drawing hope in Abidjan through safe water**
Connecting neighborhoods to water distribution network in Côte d'Ivoire

ODA Trends

46 **Going beyond the dichotomy of Northern versus Southern hemispheres: Mainstreaming triangular cooperation**
Dr. Kim Taekyoon, Seoul National University

48 **Trends in ODA**
Noteworthy Studies

Statistics

49 **KOICA project performance at a glance**

News

50 **KOICA NEWS**
Latest news from KOICA



KOICA's Digital Transformation: Toward new opportunities with partner countries



Korea, one of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the aftermath of the Second World War, was able to achieve notable economic and social development within just one generation with the support and cooperation of the international community. Through this journey, we became the first country to transition from an LDC into a donor country. Based on this unique development experience, which became a valuable asset to share with partner countries, KOICA has been realizing global values by carrying out various ODA (Official Development Assistance) projects throughout the past 30 years. Now a mature organization of more than 30 years, KOICA aims to go one step further and implement advanced development cooperation in order to contribute to Korea's leap into a global pivotal state.

Over the past few years, the world has faced unprecedented challenges including the health crisis caused by COVID-19, the climate crisis, an increase in conflicts and refugees, natural disasters, and the spread of economic crises. As a result, development progress has stalled in developing countries, the wealth gap has widened, and vulnerable groups have become more exposed.

In particular, the expansion of remote activities following COVID-19 along with technological changes prompted by the Fourth Industrial Revolution have reinforced the importance of digital factors in development cooperation. KOICA is striving to reflect this trend, establishing a Digital Transformation Strategy (2021-2025) and aiming for the digitalization of its projects and management.

First of all, in terms of projects, KOICA has set as strategic directions (1) Digital mainstreaming (2) Implementing core digital projects and (3) Creating a digital ecosystem and establishing a foundation for the implementation of digital projects. Specifically, we not only directly support digital capacity development in developing countries, but also seek to contribute to the achievement of the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) in partner countries by improving accessibility to services, transparency, and efficiency through the digitalization of public administration and education services. Key examples include the project to strengthen teachers' capacities in Azerbaijan, selected by the OECD as a best practice case in the digitalization of education, and the project to expand the electronic procurement system of Tunisia.

In terms of agency management, we are gradually introducing digitalization throughout all stages of the work flow. We seek to enhance project efficiency amid fluctuating circumstances, through the digitalization of project management and expansion of remote overseas volunteering and fellowship programs. We have also launched the KOICA Open Data Portal to allow people to freely access and utilize KOICA's public data. Recognized for its preemptive opening of data, KOICA achieved a "Good" rating for the second consecutive time in the 2022 Aid Transparency Index (ATI).

Against this backdrop, as a window for sharing KOICA's development cooperation activities with the international community, MAGAZINE KOICA highlights the theme of Digital Transformation in its first issue. Increase in remote activities and digitalization, accelerated by COVID-19, has posed both challenges and opportunities for developing countries. Many partner countries are already pursuing innovation throughout all areas of society including administration, education, economy, and culture. They are actively requesting cooperation with Korea, which possesses strengths in ICT (Information Communications Technology), to learn about our digital experiences and knowhow. MAGAZINE KOICA delves into the various facets of our digital projects and strategy.

We hope that KOICA's digital transformation will not only promote digital innovation in developing countries by enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of development cooperation projects, but also contribute to the achievement of the SDGs in partner countries. Moreover, we look forward to digital transformation acting as a driving force for Korea to implement advanced development cooperation. KOICA will continuously strive to contribute to the common prosperity of mankind and promotion of world peace through inclusive and mutually prosperous development cooperation that leaves no one behind. We ask for your valuable interest and support.

Thank you.

October 2022
President of KOICA (Korea International Development Cooperation Agency)
Sohn, Hyuk-sang



Middle East, Africa adopt Korean electronic procurement systems

Korean e-procurement emerges as key form of digital ODA

Electronic procurement is advantageous in various ways, increasing the transparency of public administration, and saving costs and time through automation and virtualization. As a result, many countries around the world are adopting electronic procurement systems. Interest in Korea's electronic procurement system is especially rising in the Middle East and Africa, with the systems receiving favorable reviews as a project model in these regions. In this article, we look into the success factors of Korea's e-procurement model.

Tunisia builds Africa's first Korean-style e-procurement system

Since the Jasmine Revolution[1] in January 2011, Tunisia, the northernmost country in Africa, has been prioritizing measures for anti-corruption and revitalizing the economy. In particular, to secure the transparency and efficiency of public procurement, the Tunisian government has actively pursued the launch of an electronic procurement system.

At the request of the Tunisian government, KOICA established the Tunisia On Line E-Procurement System (TUNEPS), modeled after KONEPS, the Korea Online E-Procurement System, as part of the 'Tunisian Government E-Procurement System Demonstration Project (2011-2013)'. As a result, the number of companies registered for e-procurement greatly increased from 100 in 2014 to 5,000 in 2016. In 2015, this e-procurement system was awarded the 'Open Government Africa Regional Grand Prize' from the 'Open Government Partnership' (OGP)[2], an international organization.

The Tunisian government, recognizing the outcome of this project, made it mandatory for public institutions to use TUNEPS by decree of the Prime Minister in 2018. This was indeed a turning point for the nationwide spread of the electronic procurement system in Tunisia, while the COVID-19 pandemic additionally shed light on the importance of remote systems. During the pandemic, the Tunisian government was able to carry out the smooth provision of emergency supplies even during lockdown and disease control phases, by supplying more than 90% of quarantine items through TUNEPS. The critical role of the e-procurement system during the pandemic was also introduced as an excellent case in the MENA-OECD (Middle East and North Africa – Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development) Network on Public Procurement.

Meanwhile, it became necessary to expand TUNEPS and improve the system as it experienced explosive growth in the number of users. The Tunisian government thus requested support from the Korean government regarding follow-up projects that could help improve the accessibility of the public e-procurement system. In response, KOICA initiated its follow-up project, the 'Tunisia e-Procurement System Expansion and Improvement Project' in 2019.

With a budget of 2.5 million dollars and set for completion by 2023, the 'Tunisia e-Procurement System Expansion and Improvement Project' aims to expand the existing e-procurement system to increase user accessibility and build a more stable and user-friendly system. In response to the vast increase in users as well as rapid changes in technology, KOICA is currently going forward with the installment of a virtual server, the creation of a mobile environment, and improvement of the authentication system. Technical and human support will also be provided to allow the autonomous operation of TUNEPS by the Tunisian government. KOICA and the Tunisian government expect that local businesses and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) will be able to more actively participate in public procurement projects through this project. Furthermore, it is expected that this project will support the reform of the public procurement policy and contribute to the realization of a transparent government according to Tunisia's 2020 National Strategic Plan.

Tunisian e-procurement project model spreads to neighboring countries

The successful establishment of the e-procurement system in Tunisia sparked a series of requests for cooperation from neighboring Arab countries and North Africa. Since then, KOICA has expanded its Korean-style electronic procurement project model to Jordan, Iraq, and Egypt based on knowledge gained from its experience in Tunisia.

First, KOICA proceeded to carry out a project to establish an e-procurement system in Jordan with a budget of 8.5 million dollars from 2014 to 2017. KOICA worked with the government of Jordan to unify the country's procurement system which had previously been divided into 56 parts around the nation, thereby integrating the procurement process. Currently, a follow-up project is in progress for the post-management of the procurement system.

Following successful cases in Tunisia and Jordan, Iraq also reached out to KOICA for the upgrading of its e-procurement system. As a result, KOICA has been carrying out a 6-million-dollar project for the modernization of the public procurement system in the Kurdistan Regional Government in Iraq. In Egypt, the government was seeking to drastically improve its existing procurement system following the amendment of the Public Procurement Act in 2018. The government of Egypt thus requested support from KOICA in 2020 for the establishment of an e-procurement system with enhanced transparency and efficiency. With a budget of 7.9 million dollars, KOICA decided to launch a project to improve Egypt's e-procurement system from 2022 to 2026.

KOICA also plans to expand triangular cooperation training programs on Korea's e-procurement system, reflecting demand from countries in the Middle East and Africa. KOICA has been conducting numerous triangular cooperation training programs with countries in the Middle East and Africa to share its experience in development and in establishing TUNEPS. In 2022, KOICA is planning a Korea-Tunisia-Cameroon triangular cooperation training program, in connection with its e-procurement projects. In 2023, KOICA plans to expand this program to more neighboring countries, thus strengthening Tunisia's cooperative system in the region.

Emerging as key form of digital ODA in the Middle East and Africa

The e-procurement projects in Tunisia, Jordan, Cameroon, and Egypt, and the Korea-Tunisia-Cameroon e-procurement triangular cooperation training program have demonstrated the significance of Korea's e-procurement project model. The project in Tunisia, the first case of transferring a Korean-style e-procurement model overseas, is estimated to have played a leading role in developing public e-procurement in the region. According to the evaluation of the World Bank (WB), the procurement contract period in Tunisia, which took 200 days as of 2014, was shortened to 140 days by the end of 2014 upon the opening of TUNEPS, and to 129 days at the end of 2016[3]. In the case of Jordan, 98% of all bidding transactions of the Public Procurement Service are conducted through the electronic procurement system supported by KOICA; in addition, the bidding process was shortened by 70 hours per case.

These outcomes have enhanced the transparency of the government and contributed to realizing fairness and inclusiveness in the society while stimulating economic development -- thus corresponding to the achievement of SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals) 10 (reducing inequality), 16 (peace, justice, and institutional building), and 17 (partnership to achieve the goals).

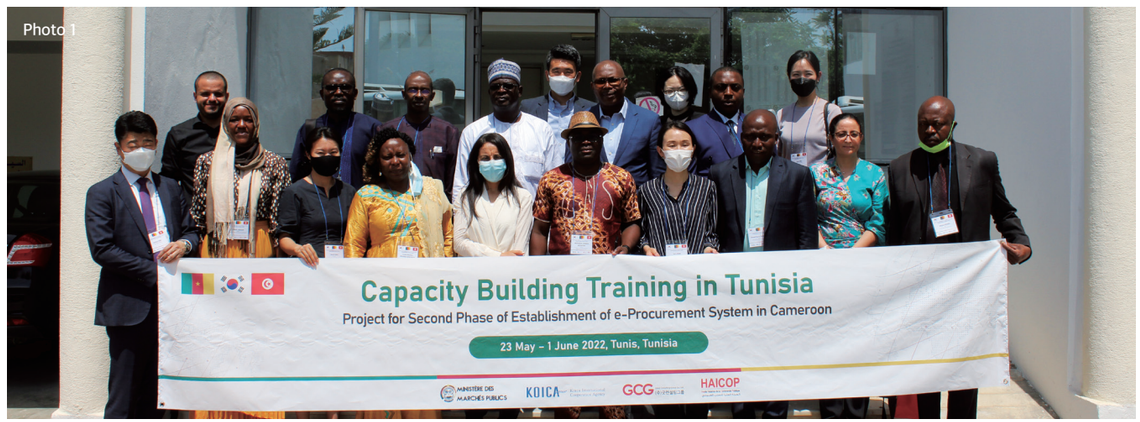
KOICA plans to continue to support the expansion of the Korean e-procurement system to contribute to governmental and societal transparency in the Middle East and Africa, and lay a valuable foundation for development and growth. K

1) Anti-government protests in Tunisia from 2010 to 2011 resulted in the collapse of a 24-year dictatorship.

2) Open Government Partnership: An international network in which governments and civil society participate as policy partners to realize open government. This partnership was launched in 2011 with the values of transparency, anti-corruption, and accountability in response to former U.S. President Obama's speech at the United Nations General Assembly in 2010.

3) "IMPLEMENTATION COMPLETION AND RESULTS REPORT (IBRD-82100, IBRD-83580, IBRD-85360) (Report No: ICR00004324)"World Bank, May 15, 2018

Photo 1 Invitational training as part of triangular cooperation with Tunisia regarding the second phase of the Cameroon e-procurement project



Professor Ko Kilkon, Graduate School of Public Administration at Seoul National University

International development cooperation, and the opportunities and challenges of digital transformation



Profile

Ko Kil-kon is a professor at the Graduate School of Public Administration of Seoul National University (SNU) and the Director of SNU's Asia Regional Information Center (ARIC). He was previously an Associate Professor at the National University of Singapore. As head professor of the KOICA-SNU Master's Degree Program in Public Management and Public Sector Reforms at SNU, Professor Ko conducts diverse research in public data analytics and policy analysis/assessment.

The COVID-19 crisis is creating new challenges and opportunities in developing countries. The experience of a contact-free society brought about by social distancing policies has had broad impacts on the societies, economies, and administration of developing countries, in the form of electronic government services to online classes. Even organizations and individuals that, for various reasons, once held a negative attitude toward digital transformation have started to adapt to the digital environment as a means to adjust to the pandemic-induced contact-free world. In many countries, such as Chile, applications to the government for disaster compensation and its payment were conducted online, while telemedicine services were provided via mobile in Côte d'Ivoire. Certainly, such changes are not confined to developing countries. However, it is meaningful that digital transformation has not remained limited to a select few but begun unfolding throughout the overall society in developing countries, where the accumulation and dispersion of new technology tends to take time in comparison with advanced countries.

To bolster this movement, KOICA projects that support the digital transformation of partner countries are increasingly needed. There is demand in not only the 4 key areas of digital transformation, namely digital accessibility, digital economy, digital government, and digital security, but also the development of diverse supporting programs to set the systematic base, including communications, internet, and data infrastructure. Of course, this demand is by no means new. Many projects have been implemented to support the leveraging of ICT technology in developing countries so far, resulting in no small number of success cases along with failures. In the process, we learned that without proper use in economic activities or administration, the provision of advanced equipment and technology cannot be sustainable.

Take for example the government's document-creation system. In order to convert the countless administrative paper documents into digital documents, there should be no separation between those who create the paper documents and those who digitalize them. If government employees know how to use document-creation programs, then they can use the program directly to create documents. Accordingly, much attention was given to the supply of computers and software during the initial stage of development cooperation programs. However, information-sharing emerged as an important problem as documents created by department were not shared with others, and even within departments documents remained isolated on personal computers. As a result, countries began programs to build e-government systems, and significantly large budgets were directed toward these efforts.

Such e-government systems do not only require network, hardware, and software but also legal and organizational frameworks that enable the digital transformation of the work process of government employees. The implementation of a large-scale e-government system and the necessary improvements in policy, however, take lengthy periods of time to achieve; in addition, systems require regular updates once installed. It is also time-consuming for government employees to adjust to the new electronic system. For this reason, current projects seek to enhance digital utilization by focusing on practical, applicable technologies for civil servants, rather than through large-scale systems.

In particular, we need to actively consider the development of diverse small-scale programs to share technology and experience for cooperation in a cloud-based environment. Moreover, regarding issues on personal data protection, big data, or the utilization of AI technologies, with which advanced countries are currently grappling, it is necessary to adopt not an idealistic approach but a practical one when planning systems, and consider how each technology can be applied to a specific problem. Such a problem-solving-oriented strategy can allow partners to experience the necessity and effectiveness of digital transformation.

There are numerous risks to digital transformation as well. Above all, because digital transformation takes place across a wide range of areas, it is highly important to form links among projects. Yet it is difficult for a recipient country to connect and coordinate the various types of digital transformation programs that are being executed. The bigger problem is that often, developing countries are not equipped with the capacity to manage the overall implementation of digital transformation, which involves drawing the big picture, tracking what changes have been made in which areas, monitoring the flow of necessary funds and human resources for transformation in each area, and managing the flow of the system.

In contributing to the digital transformation of developing countries, it is essential for Korea to adopt a strategy of selection and concentration amid limited resources. We need to devise, jointly with developing countries, a strategy that can take a comprehensive view of digital transformation, and a digital transformation-related policy development program that can assist this strategy. Because Korea already has experience in introducing digital transformation across all areas of society, we have the tools to offer much support if we can develop a comprehensive monitoring system for digital transformation that is tailored to each developing country's situation. In this process, if we simultaneously implement an education program for talent that can lead digital transformation in developing countries, and a program to develop technology that is practically applicable to local situations, Korea will be able to contribute greatly in driving digital transformation in the field of international development cooperation. K



Digital transformation, accelerated by COVID-19

Digital ODA, striving to turn crisis into opportunity

Digital transformation refers to organization-wide efforts to bring about changes in business models, methods of operation, customer experience, etc. by capitalizing on digital technology. KOICA established its Digital Transformation Strategy (2021-2025) as a key driver for its mid- and long-term management strategy to accelerate digital transformation in the agency's management and ODA project implementation.

Drivers behind KOICA's digital transformation

The advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, which entails the emergence of new digital technologies, is a major challenge for developing and developed countries alike. At the World Economic Forum (WEF) Annual Meeting in 2016, participants noted that the Fourth Industrial Revolution had already begun, poised to bring along with it unimaginable changes to our lives. Concerns were also raised that such changes could exacerbate polarization. As previous industrial revolutions caused momentous shifts in our means of production and economic structures, countries that had responded swiftly amassed wealth and joined the ranks of advanced economies. This has led to fierce competition in our current world to take the lead in the new digital and industrial revolution.

The emergence of new digital technologies is an important keyword in international development cooperation as well, as the digital divide between developing and developed countries continues to widen. In response, KOICA has increased its convergence ICT (information and communications technology) projects in addition to expanding support for legal and systematic reforms that encourage digital innovation. While the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic has limited KOICA's ODA activities to a certain extent, it has at the same time served as a catalyst for the progress of digital transformation.

In July 2020, during the pandemic, KOICA formed a task force for digital transformation to further spur the process. Aiming to turn crisis into opportunity, KOICA set the basic direction for digital transformation and identified strategies and tasks by phase based on its mid- and long-term roadmap. At the same time, the agency swiftly introduced various international cooperation initiatives befitting the digital age such as online training, remote volunteer services, and a cloud system.

Kicking off digital transformation, preparing for post-COVID-19 era

Officially launching its digital transformation strategy in 2021, KOICA began systematically implementing full-scale efforts for advanced digital transformation. The agency established the Digital Innovation Center, which reports directly to KOICA's president and is responsible for overseeing organization-wide digital transformation and digital ODA project implementation, while also setting its four goals for digital transformation.

KOICA's four digital transformation goals are as follows: 1) Expand digital-based ODA projects – This goal entails (a) the implemen-

Photo 1



tation of projects that focus on strengthening or supporting digital technology in partner countries (b) mainstreaming digital elements across ODA projects and sectors, and (c) accumulating development cooperation data and the opening of data. 2) Provide customized services to customers/partners in development cooperation – This goal involves the provision of services tailored to the needs of customers/partners who participate in development projects, along with the creation of a customer/partner-friendly digital environment. 3) Enable digital transformation in project management – To realize this goal, KOICA will establish a process-based data management structure and upgrade its Integrated Project Management (IPM) system. KOICA also plans to build groundwork to facilitate on-site activities. 4) Innovate the digital-based foundation for agency management – This goal aims to increase operational efficiency by employing new digital technologies and strengthening the agency's digital infrastructure. Along with these four goals, KOICA has also identified 12 strategic tasks and 33 implementation tasks.

In line with its Digital Transformation Strategy, KOICA will incorporate a digital component into projects across all sectors, including health care, education, public administration, and rural development. For instance, in Peru, the agency is digitalizing the health insurance review system, and in Jordan, it is introducing an information system for public security by applying big data technology. KOICA is also expanding assistance for the digitalization of partner countries' governments along with infrastructure improvement. In addition, KOICA is employing digital technologies for implementation processes across all projects. In 2021, KOICA built an integrated online platform for training and provided remote training for civil servants of developing countries, and was consequently honored with the grand prize in public service at the Web Award Korea 2021.

KOICA's endeavors in digital transformation have been recognized both at home and abroad. The agency's practices were highlighted in the OECD's Development Co-operation Report 2021[1], an annual report that covers statistical analysis and major issues in development cooperation of the year. In 2021, under the theme of 'Shaping a Just Digital Transformation,' the report highlighted KOICA's plans to both actively implement digital transformation projects and integrate digital technology across all of its development cooperation projects and sectors.

Collecting development cooperation data, managing customer data in an integrated way

In 2022, KOICA will continue to increase its digital ODA projects and enhance efficiency in the agency's operations by leveraging digital technology. A key area is the integrated management of customer data in order to provide customized services in development cooperation. Traditionally, customer management has been carried out by separate departments and individuals. Going forward, KOICA plans to integrate the channels of information provision and communication into a single channel to fully digitalize customer service.

In relation to the expansion of digital ODA projects, KOICA is also actively collecting data from its development cooperation activities and encouraging the opening of data. The agency plans to integrate the currently scattered channels of ODA data into one data- and knowledge-sharing channel, with the goal of allowing this data to become more widely and easily available to academia, research communities, corporations, and NGOs. Currently, the data portal on development cooperation has already been built, and its first-phase system upgrade is set to launch soon. The portal for open data will be improved and advanced in phases until 2025.

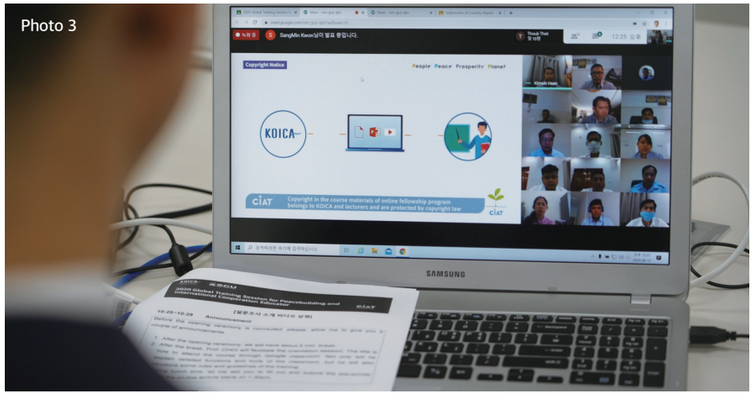
Another important pillar of KOICA's digital roadmap is digital transformation in the method of managing projects. Although there is a growing need to utilize data throughout all processes in the implementation of development cooperation projects, data standardization has been lacking due to the absence of a comprehensive system for collecting, managing, utilizing, and verifying data. Accordingly, KOICA has set the establishment of a process-based data management structure as its first goal and drafted an outline. This structure has been given a pilot run in projects that efficiently utilize the Integrated Project Management (IPM) system.

In responding to the Fourth Industrial Revolution, we have the potential to shape a better future by actively embracing digital transformation, rather than passively adapting to the changes incurred by new technology. As a leading global development cooperation agency, KOICA will continue to incorporate digital elements in all of its ODA projects, while also strengthening its digital capabilities. K

Photo 2



Photo 3



1) 「Development Co-operation Report 2021 - Shaping a Just Digital Transformation」(KOICA's Support Strategy for Digital Transformation in Developing Countries), December 2021

Photo 1 Headquarters of KOICA located in Seongnam-si, Gyeonggi Province, Korea

Photo 2 The OECD spotlighted KOICA's digital transformation in 'Development Co-operation TIPs', a learning platform for OECD DAC member countries, and in its Development Co-operation Report

Photo 3 Seoul Cyber University-Cambodia online training

KOICA shares a wide range of project-related data with the public through various platforms.

