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KOICA

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COVER STORY

Why is Korea paying attention to Africa?

THEMATIC FOCUS

Africa's future is being transformed by digital technology

INSIGHTS

A place where sadness and beauty coexist

- Kim Ga-ram, PD of KBS1 <Walking Expenditure>

INTERVIEW

"Korea is the best partner in development cooperation"

- Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the UNFPA



KOICA is a Better Tomorrow

KOICA, Korea's representative agency for development cooperation, creates a world where everyone can dream of a happy future through inclusive and win-win partnerships, leaving no one behind, and implements developed-country-style ODA projects.

KOICA

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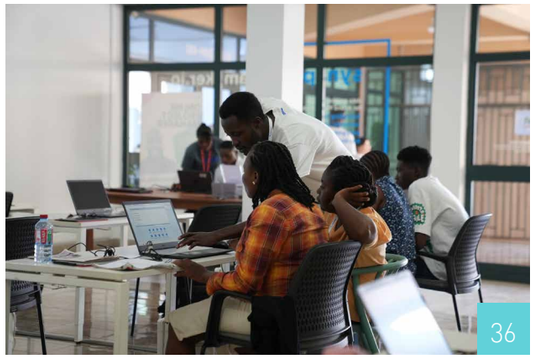
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Continuing inclusive, future-oriented development cooperation and partnership with Africa

June 2024 saw the successful convening of the Korea-Africa Summit. As Korea's first multilateral summit with Africa, it was a historical gathering that envisioned a new future for the Korea-Africa partnership. All 48 African countries invited by the Korean government attended, while heads of state of some 30 countries made visits to Korea.

Africa is the world's youngest continent with tremendous growth potential. Sixty percent of its 1.4 billion population is under the age of 25, and the continent holds 30% of the world's mineral resources, including platinum, cobalt, and manganese. Africa's global prominence is also rising by the day. Of the 193 UN member states, 54 are African countries, and with the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) in 2021, Africa has emerged as a vast single market with a GDP of $3.4 trillion. Much of the international community is strengthening partnerships with Africa, the core of the Global South. Further bolstering a mutual and future-oriented partnership with Africa is an important task for Korea as well, as the Korean government aims to realize its vision of "Global Pivotal State".

In this context, we have decided to spotlight Africa in Vol.5 of MAGAZINE KOICA. At this crucial turning point, as we open the future to a further strengthened partnership with Africa, we believe it will be meaningful to retrace our past projects implemented across the continent. In particular, this issue focuses on KOICA's various projects in digital education, a sector in which we will further expand cooperation going forward. Representative examples include the "ICT Education Capacity Building Project for Teachers and Pre-service Teachers" in Rwanda, the "Vocational Skills Development Project for Youth Employment (GIZ)" in Tanzania, the "Project to Construct a 'Maker's Space' and Support Startup Incubation at Diamniadio College of Technology" in Senegal, and "Elementary and Middle School Multimedia Educational Environment Improvement and Educational Capacity Building Project" in Nigeria. This volume also features articles that vividly illustrate the results of KOICA's support in Africa, including stories of women in Kenya who are now living empowered lives that have been vastly transformed through capacity-building for women, and interviews with veterans and their descendants at the Korean War Veterans Village (Korean Village) in Ethiopia.

On the occasion of the 2024 Korea-Africa Summit, our two sides pledged measures for future-oriented cooperation. The Korean government plans to increase Official Development Assistance (ODA) to Africa to $10 billion (about 14 trillion won) by 2030, and the amount of export financing for Korean companies entering Africa to $14 billion by 2030, up from $4.3 billion last year.

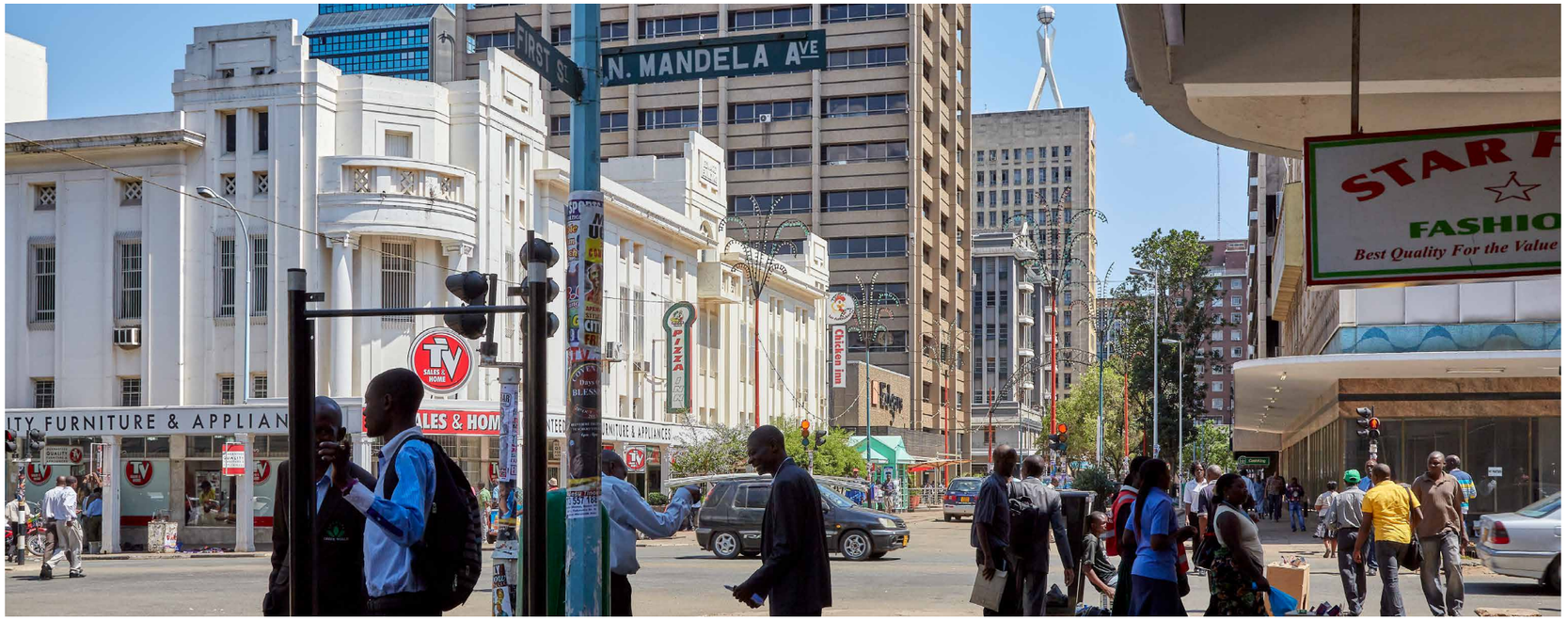
As Korea's representative development cooperation agency, KOICA will continue to strive for shared prosperity with Africa, in accordance with the development cooperation strategies of the Korean government. KOICA endeavors to be a reliable partner to Africa by enhancing cooperation in sectors including universal digital education for youth that is tailored to the dynamic demographics of Africa, community-centered rural development, and comprehensive healthcare.