KOICA Data	KOICA Open Data Portal for Development Cooperation	oda.go.kr	Overview of partner countries, development indicators related to SDGs, and other data
	KOICA Statistics Website	stat.go.kr	Statistics by partner country, project type
	ODA Library	lib.koica.go.kr	Publications including KOICA's project reports and research
	Public Data Portal	data.go.kr	Safety issues and other information on partner countries, list of public-private partnerships, etc.
	KOICA website	koica.go.kr	Key reports on bilateral projects
	Request for information disclosure	open.go.kr	Requests may be made for non-disclosed documents and records
	Application for public data provision	data.go.kr	Other undisclosed public data
	KOICA Data Innovation Team	data@koica.go.kr	Inquiries made be made in case of difficulties in finding or requesting information
KOICA Data Linkage Platform	Overseas Economic Information Dream	dream.kotra.or.kr	Information on overseas market entry by item, country, and entry stage
	Overseas Safety Convergence Information	stat.go.kr	Safety-related data aimed at preemptive responses to overseas accidents



Jung Jun-young, Assistant Manager, Digital Transformation Team, KOICA Digital Innovation Center

Digital Transformation, the intersection where past meets present

To propel and accelerate the digital transformation of its projects and organizational operation, KOICA established an organization-wide digital transformation strategy for 2021-2025 and installed the Digital Innovation Center, which reports directly to the President of KOICA. The center's Digital Transformation Team oversees the digital transformation of the organization and is responsible for enhancing the digital competency of KOICA and its employees through a step-by-step process. Magazine KOICA met with Assistant Manager Jung Jun-young of the Digital Transformation Team to discuss the direction and current status of KOICA's digital endeavors.

Digital transformation has risen as an important issues in development cooperation. What do you think is the direction and defining point of KOICA's digital transformation strategy?
Digital transformation is an initiative that encompasses all elements and fields of our organization. In December 2021, the OECD spotlighted KOICA's digital transformation strategy – a dual approach that involves Digital Mainstreaming, which aims to include a digital component across all sectors, and a Digital Transition Program, which seeks to enable the digital transformation of partner countries – in its Development Cooperation Report (DCR). This reflects increasing attention from the international community toward KOICA's digital transformation strategy, and our efforts to speed up the process and take the lead in this area.

KOICA held a Digital Innovation Day event in May and shared its four key digital transformation strategies. What are they?
The first goal of KOICA's digital transformation strategy is "Expanding digital-based ODA projects." This goal seeks to identify more projects that can directly support the digital transformation of partner countries in the ICT (Information & Communications Technology) area, and focuses on vitalizing the digital ecosystem that enables such transformation. The second goal, "Providing customized services in development cooperation," aims to enhance the quality of services rendered in development cooperation through integration with digital technologies, targeted toward not only partner countries but also the Korean people and Korean businesses. The third goal is to "Digitally transform the method of projects." This entails discovering projects that are better suited to a partner country through existing data, managing project timelines and targeted outcomes more efficiently through digital platforms, and more actively utilizing remote (online) tools. Lastly, "Digitally-focused innovation in management" includes the digitalization of KOICA's internal management, in addition to the above.

I understand that your team gathered digital innovation tasks through direct suggestions from employees. Could you tell us what these tasks were, and about the process and criteria through which the tasks were selected?
In May and June, KOICA held a "Digital Innovation Week" event under the slogan "Change KOICA," emphasizing the need for new, tangible processes in our work. We gathered ideas from all KOICA employees, resulting in 21 tasks submitted by 17 departments. We selected six tasks to implement throughout the year based on the criteria of urgency, impact, innovativeness, and relevance.

The final six digital innovation tasks selected are as follows

1. Automating the calculation of salaries/ benefits for employees dispatched abroad through RPA(Robotic Process Automation)
2. Improving systematic management of development cooperation human resources in overseas offices
3. Enhancing efficiency in management of bilateral cooperation budgets
4. Implementing integrated FAQ manuals for overseas offices
5. Improving accounting management system for bilateral projects through collaboration tools
6. Improving connectivity of electronic authorization system

Most of the tasks are small in scale in related to day-to-day operations, but it is meaningful in that they were selected through direct and active employee participation. The higher-than-expected participation rate and enthusiasm of fellow colleagues were energizing, and made me realize the palpable impacts of digital transformation.

Are there any projects with digital components that have been memorable for you?
Until last year, I worked at KOICA's Iraq Office, where we are building Iraq's first intensive care hospital by employing a digitally innovative process. In the construction stage, we utilized a "digital construction simulator" to establish a concrete construction plan based on the topography and climate of the region, prior to the actual construction.

In addition, through a remote construction system using four CCTVs (closed-circuit televisions), the construction manager of the project was able to monitor the status of construction in real-time from any location. As a result, the construction was able to proceed smoothly without the requirement of a 24/7 on-site physical presence.

Are there any examples of digital technology being used to accelerate the digital transformation of partner countries?
Among various digital transformation projects, the KOICA Uzbekistan Office launched an integrated platform that converged and managed all IT-related projects being undertaken in the region. This platform has provided information and services regarding education, employment, and start-ups to youths. It has built the foundation for the growth of the country's IT industry, and we look forward to the platform's further development.

Has the process of digital transformation become more rapid in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic?
In 2021, most of KOICA's training programs that had taken place in an invitation format (where trainees were invited to Korea) were adapted into a remote (online) format following the outbreak of COVID-19. Going beyond the use of video programs, KOICA opened a remote, integrated training platform to manage training records and data, and allow facilitated online access for trainees. Due to the decrease in physical restrictions, the number of training programs more than quadrupled in comparison to 2019. KOICA plans to operate the remote training programs in parallel to the resumption of invitation training.

In addition, in cases where Korean experts were unable to participate in on-site field investigations due to the severity of the COVID-19 situation, KOICA carried out remote, online investigations through collaboration between local field research personnel and experts in Korea. Thanks to such remote collaboration, the necessary field investigations were able to take place without delay even amid worldwide disease prevention measures.

KOICA has also developed and is currently operating an AI chatbot service that responds to complaints and inquires related to overseas volunteer work, which has garnered a significant number of users.

In your opinion, what digital aspects need to be emphasized or considered in ODA projects? What future plans does the Digital Transformation Team have in store in terms of organization-wide digital transformation?
Ultimately, I believe the most important goal of digital transformation in ODA is project effectiveness. The key value of KOICA's development cooperation, after all, is how beneficial a project will be to partner countries and their people, and how much their quality of life can be improved.

In the short term, KOICA plans to first focus on transforming the foundation of our systems. Currently, our information system which previously stopped at collecting data is now evolving to organize scheduling, give notices of prospective tasks, and comprehensively manage projects. Once we upgrade our system, the amount and quality of our project data will be further improved, which will lead to effectiveness in our projects as well.

Lastly, what does digital transformation mean to you?
For me, digital transformation is an intersection where the past meets the present. I majored in computer science and worked as a programmer at my previous job. I thought I had put that phase of my career behind me; my newfound life goal was to become an international development expert. It is a pleasant surprise to discover that my past experiences can help realize our organization's mission and vision. I am carrying out our digital transformation tasks with passion, excitement, and anticipation. K

Photo 1 Assistant Manager Jung Jun-young explains KOICA's digital innovation tasks.





KOICA's digital ODA in numbers

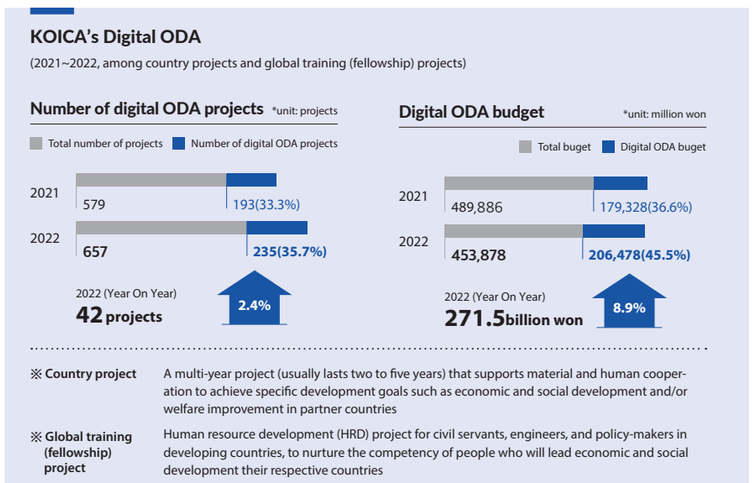
Accelerating digital transformation in partner countries

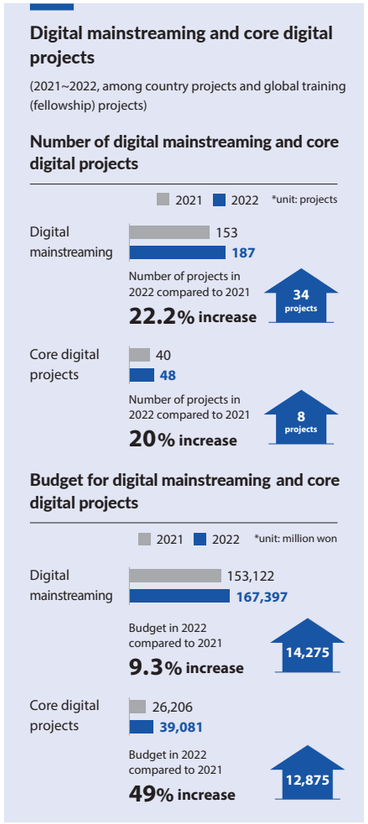
Digital ODA refers to various types of development cooperation projects that use digital technology, often based on ICT (information and communications technology), as a means to support the digital environment of a country or to create digital infrastructure. In September 2015, the UN General Assembly adopted science and technology innovation, including ICT, as a major means to achieve the SDGs (Sustainable Development Goals)[1]. KOICA is rapidly increasing its digital ODA[2], in particular rolling out projects that enhance the digital capabilities of partner countries and thereby stimulating their digital transformation.

Digital ODA: Leaving no one behind amid 4th Industrial Revolution paradigm shift

Digital technology is an important enabler for the achievement of the SDGs and provides the basis for the development of the digital economy. Without an inclusive approach to digital technology, the wealth and gender gaps and gaps between communities are likely to widen. Considering the 4th Industrial Revolution and various ensuing paradigm shifts, KOICA is actively implementing digital ODA to advance the achievement of the SDGs and contribute to the growth of partner countries.

First, KOICA established six driving principles (availability, inclusiveness, openness, scalability, data-based, and information security) as standards for digital ODA. Based on these principles, KOICA set the main directions of digital ODA by dividing its activities into digital mainstreaming and core digital projects. Digital mainstreaming aims to improve the accessibility, efficiency, and effectiveness of projects by applying digital technology to projects of all types and sectors; core digital projects directly support the digital transformation of partner countries by using digital technology as their primary vehicle.





Increasing proportion of digital ODA in 2022

This year, the proportion and budget of KOICA's digital ODA have increased significantly. Both digital mainstreaming, in which digital technology is utilized, and core digital projects, which directly affects the digital transformation of partner countries, have grown in size and budget.

Digital ODA is being implemented through country projects and global training (fellowship) projects, as the economic stimulation and human resource development of partner countries are key goals of digital ODA. Of the total budget of 453.8 billion won for country projects and global training projects this year, 45.5%, or 206.4 billion won, was allocated to digital ODA. Of the total number of projects (657), digital ODA accounted for about 36% at 235 projects. This shows a clear increase from the figures of 2021. The digital ODA budget accounted for 36% (179.3 billion won) of the previous year's total budget (489.9 billion won) and 33% (193 projects) of the total number of projects (579). Looking at the number of projects alone, the increase in the number of digital ODA projects (42) accounts for about 54% of the total increase to 78, showing the large proportion of digital ODA in the total scheme of projects.

KOICA is paying particular attention to core digital project in its implementation of digital ODA. Core digital projects directly support the autonomous digital transformation of partner countries, beyond equipment and technology support in the ICT field. For example, the budget for core digital projects, which was 5.3% in 2021, increased by 3.3% to 8.6% this year, and the proportion of this sector is expected to grow even more in the future.

Core digital projects propel KOICA's digital ODA

As of 2022, KOICA has divided its core digital projects into four categories: digital economy, digital government, digital accessibility, and digital stability. A large portion of projects are in the field of digital economy, which fosters digital industry and increases the size of the market. KOICA thus allocated 40.8% (15.9 billion KRW) of its core digital projects budget to 15 digital economy projects. In addition, KOICA invested 27.6% (10.7 billion KRW) of its core digital projects budget in digital government projects (19) to provide open, participatory, and user-tailored government policies and services to help partner countries develop digital governments. Ten digital stability projects are being developed to prepare for various security risks in the digital community, such as risks to personal information, property, and safety, taking up 26.9% of the budget for core digital projects (10.5 billion KRW). A budget of 1.8 billion won has been allocated to four digital accessibility projects that seek to help people adapt to digital technologies and environment.

Global demand for digital transformation is rising due to COVID-19, with even some developed countries finding it difficult to adapt to the rapid pace of the transformation. KOICA's digital ODA will continue to seek ways to help partner countries succeed in their own digital transformation in line with global trends. If in the past we had focused on laying the foundation for digital transformation in partner countries, going forward, we hope to focus on expanding and advancing this initiative to meet future needs. KOICA will carry on in its efforts to contribute to the global standard of digital ODA. K

1) Sustainable Development Goals:
The Sustainable Development Goals are the most important common goals of the UN and the international community, being implemented from 2016 to 2030. It comprises 17 main goals and 169 targets to solve the universal problems of mankind (poverty, disease, education, gender equality, refugees, conflict, etc.), global environmental problems (climate change, energy, environmental pollution, water, biodiversity, etc.), and economic and social problems (technology, housing, labor, employment, production and consumption, social structure, law, internal and external economy, etc.).

2) Digital Transformation: This process refers to the changes that occur when various fields are connected through the use of digital technology and data, and the economic and social impacts resulting therefrom. (OECD, Going Digital: Shaping Policies, Improving Lives)

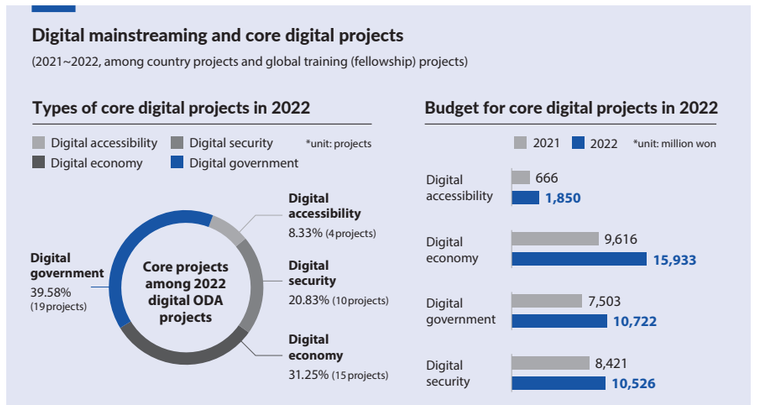



Photo 1

Changing the educational paradigm through interactive online training, Korean approach of student-led classes

A classroom of the future, created by teachers' learning community in Azerbaijan

Education is a sector that is undergoing some of the most comprehensive changes due to COVID-19. Digital classes, which had formerly been discussed as future means for education but had largely remained as auxiliary tools, have now emerged as the new standard for education due to the COVID-19 outbreak. Based on Korea's IT (information technology) experiences and capabilities, KOICA is providing various types of support for the advancement of digital remote education in developing countries. In particular, interactive online training for teachers in Azerbaijan, aimed at enhancing their blended learning competencies, has helped introduce a new interactive learning approach to the country and transform its one-way education system.

Interactive online training receives positive feedback, second phase highly requested

Though Azerbaijan had introduced online classes during the pandemic, teachers had experienced difficulties due to a lack of infrastructure and relevant capabilities. KOICA therefore carried out two sessions of interactive online training to enhance the blended learning capabilities of teachers in Azerbaijan[1] from March 2 to July 2, 2021, with the aim of strengthening teaching capacity in response to COVID-19 and nurturing master teachers, or teachers equipped to train fellow teachers in innovative teaching techniques. Some 35 master teacher candidates and 348 teachers participated in the training.

The Azerbaijani Ministry of Education and local teachers were initially skeptical of the training project, citing their past experiences with other training projects which had not offered tools that were practical or applicable to the realities of the field. However, the participants' perspectives completely changed after the first session of the interactive online training; according to their feedback, the program offered a significantly different approach that motivated learners to lead and participate in the learning process. Aynura, a biology teacher at Ganja School 22 who participated in the training said, "This training provided an important opportunity in my teaching life," and added, "I will certainly apply the new techniques I have acquired during classes at school."

Following favorable reviews from local teachers regarding the first training session, the number of applicants for the second session surged. A total of 1,076 people applied, surpassing the maximum capacity of 348 trainees. Participants gave the project a 4.79 average score out of 5 in the trainee satisfaction survey. The department of education capacity at Azerbaijan's Ministry of Education sent an official letter requesting additional projects, while Director Vusal of the ministry's department of education and information technology said, "Though I was skeptical at first regarding the teacher training project, upon seeing the techniques being applied in class, I was able to appreciate the efficacy of the training."

Spreading Korea's success in education to Azerbaijan: Sharing the student-centered teaching approach

The focus of the interactive online training was to successfully transfer a student-centered teaching method to create practical changes in the classroom. This teaching method was developed in Korea with the participation of 17,500 Korean teachers (as of January 2021) during the COVID-19 pandemic, and its effectiveness had already been demonstrated in Korea. As part of the training, local teachers in Azerbaijan met online with Korean instructors and learned the techniques of facilitating a student-centered, participatory class. By organizing their classrooms into groups of five to six students and allowing them to work together to solve math problems usually considered difficult to teach online, teachers experienced the positive changes that this teaching approach could bring.

Teachers immediately applied the teaching methods and activities acquired from the interactive online training to their classes. Through these methods, the children actively held discussions within their groups and proceeded to interact with other groups of students as well. The effects of the training were tracked through real-time monitoring and feedback.

The most significant change brought about by the interactive online training was the advancement of student-led learning. In the past, classes in Azerbaijan were mostly conducted through one-way teaching by teachers. Following the application of the interactive teaching method, however, students began to participate in group- and activity-oriented sessions, proactively seeking information through the internet and books, then organizing and discussing the contents of their studies. The classroom scene completely transformed from that of the past, when students sat quietly in their seats and looked toward the board.

Establishing an innovative education ecosystem where local master teachers train fellow teachers

Another major objective of the interactive online training was to establish a sustainable educational innovation ecosystem in Azerbaijan. In the second phase of the project, master teachers who had been trained through the initial phase directly passed on the teaching methods to non-trained teachers under the supervision of Korean instructors. This system created a self-sustaining structure in which master teachers, who were trained remotely by instructors in Korea, could spread their learning to fellow local teachers.

The master teachers, who had applied the interactive learning method in class and had witnessed its effectiveness, were passionate about sharing knowledge with their peers. They further developed the teaching methods through collaboration with and feedback from their colleagues. This dynamic process led to the establishment of the Community of Teacher Practice and Learning (CoP)[2]. Within the community, teachers shared how the newly acquired methods were applied to the classroom, and conducted class observations. Efforts were also made to invite new teachers to the CoP and continue the transfer of knowledge. KOICA expects to spread interactive teaching methods more quickly and effectively through CoP.

Interactive online training demonstrates that digital classroom could be key to future of education.

Azerbaijan's education authorities and local teachers now wish to expand the interactive online training nationwide. Principal Gulnar Huiseinova of Ganja School 13, who participated in the training, said, "It was a joy to be able to contribute to the development of Azerbaijan's education through Korean educational techniques. I hope this training continues for other teachers who have not yet had the opportunity to participate." KOICA plans to conduct additional training to strengthen the capabilities of the 35 currently trained master teachers. The Future Classroom Network (FCN), which conducted this training, and the education authorities of Baku, Azerbaijan plan to sign an agreement to this end. A communication channel has also been established between the teaching communities of Korea and Azerbaijan. Through the online community, the two countries will engage in active exchange between teachers and the sharing of innovative educational techniques. KOICA will also provide support in the form of remote education equipment with the goal of bridging the educational gap. A data center and multimedia studio equipped with upgraded facilities are scheduled to open soon in Baku, Azerbaijan.

The OECD selected KOICA's interactive online training as a best practice and introduced the case in a report titled "Adapting Curriculum to Bridge Equity Gaps: Towards an Inclusive Curriculum[3]." The report explained that through KOICA's interactive online training, master teachers in Azerbaijan are passing on the teaching method to other teachers in their country.

In addition, the report noted, "This method shows that there is no need to give up the OECD's most important vision, student-centered education, even in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis, and that education digitization may hold the key to the future."

KOICA's interactive online training has demonstrated that the educational crisis caused by COVID-19 could conversely offer an opportunity for educational innovation. KOICA plans to introduce interactive online training projects to Eurasian regions undergoing similiar systemic problems, in efforts to support countries as they overcome the educational crisis by leading innovation in the global education sector. K

1) Blended learning combines two or more learning methods, usually in a classroom that combines in-person and remote online learning.

2) Community of Practice (CoP) has been designed to help local teachers self-sufficiently develop their own competencies

3) "Adapting Curriculum to Bridge Equity Gaps : TOWARDS AN INCLUSIVE CURRICULUM", OECD, December 2021.

Photo 1 Azerbaijan teachers and students who have experienced interactive learning techniques

Photo 2 Azerbaijan classroom following interactive online training


Photo 2

Photo 1



The Egyptian-Korean Technological College Project

Countering youth unemployment by fostering field-oriented tech talent

Egypt, the birthplace of human civilization, is a country renowned for its rich 5000-year history and majestic pyramids. In the Beni Suef Governorate, located about 110 kilometers south of the capital Cairo, stands the Egyptian-Korean Technological College for Industry and Energy, an institution founded through partnership between Korea and Egypt. At the request of the Egyptian government, KOICA began the establishment of this institution in 2016 and first opened its door to 136 new students in September 2019. Despite a relatively low awareness on technical education in Egypt, the Egyptian-Korean Technological College for Industry and Energy, in less than three years since its establishment, is rapidly emerging as one of the most sought-after universities among students in Egypt. In this article, we will look into the process behind the school's establishment; its contribution to lowering youth unemployment and enhancing the competitiveness of local industries; its curriculum that has been certified through international standards; and provision of technical education tailored to instill practical skills needed on site.

Highly educated youth, high unemployment

Higher education[1] institutions in Egypt have a relatively high enrollment rate. According to the World Bank, as of 2018, about 39% of Egypt's total population received higher education, marking the second highest level in North Africa. In contrast, the youth unemployment rate remained at high levels, with youths accounting for one fourth of the total unemployed population, and thus posing a grave challenge to the Egyptian higher education sector.

One root cause was that the education system was ill-suited to nurturing technological professionals, partly due to emphasis on a theory-focused approach. The eight existing national technological universities in Egypt faced difficulties in training engineers with the practical skills required in the industrial field due to outdated facilities and lack of practical training programs. Moreover, there was a tendency within the society to underrate the value of technical education.