Thank you.

President of KOICA

장원삼

CHANG, Won Sam



Global new growth engine

Why is Korea paying attention to Africa?

On June 4 and 5, the 2024 Korea-Africa Summit was held at KINTEX in Goyang and Seoul. It was the first multilateral summit held between Korea and Africa. Recently, the United States, China, and Japan have also hosted a series of summits with Africa, promising large-scale economic aid. Why are the world and Korea paying attention to Africa?

Africa grows rapidly thanks to young workforce

Africa is the second fastest-growing region in the world after Asia. Africa exceeded the world average economic growth rate of 3% in 2020. African countries are expected to account for 11 of the top 20 countries in global economic growth this year.

The driving force behind Africa's rapid growth is not only its abundant resources but also its significant asset known as the 'young labor force.' Although the world's population is declining, Africa's continues growing every year. Africa's population is expected to increase from about 1.41 billion in 2022 to around 2.47 billion in 2050. This number represents around one quarter of the world's population. In particular, the youth population is expected to increase significantly, and within 10 years, Africa's working-age population (ages 15 to 65) is projected to reach approximately 1 billion, making it the largest labor force in the world.

Africa united as one

Africa, awakened to growth, is coming together as a great community that transcends borders. In 2015, the African Union (AU) announced 'Agenda 2063', which outlines the common development goals pursued by the African continent. In January 2021, the 'African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)' was officially launched, creating a large economic community with 54 African countries participating.

The AfCFTA plans to pursue reforms, starting with the reduction of tariffs and non-tariff measures between participating countries, and the streamlining of administrative procedures related to transport, customs, and border trade.

The World Bank predicted that with the implementation of AfCFTA, investment between African countries and regions will increase by 159%, leading to higher income levels across Africa and significant poverty reduction.

Korea expands ODA to Africa every year

As Africa emerges as a 'new growth engine for the world,' the world's attention is increasingly focused on the continent. Private sector participation in economic cooperation with Africa is accelerating, and there is a push for national-level development cooperation to achieve Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Since establishing diplomatic relations with six African countries in 1961, Korea has expanded its diplomatic relations to all 54 African countries that are members of the United Nations by 2011, and continues to actively pursue ODA to Africa.

KOICA's ODA support to Africa follows closely on the heels of Asia, the continent that ranks first in this area. It is noteworthy that the amount of aid to Africa is increasing every year. In particular, in terms of the budget of Country Programs and Projects, which builds hospitals and schools and provides consulting and technical support in partner countries, Africa (KRW 306.6 billion, 23.6%) surpassed the budget of the Asia-Pacific region (KRW 275.6 billion, 21.2%) for the first time this year.

To achieve Africa's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), KOICA is analyzing the development environment of each country and establishing a strategic support system aligned with their development goals. Accordingly, KOICA identifies projects on the basis of African regional cooperation strategies and country-specific support plans, and develops and implements tailored strategies across Africa and by region (North, Central, and Southeast).

Korea's own role as 'true partner' needed

Korea and Africa have a history of imperialist colonial rule, dominated by Japan and the Western powers respectively. During the Korean War, African countries such as Ethiopia and us fought for South Korea or provided material support. Since then, Korea has transitioned from being a recipient of international aid to a donor country. On this basis, Korea must approach Africa as a 'true partner who shares and understands history.'

Korea has strengths in human resources training and scientific and technological innovation, stemming from its experience in achieving the 'Miracle on the Han River' after the Korean War. These capabilities are now in high demand to promote sustainable development in Africa. African ambassadors to Korea also agree, saying, "Rather than hard infrastructure, we want Korea's development experience, particularly cooperation in the areas of human resources training and science and technology innovation."

Speaking at the Korea-Africa Partnership Symposium last year, Lee Jin-sang, Endowed Chair Professor at Korea Aerospace University, said, "The partnership between Africa and Korea should start by focusing on science and technology innovation, including ICT, which is Korea's strength," adding, "This will lead to sustainable development in Africa and promote industrialization, which will be a win-win strategy for Korea and Africa."

Kim Tae-kyoon, a professor at Seoul National University's Graduate School of International Studies, said in the journal 'Asia Brief' published by Seoul National University Asia Center, "We should not simply compete based on the amount of aid, but rather find issue areas that can contribute to African economic development and political reform with the knowledge and value of Korea's development experience," advising, "Korea's strategic position should be established as a 'connector' linking the Global North (developed countries) and the Global South (developing countries)."

Korea and Africa, a win-win future

The 2024 Korea-Africa Summit was a meaningful opportunity to explore directions for development cooperation between the two sides and to further solidify friendly relations. Korea is pioneering new markets through Africa, a 'new driving force,' and Africa is waiting for Korea's experience to achieve sustainable development in the future. This is why Korea and Africa look forward to a win-win future as true partners and leading players on the global stage.

ODA Infographic

KOICA's ODA in Africa at a glance

Africa, a 'new growth engine', is the fastest growing continent in the world. A 'young labour force' is driving its rapid growth, based on abundant natural resources. Of the 1.4 billion people in Africa, 70% are under the age of 30, with a median age of 19.7. Africa is expected to have the largest labor force in the world within 10 years. KOICA's ODA to Africa exceeded $200 million for the first time last year, putting it on par with Asia, which previously ranked first. What is noteworthy is that the amount of aid to Africa is increasing every year.