To overcome these problems, the Egyptian government has been devising various measures to streamline the technical education system while establishing policies that recognize the value of technical education, such as the ITEC project under the supervision of the Prime Minister's Office. Technical education and vocational training programs were included as a priority in the youth employment policy, and labor market policies were adjusted to encourage employment. In line with such national initiatives and demand for technological professionals from local industries, KOICA decided to provide support of 5.83 million USD to establish a four-year technological college.

Equipped with up-to-date curriculum and practical training labs

The main goal of this project was to train competitive technological professionals through a curriculum tailored to the needs of the industry, going beyond the mere establishment of a higher education institution. From the preparatory stage of the project, an investigation team was dispatched to meet with Korean companies operating in Egypt as well as local

business management and clearly identify the demand for professionals in the field. Based on this research, the department of mechatronics (mechanical and electronic engineering) and the department of ICT were selected as majors at the Egyptian-Korean Technical College. The university also procured necessary lab spaces for each department, including a computer lab, basic circuit lab, and machine work and production machine room, which were filled with up-to-date equipment and facilities. The state-of-the-art lab space, equipment, and facilities played a crucial role in improving students' practical skills.

It was also an important factor of the project to enhance the competency of faculty and administrators, since many professors at Egypt's technological universities had lacked relevant expertise, especially in terms of conducting practical courses. As a solution, KOICA suggested measures to enhance faculty qualifications, salaries, and career development. A 12-week faculty training course was set up through invitation training to Korea. Various local training programs were also provided, including major-related practical training for each major subject and education for engineering certification.

To ensure quality education and credibility, the college also underwent a certification process for two of its majors. Because of the lack of an internationally-accredited curriculum evaluation system in Egypt, there had been occasions where graduates could not have their degrees recognized by overseas or foreign companies. KOICA thus prepared guidelines for curriculum quality management and ensured that school operations conform to international standards. As a result, the college succeeded in obtaining curriculum quality certification from the Washington Accord[2], an international association for accreditation of the engineering curriculum. The certification allowed graduates of the Egyptian-Korean Technical College to have their degrees recognized on a global level; at the end of May 2022, the school also obtained the Korean engineering and technology education certification.

Leading to employment, much sought-after among students

A focal point of the project was the support the employment of graduates, in order to achieve the key goal of alleviating Egypt's high youth unemployment issue. From the beginning of the college's establishment, KOICA worked with local Samsung Electronics manufacturing offices to identify demand for technological professionals that had been trained at technological colleges, and thus created customized programs that were linked with employment opportunities. In addition to majors, practical training courses in English, computer, and entrepreneurship were also developed and operated. KOICA made sure to actively involve experts from local industries in the development and operation of customized training courses, in order to fully reflect on-site demands and requirements regarding proficient professionals that could contribute to the field.

As a result, in December 2020, the Egyptian Korean Technical College signed a three-party MOU to jointly operate an internship program with Samsung Electronics' overseas office in Egypt. The office now offers 8-week internship programs to 30 students from the Egyptian-Korean Technological College. The program has since expanded to additional businesses in the area; 22 companies are now hiring over 200 students from the college as interns.

Many members of the class of 2023 of the Egyptian-Korean Technological College, the first graduates, are expected to successfully find employment in companies at which they completed internships. KOICA will strive to ensure that this is the beginning of a virtuous cycle, where 120 technological professionals with strong work ethics and proficient job skills will be able to enter the labor market yearly.

KOICA, which has long been carrying out technical and vocational education and training projects in developing countries, considered various social and industry factors in its support of the Egyptian-Korean Technological College, drawing on accumulated experience and know-how. The college hopes to continue contributing to the resolution of youth unemployment by cultivating international-level engineering and technical talents, which had been in high demand in Egypt's industries. The Egyptian government also expects that the school, with its up-to-date curriculum, equipment, practical training and internship opportunities, will contribute to the development of the country's technical education. This project has sought the sustainable development and education of Egypt's youths through opportunities for self-realization, with the broad aim of reaching SDG 4 (Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all) and in particular, Targets 4.3 (Equal access to affordable technical, vocational, and higher education) and 4.4 (Increase the number of people with relevant skills for financial success). SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth) was also considered in the planning of the project, with emphasis on Target 8.6 (Promote youth employment, education, and training).

KOICA plans to continuously support the establishment of a sustainable technical education system in Egypt by identifying follow-up projects of mutual benefit to both Egypt's economic development and Korean companies. Following the Egyptian-Korean Technological College, we hope to create more possibilities and inspire hope for the future. K

1) Higher education level above elementary (elementary school) and secondary education (middle and high school). Higher education institutions include universities, industrial colleges, educational colleges, junior colleges, remote colleges, technical colleges, and graduate schools. Bachelor's, Bachelor's, Master's and Doctoral degrees are awarded to those who complete the course. (Source: Korea Higher Education Information Center)

2) Established through an agreement signed in 1989, the Washington Accord is an international consultative body for the accreditation of engineering education that recognizes the mutual equality of graduates of four-year engineering education courses among member countries. Member countries include the United States, United Kingdom, Australia, Canada, Japan, and China. Korea joined as an official member in 2007.

Photo 1 The Beni-Suef Technological University comprises the Egyptian-Korean Technological College for Industry and Energy

Photo 2 A student of the Egyptian-Korean Technological College demonstrates a device in the school's lab

Photo 2





Supporting the Vietnam-Korea University of Information and Communication Technology

Nurturing core talent in ICT industry in Vietnam

Vietnam is an IT outsourcing powerhouse favored by global companies, leveraging superb manpower along with affordable wages. However, there has been a severe shortage in labor since the COVID-19 pandemic, despite the acceleration of digital transformation throughout all aspects of society. According to the Vietnam Ministry of Information and Communications, ICT (information and communications technology) manpower shortage reached 150,000 in 2020 in the country, while the demand for that sector is expected to increase by 10% annually. What is more, Vietnam's Ministry of Education and Training expects the labor shortage issue in the ICT sector to remain prevalent for at least 10 years. Amid such circumstances, the Vietnam-Korea University of Information and Communication Technology, to which KOICA has been providing support since the institution's establishment, is one of only three ICT-specialized universities in Vietnam. Competent ICT professionals nurtured through the university are expected to play a major role in resolving the labor shortage of ICT companies in the central region of Vietnam, including Da Nang.

Training IT talent: Establishing the Korea-Vietnam Friendship Information Technology College

The project to establish the Korea-Vietnam Friendship Information Technology College started in 2003 with the visit of the Vietnamese Prime Minister to Korea. Following agreement between the two countries' leaders to establish an IT university in Vietnam at the Korea-Vietnam summit, KOICA became in charge of managing and implementing the task. The first project was carried out at a rapid pace with an investment of 10 million USD from 2003 to 2007. The college, a three-year junior college that fosters software-oriented IT practitioners, opened in September 2007, with a capacity of 800 students per grade and a total of 2,400 students.

To support the institution's specialization in the IT field, KOICA modeled the college's curriculum and operation methods on those of excellent IT colleges in Korea. Four courses – computer-aided engineering, computer information engineering, business administration, and marketing information – were established. In 2009, two-year courses including information technology and computer-assisted arts were newly installed. Overall, a total of 235 curricula and textbooks were developed, while 1,400 computers were provided.

In addition to curricula and equipment, KOICA deemed it equally important to develop the competency of faculty and staff. In this vein, KOICA invited professors, administrators, and government officials to Korea to conduct training, while collaborating with local companies to provide internship opportunities for students as a means to organically link the nurturing of capable IT professionals with the labor market. Additional information system infrastructure was also provided, such as portal systems (website and webmail) and academic management & administration systems, as well as support for classroom and office construction.

Upgrade from 3-year junior college to the 4-year Vietnam-Korea University of Information and Communication Technology

Established as a three-year junior college, Korea-Vietnam Friendship Information Technology College strived to be upgraded to a 4-year university. With the rapid growth of Vietnam's IT industry, demand grew significantly for engineers with a four-year college degree. In response, KOICA provided support of 5.2 million USD to toward the project of transition the Korea-Vietnam Friendship Information Technology College into a 4-year university from 2013 to 2020. To achieve this end, the institution had to meet the requirements of having at least one teacher with a doctoral degree per department, expanding teaching materials and curricula, and procuring additional educational equipment. KOICA undertook preparation for the necessary requirements, such as reinforcing curricula, developing teaching material for 50 subjects, training and doctoral courses to strengthen faculty and staff, and expanding educational equipment.

As part of the process, a total of 16 faculty members obtained doctoral degrees from Soongsil University in Korea by 2020, an outcome that bore the fruits of eight years of continuous efforts since the very beginning of the college establishment project. The number of Ph.D. degree holders thus increased significantly among teachers at the college, from zero in 2012, prior to the project, to 24 in 2020, thus fulfilling the necessary requirement for upgrading to a 4-year university and greatly strengthening the capacity of faculty.

To develop educational programs and operate the university, experts from each department, industry-university cooperation experts, and equipment experts were dispatched to from Korea to the college. Invitational training and on-site training for faculty and staff were also conducted to reinforce the curriculum, transfer teaching methods, and strengthen the capabilities of university operation. A center for corporate cooperation and employment was created to boost the industry-university bond, while academic seminars and conferences were also held. Active cooperation took place with companies such as LG, Hitachi, Ltd. and Blue SNA.

As a result of continued efforts, in 2017, the Vietnamese government agreed to the establishment of the Vietnam-Korea University of Information and Communication Technology and instructed the Ministry of Education to carry out follow-up procedures. The Korea-Vietnam Friendship Information Technology College was thus transformed into a four-year university through a merging of IT departments with the nearby Da Nang University in early 2020, and was renamed the Vietnam-Korea University of Information and Communication Technology, becoming the sole four-year ICT College in central Vietnam. The university has since produced 106 graduates through its four-year program.

Ho Thi Thanh Binh, who became the first student to graduate from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering after the university's transition, said, "The Vietnam-Korea University of Information and Communication Technology is a dream school, with excellent faculty and educational facilities. The program helped us in not only acquiring specialized knowledge, but also in increasing students' hands-on skills through practical training and internships, allowing us to be fully capable and ready to work immediately after graduation," he said.

Aiming to become a university that leads the ICT industry

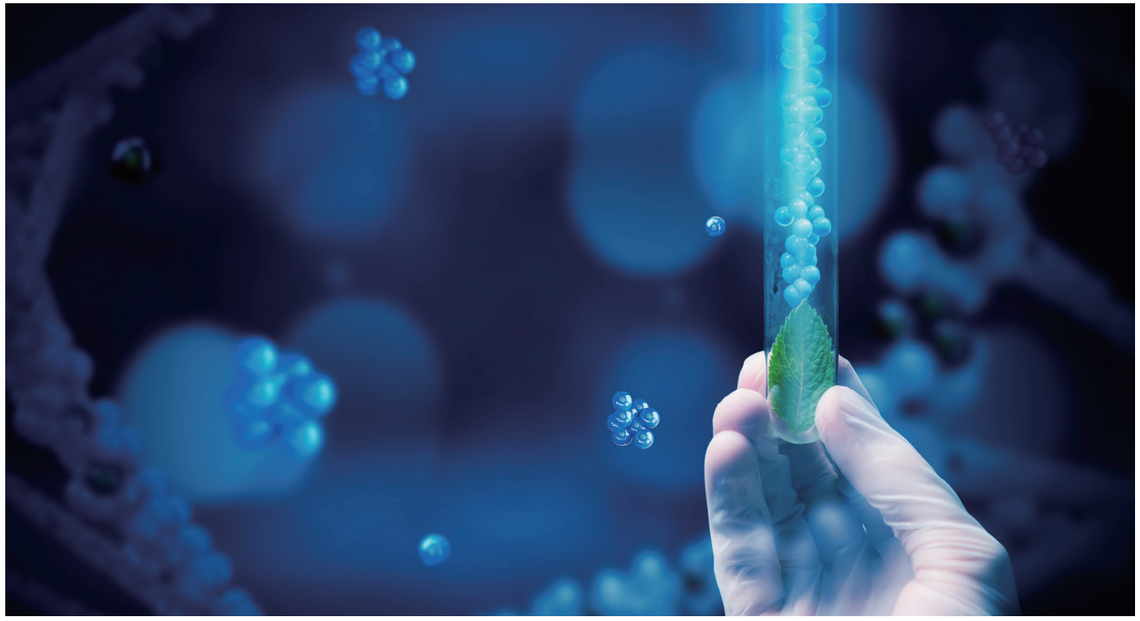
In terms of national policy, the Vietnamese government has set a goal to develop Da Nang into a smart city hub in the country's central region by 2030. The Vietnam-Korea University of Information and Communication Technology is expected to play a pivotal role in this process. KOICA will also be following up with a third project for the university to reinforce its technology education and competency, with the aim of nurturing talented ICT professionals in the region who will lead Vietnam's fourth industrial revolution. A Record of Discussions (RD) signaling the project's kickoff will be signed soon.

The specific goal of the third project, which will be carried out with a budget of 7.7 million USD from 2022 to 2027, is to achieve a 100% employment rate for university graduates by 2026 and have the institution rank 30th in Vietnam's university rankings. KOICA thus plans to enhance overall education capacity, industry-university cooperation and research capabilities, and establish a network within the campus and dormitories.

According to Vice-Chancellor of Vietnam-Korea University of Information and Communication Technology Tran The Son, "The Vietnam-Korea University of Information and Communication Technology has continued to grow through the support of the Korean government. Through the first project, a specialized IT college was established, which was successfully transformed into a four-year ICT university through the second project. The university is now being evaluated as an excellent educational institution in the central region." The Vice-Chancellor added, "Through the third project, which aims to strengthen management, education, and research capability, the Vietnam-Korea University of Information and Communication Technology will grow to be on par with Vietnam's top universities." K

Photo 1 Project site for upgrading the Korea-Vietnam Friendship Information Technology College to a 4-year university





Supporting the establishment of the national data bank of genetic resources for conservation of biodiversity and sustainable use

Protecting Ecuador's biodiversity through Korea's Information and Communications Technology

Ecuador, a country largely enveloped by the Amazon rainforest and located in the northwestern part of South America, is one of the world's top 17[1] countries with the greatest biodiversity. The Galapagos Islands, birthplace of Charles Darwin's theory of evolution and a rich repository of primitive ecosystems, are also part of Ecuador. On February 22, 2022, KOICA and the National Institute of Biodiversity (INABIO) of Ecuador signed a Record of Discussions (RD) for a project to establish the National Data Bank of Genetic Resources[2] in Quito, the capital of Ecuador. Through this project, KOICA seeks to support the conservation of biodiversity and vitalization of genetic resource research in Ecuador.

Supporting the establishment of the Ecuador National Data Bank of Genetic Resources until 2028

The establishment of the Ecuador National Data Bank of Genetic Resources is a project that blends KOICA's strategic direction to respond to climate change (green ODA) with the digital sector. The genetic resource data bank is an integrated system that systematically secures and converts the genetic information of scattered biological resources into data, and continuously maintains, manages, and utilizes it. This system not only serves as a source of basic data for the conservation and management of biodiversity, but also supports research for related fields, as it enhances the accessibility and utilization of genetic resource data.

The Ecuadorian government, which has highly prioritized the conservation of natural heritage as a major pillar and core task of national development, signed, along with 167 countries around the world, the Convention on Biological Diversity[3], which was adopted in 1992 for the conservation of ecosystems. In September 2008, in their ceaseless efforts to conserve biodiversity, the Ecuadorian government became the first country in the world to stipulate the duty to prevent ecological destruction in its Constitution. In 2016, the National Institute of Biodiversity (INABIO) was established to implement the Convention on Biological Diversity. The institute works to discover genetic resources in Ecuador, as well as devise studies and enact plans for the conservation of species diversity.

INABIO met obstacles as Ecuador's economy experienced difficulties. Having already witnessed slower growth due to falling international oil prices, declining exports, and accumulating fiscal deficits, Ecuador's economy recorded a negative growth rate in 2016 and was unable to secure sufficient investment resources. In 2020, the economic growth rate further fell to -7.75% due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. There were also shortcomings in the country's technical capacity to research and effectively manage genetic resource data. KOICA thus decided to invest a total of USD 9 million by 2028 to revitalize biodiversity research in Ecuador and support the advancement of its management system.

Collecting genetic information from living organisms in protected areas, managing the information through integrated system

To successfully establish the National Data Bank of Genetic Resources, it was first necessary to form a national genetic resource management and operation strategy. Accordingly, KOICA laid out a national genetic resource management plan within the framework of Ecuador's biodiversity policy and species conservation strategy. KOICA also set up a system of cooperation with the Bio Center, an existing biological resource research institute, and plans to provide consulting services for active cooperation. KOICA additionally seeks to provide professional consulting on various subjects including the operation of the gene center and the development of a gene collection network management model.

The data bank system of genetic resources will be established inside the National Institute of Biodiversity, located in Quito. Through the system, it will become possible to manage and accumulate DNA information in the form of barcodes; researching and analyzing the genetic variation of samples will also be a possibility. When the system is completely by 2025, it will be possible to collect and study all biological DNA in protected areas.

From 2023, KOICA will support the reform of Ecuador's national biological resources portal, to allow INABIO to manage in an integrated way the systems of 7 bio centers, which currently spread throughout the country. Biodiversity information collection and management functions will be added to the portal system, along with educational content and research data.

In terms of human resources development, KOICA also plans to offer training programs for researchers and IT workers at INABIO to fully and effectively utilize the data bank. To facilitate education, field experts from relevant sectors will be dispatched to Ecuador to transfer knowledge on DNA barcoding and bioinformatics technology. Furthermore, Korea's biodiversity strategy will be shared with Ecuadorian managers in the field, who will be invited to Korea for training.



Photo 1

Perhaps most importantly, KOICA has drawn plans to improve infrastructure for the stable management of the data bank. These include the installment of heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning devices in the data center to minimize unexpected risk factors, such as the malfunction of servers following poor weather conditions, and the provision of equipment such as the servers, IT equipment, and software necessary for the integrated management of information systems. In the near future, KOICA also plans to support the establishment of a digital platform for e-learning education and protocols for managing genetic resources.

Beyond biodiversity conservation: Contributing to the growth of Ecuador's bio industry

Through this project, KOICA aims to upgrade Ecuador's genetic resource data management system and revitalize related research activities. By the project's conclusion in 2028, the goal is to register biological resource data for 200 species on the portal of INABIO as well as catalogue 7,000 samples within the genetic resource data bank. KOICA plans to continue its support by securing genetic resources for various animals and plants inhabiting Ecuador.

Both countries hope to find a new growth engine in the bio industry through this project. As biodiversity is recognized as a valuable resource today, the genetic resource data bank is believed to have the potential to go beyond conservation and lead the growth of the bio industry. KOICA also plans to strengthen the Korea-Ecuador biodiversity cooperation system and lay the foundation for Korean academia and industry to study and research Ecuador's abundant biological resources in depth. This goal is consistent with the SDG 14, on the conservation and sustainable use of oceans, seas, and marine resources.

Combining biodiversity with appropriate ICT-based technology, this project seeks to contribute to the growth and development of our partner country by going one step further in terms of conservation. Demand in the international community in this area will continue to grow. We hope KOICA will be able to contribute actively and play a leading role in bio-related science and technology in the future, especially by utilizing its key strengths in ICT capabilities. K

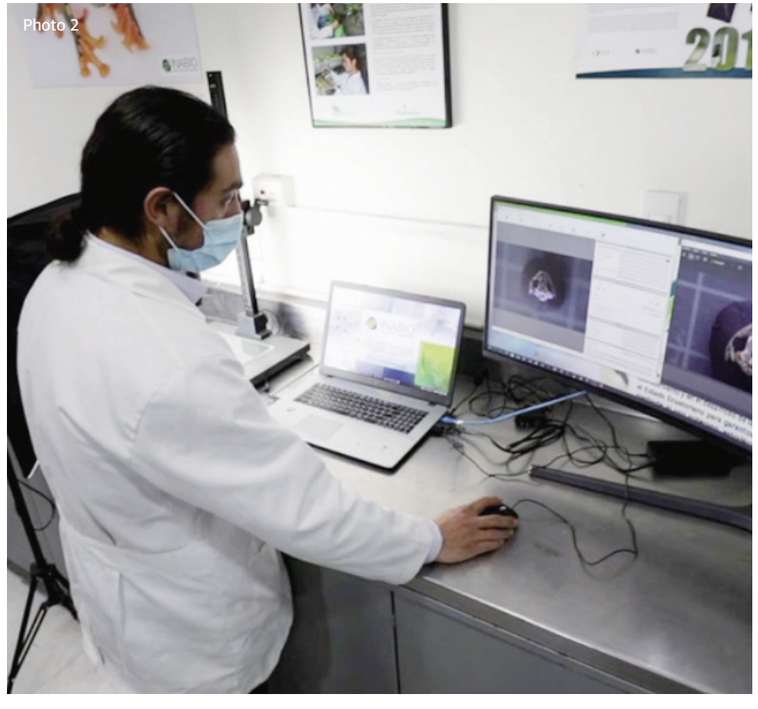


Photo 2

1) 17 out of 200 countries in the world, called 'mega diversity countries', possess more than 70% of the earth's biodiversity.

2) Establishment of the National Data Bank of the Genetic Resources for Conservation of Biodiversity and Sustainable Use in Ecuador (2022-2028/USD 9 million)

3) This convention, which seeks to conserve and maintain balance in biodiversity and its sustainable use, aims for the fair and equitable distribution of benefits arising from the conservation of biodiversity, sustainable use of components, and the use of genetic resources.

Photo 1 Research samples

Photo 2 Researcher examines data bank samples



Korea seeks to play pivotal role in bridging advanced and developing countries, based on unique development experience

Expanding development cooperation horizons through new, inclusive partnerships

"As one of the leading global economies that has solidified its position as a successful donor country, Korea can bridge the gap among advanced donors, emerging donors, and developing countries. I look forward to Korea's role in overcoming the global crisis."

The above was said by Mathias Cormann, Secretary General of the OECD, during his congratulatory speech in a video message delivered at the 15th Seoul ODA International Conference held on September 1 at The Shilla Seoul in Seoul, Korea, hosted by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and KOICA. His remark was a reflection of the international community's expectations of the role of Korea in the current development landscape, where alternative forms of cooperation such as South-South and triangular cooperation among emerging donors have risen as tools to address the world's current challenges.

Amid complex global crises such as the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, and the spread of regional conflicts, the forum provided a valuable opportunity to discuss the role of the international community and its members, including Korea, within the changing ODA (Official Development Assistance) landscape. Fruitful discussions were held and perspectives from a variety of countries and organizations shared under the theme "Expanding Horizons for Global Development Partnerships." Since its first installment in 2007, the Seoul ODA International Conference has grown as an international platform that brings together global experts in government, the private sector, and academia in the field of international development cooperation, for the discussion of current issues and sharing of knowledge and experiences.

Many partners expressed hopes for Korea's pivotal role in international development cooperation and the sharing of its experience and know-how in transitioning from a Least Developed Country to a donor country, especially with emerging donor countries. "We are moving past the era of dichotomous division between donor and recipient. To effectively respond to increasingly complex global crises, systems and norms need to change in more inclusive directions so that diverse ODA actors can participate," said Sohn Hyuk-sang, President of KOICA, in his opening remarks. The President added that KOICA is "in the process of planning partnerships with new countries based on our experience of efficiently utilizing development cooperation."