● Korea's global diplomatic partner Africa

Accounts for more than a quarter (54 countries) of the member states of the United Nations (193 countries).

Non-permanent members of the Security Council
3 out of 10 seats

African Union (AU), Republic of South Africa,
G20 members

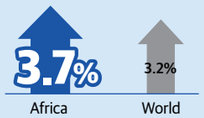
● Africa, a new growth engine for the world

Implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA)

Youngest continent in the world

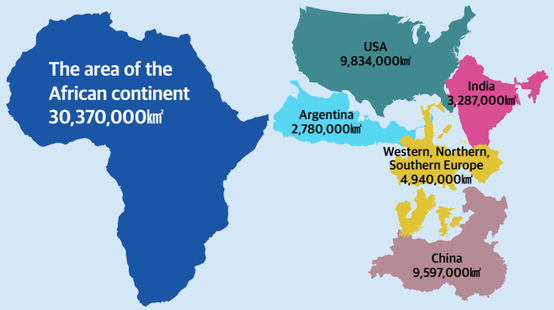


Economic growth rate in 2022



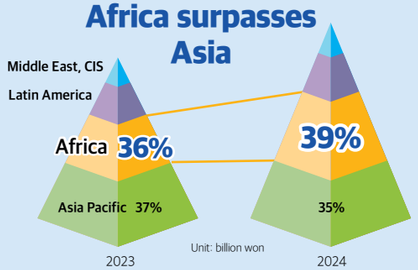
Population 1.42 billion
Median age
18.8 years

● Africa, the second largest continent in the world

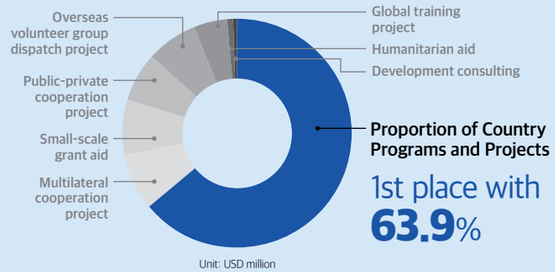


● 2024 budget of Country Programs and Projects* surpasses that of Asia

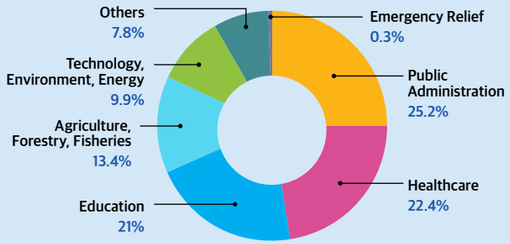
68.1 billion won increased
Africa surpasses Asia



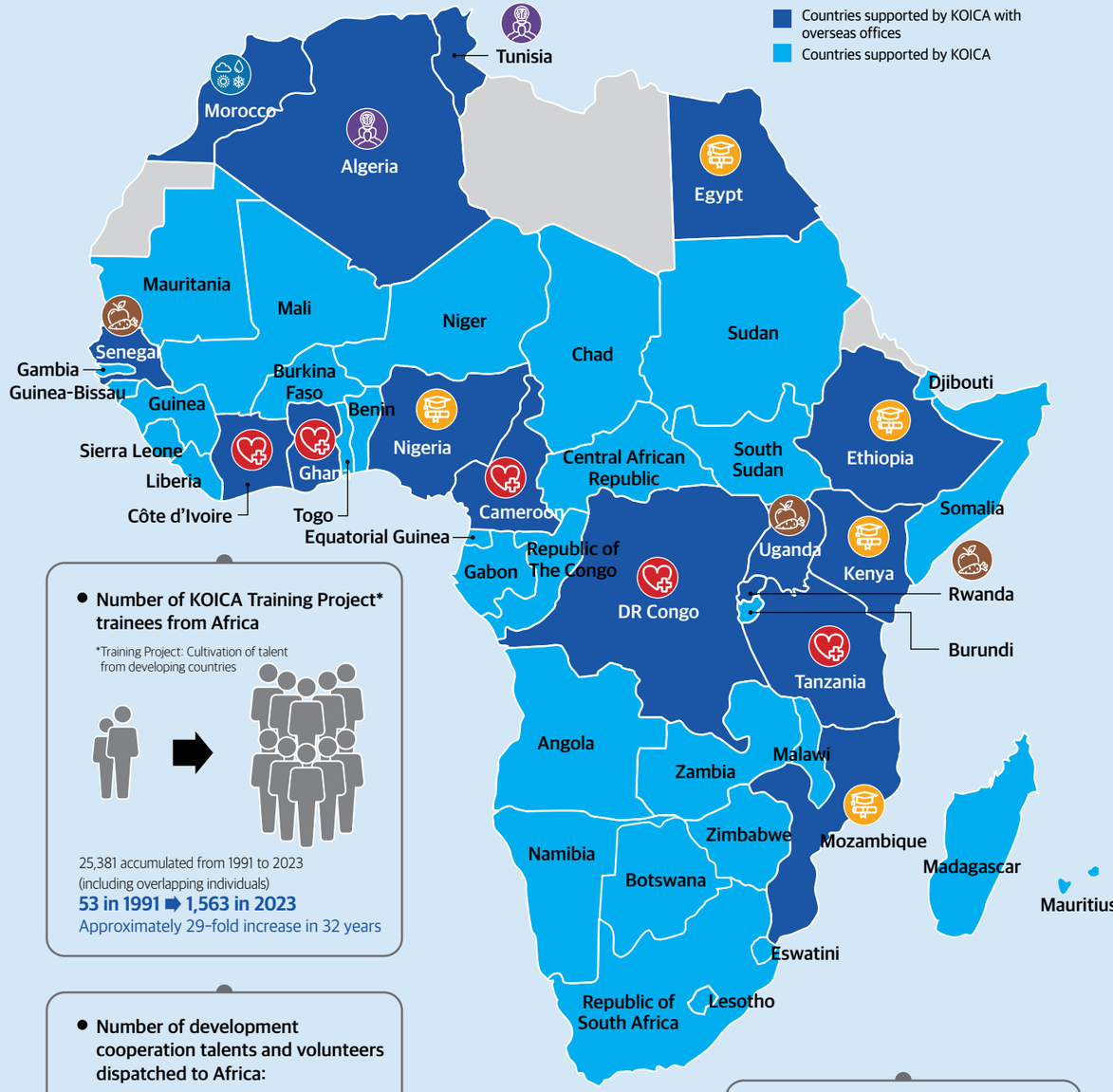
● KOICA's ODA project types in Africa



● KOICA's ODA project sectors in Africa



***Country Programs and Projects :** A project that provides multi-year support (approximately 2 to 5 years) by combining material and human resources to achieve specific development goals, such as economic and social development and welfare improvement in the partner country. There are two types: project-based support and development consulting.