Korea's bridging role among diverse partners

In the first session, speakers addressed the current situation of transnational crises, which encompass infectious disease, climate change, regional conflicts and the rise of nationalism, and the ensuing obstacles being posed to cooperation on a global level for peace and prosperity.

In particular, speakers focused on Korea's role and its policy directions in this global climate. Professor Kwak Jae-sung of the Graduate School of International Studies of Kyunghee University, who chaired the speech, said, "Korea has strengthened its position not only as a donor but as a player in international politics as well." He added, "As a pivotal global state, Korea has been playing a bridging role among traditional and emerging donors, and in connecting developing countries in the bilateral and multilateral systems."

Director-General for Development Cooperation Won Do-yeon of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs gave an overview of Korea's development cooperation policy direction going forward. "Our administration's goal is for Korea to become a pivotal global state," he said. "To do so, Korea seeks to take on a preemptive role within global crises, by contributing to common values such as freedom, peace, democracy, and the rule of law, and to establishing an inclusive international order." The Director-General added that "Korea will continue to expand its ODA to a level that befits its position in the global economy." He introduced Korea's four ODA policy directions, which are: expanding the scale of ODA, resolving global challenges, safeguarding global values such as freedom and human rights, and enhancing the effects and efficiency of international cooperation.

UN Assistant Secretary-General and UNDP Assistant Administrator and Director Haoliang Xu noted that global challenges such as poverty, the climate crisis, and conflict are becoming more complex and prolonged, and pointed to triangular cooperation[1] as a means to create more inclusive and dynamic solutions be connected relevant actors. "As the only country that has transitioned from a Least Developed Country to a developed country, Korea can play a pivotal role in bridging the gaps in triangular cooperation, so I look forward to continuously cooperating with Korea," he said.

Senior U.S. Development Counselor to Japan and Korea Heath Cosgrove from USAID outlined the areas of collaboration between the two countries' development cooperation agencies. "USAID and KOICA work together to identify programming competitive advantages and resource bandwidth limitations, and how to capitalize on each other's strengths," he said, introducing our partnership for climate resilient cities in the Philippines, addressing ocean plastics, etc. He also emphasized the importance of regional approaches to issues such as climate change.

Call to make changes to traditional ODA approaches to respond to global crises

The second session, titled "New Emerging Donors, Changing Landscape," was chaired by Professor Kim Tae-kyoon of the Graduate School of International Studies of Seoul National University.

Stephan Klingebiel, Head of Research Programme Inter-and Transnational Cooperation at the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS) remarked on the increased need for cooperation and the necessity of a different approach to ODA. "This meeting can be the beginning of building that consensus," he said.

Xiaojun Grace Wang, deputy director of the United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC), said, "While responding to COVID 19 crisis, it has been confirmed that South-South cooperation[2] and triangular cooperation can offer alternatives to traditional ODA." She predicted that "dynamic South-South cooperation and triangular cooperation will become a new model for international cooperation in the future, and the paradigm of international development cooperation will change in the direction of promoting inclusive partnerships."

Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir, Director of the OECD Development Centre, said, "The center of gravity of the global economy is changing, with the share of emerging countries in global trade rising from 32% to 46%." She pointed to the COVAX initiative, which aims for equitable access to vaccines and organizes the joint purchase and distribution of vaccines, as a successful case. "We need to focus on finding innovative ways toward international cooperation and effectively responding to various challenges," she said.

1) A form in which two or more developing countries engage in development cooperation with the support of one or more advanced countries or international organizations

2) A form of cooperation in which two or more developing countries exchange knowledge, technology, and financial resources or promote regional cooperation to pursue joint capacity development



Photo 1 (From left) Kwak Jae-sung, Professor at Graduate School of Pan-Pacific International Studies, Kyung Hee University; Won Do-yeon, Director-General for Development Cooperation, Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Heath Cosgrove, USAID, Senior U.S. Development Counselor to Japan and Korea



Emerging countries point to need for international cooperation system that can encompass diverse partners

The third session was followed by presentations by development cooperation representatives from Thailand, Indonesia, Türkiye, and Kazakhstan, who represented emerging donors. It was an opportunity to discuss how to respond to the global crisis by learning from the experiences and expertise of emerging donor countries. The session was chaired by Ganbold Baasanjav, Director General of the Northeast Asia Office of the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN ESCAP).

Wattanawit Gajaseni, Deputy Director-General of the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA), spoke on Thailand's case of taking the lead in responding to COVID-19 in Southeast Asia by using development cooperation as a catalyst along with Thailand's national policy prioritizing development cooperation. "On a macro level, the international community still lacks consistent rules and regulations that can be applied to development cooperation," he remarked.

Tormarbulang Lumbantobing, President Director of Indonesian AID, said, "Indonesia is an emerging donor country that is receiving and providing support at the same time." He cited difficulties in communication, insufficient information, and regulations as challenges for emerging donor countries, and said, "I hope to share best practices and share knowledge and information through cooperation with various partners including Korea. The goal is for our development agency to become a global development cooperation partner."

Rahman Nurdun, Vice President of the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency (TIKA), emphasized, "Through the experience of international cooperation over the past 30 years, Türkiye has realized that there is no need to impose any restrictions on the form of cooperation." He added, "The days of the existing model of international cooperation, where experience and support were shared through a one-sided approach, is gone, and Türkiye will also contribute to promoting cooperation in various directions."

Dastan Yeleukenov, President of Kazakhstan's Agency of International Development









(KazAID), said, "As the existing international cooperation system was built from the donor's point of view, it is now time for a new system." He added, "What the recipient country needs is not just simple help, and it is very important to change the way we think. For the future, we must all learn together."

Expanded integration and partnership needed to achieve SDGs during crisis

The last roundtable session was a forum for all speakers to discuss the topic of "Incorporating Diversity, Broadening Partnerships." Rachael Calleja, Senior Research Associate of the Center for Global Development (CGD) acted as moderator and led discussions on the development and expansion of new partnerships and ways to achieve the SDGs.

Stephan Klingebiel of the German Institute for Development and Sustainability (IDOS) emphasized the importance of agreeing on the principles of South-South cooperation and suggested that the international community "specify the very basic principles and standards." Ganbold Baasanjav, Director of UN ESCAP Northeast Asia Office noted, "I ask that middle-class countries such as Korea, Türkiye, and Thailand, which have capital, technology, and experience, come forward and become important bridges between the recipients and donors."

Vice President of KOICA Hong Seok-hwa closed the conference with closing remarks. "Today's meeting made us realize once more that the current crisis facing mankind is a global and complex challenge that cannot be solved by the efforts of existing donors alone. We will actively participate in building new and inclusive partnerships to achieve this goal and realize common global values," he said.

The 15th Seoul ODA International Conference provided an overview of the vision of the Korean government as a pivotal global state in development cooperation and its ODA policy direction. The conference was also an opportunity to gather toward solidarity and inclusive development in the international community. KOICA hopes to continue contributing to ongoing discussions in its field through the conference, and make efforts to develop the meeting into an meaningful platform for ODA partnerships. K







Photo 2 (From left) Professor Kim Taekyoon of Seoul National University, Stephan Klingebiel - Head of Research Programme Inter-and Transnational Cooperation IDOS, Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir - Director, OECD Development Centre

Photo 3 Ganbold Baasanjav, Head of UNESCAP East and North-East Asia Office

Photo 4 Tormarbulang Lumbantobing, President Director of Indonesian AID

Photo 5 Wattanawit Gajaseni, Deputy Director-General of the Thailand International Cooperation Agency (TICA)

Photo 6 Dastan Yeleukenov, Chairman of the Executive Board, Kazakhstan Agency for International Development (KazAID)

Photo 7 Kim Taekyoon, Professor of the Graduate School of International Studies of Seoul National University

Photo 8 Stephan Klingebiel, Head of Research Programme Inter-and Transnational Cooperation at the German Institute for Development and Sustainability (IDOS)

Photo 9 Ragnheiður Elín Árnadóttir, Director, OECD Development Centre

Photo 10 The 15th Seoul ODA International Conference



KOICA's health-related ODA in numbers

Narrowing the gap in health inequality

RESULTS OF KOICA'S RMNCAH PROGRAM (2021)

Key outcomes

* Unit : persons

2020 2021

No. of women who practice modern contraceptive methods
Counted countries 10 in 2020 / 14 in 2021
429,688 → **996,687**

No. of pregnant women who received antenatal care at least 4-8 times (ANC4+)
Counted countries 10 in 2020 / 14 in 2021
328,412 → **1,072,114**

No. of births attended by skilled health personnel (SBA)
Counted countries 16 in 2020 / 17 in 2021
746,215 → **1,153,439**

No. of pregnant women who received postnatal care within 48 hours after giving birth (PNC)
Counted countries 10 in 2020 / 14 in 2021
338,292 → **950,784**

Number of recipients who benefited from KOICA's RMNCAH program in 2021
7.3 million in 18 countries

Number of recipients who benefited from family planning, antenatal and postnatal care, and skilled birth attendance (SBA) (including adolescents) aimed at lowering maternal mortality
4.22 million

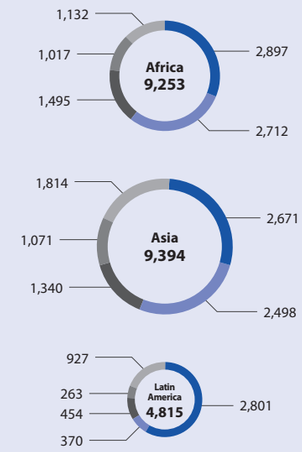
RESULTS OF KOICA'S RMNCAH PROGRAM (2021)

Funding by program

* Unit : USD 10,000

- Infrastructure & equipment support
- Capacity-strengthening of healthcare personnel
- Education and awareness-raising for communities
- Indirect strengthening of healthcare system & services
- Others

※ Project types : bilateral projects, public-private partnership projects, fellowship program



Africa | Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Ethiopia, Kenya, Republic of Côte d'Ivoire, Tanzania

Asia | Nepal, Timor-Leste, Laos, Solomon Islands, Vietnam, Cambodia, Philippines

Latin America | Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay, Peru

Key outcomes

No. of health facilities built or upgraded(BEmONC, CEmONC, etc.)	**579**
No. of participants in the gender responsive education & campaign for adolescents	**2,534,927**
No. of local residents who participated in campaigns & educations	**531,005**
No. of empowered community health workers (village healthcare agents)	**13,334**
No. of trained doctors / nurses / midwives to provide better RMNCAH services	**4,231**

According to data released by the OECD Development Assistance Committee (OECD DAC) in April 2022, Korea's total official development assistance (ODA) in 2021 was USD 2.86 billion, marking a 600 million USD (26.9%) increase compared to the previous year. This is the biggest increase in volume since 2010 when Korea first joined the OECD DAC. Early 2021, the government of the Republic of Korea established its Five-Year International Development Plan (2021-2025) and announced that its ODA would more than double by 2030. In particular, the government planned to expand its ODA in health by 2022, including strengthened capability in its response to infectious diseases. As Korea's representative development cooperation agency, KOICA has gathered and organized the following statistics which reflect KOICA's ODA in health for the year 2021.

Access to the Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health program (RMNCAH) increased by 1.5 times

As most of the international community's support was driven toward COVID-19 response and damage relief, projects related to Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH)[1] have gained relatively less attention in recent years; studies showed a 6.8% decrease in RMNCAH support in 2020 compared to 2019. A continued downward trend could severely threaten the health and welfare of the vulnerable including pregnant women and children, and a surge in the mortality rate of mothers and infants.

In this regard, KOICA made diverse efforts in 2021 to continue support for reproductive, maternal, newborn, child and adolescent medical services and allocated 24.3 million USD to the sector. Amid the COVID-19 situation, KOICA sought to steadily support essential medical services such as delivery care, and in some countries, such as Ethiopia, expanded related projects to a nation-wide scale. As a result, access to RMNCAH services was enhanced by 1.5 times in partner countries compared to the previous year.

KOICA is enhancing access to its RMNCAH program through 45 projects in 19 countries with a budget of 150 million USD, to be implemented from 2020 to 2040. Partner countries include seven countries in Africa (Ghana, Nigeria, Senegal, Ethiopia, Kenya, Côte d'Ivoire, and Tanzania), seven countries in Asia (Nepal, Timor-Leste, Laos, Solomon Islands, Cambodia, Vietnam, and the Philippines), and five countries in Central and South America (Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Paraguay, and Peru). The program encompasses a wide range of areas including: expert training on safe delivery, establishment of local health centers and hospitals, equipment and other materials, education and raising awareness, capacity-building for maternal and infant care staff, and more.

These range of projects have successfully contributed to a decrease in maternal mortality. In 2021, some 7.3 million people in developing countries benefited directly from KOICA's RMNCAH program, while 4.22 million of those received services related to family planning (an area that is highly related to maternal mortality prevention), pre- and post-natal care, and delivery through professionals. In particular, a total of 1,072,114 pregnant women received over four rounds of pre-natal care in 2021, up 226% from the previous year. Those who received post-natal care within 48 hours of giving birth were 950,784 in 2021, a figure that is 181% higher than that of the previous year. The number of women who adopted modern methods of birth control rose 132% from 2020 in 2021.

Meanwhile, a total of 579 facilities were renovated or newly built in 2021, while 13,334 local health personnel received necessary training. Some 2,534,927 people participated in campaigns or education programs regarding adolescent sexuality awareness; 4,231 health and medical workers completed capacity-building training; 531,005 local residents participated in related campaigns and education programs.

Efforts to eradicate other infectious diseases while tackling COVID-19

Tuberculosis (TB), malaria, and HIV (the virus that causes acquired immunodeficiency syndrome, or AIDS) are major fatal diseases that have long been threatening lives in developing countries. The problem is that an increasing number of people in developing countries received less or no support for such diseases since the outbreak of the pandemic, due to an intensive focus of resources, budget, and workforce on COVID-19 response. While awareness on COVID-19 has risen drastically, responses to other infectious diseases have, somewhat inevitably, deteriorated.

Accordingly, in order to lower mortality rates resulting from infectious diseases in developing countries, KOICA has been operating a 30-million-USD program for major communicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases (NTDs)[2] for the 2020-2024 period (5.09 million USD of this budget has been implemented in 2021). Through this program, KOICA has focused on maintaining the steady provision of essential medical services such as diagnosis and treatment for communicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases, while minimizing dispersion of resources. As a result, the program was able to limit the reduction in the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of major communicable diseases and neglected tropical diseases to 3.7% in 2021 compared to 2020. Amid declining responses to non-COVID-19 diseases, KOICA was able to attain outcomes through efforts to maintain the level of essential medical services.

RESULTS OF KOICA'S COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PROGRAM (2021)

Funding by program

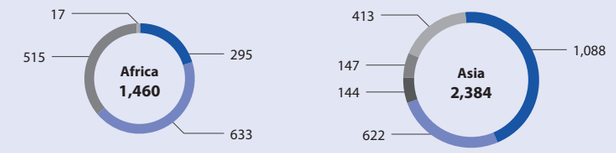
* Unit : USD 10,000

- Infrastructure & equipment support
- Capacity-strengthening of healthcare personnel
- Education and awareness-raising for communities
- Indirect strengthening of healthcare system & services
- Others

※ Project type : bilateral projects, public-private partnership projects, fellowship programs

Africa | Uganda, Tanzania, Cameroon

Asia | Timor-Leste



Key outcomes

No. of healthcare and medical personnel who received training for infectious diseases and neglected tropical diseases	**2,143**
No. of residents who received education on prevention/response for infectious diseases and neglected tropical diseases	**26,369**
No. of laboratory research personnel trained regarding infectious disease testing/diagnosis	**82**
No. of improved facilities · Hospitals(61) · Health posts(52) · Health centers(2)	**115**

RESULTS OF KOICA'S COMMUNICABLE DISEASES PROGRAM (2021)

Key outcomes

* Unit : persons

2020 2021

No. of patients diagnosed with major infectious diseases and neglected tropical diseases
7,114 → 8,913

No. of beneficiaries that received treatment for major infectious diseases and neglected tropical diseases
1,515,895 → 1,456,113

* Infectious diseases : Tuberculosis, Malaria, HIV / AIDs
* Neglected tropical diseases : Soil-borne diseases, Onchocerca volvulus, Lymphatic filariasis, Schistosomiasis, Trachoma

No. of recipients who benefited from the Communicable Diseases and Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs) program in 2021	**1.49 million in 4 countries**
No. of recipients in partner countries who benefited from prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of main infectious diseases	**4.22 million**

The number of direct and indirect recipients of the KOICA program was about 1.49 million in 2021, 1.46 million of whom were first-hand recipients regarding the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases. These numbers indicate that KOICA's program contributed to lowering the mortality rate caused by communicable diseases. In addition, a total of 115 health and medical facilities including 61 hospitals, 52 local health clinics, and 2 public health centers were able to improve and strengthen their capabilities in prevention, diagnosis, and treatment through this program. According to statistics, 2,143 health workers received training to enhance their capabilities regarding infectious diseases. 82 workers in research labs underwent training regarding screening and diagnosis, while 26,369 took training for prevention and disease eradication.

It is crucial to ensure the uninterrupted continuation of essential medical services including emergency care, infection care, child delivery and other cases that fundamentally impact human life. In developing countries with insufficient health infrastructure, however, it is common for clinics that are in charge of communicable diseases to shut down, or maternity ward staff to be relocated to other areas. It is for this reason that the fight against COVID-19 is parallel to the struggle against broadening health inequality. KOICA will continue in its efforts to devise ways to resolve the health gap laid bare globally through the pandemic, and provide basic medical and healthcare services to all people, including the most vulnerable. K

1) An agenda that encompasses safe pregnancy and delivery, treatment and development of diseases in newborns and children, and improvement of reproductive health awareness among adolescents

2) Neglected tropical diseases (NTDs) are a diverse group of 20 conditions that are mainly prevalent in tropical areas, where they mostly affect more than 1 billion people who live mostly in impoverished communities. They are caused by a variety of pathogens including viruses, bacteria, parasites, fungi and toxins. These diseases cause devastating health, social and economic consequences to more than 1 billion people. (WHO)

Photo 1



The Korea Hospital Project in El Alto, Bolivia

Creating a sustainable local healthcare system: 24 years of efforts

Located in west-central South America, Bolivia is rich in natural resources and has high potential for growth, yet the country is considered one of the poorest in the world due to perpetual strife and civil war. Its health infrastructure is currently in need of improvement, with 4.7 physicians per 10,000 people and 11 hospital beds per 100,000 patients – figures that are lower than the average for developing countries (2014, WHO data). In addition to an outdated medical system, there exists the complex issue of poor systematic management, which has resulted in the neglect of medical equipment and their basic maintenance needs.

El Alto, located in western Bolivia near La Paz, is the country's second largest city and poorest region due to a harsh climate and sparse oxygen resulting from a high altitude. To support the region with quality medical services, KOICA established the first Korean hospital (Hospital Municipal Boliviano Coreano) in El Alto 24 years ago. The hospital, which opened in 1998, has been taking the lead in providing advanced medical services to the local community, gradually expanding and strengthening its healthcare network to meet local medical needs.

A sustainable local healthcare system supported by KOICA

Healthcare that prevents disease and improves the health of local residents is an essential factor in determining quality of life. To establish a sustainable healthcare system in a region, it is necessary to organically connect small and large medical facilities to provide appropriate treatment for relevant diseases. It is therefore important to establish a systematic patient transfer (referral) system in which primary medical institutions, such as public health clinics, are responsible for vaccination or light treatment, while patients are referred to secondary or tertiary hospitals in the case of serious illnesses.

Accordingly, KOICA strived to seamlessly link medical support systems between medical institutions through its project with the goal of allowing primary, secondary, and tertiary medical institutions to work efficiently within an integrated healthcare system. KOICA's El Alto project thus sought to carry out development cooperation in a sustainable and empowering form by both upgrading medical services that are essential to the region and solidifying the fundamental healthcare system.

Transition from small public health clinic to secondary medical institution with maternity and children's unit

Similar to the medical care structure of Korea, Bolivia's medical institutions are divided into primary, secondary, and tertiary tiers, in which the primary medical center acts as a gateway into the healthcare network[1]. When the Korean hospital first opened in 1998 in El Alto, it served as a public health clinic and a primary medical institution. Although a small hospital at the time with 18 beds and two floors, it provided necessary services in a situation where basic health facilities were absolutely insufficient. The hospital initially opened with four departments: internal medicine, obstetrics and gynecology, pediatrics, and general surgery. Local residents who could not afford even simple treatment welcomed the opening of the hospital.

In 2008, a four-story maternity and children's unit opened with the additional support of KOICA, providing outpatient treatment and surgery for obstetrics, gynecology, and pediatrics. Such a hospital for maternal and children's care was urgently required because the region's fertility rate had continued to soar amid a shortage of specialized hospitals. Following the opening of the unit, the hospital came to have 14 departments, including internal medicine, surgery, obstetrics and gynecology, and pediatrics, and 95 beds. As a result, the hospital, with its advanced medical facilities and equipment, was converted into the only secondary medical institution in the region's health network. In 2014, Soonchunhyang University and KOICA conducted a post-management project to transfer knowledge on the maintenance of medical equipment and strengthen the capacity of medical personnel.

Growth into hub of local healthcare network

The population of El Alto continued to increase, reaching one million in 2014. Furthermore, the population of the local healthcare network to which the Korean hospital belongs had reached approximately 250,000. The hospital quickly reached full capacity in part due to the explosive increase in demand for medical services, but more fundamentally owing to the ineffective connection/communication network between medical institutions within the healthcare network. For example, numerous people would visit tertiary hospitals of their own accord even though patients cannot seek tertiary medical institutions without a referral from a primary or secondary medical institution, according to the principles of public health insurance in Bolivia. In addition, despite the fact that natural childbirth patients had to be accommodated at public health clinics (primary medical institutions) in principle, they would flock to the Korean hospital due to lack of capacity.

To resolve these problems at a fundamental level, it was necessary to increase the capacity of the hospital while facilitating communication between the primary, secondary, and tertiary medical institutions, as well as putting in place a more efficient patient transfer system. Accordingly, KOICA provided a third phase of support to the hospital from 2013 to 2018 with a budget of 8.4 million dollars.

This third support phase began with training to strengthen the capabilities of public health clinics (primary medical institutions). The Pan American Health Organization (PAHO) under the World Health Organization (WHO), which signed an agreement with the El Alto Korean hospital in 2013, had been in charge of health capacity building and equipment support and thus took charge of the training. PAHO provided education in various fields, such as the use and management of health information systems and maintenance of medical equipment, to about 209 medical personnel. In addition, consulting was provided for primary medical institutions, while maternal and children's health education, chronic disease education, and lifestyle-related awareness improvement education were also provided for local residents. Through this series of activities, the patient transfer system within the healthcare network was gradually established.

KOICA also built an additional four-story unit at the Korean hospital (Hospital Municipal Modelo Corea). In the newly built ward, a passage connecting the maternity and children's unit was installed to enable an organic linkage between units, and 56 beds were added to expand the space for inpatient and emergency rooms. In addition, outpatient departments, radiology departments, pharmacology departments, and nutrition departments were additionally opened, and about 270 items of medical equipment, including ventilators and X-ray equipment, were provided.

With the third unit in full operation since May 2022 (Hospital Municipal Modelo Corea), the patient capacity of El Alto's Korean hospital has greatly increased. At the opening ceremony of the third unit, Bolivia's Health Minister Jeyson Auza Pinto said, "With the support of the Republic of Korea, Bolivia is now home to a state-of-the-art hospital." Korean Ambassador to Bolivia Kim Ki-hong added, "The opening of the third unit means that KOICA's project has successfully developed over the past 24 years."

Through this project, KOICA sought to provide significant and valuable support for healthcare infrastructure rather than offer temporary medical support, and to lay the foundation to sustainably enhance the health of local residents. In particular, consistent mid- to long-term projects such as the El Alto Korea Hospital project could contribute to the establishment of national health and medical policies. Going forward, KOICA plans to maintain a close cooperative relationship with Bolivian health authorities to support the creation of an integrated healthcare system. K

Photo 2



1) Healthcare network (Red de Salud): A healthcare system independent from Bolivia's administrative regions. Public medical organizations respond to the demand in each network and gather relevant statistics to report to health authorities.

Photo 1 El Alto's Hospital Municipal Modelo Corea (right)

Photo 2 Medical staff at the Hospital Municipal Modelo Corea

Photo 3 The Korean hospital in El Alto is connected with hospitals of other tiers for a seamless medical network

Photo 3





Photo 1

Support for construction and capacity building for new ward

Improving health of children in Cambodia: National Pediatric Hospital project

Phnom Penh, the capital and largest city of Cambodia, is home to the National Pediatric Hospital, the only tertiary general hospital and pediatric hospital operated by the Cambodian government. The hospital receives young patients with serious conditions from the city and all parts of the country, but the reality is that the hospital does not have the capacity to provide the high-quality medical services on the level of a national medical institution. In response, KOICA has begun a project to newly establish a ward for internal medicine at the Cambodia National Pediatric Hospital from 2022 to enhance the institution's capacity. This project aims to improve the function of the hospital as a tertiary hospital and to raise the quality of pediatric medical services in Cambodia through support of 16 million USD over the course of six years until 2027.

Constructing the internal medicine ward and improving environment for treatment

This project to construct a new ward and strengthen capacity of medical personnel is KOICA's second project in support of the hospital. The National Pediatric Hospital was opened in 1974 as a primary healthcare institution, the Institute for the Protection of Children's Health. Since then, its functions and roles have gradually increased, and through KOICA's project to improve its function (2013-2018), the hospital was able to restore and upgrade aging facilities and strengthen its expertise as an advanced medical institution. However, even after gaining the status of a tertiary general hospital, its capability to provide high-quality services as a top-tier medical institution had largely been limited. In particular, due to the medical departments and various facilities being spread across 14 different buildings, there had been issues with the movement of patients, and operation efficiency, including treatment and consultations.

To address this problem, KOICA decided to build a new internal medicine ward with a total floor area of 8,715 square meters and five floors, expected to be completed in 2026. Once the new treatment ward is completed, other medical departments will be relocated to the existing and new wards, with the aim of improving the efficiency of treatment and facility operations. In addition, the new ward is planned to operate with a total of 196 beds based on an analysis of inpatient trends, which suggest that at least 185 more beds will be needed within the next five years. The ward consists of 10 outpatient departments and five departments (Gastroenterology, Nutrition, Respiratory Medicine, Hematology, and Oncology). In line with the construction schedule for the new treatment building, we have decided to provide all 1,900 pieces of medical and non-medical equipment, including medical equipment and medical/administrative computers.

Establishing mid- to long-term master plan for sustainable development

The National Pediatric Hospital plays a pivotal role in the Cambodian medical system for children and adolescents. As such, it is of the utmost important to strengthen the hospital's self-management capacity to improve the quality of medical services and sustainability. Therefore, it was deemed necessary to establish a mid- to long-term vision for the National Pediatric Hospital from the preliminary research stage, and to raise the level of medical services by improving the hospital's operating system. Accordingly, through this project, KOICA decided to establish a master plan that includes the mid- to long-term development direction and strategy of the hospital, and to improve the hospital's operating system.

The master plan will be developed from the end of 2022. First, in cooperation with external consulting firms, KOICA plans to conduct workshops and consultations for hospital administrators and other stakeholders to develop a master plan. KOICA will also dispatch Korean hospital operation experts to the local area and consult with them to set the overall direction and develop a master plan. In addition, KOICA has planned an invitational training program in Korea for hospital administrators and officials from the Ministry of Health.

We will also dispatch hospital operation experts to improve the operating system. Medical quality management experts, who improve the quality of medical services, and infection control experts, who manage the risk of secondary infections in hospitals, will be dispatched to Cambodia in three phases for three weeks each. They will help improve medical services and establish an operating system for patient safety management through capacity building programs. With an improvement in operations, it is expected that a higher level of medical service will be provided to patients, thereby contributing to the strengthening of Cambodia's healthcare system and medical management capacity.

Capacity building in treatment, research, and education

In addition to their original medical function of treating severe diseases, tertiary hospitals must also perform educational functions that help improve the capabilities of medical personnel in the country and research functions as clinical research institutes. For these three functions to work together seamlessly, the competence of medical staff is of paramount importance. Through this project, KOICA plans to support the capacity building of medical personnel at the National Pediatric Hospital by focusing on three aspects: medical treatment capacity, research capacity, and education capacity.

Among these, the most urgent is training personnel specialized in each sub-division of medical treatment. Of the 169 doctors currently working at the National Pediatric Hospital, only 11 (6.5%) are specialized in pediatrics. To solve this problem, KOICA decided to first conduct invitational training and local education for medical staff in each department. More specifically, by actively accepting the request of the National Pediatric Hospital, KOICA decided to integrate the previously separate invitational training and local education and proceed in three stages: pre-local education, invitational training, and post-local education. This strategy is expected to further enhance the effectiveness of the training. Invitational training, which is the core of the program, will be conducted sequentially by year. The departments of hematology/oncology and neurological rehabilitation will participate in the first year, 2023, followed by the respiratory/allergy and otolaryngology departments in 2024 and the kidney/endocrinology departments in 2025.

In terms of strengthening research capacity, KOICA decided to focus on enhancing research capacity for Cambodia's top 10 pediatric diseases[1]. To encourage the discovery of clinical research projects for the top 10 pediatric diseases, the hospital plans to offer internal funding to support research costs of $5,000. Submission fees for research papers in academic journals and participation in conferences for project presentation will also be covered. Support will also be provided so that significant research findings can be shared internationally.

In terms of educational capacity, we plan to hold regular knowledge sharing activities for each department and academic conferences for each ward to support knowledge sharing. In addition, we plan to include the TOT[2] program for each specialty in the invitational training and local education for medical staff mentioned above, and train the medical staff who participated in the training to be master trainers for each specialty. Once the master trainers return to the field and begin to educate other medical staff in Cambodia, we expect that this will further strengthen the educational capacity of the National Pediatric Hospital for nurturing local personnel specialized in pediatric medicine.

KOICA has strived to transfer Korea's medical technology, hospital establishment and operation experience, etc. in accordance with the characteristics of developing countries through cooperative projects in the healthcare sector. In particular, when hospitals in developing countries were in need of operation consulting, KOICA provided support to help manage their level of service and secure an engine for self-development. Through this project, KOICA intends to strengthen the overall capacity of the Cambodia National Pediatric Hospital on par with the status of a tertiary hospital. KOICA also hopes to contribute to a higher level of health and medical services to infants and young people in Cambodia, and to achieving Sustainable Development Goal 3, "Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages." K

1) According to a 2019 survey, the top 10 pediatric diseases of the National Pediatric Hospital were dengue fever, sore throat, acute enteritis, acute diarrhea, bronchiolitis, pneumonia, asthma, thalassemia, neonatal diseases, and eye infections.

2) Training of Trainers (Master trainers educated through training train other medical staff in Cambodia)

Photo 1 Cambodia National Pediatric Hospital

Photo 2 Cambodia National Pediatric Hospital


Photo 2



Project for preventing adolescent pregnancy in the Dominican Republic

Breaking the cycle of poverty by addressing adolescent pregnancy issue

The Dominican Republic is an island country in the Caribbean with a population of approximately 11 million. The country's adolescents take up a particularly large portion, accounting for 25% of the total population. While a high number of youths portends great potential for growth, the adolescent pregnancy rate poses a serious issue -- adolescent deliveries take up 26% of the total number of births -- threatening both individual quality of life and societal development.

Adolescent pregnancy incurs tremendous social and economic losses due to discontinuation in education, subsequent decline in income, and increased medical expenses. Accordingly, the Dominican Republic has recognized adolescent pregnancy and sexual and reproductive health as major challenges and established a national strategy to address them. In 2020, the newly launched government selected 'prevention of adolescent pregnancy' as a major national agenda. KOICA has been a consistent partner on this issue, helping the government in its endeavors by implementing three projects for adolescent pregnancy prevention and the improvement of women's healthcare since 2006.

Preventing adolescent pregnancy, making early diagnoses through medical support

Because pregnant adolescents have a higher risk of debilitating health and complications due to premature deliveries compared to pregnant adults, a significant number of teenage girls are exposed to maternal death. In addition, due to premature deliveries, their babies are prone to low birth weight and a high infant mortality rate. KOICA therefore embarked on its first project on preventing adolescent pregnancy and improving women's healthcare environment in the Dominican Republic from 2006 to 2008. Through a budget of 400,000 USD, KOICA provided medical equipment for six hospitals in four areas including the capital, Santo Domingo. Surgical equipment and basic medical testing equipment such as ultrasonic instruments provided through the project helped enhance the quality of healthcare services, which in turn led to early diagnoses and lower maternal mortality rate. In addition, KOICA provided sexuality education for adolescents and conducted training on general adolescent healthcare to strengthen the capacity of healthcare workers. KOICA also nurtured adolescent healthcare leaders, conducted workshops on topics including sexually transmitted diseases and the management of HIV/AIDS, and offered capacity-building for professionals counseling adolescents.

Establishment of first youth and sexual reproduction health center in Latin America

While KOICA's first project focused on healthcare, the second project engaged in education to raise awareness on the prevention of teenage pregnancy and bring about behavioral changes. The second project was carried out from 2008 to 2015 with a budget of 1.3 million USD and focused on the establishment of a youth and sexual reproduction health center, the first of its kind in the Dominican Republic. As the country had yet to introduce compulsory sex education in schools and students had low awareness on sexual and reproductive health due to social norms, there was a pressing need to provide a physical space where more teenagers could participate in sexuality education. Accordingly, in February 2015, KOICA established the Youth and Sexual Reproduction Health Center with a total area of 330 square meters in the capital of Santo Domingo. To create activity zones and a tour program in the center, KOICA benchmarked the facilities of the Youth Sexuality Education Center in Ansan, Gyeonggi Province, Korea as a reference. Education was provided for policymakers and healthcare professionals in the Dominican Republic for the sustainable operation of the center. In 2008 and 2009, KOICA invited working-level members and those in charge of relevant policies in the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Women and Ministry of Health to Korea and provided training. The agency also dispatched medical professionals to the country to provide capacity-building education for healthcare workers there.

Large-scale campaigns were held to promote awareness on topics related to women's sexual and reproductive health including pregnancy, maternal and child health, and sexually transmitted diseases. Due to dominant social norms, pregnant adolescents were often forfeited the right to choose. During the project period, campaigns were held via mass media such as TV and radio to raise awareness on underage pregnancies, causing small but significant shifts in perspective in the pervasive social norms of the country.

KOICA and the government of the Dominican Republic, jointly spreading adolescent pregnancy prevention policies

The country's high adolescent pregnancy rate did not fall easily despite government-led efforts. The government thus established the 'Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention Strategy 2011-2016' and set a drastic decline in adolescent pregnancy as the country's highest policy priority. To encourage the nationwide spread of the adolescent pregnancy prevention policy, the country's Ministry of Women called on KOICA to build an additional Youth and Sexual Reproduction Health Center. In response, in 2018, KOICA started its third project for adolescent pregnancy prevention and the improvement of women's healthcare environment. The focus of the third project is to ensure follow-up support for the Youth and Sexual Reproduction Health Center in Santo Domingo and to establish a new Youth and Sexual Reproduction Health Center in San Juan through 2023.

In its follow-up support for Santo Domingo's Youth and Sexual Reproduction Health Center, KOICA is striving to fully reflect the country's adolescent pregnancy prevention strategy, which emphasizes a holistic approach including the prevention of pregnancy, care of pregnant adolescents, and empowerment of women's rights. At the Santo Domingo Youth and Sexual Reproduction Health Center, sexuality education tailored to age groups will be provided, including programs on rights to sexual reproduction, the importance of contraception, etc., in addition to pregnancy prevention education. The Santo Domingo Youth and Sexual Reproduction Health Center will also provide information on programs supported by the country. In addition, KOICA is encouraging adolescents to take the lead in social campaigns and enabling them to proactively participate in the problem-solving process. 'Peer keepers' refer to adolescent leaders for teenage pregnancy prevention who engage in campaigns targeting peer adolescents in their areas. In response to COVID-19, remote support was provided for peer keepers and sexuality education, including educational videos produced by KOICA, digital equipment necessary for remote education, and coupons for participating in online education. The agency also provided education for the digital capacity-building of lecturers.

The San Juan area, where the second Youth and Sexual Reproduction Health Center will be located, is the second-largest city in the country in terms of population and economy. This area is also socially and economically vulnerable, with its adolescent pregnancy rate rising continuously over the past 10 years. The construction of the Youth and Sexual Reproduction Health Center with a total area of approximately 800 square meters that includes eight exhibition spaces and educational facilities began in March 2021 after finalization of the site location. Its completion is scheduled for the early half of 2024. In addition to building the Youth and Sexual Reproduction Health Center, KOICA is providing support for exhibition planning and installations, vehicles and necessary equipment, educational program development, center operation manual development, and the capacity-building of center operating staff, etc. Once opened, the Youth and Sexual Reproduction Health Center will be operated and managed by the Ministry of Women, which has accumulated experience at the Santo Domingo Youth and Sexual Reproduction Health Center.

Together with KOICA, the Dominican Republic Is Leading Adolescent Pregnancy Prevention in Latin America

The project for adolescent pregnancy prevention and improvement of women's healthcare environment has been recognized as a best practice in successfully applying Korea's advanced adolescent sexual health policy and programs to another country by tailoring them to local conditions. An evaluation by the Dominican Republic's Ministry of Women on the sexuality education provided through KOICA projects found that adolescents' level of knowledge regarding the related topics increased; parent-adolescent conversations about sex improved, which had been considered taboo throughout the society; the age of first sexual intercourse was delayed; and knowledge on the correct use of contraception was attained.

The government of the Dominican Republic hopes that the success achieved in these projects will spread to neighboring Latin American countries that are also experiencing serious adolescent pregnancy issues. To this end, an international seminar will be held in October 2022. KOICA will continue to closely cooperate with the Dominican Republic to establish adolescent pregnancy prevention project models that can be applied to Latin American countries and actively work on improving this area's deep-rooted social issue of high adolescent pregnancy rates. K

Photo 1 Peer group for the prevention of teenage pregnancies in the Dominican Republic

Photo 2 Completion ceremony of the first group of peer keepers





Enhancing health system in Ghana through Community-based Health Planning and Services

CHPS marks new milestone in health enhancement projects

Ghana, located in West Africa, has seen a steady improvement in its economy and gradual decline in poverty levels. At the same time, the quality of healthcare in the country differs to a large extent by region. In the Upper East region of the country in particular, a large portion of its 1.1 million inhabitants required greater access to adequate healthcare services. In its efforts to improve basic healthcare in the country based on its own Community-based Health Planning and Services (CHPS)[1], the Ghanaian government faced obstacles in issues such as compensation for workers in the field, medical expertise and equipment, and awareness in the community. KOICA thus sought to provide support to enhance the overall quality of the CHPS system and to put in place various safety measures to ensure the effectiveness of the Program-based Approach (PBA)[2].

Ghana's own unique local healthcare system, CHPS

CHPS refers to Ghana's community-based health system, in which village health volunteers and nurses visit patients who live in one area, to offer medical services such as: preventive care such as home-based prenatal and postpartum care, health counseling, education for disease prevention and general health promotion; various primary healthcare services including patient discovery and transport; and basic medical treatment of minor diseases.

Since the late 1990s, Ghana has strived greatly to enhance basic maternal-child health services through the CHPS system, especially childbirth, family planning, child vaccination, and postpartum care. These efforts have faced difficulties -- according to the 2018 CHPS status survey, of the 5,918 CHPS Zones nationwide, only 13 percent were being utilized.

One reason for the limited outcomes was the poor management of and compensation for the village health volunteers, who were the key human resources that drove CHPS. Without a certain level of education, guidance, supervision, or compensation system for the village health volunteers, the system could not function efficiently. Therefore, the Ghanaian government decided to strengthen the community health system by setting clear roles and responsibilities for the volunteers and providing fair compensation, while incorporating the system within Ghana's national medical system.

In 2014, Ghana proposed a project in this field to KOICA; based on preliminary research results, KOICA and the Ghanaian government agreed to expand the initial scope of the project to widen the coverage of CHPS health facilities, prepare an emergency care system, improve governance capacity, and more. Thirteen counties in the Upper East region and 120 CHPS districts were selected as project sites.

Upgrades to CHPS program contributes to more effective maternal and child healthcare and local health system

To strengthen the local health system through the activation of CHPS, it was critical to raise awareness among local residents and enable their participation. From the initial stages of the project to strengthen Ghana's CHPS, KOICA gathered the opinions of local residents and their needs. Community leaders made

official appointments of local health volunteers in order to strengthen their bond to the community and instill a sense of fulfillment and pride.

Education and other incentives were provided for the community health volunteers. Health education and training programs were provided to 480 village health volunteers who visited each home; protective equipment such as bicycles, activity kits, boots, and raincoats were also provided. KOICA set up incentive systems such as performance-based awards and health insurance premiums to allow a more effective and sustainable operation of the program. For the 600 village health management associations who oversaw the activities of the village health volunteers, capacity-strengthening programs were held in the areas of management and supervision.

A key target was the improvement of maternal and child healthcare services. Many areas had been experiencing shortages in related healthcare workers, necessary facilities, and medical equipment; some places lacked any kind of building or facility. In response, KOICA provided support through the establishment of 13 health facility buildings, and supplied medical equipment such as ultrasound devices and emergency obstetric equipment to 120 CHPS districts and 48 health clinics. For medical workers such as village health nurses, midwives, and doctors, KOICA offered regular medical tech training and invitation training to Korea to raise the efficiency of maternity and newborn care.

Other types of support included an MOU with Samsung Electronics and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) to provide 2,656 tablet devices for medical workers. Through this equipment, medical records that had previously been written by hand could be kept and computerized. The local emergency care system was also strengthened. KOICA replaced 120 three-wheeled motorbike ambulances being used for maternity emergencies with new vehicles, and provided related technical equipment and emergency healthcare training. Training programs were put in place for supervisors in the areas of leadership, financial management, and business management.

Project-based Approach applied to Community-based Health Planning and Services

In terms of outcomes, Ghana's Upper East region experienced more than a 10 percent decrease in maternal mortality in 2021 compared to 2016, the year the project was launched. The mortality rate for children under five years of age fell by more than 50 percent during the same period. The proportion of pregnant women who received four or more prenatal care visits rose from 87 percent to 97.4 percent during the same period as well. It is estimated that the direct beneficiaries of the project number 470,000, while 1.1 million have been impacted as indirect beneficiaries.

This project placed a focus on putting in place various safety measures in order to effectively utilize and support Ghana's own system, being the Ghanaian government's first project to apply the Project-based Approach (PBA) to a CHPS-related project. Local PBA projects are able to use the existing system of the partner country and strengthen its capabilities; downsides often include risks of corruption and difficulties in measuring outcomes. Accordingly, KOICA strived to prepare and put it place safety measures, such as opening and using and independent funding account, and remitting expenses semi-annually per approval upon reviewing the project report. A Project Execution Unit (PIU), led by Korean experts, was established within the provincial health office to manage and supervise the overall progress of the project. The unit created and maintained an organic cooperative relationship with the central health office of Ghana and the health authorities of the Upper East region.

KOICA hopes to further expand upon and share the methods used in revitalizing Ghana's CHPS system, and its close cooperation with Ghana in implementing and measuring the outcome of the project. KOICA plans to publish the results of this project in an academic journal in 2023, and will continue to seek new models for development cooperation partnerships. K



1) Community-based Health Planning and Services

2) Program-based Approach: A development cooperation method that provides coordinated support for locally-led development programs in partner countries

Photo 1 Medical staff train volunteer workers as part of the CHPS project in Ghana


Photo 1

Project to enhance market competitiveness of fruits and vegetables

Strengthening agricultural value chain in Colombia

Colombia, located in the northwest of South America, has land that covers an area 11 times larger than that of Korea. Although 75.5% of the country's territory is farmland, more than 90% of rural households depend on self-sufficient farming, resulting in low agricultural productivity. In terms of the overall value chain of the rural economy, which includes storage, distribution, processing, and sales, there is much room for optimization. Moreover, a civil war which lasted for 50 years caused great damage to rural areas and left farmers struggling with poverty for a long period. Against this backdrop, KOICA has been unfolding a poverty eradication project in rural areas since 2011 in cooperation with the Colombian government and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The project to strengthen the market competitiveness of fruits and vegetables has in particular been evaluated as a successful case of rural development.

Realizing Colombia's potential as an agricultural powerhouse

Sustainable rural development has remained a foundational national policy of Colombia regardless of regime. Despite widespread poverty and low productivity in rural areas, Colombia is home to a wide range of climates and topographies suitable for agriculture, presenting great potential for enhanced agricultural production. Improving quality of life through rural development and increasing household income for farmers are crucial national policy goals for Colombia, and a top priority in Colombia's national strategy.

The first rural development cooperation project between KOICA and Colombia was to reduce rural poverty, implemented from 2011 to 2017. KOICA, UNDP, and INCODER[1] jointly contributed to improving the production and marketability of crops such as cacao, coffee, and uchuva. The Colombian government then requested to KOICA a follow-up project to strengthen market competitiveness of fruits and vegetables, which KOICA decided to implement in the three provinces.

Since then, the Colombian government has requested that KOICA take on the "Colombian Fruit and Vegetable Market Competitiveness Reinforcement Project" as a follow-up project. Accordingly, KOICA decided to implement its second project in three provinces: Bolívar, Tolima, and Cauca. Rural areas in these regions had suffered severe damage from years of armed conflict and recorded high in the poverty index.

Voluntary participation of farmers helps increase productivity by 114%

One defining element of the project was its successful employment of a regional inclusive economic growth model, which had yielded fruitful outcomes in previous projects as well. The regional inclusive economic growth model[2] transforms participants from passive beneficiaries to active agents of development, ultimately resulting in increases

in farm household incomes and improvements in quality of life. Through this model, KOICA empowered each farming association to set its own project goals and plans, and voluntarily apply new farming technology, thereby minimizing resistance to new technology that frequently occurs in the beginning phases of projects. The model was key in leading to successful rural development by enhancing the ownership of farming associations.