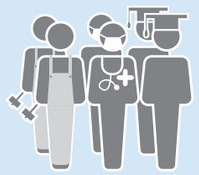


● Number of KOICA Training Project* trainees from Africa

*Training Project: Cultivation of talent from developing countries

25,381 accumulated from 1991 to 2023
(including overlapping individuals)
53 in 1991 ➡ 1,563 in 2023
Approximately 29-fold increase in 32 years

● Number of development cooperation talents and volunteers dispatched to Africa:



More than 8,101 accumulated from 1991 to 2023

● Main program areas of KOICA Country Plan

- Health
- Education
- Rural Development
- Governance
- Climate Action

Source: KOICA Open Data Portal, 《UN 2022 World Population Prospects Report》, Korea-Africa Foundation



1



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Korea-Africa Future Partnership Conference

Discussing 'Youth, Digital, and Innovation' on the foundation of 'Shared Growth, Sustainability, and Solidarity'

On June 5, at the Four Seasons Hotel in Jongno-gu, Seoul, the conference titled 'Korea-Africa Future Partnership: Development Cooperation for Empowering Future Generations' was held. Sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and organized by KOICA, this conference was convened on the occasion of the '2024 Korea-Africa Summit.' More than 50 Korean officials, including KOICA President CHANG Won Sam, former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Second Vice Foreign Minister Kang In-sun, as well as more than 200 participants from 39 countries, including delegations to the Summit and special diplomatic trainees from Africa, as well as KOICA master's and doctoral fellows, attended the conference and discussed various strategies to strengthen the capacity of future generations and promote development in Africa. The historic moment was witnessed by 1,140 viewers around the world via live online streaming.

Korea and Africa enter a new era with a strong partnership

The conference, which began with a special video, opened with a keynote speech by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, a welcome remarks by Second Vice Foreign Minister Kang In-sun, an opening remarks by KOICA President CHANG Won Sam, and a congratulatory remarks by Raji Tajudeen, Acting Deputy Director-General of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, who delivered a keynote speech, emphasized the importance of 'cooperation' and said, "Korea's unique experience of transitioning from a recipient to a donor within a single generation has awakened us to continue to increase our ODA to further contribute to global sustainable development." In addition, "As we join together to address climate change, food insecurity, health crises, and supply chain issues, we need simultaneously to reinvigorate partnership efforts to realize the SDGs, and empower technological innovation in order to advance digital transformation on the African continent," he emphasized.

In her welcoming remarks, Second Vice Foreign Minister Kang In-sun said that the Korean government, which promotes diplomacy as a global pivotal country, will strengthen mutually beneficial and practical cooperation with Africa, which has infinite potential for growth and cooperation, and will continue ODA projects appropriate for the national development policies and local development needs of African cooperation partners. "In particular, the Korean government, through the Tech4Africa Initiative announced at the Korea-Africa Summit on June 4, will strengthen the future generations' capabilities of utilizing science and ICT technologies to lead digital innovation, and will support the revitalization of the digital economy including expanding digital infrastructure and establishing governance," she said.

In his opening remarks, KOICA President CHANG Won Sam highlighted Korea's role as an emerging donor country in contributing to changes and development in Africa, including the expansion of Korea-Africa cooperation through signature programs in universal digital education for youth, community-driven rural development, and comprehensive healthcare. Meanwhile, Raji Tajudeen, Acting Deputy Director-General of the Africa Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, said in his congratulatory remarks, "We have made efforts to control diseases through partnerships with Korea and KOICA," and added, "We look forward to continuing our partnership in the fields of innovation and technological development, and talent development."

First session: Korea's Development Cooperation Strategy for Africa

The topic of the first session was 'Korea's Development Cooperation Strategy for Africa.' The first speaker, Lee Kyu-ho, Deputy Director General of Development Cooperation Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, delivered specific details of the Tech4Africa Initiative, and said that to enhance the digital capabilities of African youth, Korea would cooperate in the areas of universal digital education (teaching STEM and technology skills from an early age), vocational training (providing more digital skills training at the college and TVET* school level, focused on local job needs), and job opportunities (offering opportunities to

* TVET: Technical and Vocational Education and Training



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trained and skilled youth to get decent local and overseas jobs taking advantage of improved digital skills).

Lee Jin-sang, Endowed Chair Professor at Korea Aerospace University, who moderated the subsequent discussion, said: "I could clearly see the direction of the Korean government through this presentation," and expressed his expectation that it would be an opportunity to learn how the future direction will be drawn based on the ODA efforts that have continued for 34 years since 1991. The first panelist, Park Jong-dae, Professor at Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies, said that the Tech4Africa Initiative is "timely," and foresaw that it would contribute to the "expansion of the mobile economy" and secure "market dynamics" in Africa, given its large youth population. He also emphasized the need for participatory development that balances market supply and demand. The next panelist, Joy M. Sakurai, Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, introduced the development cooperation strategy for Africa announced by the United States in December 2022, mentioning sub-goals such as 'digital economic infrastructure', 'improvement of human resources', and 'building a digital empowerment environment'. In addition, she introduced the United States' example of digital education for nurturing young leaders in Africa and said, "The U.S. is strengthening digital cooperation with Africa and supporting technology."

Lee Kyu-ho, Deputy Director General of Development Cooperation Bureau of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, concluded the discussion by saying, "The digital economy is moving beyond traditional industries such as manufacturing," adding, "The Korean government will provide opportunities not only for large companies but also for young entrepreneurs."