After establishing an action plan, KOICA began by supporting improvements in the productivity and quality of four fruits and vegetables that are representative crops of the selected regions: avocado, cacao, lemon, and yam. KOICA supported in increasing the competitiveness of these products by distributing high-quality varieties, and building irrigation facilities minimize the damage caused by abnormal climates such as drought and frost. In order to increase productivity per cultivated area, KOICA shared technologies to enhance water-use and fertilizer-use efficiency and pest control competitiveness, and to expand eco-friendly cultivation capabilities.

Crop productivity was boosted significantly as a result, with average productivity of the four crops increasing by 114% compared to before the implementation of the project. The proportion of Grade 1 products among the four fruits and vegetables also grew by an average of 39.3%. Results showed that farmers were particularly satisfied with the increase in the proportion of Grade 1 products[3]. As the proportion of Grade 1 products increased, yam could be sold at prices 6-7 times higher per kg and avocado at 4-5 times higher per kg, greatly contributing to the increase in the household income of farms.

Strengthened agricultural value chain lifts sales by 133%

The agricultural value chain refers to all activities carried out by various stakeholders from the production of agricultural products to processing, distribution, and final consumption. In the past, agricultural development support in developing countries was mainly focused on expanding the production volume, but recently, value chain analysis for agricultural products has become an effective approach to strengthening their value added and alleviating rural poverty. In this project, various activities were carried out to strengthen the value chain of agricultural products. As a result, the average sales of the four main crops increased by 133%.

First, KOICA focused on the joint commercialization of agricultural products by farmer associations, since the joint sales of products on a group basis can allow farmers to transact at more advantageous price conditions, compared to transactions from an individual seller's standpoint. As a result, during the later period of the project in 2020, the scale of joint commercialization for 22 farming associations grew by more than double in comparison to before the implementation of the project. KOICA also helped farmers to acquire export registrations, resulting in the completion of 298 export registrations. Farmers or farmers' associations can now directly sell processed and packaged agricultural products to exporters with higher value added. In the case of cacao, sellers have acquired a total of 52 international quality certifications, further strengthening export competitiveness.

In addition, various support programs were provided to strengthen the roles and functions of the farming associations. Joint work spaces and offices were installed, in addition to the provision of office equipment, financial education, and microfinance loan services. Local and invitation training programs were also conducted to enhance production management and distribution capabilities. Expanding public-private partnerships was also crucial to strengthening the value chain of the rural economy. A total of 31 related public and private organizations contributed directly or indirectly to this project, and an additional 1.03 million dollars from outside the network was provided for the project. The agricultural machinery rental center and agricultural material and equipment center, which were established during the project, sold agricultural materials to local farmers at low prices, which contributed to revitalization of the local economy.

For sustainable development of the rural economy in Colombia

The project to enhance the market competitiveness of fruits and vegetables in Colombia was initially designed to increase the income and quality of life of Colombian farmers living in poverty. After completion of the project, the annual income per household in the region increased by about 52% from 8.3 million pesos (about 2.7 million won) to 12.6 million pesos (about 4.1 million won). Overall, the results show that crop productivity and sales increased at greater levels than expected, and contributed to the achievement of SDG 2 (end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture).

Following the project's success, UNDP and local government of Valle de Cauca in Colombia will implement a separate cooperation project to apply KOICA's methodology to a rural development program for 15,000 households. Incorporating the results of both projects, KOICA will initiate a project to reinforce the agricultural value chain and technological capacity in the Caribbean region of Colombia from 2022 to 2025. Going forward, KOICA will continue to contribute to rural development in Colombia, and further expand the outcomes so that best practices can be rapidly applied to eradicate poverty in rural areas of other developing countries as well. K

1) INCODER (Instituto Colombiano de Desarrollo Rural)

2) DEI Rural (Desarrollo Económico Incluyente Rural)

3) In the survey conducted at the time of the final evaluation, 40 farm households (66 percent) responded that they were 'very satisfied' while 21 (34 percent) selected 'satisfied' with regards to the increase in volume of Grade 1 products.

Photo 1 Participants of the market competitiveness strengthening project for fruits and vegetables in Colombia harvest mountain yams

Photo 2 Site of produce gathering and organization


Photo 2



Photo 1

KOICA's ABC program responds to COVID-19 in developing countries

Efforts to overcome the pandemic and prepare for post-pandemic era

In recent months, Korea and other advanced countries have begun the progressive easing of their disease control measures in preparation of the post-pandemic era. The situation remains quite different in developing countries; according to Oxford University's global statistics OWID, less than 20% of Africa's total population has been vaccinated at least once. Significant support is therefore still necessary for developing countries to emerge from the pandemic.

Implemented under the Korean government's "ODA Korea: Building Trust" initiative for a safer world, KOICA's ABC Program seeks to strengthen COVID-19 resilience through development cooperation. Since 2020, KOICA has operated this program to support developing countries to overcome the severe damages and threats to society caused by the pandemic. The program aims at strengthening the capabilities of developing countries through a holistic approach that includes humanitarian aid, material support for disease control and prevention, and the establishment of systematic disease control processes. The following is a detailed introduction of KOICA's ABC program.

Seeking to contribute to global disease control through ABC program

KOICA's ABC program simultaneously stands for "Agenda for Building resilience against COVID-19 through development cooperation" and "Action and Fragility," "Building Capacity," and "Comprehensive Cooperation," which are the program's three pillars of implementation to allow successful responses to COVID-19 and sustainable development in partner countries. "Action on Fragility" includes support for healthcare services such as the provision of diagnostic kits and vaccines, the provision of humanitarian emergency relief such as food and daily necessities, and social and economic support for marginalized groups such as the creation of job opportunities. "Building Capacity" is a mid- and long-term support measure to enhance capacity for the prevention and control of infectious diseases including COVID-19. This includes support for vaccination infrastructure; capacity-building of human resources involved in diagnosis, point-of-entry screening, and medical treatment; and expansion of relevant facilities. "Comprehensive Cooperation" includes the sharing of Korea's successful experiences in preventing and controlling infectious diseases, the provision of world citizen education for solidarity among global citizens, the provision of Korean medical equipment, and the spreading of innovative technologies.

The ABC Program consists of two phases for effective implementation: the short-term phase (2020-2021) and the mid-term phase (after 2022). During the short-term phase, the program focused on the emergency prevention and control of COVID-19. During the mid-term phase, the program shifted its focus to strengthening capacity for better healthcare services and infectious disease management. During 2020, the first year of the ABC Program operation, 644 projects were implemented with a budget of 158.63 million USD. Through the ABC Program, approximately 38.02 million people in 116 countries benefited in terms of health care, society, and economy.

Number of beneficiaries increased by 71.6% in 2021

In 2021, KOICA continued to operate the ABC Program with a focus on emergency responses to COVID-19. The program's budget grew to 171.65 million USD, marking an 8.2% increase compared to the previous year. In addition, KOICA operated 317 projects in 68 countries, seeing a decrease of 327 projects compared to the 2020 figure. While the number of projects declined by more than half of that of the previous year, the reach of each project grew to result in a total of 65.24 million people benefiting from the program, an increase of approximately 71.6% compared to 2020.

KOICA first implemented "Action on Fragility," cooperating with international agencies to develop and provide vaccines to developing countries. Accordingly, the agency provided more than 100 million USD to ACT-A[1] and COVAX[2], international collaboration mechanisms to ensure fair and equitable access to vaccines. Furthermore, as part of its emergency relief, KOICA provided food and daily necessities of 880,000 USD for 880,000 people whose livelihoods were affected by COVID-19, and items related to disease prevention such as face masks and sanitizers worth 6.6 million USD. KOICA also provided opportunities for employment and economic activities for 6,500 people from underprivileged families.

In 2021, the ABC Program's main achievements were realized under the "Building Capacity" pillar. KOICA operated programs to nurture workers to respond to infectious disease crises, producing 1,246 epidemic intelligence service officers and placing them at 32 points of entry. These epidemic intelligence service officers conducted border screenings on 220,000 people, playing a critical role in crisis response. In addition, KOICA established a total of 25 vaccine centers in five African countries to build the region's vaccination infrastructure. The agency also provided items needed for the vaccine cold chain and vaccine injection. Moreover, KOICA took measures to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. To improve the basic sanitary environment, KOICA installed 5,641 bathrooms, hand-washing stations, and drinking water fountains in 31 countries. It also provided education on the prevention of infectious disease for 2.08 million people.

On "Comprehensive Cooperation," KOICA transferred Korea's outstanding capabilities in infectious diseases response as well as its infectious disease response system by training healthcare and medical professionals. In particular, in Uzbekistan, where Korea's experts in infectious disease prevention and control were dispatched, COVID-19 Control Headquarters were created by benchmarking KCDC (Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention). Consequently, Uzbekistan's infection rate remained at only 18% of that of neighboring countries.

In 2022, preparing for post-pandemic times

In 2022, KOICA is shifting its ABC Program toward projects aimed at COVID-19 recovery. The focus of support is moving from emergency response to capacity-strengthening for infectious disease management and healthcare. Considering the current COVID-19 situation and needs of each country, however, KOICA will continue to implement emergency response projects involving humanitarian aid, strengthening economic and social resilience, etc., although on a limited scale.

To this end, KOICA will strive to ensure developing countries' equal access to vaccines and support programs to create basic sanitary environments and to raise awareness for preventing infectious diseases, among other issues. At the G7 Summit in June 2021, Korea promised to support 100 million USD to provide vaccines to developing countries in 2022. To realize this, KOICA will endeavor to ensure equitable access to vaccines by cooperating with the international community, while also contributing to safe vaccine distribution and improved vaccination rates by providing syringes and refrigerated vehicles for transporting vaccines. KOICA is also working to create proper environments for preventing infectious diseases by installing bathrooms, drinking water fountains, etc.

In addition, the agency will actively implement projects for improving related infrastructure and developing human resources to raise response capabilities for infectious diseases. It also plans to enhance the capabilities of contact tracing through projects to nurture epidemic intelligence service officers. At the same time, KOICA plans to additionally provide ultra-low temperature freezers, nucleic acid extraction equipment for virus detection, and laboratory material for diagnosis of infectious diseases, etc.

Despite the easing of measures in various countries, COVID-19 still poses a serious threat to underdeveloped countries due to limited resources. While immediate humanitarian assistance is still essential, it is all the more important to equip developing countries with sustainable capabilities to enable them to take initiative and proactively respond to infectious diseases on their own. For this reason, KOICA seeks to contribute to the international community through its ABC Program, in which Korea transfers its disease control and prevention system, capabilities, and technologies to partner countries. Seeing that one of the ultimate objectives of development cooperation is to ensure that all of mankind can enjoy lives of good health and human dignity, KOICA will continue to develop innovative and creative programs that respond to and support the needs of developing countries in infectious diseases. K

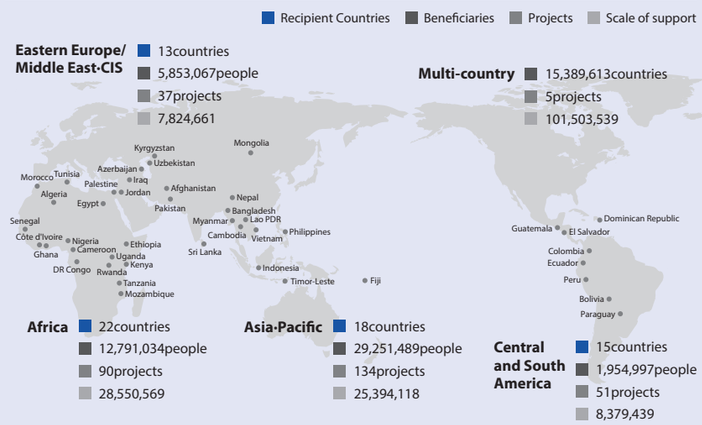
1) ACT-A: Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator, global collaboration to accelerate the development and production of and equitable access to COVID-19 tests, treatments, and vaccines

2) COVAX: A globally-pooled procurement mechanism for COVID-19 vaccines supported by forming a fund using ODA finances. Donor countries collectively procure vaccines in advance by making contracts with vaccine manufacturers and allocate the vaccines to developing countries.

Photo 1 Provision of vaccine-carrying vehicles to the Philippines

KOICA ABC Program 2020-2024

ABC Program at a Glance



Recipient countries	Beneficiaries	Projects	Scale of support
68countries	65.24M	317projects	171,65M

Key statistics

HEALTH

	Budget	Projects	Beneficiaries
	16,742 Million $	233 projects	62.42 Million people

Test kits			
6.45 Million $	1.59 Million people	1.59 Million tests	
Infection Prevention Training/Campaign			
9.97 Million $	2.15 Million people	37,498 sessions/campaigns	
Prevention supplies/Quarantine efforts			
6.60 Million $	8.48 Million people	6.50 Millionpieces/cases	
Vaccination support			
105.48 Million $	31.13 Million people	13.59 Millioncases	
Walk-thru testing booths / Movable Negative Pressure Carriers / Medical Equipment			
15.88 Million $	10.88 Million people	945,336 equipment	
Hygiene facilities			
1.03 Million $	341,550 people	5,623 facilities	

SOCIAL ECONOMY

	Budget	Projects	Beneficiaries
	4.24 Million $	84 projects	2.82 Million people

Daily Necessities/ Emergency Food			
880,470 $	875,123 people	389,410 packages	
E-Learning			
1.81 Million $	777,360 people	22 programs	
E-volunteering			
62,098 $	89,768 people	16 cases	
Support vocational training/ employment security			
585,638 $	4,115 people	240 cases	
Support for livelihood			
23,724 $	1,161 people	8 cases	
Support for vulnerable groups			
8,050 $	1,220 people	4 cases	



Supporting Nepalese migrant workers' resettlement and start-ups

Assisting Nepalese workers resettle in home country

Before COVID-19, about 7,000 Nepalese migrant workers had entered Korea each year. Of the 16 countries that have entered into an Employment Permit System (EPS)[1] agreement with Korea, Nepal had dispatched the largest number of workers to Korea. Such Nepalese migrant workers who ventured overseas for work have become a fundamental pillar of Nepal's economy. Following the pandemic-imposed slump in the global economy, however, Nepalese migrant workers had been forced to return home en masse. Creating jobs for those who returned home before the end of their contracts, especially amid the structural weakness of Nepal's GDP, has proved an urgent and challenging task for the Nepalese government.

In response to this situation, KOICA has made plans to invest 8 million USD starting in 2022 for a project to strengthen Nepal's step-by-step support system for the stable resettlement of returnee Nepalese migrant workers. Existing returnee worker support programs had mainly focused on the most vulnerable groups in Nepal, making it difficult for migrant workers returning to Nepal from Korea to receive benefits. This project is distinct in that it has been tailored to Nepalese migrant workers who had previously received relatively higher wages while working in Korea.

Establishing resettlement and start-up policies for returning workers

This project will be implemented in sync with the employment life cycle of returning workers (before migration - migration - after migration). It includes various elements such as the provision of services and education, and the operation of a start-up fund. As a preliminary condition, KOICA has deemed it essential to first accurately understand the current status of returnee migrant Nepalese workers in order to enhance the Nepalese government's policy-making capacity and render the project efficient and sustainable.

Currently, as there is a lack of reliable data on the resettlement conditions of returnee migrant workers, KOICA plans to conduct through its project a survey regarding the current status and conditions of workers' resettlement in Nepal. The survey will gather basic information, such as gender and age, area of residence, and income earned during employment in Korea, which will be analyzed to established relevant and suitable future policies in Nepal.

Furthermore, KOICA plans to operate a capacity-strengthening and training program for officials of Nepal's labor ministry in order to enhance their understanding of returnee Nepalese migrant workers and heighten their expertise in establishing start-up support policies. Such efforts are expected to help create more practical, systematic policies to support returning workers.

Technical and financial education support, integrated app development for successful resettlement

For workers returning from long-term overseas stays, the process of resettling in their home country presents many tangible challenges. Compared to life in Korea, lower wages and poor treatment often lead to dissatisfaction with their new jobs, meandering, or migrating to other countries for work. In this respect, KOICA seeks to support such returnee workers in establishing their own resettlement plans as early as the pre-migration stage, allowing workers to be motivated to return to their home country and fully utilize the knowledge and technical proficiency gained in Korea upon returning to Nepal. Before and after entering Korea, financial education is provided to encourage the systematic management of salary and finances, and to allow workers to prepare funds for resettlement in Nepal in the future. In particular, financial education has also been planned for workers' families, considering that the majority of migrant workers' salaries are managed by their families who remain in Nepal. Online mentoring is provided for six months for highly skilled technicians who have returned to Nepal.

Because the first obstacle that returnee workers face after a long period of overseas migrant labor is lack of information, KOICA is developing an application that provides the information necessary for a smooth resettlement. The app will be developed as a platform that not only provides information but also connects the services of related organizations in a one-stop hub. For this project, KOICA is cooperating with the Human Resources Development Service of Korea, an agency in charge of the employment permit system. Based on the long-standing expertise of HRD Korea, this project aims to provide basic information relevant to migrant workers in Korea, vocational training for employment and start-up, and technical education.

Entrepreneurial dreams nurtured through competency-strengthening program

According to a survey by the Korean Repatriated Nepalese Workers Association, more than 70 percent of workers returning to Nepal from Korea attempt to start a business upon returning home. However, existing start-up programs provided by international organizations and the Nepalese government focus on small-scale self-employment for the underprivileged, and are thus less suitable for workers returning from Korea.

Accordingly, KOICA is in the process of developing and operating entrepreneurship education courses, offered during workers' stay in Korea, to prepare Nepalese workers for starting businesses when they return. The goal is to discover potential entrepreneurs with excellent capabilities and support their sustainable growth. In the introductory course on entrepreneurship, basic theoretical education such as entrepreneurship and business model development is provided both on and offline. In addition, excelling graduates will be given the opportunity to participate in the preliminaries of the start-up contest as well as receive start-up consulting for two weeks.

After returning to their home country, participants can receive coaching on various subjects for six months through advanced start-up courses and incubator courses in Nepal. The finalists of the start-up contest are given benefits such as the opportunity to pitch a start-up model, win awards, accelerate their start-up, and connect with investors. It is expected that these entrepreneurship competency-strengthening programs will not only allow returning workers to successfully resettle but also create jobs in the local community.

Creating a 5 million USD start-up fund to make starting a business easier

The most important and difficult aspect when starting a business is to secure start-up funds. In the case of start-up fund loans from general commercial banks in Nepal, the ratio of final loans to applicants is only 2 percent. Accordingly, KOICA and the Nepal Agricultural Development Bank will establish a $5 million start-up support fund as a matching fund. KOICA plans to actively review the implementation of medium-to-long-term loans and large-scale loans that did not exist previously, and lower the threshold for access to start-up funds for returning female workers through policy adjustments.

The partnering organization Nepal Agricultural Development Bank has extensive experience in attracting foreign aid funds and operates five regional centers. This allows the bank to play an active role as a geographical base for resettlement education, start-up education, and loan fund application. KOICA plans to establish a fund management team within the Nepal Agricultural Development Bank for the effective operation of the start-up fund. KOICA also plans to secure an independent operating system so that the start-up fund can continue to operate even after the completion of the project.

This project focuses on supporting Nepalese migrant workers and their families to stably resettle in Nepali society and grow as a central axis of Nepalese economic growth through information, education, and fund support. In addition, by contributing to the establishment of a virtuous cycle for employment and economic and social development in Nepal, KOICA hopes to contribute to SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 9 (Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure), SDG 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries) and SDG 16 (Peace, justice, and strong institutions). Throughout its history, Korea too accumulated capital and technology in the Middle East through overseas migrant labor in the 1970s, experiences which gave way to the economic development dubbed the "miracle on the Han River." KOICA believes that returnee workers in Nepal will grow not only as beneficiaries but as the main agents of Nepal's economic development, and hopes that this project will become an opportunity for solidarity and co-prosperity between Nepal and Korea. K



1) Employment Permit System (EPS): A system that allows the Korean government (Ministry of Employment and Labor) to legally hire foreign workers to short-staffed Korean companies. This system has been in effect since August 2004 to promote the steady supply and demand of labor and balanced development of the national economy.

Photo 1 Nepalese migrant workers to Korea receive training on Korea's Labor Standards Act

Photo 2 Trainees taking courses at the Pre-Employment Education Center


Photo 1

Connecting neighborhoods to water distribution network in Côte d'Ivoire

Drawing hope in Abidjan through safe water

Côte d'Ivoire is a country located adjacent to the Atlantic Ocean in the Western coast of Africa, drenched in golden sun. Since its independence from France in 1960, the country has achieved annual economic growth of 8% and emerged as an exemplary state to overcome colonial rule. However, Côte d'Ivoire experienced severe economic recession since the 1980s; in 2002, a civil war broke out that lasted 10 years. The war destroyed basic social infrastructure in such areas as education and healthcare and ravaged most of the key urban infrastructure including roads, water and sewage facilities.

Following the end of the war in 2011, the government of Côte d'Ivoire devoted much energy to recovering the nation's devastated economy and social infrastructure. During the same year, the country established the National Development Program (PND 2012-2015) followed by PND 2016-2020, which focused on reinforcing key infrastructure development in the fields of education, healthcare, basic hygiene, etc.

Of particular importance in the infrastructure development drive was the provision of a water supply distribution network in order to enhance management of the drinking water system. The government established a plan to provide a stable source of drinking water for the entire country by securing water supply sources through the installation of large-scale purification plants along three major rivers. It also planned to provide safe drinking water for impoverished households through continuous extension of water supply pipes and connection to the water distribution network.

Underprivileged households in Abidjan receive clean water supply through connection to national water network

In line with the national strategy of Côte d'Ivoire, KOICA embarked on a project to extend the drinking water distribution network in Abidjan. KOICA's first project was carried out from 2014 to 2016 with a budget of about 3 million USD targeting poor communities in Abidjan. Abidjan, which means 'falling leaves', had been the capital of Côte d'Ivoire until Yamoussoukro was designated as the capital in 1983. Abidjan remains the country's center of administration and economy, serving as the de facto capital. In particular, as of 2011, Abidjan accounted for 70% of the country's water production. However, its daily water production of 400,000㎥ only reached two-third of the necessary water quantity of 600,000㎥.

From September 2015, KOICA embarked on a project to make 8,810 connections to the national water distribution network for households in the underprivileged communities of Abobo, Yopougon, and Koumassi in Abidjan. First, the project's beneficiary households were selected based on household size, occupation and income of the head of household, and number of rooms, etc. Then, the state-run water distribution company SODECI (Société de distribution d'eau de la Côte ▸▸

▸ d'Ivoire) implemented the project at a rapid pace. The project did encounter difficulties as some households did not have any water pipes to be linked to the network of water distribution facilities, leading to the reselection of some households. Nevertheless, this first project was successfully completed at the end of 2017.