Second session: Achievements and Future Directions of KOICA-Africa Cooperation

The second session was held under the theme of 'Future of Korea-Africa Development Cooperation : Achievements and the Way Forward of KOICA's Cooperation in Africa.' The first presentation began after watching a special video covering KOICA's African projects. For the presentation, Lim Jin-ho, Professor at Gimcheon University, took the podium on behalf of Claudette Irere, Minister of State at the Rwanda Ministry of Education. Professor Lim said, "Rwanda is promoting policies through the three pillars of 'social change,' 'economic change,' and 'government change' under the national vision called Vision 2050," and introduced the success factors of the 'Capacity Development for ICT in Education(CADIE) Project,' which KOICA has been facilitating since 2017. He said, "In particular, the partnership between the Rwandan government and KOICA experts was effective in all processes, from planning to implementation, monitoring, evaluation, and post-evaluation results."

Next, Chung In-hee, Corporate Vice President of Samsung Electronics, gave the second presentation under the theme of 'Vitalizing the Digital Economy: KOICA ESG Initiative'. She mentioned Samsung Electronics' sustainability and circular economy efforts and emphasized that these efforts can lead to digital education and support for digital utilization through KOICA's ESG initiative. In addition, she referred to the distance education in Uganda, Tanzania, and South Sudan conducted in collaboration with the MIT D-Lab, established under MIT.

In the third presentation, Bernard Okoe-Boye, Minister of Health of Ghana, introduced KOICA's project for impoving community-based primary healthcare through CHPS (Community-based Health Planning and Services) strengthening in Ghana under the theme of 'Building a safe and healthy society for the future'. He introduced the process by which the Ghanaian government has improved the comprehensive healthcare system from local communities to general hospitals through KOICA's CHPS+ Project, and said, "The training of competent health personnel has become an important momentum."

The final presentation was delivered by Hwang Jae-sang, Director General of the Department of Development Strategy and Portfolio Management at KOICA, on 'KOICA's Signature Programs for Africa.' He cited as examples of the signature programs 'Digital Education for Future Africa (enhancing teachers' digital capabilities and digital education curriculum, building inclusive learning environments), 'Innovative Rural Community for Rising Africa (rural policy development support and consulting, capacity building for government officials & locals, building self-reliant communities model), and 'Empowerment of Health System for Safe Africa' (improving human resources, infrastructure and system for primary healthcare, enhancement of response capabilities for infectious diseases).

Conclusion: Expectations for Expanded Cooperation and Exchange between Korea and Africa

After all the presentations were completed, the discussion session included questions and comments from attendees. During the session, Chon Gyong Shik, Director General of KOICA's Department of Africa, said, "KOICA is cooperating with Africa by carrying out various projects and programs," adding, "In addition to traditional sectors such as agriculture, health, and education, KOICA is sharing knowledge and know-how with partner countries to meet local development needs in Africa, including corporate collaboration and the digital sector."

After all sessions ended, Lee Yun-young, Vice President of KOICA, gave closing remarks, emphasizing that "Africa's young population is not just the future of Africa, but the future of our global community," and that "Tech4Africa Initiative, announced during the 2024 Korea-Africa Summit, and KOICA's signature programs are testaments to Korean commitment of solidarity for Africa."

The Korea-Africa Future Partnership Conference was an opportunity to affirm the themes of "Shared Growth, Sustainability, and Solidari ty," which are also the slogans of the 2024 Korea-Africa Summit. At the same time, it was an occasion to review the strategy and directions for enhancing the capabilities of future generations through cooperation between Korea and Africa. KOICA will use the 2024 Korea-Africa Summit as a momentum to expand cooperation and exchanges with African countries in various fields of international development cooperation. Meanwhile, at the event venue on the same day, an exhibition space was set up to showcase the activities of domestic companies that have partnered with KOICA to support Africa with innovative technologies, such as Bodit and Enuma*, attracting the attention of attendees.



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* **Bodit:** Promoting the early detection of calf diseases and the distribution of precision breeding solutions using FarmersHands (AI-based fine movement analysis technology) in Kenya.
* **Enuma:** Developing and distributing 'Kitkit School,' an innovative literacy and numeracy education app for children in Tanzania, Kenya, and Uganda

1 Key figures including President of KOICA CHANG Won Sam; former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon; Vice Foreign Minister Kang In-sun; Ghanaian Minister of Health Bernard Okoe-Boye; and Sudanese Ambassador to Korea Amira Agarib are taking a commemorative photo.
2 A view of the 'Korea-Africa Future Partnership Conference,' held under the theme of 'Development Cooperation for Empowering Future Generations'
3 KOICA President CHANG Won Sam
4 Ban Ki-moon, former UN Secretary General
5 Lim Jin-ho, Professor at Gimcheon University
6 Chung In-hee, Corporate Vice President of Samsung Electronics
7 Lee Yun-young, Vice President of KOICA

Interview: Bernard Okoe-Boye, Minister of Health of Ghana

"Benchmarking Korean healthcare creates opportunities for everyone to be healthy"



"Korea has a well-established primary healthcare system based on public health centers, ensuring that everyone can receive basic vaccinations and medical treatment. I know that Koreans can conveniently receive treatment at private hospitals through the health insurance system. I want to create universal healthcare system by introducing this model to Ghana."

Ghana's Minister of Health, Bernard Okoe-Boye, has a clear vision. His goal is to benchmark advanced healthcare systems and increase local access to medical care through Korea's Official Development Assistance (ODA) project. KOICA carried out a project from 2016 to 2022 to strengthen the community health system and improve maternal, newborn, and child health based on Ghana's CHPS health system. The health system strengthening project, which received a total investment of $9.56 million, reduced the child mortality rate by half and the maternal mortality rate by 10%. Minister Okoe-Boye, who visited Korea to attend the 'Korea-Africa Summit' held in Seoul on June 4-5, spoke about Ghana's health strategy.

Q. How many times have you been to Korea?

I am currently on my first visit to Korea. Thanks to the various Korean ODA agencies supporting Ghana, I have had a valuable experience learning about the medical system and expanding my horizons here in Korea.

I am also grateful for the opportunity to promote the excellence of the CHPS+ project in Ghana in front of the African delegation thanks to our partner organization KOICA, which has been cooperating with us to improve primary healthcare in Ghana.

Q. The Korea-Africa Summit is expected to be a significant turning point not only for Korea but also for many African countries in further developing their relations with Korea. What is the significance of this summit for Ghana?

The Korea-Africa Summit is the first summit where a single developed country such as Korea invited all 54 African countries in one platform. Through this platform, we were presented with many opportunities to collaborate with our fellow African countries and learn from Korea as one of the most advanced countries in the healthcare industry.

We anticipate that this will be a platform to disseminate Korea's advanced healthcare system to Ghana and promote mutual exchanges.

Q. Korea has been implementing various support projects in the health sector aimed at contributing to Ghana's sustainable development. Could you tell us about the achievements of health-related support projects carried out by Korea and the subsequent changes in Ghana as a result of these projects?

The Korean government, including KOICA and various other ODA agencies, supports the healthcare sector in Ghana. Korean ODA has significantly contributed to the development of Ghana's primary healthcare system and infectious disease response system. With Korea's support, maternal and child mortality rates in northern Ghana have been significantly reduced, and the improvement in the infectious disease response system has enabled a more effective response during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Q. What areas should Korea focus on more when further implementing health-related support projects in Ghana in the future?

Ghana has formulated the Network of Practice (NoP) strategy as the main primary health care delivery strategy to enhance the functionality of health centers and improve the quality of healthcare services by strengthening the capacities of healthcare workers. We look forward to Korea's support for the activation of health centers based on the NoP strategy and for the training of healthcare personnel.

Q. What aspects of Korea's healthcare sector would you like to benchmark in Ghana?

We understand that Korea has a well-organized primary healthcare system centered around health centers, where basic vaccinations and medical treatments are available, and a well-established health insurance system allows for convenient medical treatment even in private hospitals. We hope that this model can be adopted in Ghana to achieve universal health coverage.

Furthermore, Korea's system for continuous capacity building of healthcare workers is well established, enabling the training and continuous education of personnel to provide quality healthcare services. We hope to benchmark specialized institutions for training healthcare personnel, such as the Korea Human Resource Development Institute for Health (KOHI), in Ghana.

Q. Ghana is a rapidly developing country with infinite potential. How advanced is Ghana's healthcare system compared to neighboring African countries?

Ghana's healthcare system is relatively advanced compared to its neighboring countries, with a well-established primary healthcare system that aims to bring healthcare to the doorstep of community, a national health insurance scheme and a growing private healthcare sector, and a higher life expectancy of 64.5 years.

Q. What areas would benefit from stronger collaboration between Korea and Ghana in the future?

As the world progresses with technological advancements, global issues are becoming more interconnected, with the risks and crises of one country impacting the entire world. We have experienced this through various crises such as climate change and COVID-19. Just as Korea and Ghana cooperate to achieve the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA), improving infectious disease response and primary healthcare systems will benefit both Ghana's and Korea's health security. We believe that cooperation in education and technology, in addition to healthcare, will also be mutually beneficial for both countries. Just as a country's crisis affects the world, innovative inventions and advancements in one country can benefit humanity as a whole. Ghana, with its various growth potentials, can provide significant advantages to Korea not only in the healthcare sector but also in other fields through cooperation and development.

Q. Do you have any particular people you'd like to meet or places you'd like to visit while you're in Korea this time?

During this visit to Korea, I had the opportunity to visit Seoul National University Hospital and experience the Korean healthcare system. Unfortunately, I could not visit the Korea Human Resource Development Institute for Health (KOHI) due to the schedule. In our efforts to improve healthcare services in Ghana through capacity building, I hope to visit KOHI in the future.

Q. If you have any specific expectations or requests for the Korean government or KOICA, please let us know.

I express my gratitude to the Korean government and KOICA for their continuous support and cooperation in the healthcare sector and hope to continue collaborating for global health security. We look forward to building a robust cooperative relationship and achieving outstanding results in other fields as well, just as we have in healthcare.

Interview: Claudette Irere, Minister of State for Education, Rwanda

"ICT applied to education, upgrading it to the next level"



Claudette Irere, Rwanda's Minister of State for Education, attended the 'Korea-Africa Summit' held in Seoul in June as a member of the Rwandan national delegation. In Rwanda, which has a large young population, the education sector is emerging as a crucial priority. KOICA is actively carrying out ICT-related education projects in Rwanda, including a project to strengthen the capabilities of the Software Specialized High School.

Q. How many times have you been to Korea?
My previous mission to Korea for the Korea-Africa Summit was my first visit. I was particularly impressed by Korea's development, including the country's modern facilities, efficiency, and welcoming atmosphere.

Q. What is the significance of this summit for Rwanda?
The Summit was an occasion to extend the two-country relationship and exchange insights on issues pertaining to Africa's development and the empowerment of future generations with international leaders and experts.

Q. What are your impressions and thoughts following the Korea-Africa Summit?
The summit experience was admirable. Engaging in discussions and networking with other delegates gave me insights into the collaborative efforts between my country and foreign nations. The formal and informal interactions provided a platform for exchanging ideas and building partnerships.

Q. What positive impact do you think this Korea-Africa Summit will have on strengthening cooperation between Korea and Rwanda?
The summit was a platform that connected Rwanda's institutions to Korean ones and to a global network in general. For example, it provided an opportunity for Rwanda to engage with Korea's universities, and discuss areas of collaboration in higher education particularly.

Q. In a youthful nation with a significant youth demographic, the education sector emerges as a crucial priority. As the Minister of State for Education, please tell us what goals or directions Rwanda is currently pursuing in the field of education.
The main goal of Rwanda's education sector is to improve the quality of education through:

- Expanding access to pre-primary education for improved enrollment rates
- Enhancing and expanding school infrastructure and ensuring adequate resources and equipment
- Increasing the number of trained teachers and improving teacher welfare
- Promoting the integration of ICT in teaching and learning
- Ensuring inclusivity and accessibility for individuals with disabilities throughout all education levels
- Promoting Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET)
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) in education
- Addressing and reducing dropout rates in primary, lower secondary, and upper secondary levels
- Enhancing the quality of education across all levels through comprehensive assessment and school inspection

Q. KOICA has been implementing various ICT-related education projects in Rwanda, including capacity development for ICT in education and Rwanda Coding Academy capacity development. What is the significance or value of KOICA's ICT-related projects in Rwanda's education system?
KOICA's ICT-related projects are of importance in advancing ICT in the education sector. They align closely with Rwanda's national development goals, and educational strategies and demands. As CADIE project focuses on capacity building, the Rwanda Coding Academy project addresses issues related to demand-driven and project-based programs as well as establishing conducive learning facilities.