Installing water supply pipes in addition to connection to national water network

Following the first project for connection to the drinking water distribution network, the government of Côte d'Ivoire showed strong willingness to implement a follow-up project. The second project was planned to focus on the Grand Campement area of Koumassi in Abidjan. Approximately 70,000 residents of 30,000 disadvantaged households that have been unable to benefit from urban development lived in this community with poor quality of living. In particular, many households initially did not have any water supply pipes installed, not to mention linkage to the water distribution network, making access to safe drinking water nearly impossible.

Without a proper water supply, most inhabitants procured their drinking water by illegally installing water hydrants within the collective housing space or buying water from illegal sellers, 20 liters at a time. The price of a bottle of water is 50 West African CFA franc (equivalent to about 100 KRW or 0.08 USD), more than 10 times the cost of water from the national water network. If all these methods proved difficult, residents took to wells. However, since the wells (underground water level of 10m) lie adjacent to latrines (5 meters underground), people frequently suffered from waterborne diseases caused by contamination. According to a study, 35% of the patients of the community health center were found to have contracted waterborne diseases. As such, this area was designated by the health authorities as a cholera danger zone, a representative waterborne disease.

Accordingly, KOICA began its second water supply project from 2018 with a budget of 6.07 million USD. The project continued to link water pipes to the national water network facilities while simultaneously installing 35km of new water supply pipes, ensuring wider access to clean and safe water. In particular, KOICA made efforts in its selection process of the construction company by carefully verifying the candidates' construction capabilities to ensure the successful design and installation of the water supply pipes. Through this pipe installation and connection project, approximately 13,000 connections were made for households.

The project also provided education on health and hygiene and the payment of water bills. One common misconception among residents dispelled by the education program was that if water was stored for a long time, the precipitates would settle on the bottom of the water container, thus making the water cleaner. For the residents to participate in these education sessions, they needed to get the permission of the traditional chiefs. Accordingly, a health and hygiene committee was created, composed of traditional chiefs by tribe, to ensure extensive communication with residents. The committee members, who know the requirements and needs of their communities well, received the training first. They then spread the knowledge to their residents, thus enhancing the effectiveness of the education project. The second project is slated to be finished by October 2022.


Photo 2


Photo 3

Quality of life significantly improved through access to safe drinking water

Access to safe and clean water is a basic condition for living and directly linked to human life. KOICA's projects on connecting households to the national water network enabled residents in the communes of Abidjan to gain easy and convenient access to clean drinking water. Residents' quality of life and basic living conditions improved tremendously as a result. The people no longer have to buy water from illegal sellers at exorbitant prices, reducing their cost of buying water by at least 50-70%. Relative to the income of recipient households, this reduction in costs has had a significant net impact on income growth.

In addition to cost reduction, there has been a decrease in waterborne illnesses such as diarrhea caused by contaminated water, due to behavioral changes in inhabitants who received education on health care and the importance of hygiene through KOICA's teaching program. Moreover, as women and children spend less time procuring drinking water, they have been able to engage in other economic activities or go to school.

Upon witnessing the impact of the projects in Abidjan, KOICA decided to implement a third project on connection to the water distribution network from 2023 to 2026 by closely collaborating with the government of Côte d'Ivoire. Accordingly, KOICA will inject 6 million USD into the project, connecting water supply pipes in 13 underprivileged communities (approximately 6,000 households) in Abidjan's Abobo commune to the water distribution network to improve residents' access to drinking water and their living conditions.

The two KOICA projects enhanced accessibility to clean water and encouraged behavioral changes in residents, allowing them to maintain clean water in the household and create sanitary environments. The projects also resulted in reduced time spent in acquiring clean water, thereby addressing inequality experienced by the socially marginalized such as women and children and contributing to achieving SDGs 3 (Good Health and Well-being) and 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation). As can be seen in the example in Abidjan, gaining access to clean water can lead to enhanced quality of life through the synergy of improved health, income, education, etc. KOICA will continue to support residents in their journey toward improved livelihood and happiness. KOICA hopes that these projects will serve as a foundation for continued growth in Côte d'Ivoire, once again emerging as a beacon of hope in West Africa. K

Photo 1 Construction site for water supply facilities

Photo 2 Water hydrants installed at project beneficiaries' homes

Photo 3 Residents register as beneficiaries of KOICA's project



Dr. Kim Taekyoon, Seoul National University

Going beyond dichotomy of Northern versus Southern hemispheres: Mainstreaming triangular cooperation

From the unyielding COVID-19 pandemic, a food crisis resulting from the global health crisis, and the growing complexities of a global risk society to climate and environmental issues, global governance for development cooperation is increasingly deteriorating. In particular, as the Russia-Ukraine War expands the one-dimensional rivalry for global hegemony, namely the U.S.-China strategic rivalry, to a structure of conflict involving China and Russia versus the U.S., UK, EU, Japan, Australia, etc., the equation of the new Cold War is evolving into a complicated, high-order function. Some fixate on the rise of the South and the endeavors of emerging donors such as BRICs as challenging the existing international order led by the Northern hemisphere, predicting a struggle between the two hemispheres.

Amid the rapidly changing international situation and global crisis, it is necessary to prepare mid- to long-term international development cooperation policies and strategies that carefully consider diplomatic relations with neighboring countries and the expectations of the international community. Because development cooperation is one of the first areas to undergo budget cuts in the face of economic crises, it is necessary to accompany efforts for a strategic response.

The divisive structure of conflict between the Northern and Southern hemispheres

Macroscopically, the all-encompassing competitive relationship between the U.S. and China and the current of a new Cold War sparked by the Russia-Ukraine War are solidifying the dichotomous structure of conflict between emerging donors, predominantly comprised of the southern globe and BRICs, and the traditional northern donors. Since 2014, China's Belt and Road Initiative (also known as One Belt, One Road, or OBOR) is being strategized toward China's formation of a key economic bloc through large-scale infrastructure support in Asia, Africa, and Europe.

To keep this movement in check, the G7 pledged the "Build Back Better World: B3W initiative" in the UK in 2021, and the "Partnership for Global Infrastructure Investment: PGII" in Germany in 2022 for the benefit of developing countries in the Southern hemisphere.

The PGII in particular, a strategy of massive scale that aims to contain China, invests about 778 trillion won (599 billion USD) throughout five years in infrastructure in key countries targeted by the Belt and Road Initiative. According to analysis by G7, countries such as Sri Lanka, Pakistan, and Zambia have become trapped in debt due to China's aggressive infrastructure investment and fallen victim to "loan imperialism."

In the Indo-Pacific region, the minilateral network Quad, composed of the U.S., Japan, Australia, and India, is competing with the Belt and Road Initiative. Assuming that Korea's new administration harbors plans to move away from the previous government's New Southern Policy and join the Quad, which centers on the U.S., Korea cannot rule out the possibility of retaliatory pressure from China. Korea thus needs to discuss the strategic direction of a development cooperation policy that meticulously reflects the variables of this Northern-Southern competitive relationship.

Competition for hegemony in the Southern hemisphere: China vs. India

The global structure of hegemonic competition between the Northern and Southern hemispheres is replicated regionally within the Southern hemisphere, as competition between China and India. We see through various aspects that South-South cooperation is being actively used as a political tool by China and India to achieve hegemonic status in the Southern hemisphere. For example, India has joined the U.S.-led Quad while also cooperating with China through the New Development Bank, established by BRICs.

Moreover, India is acting as a global factory for COVID-19 vaccines with support from the EU, and supplying vaccines to developing countries in the Southern hemisphere, thus adopting a strategy of competition against China in vaccine diplomacy. However, India does not insist on an antagonistic relationship with China but rather, holds onto a straw of cooperation with Beijing. Despite pressure from the U.S., India refuses to hold Russia accountable for the Russia-Ukraine War, maintaining strategic ambiguity. Even if the Korean government forgoes the New Southern Policy, it must now develop a strategic plan for South-South cooperation in the era of the new Cold War, and figure out how to perceive India as a development cooperation partner.

Forgotten SDGs, failures of global governance

The U.S.-China strategic rivalry and the China-India competition for hegemony in the Southern hemisphere have obliterated the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), declared by the international community in 2015, and are strictly fragmenting global governance systems designed to implement them. As Jomo K.S. pointed out, development assistance in the era of the new Cold War is no longer a global prescription for the implementation of the SDGs or for the development of developing countries, but a landscape of contention for Aid for Power (AfP). The focal point of development cooperation is shifting toward large-scale infrastructure projects. The expansion of emerging donors in the Southern hemisphere and congregation toward the pursuit of national interest are deteriorating the intrinsic value of South-South cooperation and the Bandung Spirit[1]; AfP has emerged as the basic principle shared by donors in the Southern and Northern hemispheres alike.

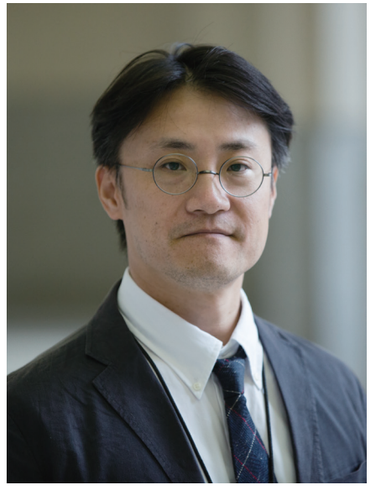
Mainstreaming triangular cooperation as Korea's strategic choice

Amid a rapidly changing international order, Korea's development cooperation policy is at a crossroads where strategic choices must be made. Actively participating in the U.S.-centered international order will result in political pressure from China, while adhering to China-centered aid policies will evoke criticism from the U.S. The key is to find a response where the new administration can make a soft landing into Quad, and cooperate with the G7's PGII to some extent, while managing routine relations with China - which is not an easy feat to achieve.

To solve this complex equation of real-world international relations, triangular cooperation is the optimal choice available to Korea in terms of development cooperation. Triangular cooperation refers to a development partnership that involves the participation of a traditional Northern donor or international organization, alongside South-South cooperation partners. Triangular cooperation allows third parties such as Korea to intervene in a development project to either expand it or support its sustainability; therefore, it creates political room for opportunities to cooperate with China or India in implementing development projects targeted toward developing country partners.

In addition, since it involves at least three development actors, triangular cooperation allows us to summon countries such as India or the U.S. as co-project partners, and permits countries such as China, Japan, and Korea to jointly provide aid to a specific developing country. In this way, Korea can utilize triangular cooperation - which can link donors that are in contention under the frame of the new Cold War, and allow even the smallest possibility of cooperation among them - as a vehicle to set its position of power.

If Korea can draw donors who are even partially engaged in hegemonic competition in implementing infrastructure projects in a specific partner country in Africa to the platform of triangular cooperation, Korea can play an alternative role in strategically hedging or mitigating the U.S.-China strategic rivalry and the China-India hegemonic competition through development cooperation. In other words, Korea should seek ways to mainstream triangular cooperation as a development cooperation strategy within the turmoil of the new Cold War. K



Profile

Kim Taekyoon is a professor at the Graduate School of International Studies and Vice Dean for Public Affairs at Seoul National University. He is editor-in-chief of the Asian Journal of Peacebuilding, and has held board member positions at the International Political Science Association, Korea Academic Council on the United Nations System, Korean Association of International Studies, Korean Association of Human Rights Studies, Korean Sociological Association, and the Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation. In the public and government sector, he was a member of the National Committee on Sustainable Development, board member of the United Nations Sustainable Development Solution Network, member of the Policy Committee at the Ministry of Justice, policy advisor for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Executive Director of the Korea International Cooperation Agency, and consultant for the UNESCO.

1) A spirit of solidarity between Asian and African countries, centered on ten principles of peace adopted by the Bandung Conference in 1955. It is based on neutrality and cooperation, respect for basic human rights and sovereignty, racial equality, non-interference in internal affairs, and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Noteworthy Studies

Trends in ODA

As an agency that carries out global development cooperation, KOICA regularly conducts research on the development environment of developing countries and latest trends in ODA. This article introduces noteworthy studies released by KOICA this month.

Research

Study on How to Build an Efficient System for Data Management: With a Focus on Data from KOICA's Development Cooperation Projects

The value of data has continued to soar with the advent of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, while the spread of COVID-19 accelerated digitalization throughout the world. The ability to effectively utilize and draw meaningful implications from data has become a key factor in the competitiveness of an organization or individual. To bolster its digital capacity, KOICA established the 2021 Digital Transformation Strategy to ensure an efficient process for collecting, managing, and utilizing data; to improve its current system; and to further modernize its infrastructure.

In this vein, KOICA conducted a study in order to analyze the current data management system of development cooperation projects and establish a governance structure for data. This study therefore explores the importance of collecting, managing, and utilizing quality data (data that has been collected and managed through uniform standards and rules) in analyzing project proceedings and performance, setting future directions, and formulating strategy.

The most important data managed by KOICA are those related to development cooperation projects. A plethora of data are created and collected upon the implementation of a development cooperation project, but there are difficulties in managing the data systematically due to language barriers with partner countries or the differing capabilities of developing countries' governments. Based on the results of this study, KOICA plans to further its digitalization and establish data governance, which includes setting standards for data quality (i.e. clearly defining the necessary data that must be recorded for each process or aspect of a project, and forming a coherent method for recording data).

Policy Briefing

Does the Provision of COVID-19 Vaccines Count as ODA?

After the outbreak of COVID-19, vaccines have been administered rapidly in developed countries due to their extensive efforts to secure vaccines. However, only a tiny proportion of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in developing countries, which have not been able to gain equal access to vaccines. While countries advocate that 'No one is safe until everyone is safe,' a wide vaccination gap exists among different groups of countries.

To help eradicate COVID-19, developed countries are providing some of their vaccines secured for domestic use to developing countries. In February 2022, the OECD officially announced that the costs of providing COVID-19 vaccines to developing countries are also eligible to be classified as ODA.

However, such vaccine donations are not free from controversy. Developed countries may want to reduce their cost burden by donating vaccines that exceed domestic supply. Also, we must consider whether such vaccine provision will actually help developing countries given their limited infrastructure, such as insufficient vaccine storage systems.

Nonetheless, the main reason the provision of extra vaccines to developing countries is being recognized as ODA is that there is a need to quickly redistribute the vaccines that have been concentrated in certain countries to a wide number of other countries. Developing countries still face challenges in terms of access to COVID-19 vaccines, and for the world to recover from the pandemic, the response capacity of all countries must be strengthened. Further active efforts are required in order to capitalize on the value of unused vaccines and accelerate the world's journey toward recovery.

KOICA project performance at a glance

KOICA is a leading South Korean agency that supports and coordinates development cooperation projects for global social values. It was established in 1991 to contribute to achieving global peace and prosperity by supporting the reduction of poverty and the improvement of quality of life in developing nations; the improvement of human rights for women, children, people with disabilities, and youth; the realization of gender equality; and sustainable development and humanitarianism, while promoting economic cooperation and friendly relations with partner countries.
KOICA focuses on the values of the 5Ps (People·Peace·Prosperity·Planet·Partnership) and plans to design and implement more effective international development cooperation projects by converging KOICA's development cooperation experiences to date with various technologies available.

Support by Region

(Unit: KRW 1,000,000 / %)

Total Amount 727,768

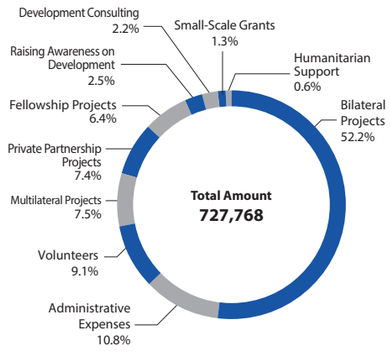
* The Oceania region is classified as the Asia-Pacific region. Excluding multilateral support

** Unclassified areas include multinational projects that cannot be classified into a specific country, administrative expenses, development awareness promotion expenses, and emergency relief expenses



Support by Project Type

(Unit: KRW 1,000,000 / %)



Bilateral Projects	379,613
Administrative Expenses	78,866
Volunteers	66,155
Multilateral Projects	54,446
Private Partnership Projects	53,657
Fellowship Projects	46,819
Raising Awareness on Development	18,441
Development Consulting	15,934
Small-Scale Grants	9,790
Humanitarian Support	4,047
Total	**727,768**

* Volunteer groups include general overseas volunteers, cooperators, cooperating doctors, NGO volunteers, WFK-Techno Peace Corps, WFK-Youth Volunteers, WFK-Korea IT Volunteers, WFK-Medium and Long-Term Advisors, WFK-Senior Experts, and global cooperative medical staff

* Small-scale development cooperation includes cash support

Support by Sector

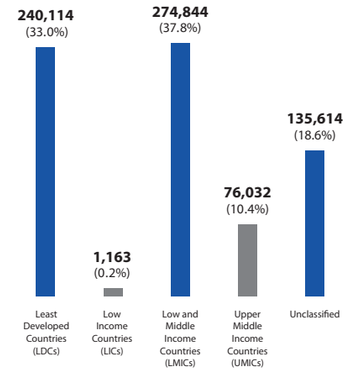
(Unit: KRW 1,000,000 / %)

Education 13.8% **107,865**	Healthcare 18.5% **134,361**
Public Administration 17.3% **125,955**	Technology, Environment and Energy 15.0% **109,075**
Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries 12.4% **90,175**	Emergency Aid 1.6% **11,465**
Other 21.5% **156,165**	

* Projects that do not correspond to KOICA's five major sectors (education; healthcare; public administration; technology, environment and energy; and agriculture, forestry and fisheries) or emergency aid projects, administrative expenses, development awareness promotion expenses, refugee support, and non-specific sectors

Recipient Countries by Income Level

(Unit: KRW 1,000,000 / %)



* Unclassified includes support for projects that cannot be distributed to the state, administrative expenses, and development awareness promotion expenses.

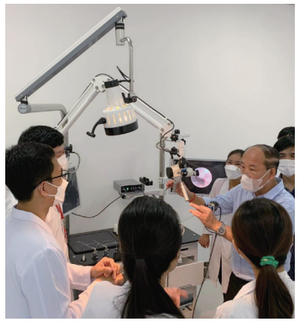
* Figures are based on preliminary statistics as of August 2022

Latest news from KOICA

KOICA NEWS

KOICA implements various development cooperation projects for the sustainable development of developing countries and the mutual prosperity of the international community. In particular, KOICA is accelerating the digital transformation of its ODA projects and organizational management in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. Recently, KOICA signed an MOU with Statistics Korea to strengthen data capacity related to its projects in developing countries. The following is the latest news on KOICA's efforts for international development.

MAY



KOICA supports enhancement of Cambodia's sole ENT Hospital

A state-of-the-art ENT hospital wing recently opened in Cambodia's capital city of Phnom Penh through KOICA's support. The ENT Centre at Preah Ang Duong Hospital, originally established in 1910, is currently the only ENT-specialized hospital in Cambodia. However, due to outdated equipment and facilities and patient numbers already at full capacity, the hospital was experiencing difficulties in providing quality medical services. In response, since 2018, KOICA provided $8 million to upgrade the hospital's capacity, create an environment that enables the provision of quality medical services, and install advanced medical equipment. KOICA also dispatched Korean medical specialists to train local medical staff and enhance their expertise. Through this project, the new ENT wing at Preah Ang Duong Hospital officially opened in March 2022, equipped with the capacity to treat some 120,000 patients per year. As a result, patients in Cambodia will be able to receive quality medical services with state-of-the-art facilities at a lower cost than at private hospitals.

"The Cambodian people can now receive medical treatment at the ENT Centre at Preah Ang Duong Hospital through its outstanding medical facilities," said Cambodia's Prime Minister Hun Sen, and expressed gratitude to the Korean people and KOICA. KOICA estimates that the opening of the ENT wing at Preah Ang Duong Hospital will lead to an increase by more than 50% in the number of ENT treatments and surgical operations, as well as inpatients and outpatients. Ambassador of Korea to Cambodia Park Heung-kyeong said, "This year marks the 25th anniversary of the resumption of diplomatic relations between Korea and Cambodia. Korea will continue to be a true friend of Cambodia."



KOICA and KOSTAT sign MOU to upgrade statistical capabilities of developing countries

As the efficient utilization of data becomes crucial worldwide, KOICA and Statistics Korea (KOSTAT), Korea's central government organization for statistics, signed an MOU to further strengthen support for the digital transformation of developing countries. The purpose of the MOU is to support developing countries in building efficient statistical information systems and to contribute to bolstering their statistics capabilities. Based on KOICA's expertise in implementing ODA projects and KOSTAT's experiences in implementing and operating statistical information systems, KOICA plans to build a comprehensive cooperation system that includes providing consulting services and dispatching experts.



KOICA holds online conference to recommend policies for older people in Paraguay

Paraguay has entered the aging society stage with senior citizens occupying 7% of its population, but the country's healthcare and welfare system for older people, a marginalized group, had remained insufficient until now. Accordingly, KOICA has been implementing a development cooperation project for Paraguay's elderly since 2016. Most recently, KOICA held an online conference as part of this project and proposed policies for the South American country's older population. The agency shared with Paraguayan officials the results of a survey on the status of the elderly in Paraguay, conducted over the past four years, explained in detail Korea's own policy models for the welfare of older citizens, and suggested the need for integrated care services based on demographic characteristics. KOICA also expressed its willingness to actively cooperate and communicate with Paraguay's public welfare policy-related agencies and institutions.



KOICA signs MOU with AFoCO to strengthen green projects for sustainable development

KOICA signed an MOU with the Asian Forest Cooperation Organization (AFoCO) for the restoration and management of forests in the region. Through the MOU, KOICA and AFoCO plan to establish public-private scientific technology partnerships to revitalize carbon absorption sites and will work together to restore vulnerable forest ecosystems.



KOICA selected by MOIS as outstanding agency in provision of public data for 3 consecutive years

KOICA has been selected as an outstanding agency for three years in a row in an evaluation on the provision of public data by the Ministry of the Interior and Safety (MOIS). Pursuant to the Act on the Promotion of the Provision and Use of Public Data, MOIS evaluates public agencies' performance in five categories including public data management structure, opening of data, utilization of data, and data quality. KOICA was recognized for its best practices in establishing a foundation for the management of data; the registration and management of metadata; providing data in accordance with public demand; and the active opening of the agency's data. KOICA continues to expand the scope of its open data and upgrade its data-based administrative capabilities by renewing each year its implementation plan for data-based administration, to provide improved service to the general public and carry out advanced data-based management. In the future, KOICA plans to build a system to provide development cooperation-related public data and devise ways to effectively utilize such data, in addition to expanding the quantity of its open data.

JUNE



KOICA launches Digital Innovation Day

In the age of accelerated digital transformation, KOICA has been implementing tasks and strategies for digital innovation to maximize its project outcomes and enable the public to access development cooperation data with ease. In this regard, the agency celebrated Digital Innovation Day and held an event at its headquarters in Seongnam, Gyeonggi Province on May 17, where it discussed and shared the outcomes of its projects and announced the direction of its organization-wide digital innovation process, set to be launched throughout the year. Executives and employees also participated in a hackathon[1] to brainstorm and share ideas for effective digital innovation strategies to enhance the agency's work process. KOICA has additionally gathered ideas for digital innovation from different departments and plans to select outstanding tasks to carry out by the end of June.