Q. What was the most impressive aspect of KOICA's projects?
KOICA's projects focus on a wide range of educational needs, from the establishment of infrastructure to teacher training and curriculum development.
This ensures that improvements are not just superficial but deeply embedded in the educational system. For example, a major strength of the CADIE project is its emphasis on capacity building. By training teachers and educational administrators, the project ensures that local stakeholders have the skills and knowledge to sustain and further develop the initiatives long after the project ends. The Rwanda Coding Academy project prepares Rwanda's next generation of software engineers, the country's transformation and its ambition to become a knowledge-based economy.

Q. We are curious if you have observed any tangible changes or achievements resulting from KOICA's projects.
KOICA's projects have significantly upgraded educational infrastructure in Rwandan schools. This includes establishing Centers of Excellence in all 30 districts and providing IT infrastructure and furniture through the CADIE project and its programs that respond to the needs of the labour market through the Rwanda Coding Academy project.
These improvements have created better learning environments conducive to modern educational practices in Rwandan schools. One of the standout achievements is the enhanced training and professional development for in-service teachers. For example, through the CADIE project, teachers have received extensive training in modern teaching methodologies, ICT integration, and subject-specific content.
This has led to improved teaching quality and better student outcomes.

Q. Is there anything unique about Rwanda's education system that distinguishes it from that of neighbouring countries?
I can say that apart from equipping students with technical skills which are generally found in many countries, Rwanda's education specifically focuses on the four major areas:

- Rwandan cultural values. It is anchored on Rwandan major cultural values: Patriotism, Unity, Integrity, Hard work
- No one is left behind. It is dedicated to ensuring that no one is deprived of the right to education, including learners with special needs
- Right skills and competencies for the current and future labor market
- 'Teachers First'. The role of teachers is an indispensable precondition for the success of quality education at any level

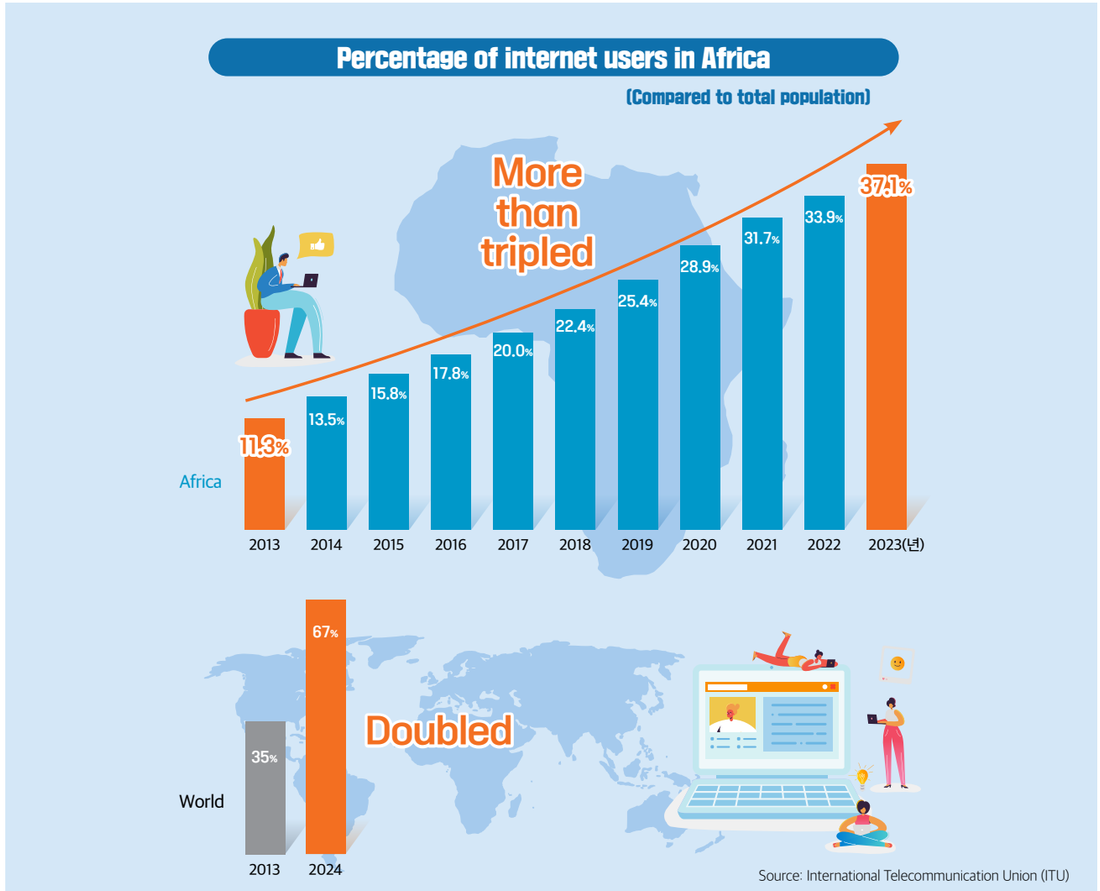
Q. How do you plan to collaborate with international organizations such as KOICA in the field of education?
Collaborating with international organizations like KOICA in the field of education can be highly beneficial for improving the quality of education. For example, we can ensure that the collaboration aligns with Rwanda's national education goals and policies. This includes areas such as improving STEM education, increasing ICT integration, and promoting inclusive education, expansion of the infrastructure and provision of equipment and furniture to schools, training of trainers, etc.
Furthermore, we can leverage funding and resources to apply for joint funding from other international organizations and partners to support and expand collaborative initiatives.