1) An event where employees come together to collaborate intensively to design a program or system



KOICA signs MOU with Korea Foundation

KOICA and the Korea Foundation (KF) joined hands to collaborate in the fields of international development cooperation and public diplomacy. On May 12, the two organizations signed an MOU for cooperation on international development and public diplomacy at the KF headquarters in Seogwipo, Jeju Island. The MOU highlights the two organizations' pledges to cooperate in (a) discovering, implementing, and evaluating grant development cooperation projects (b) identifying a public diplomacy agenda in the field of development cooperation (c) exchanging knowledge to stimulate education and research, and so on. KOICA looks forward to the MOU creating synergy between two organizations that possess expertise in the respective areas of international development cooperation and public diplomacy.



KOICA supports digital governance in partner countries

A launching ceremony for the state registration system in Mongolia, successfully built as a part of KOICA's project (Delivery of public service to citizens through digital type by developing state registration infrastructure, 2020-2022), was held on May 10. This project was a follow-up to a prior project implemented in 2011-2012 to set up Mongolia's state registration system and enhance the administrative efficiency of the Mongolian government. The recent project bridged the gap in quality among various state registration services offered throughout regions, thereby improving the provision of public services for Mongolian nationals.

A kick-off event was also held in Nigeria on May 19 for the project for building foundations towards digital governance in Nigeria (2020-2026). This project aims to create necessary infrastructure to build Nigeria's resident registration system and provide one-stop e-government services, in connection with previous e-government capacity-building projects carried out in Nigeria from 2013 to 2019. These are the most recent in a series of projects that KOICA has long implemented to support developing countries in establishing e-governance systems.



KOICA receives 2022 Korea ESG Excellence Award

KOICA won an award for excellence at the 2022 Korea ESG Management Awards held at the Korea Economic Daily in Jungnim-dong, Seoul on June 15. The awards are given to Korea's public sector institutions (local public enterprises, state run public enterprises, quasi-governmental institutions) that excel in ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance) management based on comprehensive criteria. Among the four institutions that received the award for excellence in the quasi-governmental institution category, KOICA earned the highest score with an overall score level of 84.7%. KOICA was recognized for its achievements in various fields, such as earning the Green Climate Fund (GCF) accreditation, contributing to job growth, providing public safety services, and providing public data. KOICA's efforts in creating jobs in the private sector (about 7,800) were particularly applauded. Also highly noted was KOICA's utilization of some wings at its headquarters as quarantine facilities and live-in treatment centers during hospital bed shortages amid the pandemic, resulting in provision of urgent care to patients.



KOICA resumes overseas volunteer program suspended during COVID-19 pandemic

KOICA recently recruited its 149th team of volunteers and resumed its overseas volunteers program, which had been temporarily suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It has been 26 months since all 1437 volunteers, who were active in 45 countries, returned to Korea in March of 2020. Going forward, KOICA plans to send a total of 39 members sequentially to 10 countries, including Ghana, Paraguay, and Fiji, starting with Bolivia on May 25. In the meantime, KOICA has introduced an e-volunteering program to allow volunteer activity from Korea, which has been able to fill the lack in support for developing countries due to pandemic restrictions. A total of 234 members participated in this program and volunteered remotely in 28 countries and 177 organizations, resulting in 43,889 beneficiaries.

JULY



KOICA – UN ESCAP sign MOU

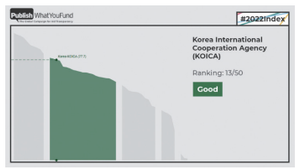
On June 23, KOICA signed an MOU with UN ESCAP[1] at the UN Conference Center in Bangkok, Thailand to strengthen the capacity of countries in the Asia-Pacific region to achieve the SDGs and revitalize regional/multilateral cooperation. Renewing the existing agreement signed in February 2019, the MOU seeks to ▲promote the development related to low-carbon and climate resilience through sustainable finance and technology, ▲enhance gender equality and economic empowerment of women and girls, ▲support vulnerable groups while promoting an inclusive and equitable society, ▲ strengthen the connection of ICT, transportation and energy, and ▲monitor and prevent air pollution. This agreement reflects the will of both organizations to work shoulder to shoulder to help the Asia-Pacific region tackle its chronic air pollution issue. Such joint endeavors are expected to improve the quality of the air in the region and benefit many.

1) The United Nations Ecomomic and Social Comission for Asia and the Pacific, located in Bangkok, Thailand, was established in 1947 as one of the five regional economic committees directly under the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).



KOICA's anti-corruption and integrity policies in 2022

On July 11, KOICA announced a plan to promote its 2022 anti-corruption and integrity policy under the motto of "Realizing integrity, toward a leading international development cooperation organization that is trusted by the people." To bring down the number of corruption and misconduct cases to zero through the implementation of a sustainable integrity goal, KOICA has established four strategies: ▲Setting an exemplary model in integrity management ▲Global integrity management ▲Trusted integrity management, and ▲Cooperating for integrity management. To prevent unfair practices, KOICA has set up a hotline named "Happy Call" for development cooperation partners to promote a meaningful partnership campaign that discourages disrespectful attitudes, and is unfolding integrity and ethics education for all employees. Moreover, KOICA has been selected as an excellent institution, receiving the 2nd grade for five consecutive years since 2017 in the Anti-Corruption Policy Evaluation of the Anti-Corruption and Civil Rights Commission, which evaluates anti-corruption efforts and the performance of public institutions every year. Last year, it became the first domestic ODA organization to acquire integrated certification for the compliance management system (ISO37301) and corruption prevention system (ISO37001), and is expected to acquire the compliance management system (ISO37301) post-certification in September this year.



KOICA earns "Good" rating in Aid Transparency Index evaluation, ranking third among donor countries

KOICA received a "Good" rating for the second time in a row in the Aid Transparency Index (ATI) Assessment 2022 by Publish What You Fund (PWYF), an international aid transparency campaign organization in the UK on July 13. PWYF evaluates institutional plans/commitments, finances/budgets, project characteristics, development data, and project performance, publishing ATI[1] every two years. This year, KOICA earned 77.7 points, 10% higher than in 2020 (70.7 points), and ranked 13th overall, coming third behind the United States (5th) and Germany (11th) in terms of donor countries. According to Ahn Ji-hee, director general of KOICA's Data Innovation Team, "It is a remarkable achievement for KOICA to have received the highest score since its eligibility. In accordance with the results of the evaluation, KOICA will strive to make strides as a leading development cooperation agency on part with advanced countries."

1) ATI evaluates and divides aid organizations into five score groups based on 35 criteria. The groups are: Very Good 80-100 points, Good 60-79 points, Fair 40-59 points, Poor 20-39 points, and Very Poor 0-19 points.



Korea Disaster Relief Team KDRT acquires WHO certification

On June 16, the Korea Disaster Relief Team (KDRT) became the 35th among the world's disaster relief teams to receive a 'TYPE 1 Fixed'[1] rating in the World Health Organization (WHO) Emergency Medical Team (EMT)[2] certification evaluation. KDRT is made up of dispatched personnel from KOICA, the Central 119 Rescue Headquarters, the National Medical Center, and the Korea International Health and Medical Foundation. KDRT, created in 2007, seeks to provide support for damage minimization, recovery from natural disasters, and lifesaving to countries hit by natural disaster. Since 2011, KDRT has been classified as "Heavy" (the highest grade) by the UN International Search and Rescue Advisory Group's (INSARAG) international rescue team competency evaluation and received re-certification in 2016. This recognition by WHO has once more signalled KDRT's capacity in supporting the global community.

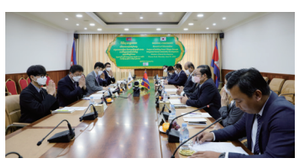
1) TYPE 1 Fixed: Granted to a team with 29 crew members who are self-sufficient and capable of treating 100 outpatients per day for at least 14 days without assistance from the victim country.

2) According to the capabilities of emergency medical teams of governments and non-governmental organizations in each country, WHO is divided into △TYPE 1 (outpatient emergency patient treatment, divided into Mobile-Fixed) △TYPE 2 (inpatient/surgical/obstetric surgery-related) and △TYPE 3 (including intensive care unit). The evaluation and certification are divided into five types, including complex inpatients and complex surgery) and △professional groups (specialized medical specialists).



Establishment of tax e-government system in the Philippines

On June 21, KOICA announced the results of the project to install an e-government system for taxes, and held an opening ceremony for the system in Manila. The inefficiency of the existing national tax payment system in the Philippines had been caused by an outdated operation system, which had kept separate databases for each tax item and caused frequent errors in its servers and programs. In response, KOICA established a plan to digitize tax administration in the Philippines in 2018 to support the implementation of e-government in the Philippines tax field by ▲ building a tax administration system for electronic tax invoice issuance, ▲providing computer rooms and equipment support, and ▲ assisting tax officials and taxpayers with related education and training for the new EIS (E-invoicing system) system, a web-based tax service platform which enables taxpayer companies to issue electronic tax invoices, conduct VAT investigation, imposition, payment, confirmation, and issuance all at once through an online address. The new system is scheduled to be operated in conjunction with the top 100 major corporate tax administration systems in the Philippines this year. KOICA's support for the Philippines is expected to enhance the transparency, fairness, and efficiency of tax administration in the country.



Record of Discussions (RD) signed for project to create peaceful villages in rural areas of northwest Cambodia

On June 9 (local time) in Phnom Penh, KOICA and the Ministry of Rural Development of Cambodia signed a Record of Discussions (RD) for a project to create a peace village in northwest Cambodia through comprehensive rural development. KOICA is operating the Korea-Mekong Future Peace Community that links mine removal, victim support, and rural development in countries located in the Mekong region, such as Cambodia, Vietnam, and Laos. As part of this program, this project will be conducted in the three northwestern provinces (Pailin, Battambang, and Banteay Meanchey), which are the least developed in Cambodia. According to the agreement signed on the same day, KOICA plans to support ▲improvement of the rural living environment through resident participation, ▲sustainable agricultural productivity improvement and agricultural value chain improvement, and ▲reinforcement of rural development governance.

AUGUST



KOICA Selected as 'Partner of July' by UN Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC)

The United Nations Office for South-South Cooperation (UNOSSC) on July 27 announced its selection of KOICA as 'Partner of July' on its website. This selection indicates that KOICA's triangular cooperation, which contributes to the development of third party partner countries by establishing partnerships with emerging countries[1], has been recognized as a best practice in the global community. As UNOSSC's Partner of July, KOICA had a chance to share its experiences of triangular cooperation on the South-South Cooperation Galaxy[2] website for one month, including the benchmarking of Nigeria triangular cooperation for the Cameroon e-government awareness improvement and capacity building project; the Korea-Indonesia-Timor-Leste project to improve accessibility to solar energy; and the Korea-Brazil triangular cooperation for strengthening the capacity of Paraguayan aviation professionals. KOICA plans to strengthen South-South trilateral cooperation by selecting Mexico, Indonesia, and the Republic of Türkiye as Korea's major partners for regional triangular cooperation and utilizing the MIKTA3) Development Cooperation Institutions Network launched in 2021.

1) South-South Cooperation refers to an international development cooperation system in which one developing country supports another. Triangular Cooperation refers to a method of supplementing South-South cooperation by providing financial and technical support from one or more traditional donors or international organizations to complement South-South cooperation.

2) UNOSSC's own South-South cooperation platform

3) A consultative body between five countries, including Mexico, Indonesia, Korea, Türkiye, and Australia



KOICA and Ministry of Foreign Affairs host the 15th Seoul ODA International Conference

KOICA and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea hosted the 15th Seoul ODA International Conference at The Shilla Seoul on September 1, 2022, with the theme 'Expanding Horizons for Global Development Partnerships'. Held since 2007, the conference has been a venue for discussion regarding major issues while various stakeholders in international development cooperation gather and share relevant knowledge.

This year's conference was especially meaningful as it served as an opportunity to explore the direction of development cooperation that Korea as a global pivotal country should maintain by contributing to solving global problems.

This year's conference dealt with policy directions in development cooperation, global responses to crises and the realization of universal values. This year, the conference was broadcast in real-time on the official YouTube channel of KOICA.



World Humanitarian Day commemoration ceremony

To celebrate World Humanitarian Day[1] on August 19, KOICA, in partnership with the Korea NGO Council for Overseas Development Cooperation (KCOC), held a ceremony at the cultural space Art Stand, Under Stand Avenue in Seongdong-gu, Seoul. About 20 attendees from Korea and abroad, including President of KOICA Sohn Hyuk-sang, joined the ceremony. Booths showcased humanitarian activities and aid items, while visitors participated in displays and programs depicting second-hand experiences of the situation in conflict-affected countries such as Ukraine. The event, joined by seven international organizations and 12 civic groups, also included a special exhibition to promote humanitarian aid activities in Korea and around the world. KOICA sought to promote the Korean government's humanitarian aid activities, such as providing relief supplies and setting up temporary clinics in war-torn or disaster-affected countries in partnership with international organizations, such as the UN and civic groups.

1) A day set by the United Nations in 2008 to commemorate the 22 humanitarian activists and local residents from around the world who were killed in the bombing that occurred at humanitarian aid sites in Iraq on August 19, 2003.



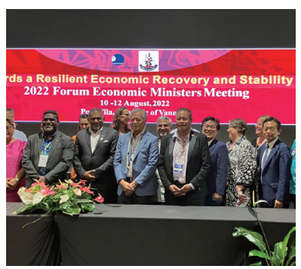
Signed Record of Discussions (RD) on project to support youth employment and startups in Timor-Leste

KOICA signed a Record of Discussions (RD) with the Ministry of Finance of Timor-Leste for a project to support youth employment and entrepreneurship in the country. This project, devised through cooperation between the Timor-Leste government and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), aims to enhance the employment and entrepreneurship capabilities of youth in Timor-Leste, including returning migrant workers. KOICA and the UNDP plan to support 6.2 million USD to provide necessary support to the youth in Timor-Leste. This project will allow the youth to ▲ acquire skills, competency and knowledge for job placement ▲ receive integrated employment support services to improve job competency, and ▲ learn skills, knowledge, and services for entrepreneurship and the business expansion of young people, including returning migrant workers.



Paraguay's first health and medical welfare center for the older people opens

The Santo Domingo Senior Health and Welfare Center opened on August 8 in Asuncion, Paraguay. This was the first integrated senior care center in Paraguay, which has become an aging society, established through support from the Korean government. Since 2016, KOICA has been working with the Paraguay Ministry of Health and Welfare throughout the entire process, including the proposal of a customized senior care policy based on the Korean elderly welfare model and the implementation of the plan to establish the senior medical care center. The center has 58 wards, which can accommodate 115 seniors with long-term care needs, and is expected to provide medical care for more than 5,000 senior visitors each month. Paraguay's President Benitez, who attended the opening ceremony, said, "This center is to meet the expectations and needs of the elderly who have been marginalized from Paraguay's medical welfare system. We will continue these efforts by working seamlessly with KOICA and the Korean government", he said. With the opening of the center, KOICA expects to be able to provide integrated care services from treatment to convalescence, such as nursing, medical assistance, and rehabilitation service support for the elderly.



KOICA discusses economic and social cooperation measures at the Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM)

KOICA President Sohn Hyuk-sang attended the Third High-Level Meeting on Development Cooperation on August 12 on behalf of the Korean government on the occasion of the Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)[1] Forum Economic Ministers' Meeting[2] held in Port Vila, Vanuatu. This meeting discussed ways to implement the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent[3] of the Pacific Island Countries and to discuss ways to support dialogue among partners. At the meeting, President Sohn introduced Korea as "a reliable partner in the field of marine environmental protection, an important area of interest for the Pacific Island Countries". He also said, "In order to support the economic recovery of PIF member countries, we will place our utmost efforts in providing support for marine environment protection, resource management, and clean energy transition for the realization of a Blue Pacific Economy". Since its foundation, KOICA has provided a total of $197 million in grant aid to 14 Pacific Island Countries until last year, and has been an active supporter for climate change adaptation, the marine and fisheries sector, and health sectors.

1) PIF (Pacific Island Forum): Established in 1971, the Pacific Island Forum is composed of a total of 18 member states. Korea has been participating as a dialogue partner since 1995. This year's PIF Summit was held in Suva, Fiji on July 11.

2) PIF Economic Ministers Meeting (PIF FEMM): One of the ministerial-level meetings hosted by the PIF, where economic ministers from each country gather to discuss economic issues and cooperation plans in the region.

3) 2050 Blue Pacific Continent Strategy: A strategy that contains a vision for the common development of the Pacific Island countries by the Pacific Island countries, adopted at the PIF Summit on July 14, 2022.

SEPTEMBER



KOICA holds seminar for Development-Environment-Peace nexus at Jeju Forum

On September 14, as part of the Jeju Forum held at the Jeju International Convention Center (ICC), KOICA hosted a seminar to explore approaches for the Development, Environment, and Peace Nexus (DEEPEN) in borders and borderlands. The seminar was held as a part of the 17th Jeju Forum (Sept. 14-16, 'Toward Peace Beyond Conflict: Coexistence and Cooperation'), a platform for global opinion leaders to gather and discuss measures for fostering world peace. This year, 66 sessions were prepared with the participation of 30 domestic and foreign organizations, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. In his congratulatory speech, Vice President of KOICA Lee Yun-young emphasized that "KOICA is paying great attention to humanitarian aid, development, and the peace nexus," adding that KOICA has "selected 'responses to complex crises in partner countries and building peace' as a top priority among the 16 action items chosen for the 2022 to 2026 mid- and long-term management goals, to identify the root causes of the crises that face partner countries."



Demo Day for INNO-Lab A, KOICA's program for supporting social innovative companies' entry into developing countries

The demonstration day for INNO-Lab Accelerator, KOICA's capacity-building program for companies the early stages of business, was successfully held on September 1. INNO-Lab A provides support to advance the business model of social innovative companies who seek to address global development cooperation issues, while assisting them in expanding their businesses to foreign markets through networking support with local experts in developing countries. The grand prize of the event was awarded to Midvar, whose idea was to supply a Floating Farm, or a floating cultivation system, to the floating village of Tonle Sap, Cambodia. Awarded to the winner was a prize of 10 million won, as well as the opportunity to move forward to InnoPort, KOICA's social innovation hub project for young people and early-stage entrepreneurs who seek to solve global development cooperation issues. InnoPort was first initiated in March 2020 to nurture innovators and revitalize the employment and start-up ecosystem in the field of development cooperation. From July 19 to September 1 this year, InnoLab A selected 10 companies that plan to expand their businesses into developing countries to provide one-on-one customized business consulting tailored to the specific needs of each company, aided by experts in the development cooperation field and other local professionals.



KOICA Office in Peru holds workshop to strengthen climate change response capacity of Korean NGOs

On Sept. 5-6, the KOICA Office in Peru held a capacity building workshop for partners in civil society in Paracas, Peru to discuss measures to strengthen the capabilities of Korean NGOs in Peru in the field of climate change and environment. Some 20 experts and partners from various fields joined the event, including officials and volunteers from Korean NGOs in Peru, officials from the Peruvian Ministry of Environment, officials from the Amazon malaria prevention project, and environment sector officials from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). The workshop discussed KOICA's climate change response strategy for Peru, which aims for environmental protection and strengthening the resilience of vulnerable groups, and the projects of each participating organization. Participants also discussed the Peruvian government's waste management and resource recycling policies, which are designed to help cities become more sustainable, and the successful cases of malaria reduction in the Amazon region based on an integrated approach. Comprehensive talks were also held on climate change responses and the future direction for environmental project development. On September 6, KOICA visited the Pisco area that is currently participating in USAID's 'Clean Cities, Blue Ocean' campaign and joined efforts to raise social awareness. The event was a chance to strengthen the capabilities and cooperative systems of Korean civil society partner organizations in Peru and identify environmental projects. The KOICA Office in Peru plans to hold a meeting in November to share project outcomes with Korean NGOs (Food for the Hungry, World Vision, Friends) and volunteer groups in Peru.



KOICA invites officials from Morocco for training program on online curriculum formulation

KOICA invited seven working-level officials from the Moroccan Ministry of Health officials, local health officials, and professionals from Morocco's National School of Public Health, to Korea to provide a one-week training program from September 25 to October 1. This training was part of KOICA's 'Capability Reinforcement Project for Primary Medical Services to Improve Maternal and Child Health in Northern Morocco,' and was hosted by the Ministry of Health of Korea and Morocco, who are working together to develop an online curriculum. The trainees learned about South Korea's maternal and child health care system, measures to treat high-risk mothers, and training methods for capacity building for medical personnel, as well as the establishment and application of Yonsei Medical Center's online curriculum. They also participated in workshops with Yonsei Medical Center and Global Care medical staff and working-level professionals to explore measures to enhance cooperation between the two countries, such as developing an educational curriculum that will help strengthen the medical competency tailored to the situation of Morocco. As part of KOICA's ODA project, this training is jointly hosted by the Jejungwon Health Development Center of Yonsei Institute for Global Health and Global Care, an international NGO in the healthcare sector.



KOICA holds a special lecture to build partnerships with the private sector

KOICA has planned a special lecture series to strengthen partnerships with the private sector, to be held throughout 10 sessions from September to June 2023, together with its advisory board on corporate relations. The aim is to strengthen the capabilities of KOICA employees in this area and revitalize partnerships with the private sector by meeting current demands, in an environment where the private sector's engagement and contribution to the development cooperation ecosystem is increasing. The lecture series covers different themes each month in an in-person and online format. In September, Dr. Kwak Jae-sung of the Graduate School of International Studies at Kyung Hee University gave a lecture on the subject of 'PSE (Private Sector Engagement) and Public-Private Cooperation for Achievable Development'. In October, Director of Investment Kim Seung-hyeon of Aju IB Investment, will discuss 'Understanding private sector players in development cooperation'. The lecture series will cover various and practical topics related to the field of public-private cooperation, and is expected to help KOICA employees better discover, manage, and evaluate projects, in addition to revitalizing partnerships with the private sector through knowledge-sharing.



Our planet is still suffering from disease, climate change, water shortage, and food insecurity.

As one of the top 10 developed countries, Korea will move forward to a better future based on our vision and capabilities.

KOICA will cooperate with developing countries and the international community in various areas including education, health & medical care, transportation, science, technology & innovation, and energy.



People Peace Prosperity Planet Partnership

KOICA was established in 1991 to support the economic and social development of developing countries. We implement Korea's Official Development Assistance (ODA) including bilateral projects, the dispatch of volunteer groups, fellowship program, multilateral projects with international organizations, civil society and private sector partnerships, disaster response, and emergency humanitarian assistance.

KOICA

Publisher Sohn Hyuk-sang **Date of registration** October 13th, 2022 **Publishing registration number** 2022-02-091 **Date of publication** October 13th, 2022
Publishing organization Korea International Cooperation Agency **Address** 825 Daewangpangyo-ro, Sujeong-gu, Seongnam-si, Gyeonggi-do, Republic of Korea
Tel 1588-0434 **Fax** 031-740-0260 **Website** www.koica.go.kr **Planning·Editing** KOICA Department of Media and Public Relations **Production** amPR **Print** Kyujang TPC
blog https://blog.naver.com/prkoica www.instagram.com/officialkoica/ www.facebook.com/officialKOICA youtube.com/officialkoica

홍보자료

홍보 2022-02-091

KOICA

Download
MAGAZINE KOICA