KOICA's digital ODA projects in Africa

Africa's future is being transformed by digital technology

The African digital industry is growing rapidly every year. The percentage of internet users in Africa's total population has more than tripled compared to 10 years ago, and the proportion of people using smartphones exceeds 60% of the population. One billion people are covered by a mobile cellular network. According to a report by the International Finance Corporation (IFC), Africa's internet economy has the potential to reach 5.2% of the continent's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) by 2025, contributing nearly $180 billion to its economy. As digital technology garners attention as a solution for various development challenges, the African Union (AU) is also establishing a digital transformation strategy and actively accelerating its implementation.

The 'Korea-Africa Summit' held in Korea last June was a platform to discuss cooperation aimed at realizing Africa's potential. Korean government announced 'Tech4Africa Initiative' which aims at enhancing digital capabilities of the youth in Africa and decided to support three areas: improving digital skills for youth, vitalizing a digital economy, and building a safe and resilient society.



As of 2024, there are 13 projects in 9 countries focused on digital competency development and start-up support, and 11 projects in 7 countries focused on e-government.

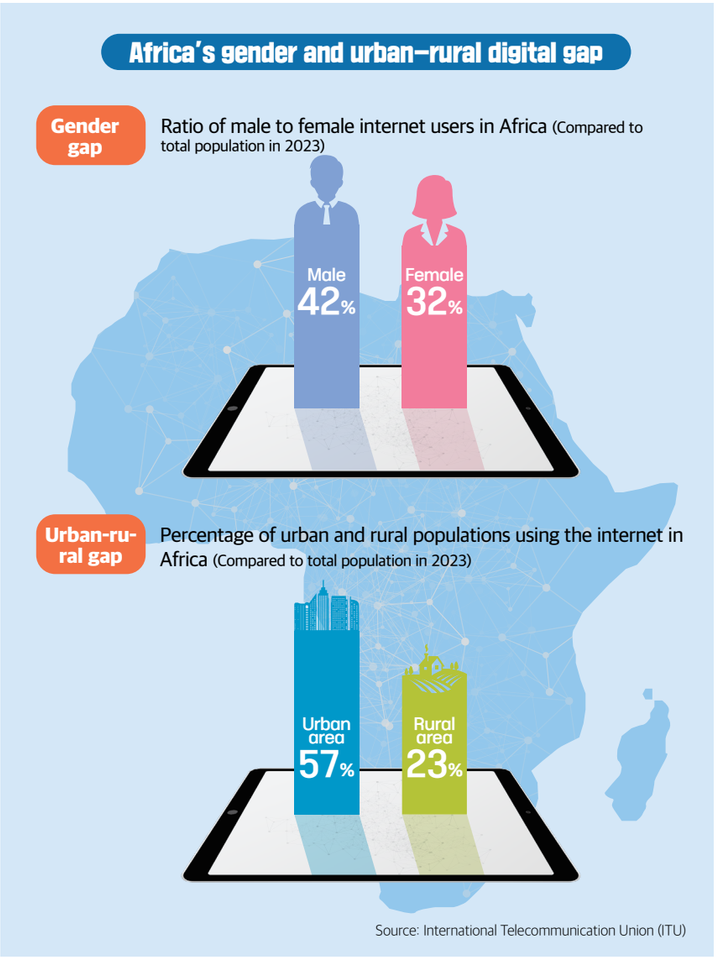
KOICA recognized the importance of digital ODA in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals early on and has been expanding related ODA projects. In particular, as global digital transformation accelerates due to COVID-19, KOICA established the 'Digital Transformation Strategy (2021-2025)' to lay the foundation for strategic project initiatives. A total of 366 digital ODA projects were carried out over the five years from 2018 to 2023, accounting for 24.2% of all projects by budget size.

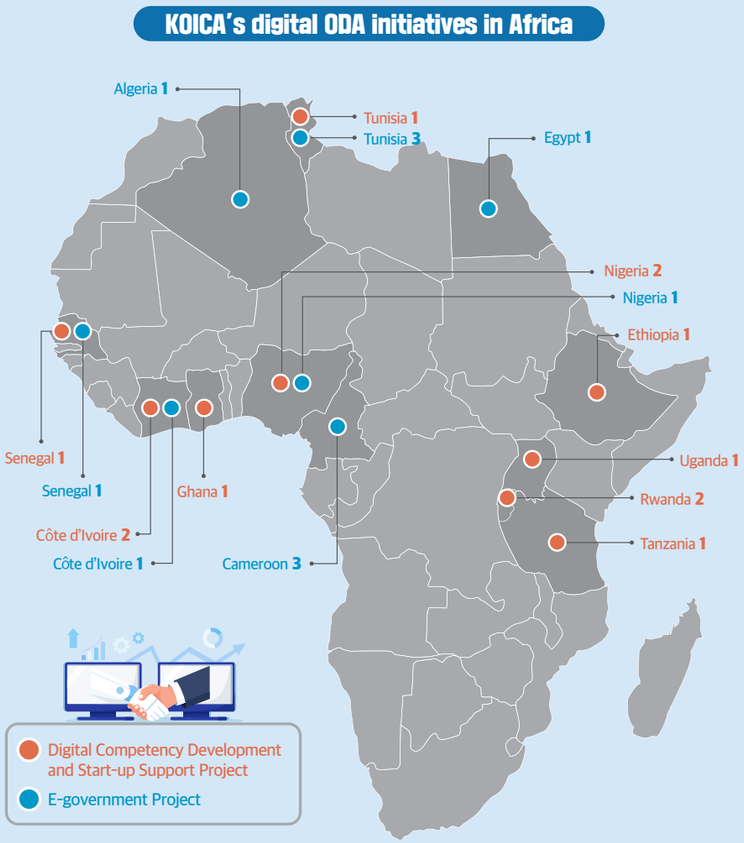
KOICA's digital ODA is being actively promoted in various forms across Africa. As of 2024, there are 13 projects in 9 countries focused on digital competency development and start-up support, and 11 projects in 7 countries focused on E-government.

Son Song-hee, head of KOICA's Digital Health and Social Development Team, pointed out that African countries face both opportunities and challenges in the era of digital transformation. She said, "Africa is facing great opportunities thanks to its young and dynamic population structure, rapid diffusion and active use of mobile technology, and growth of the startup ecosystem based on innovative ideas," adding, "However, there are challenges such as the lack of infrastructure such as internet and electricity, the digital gap caused by imbalance in the dissemination of digital technology, and security and privacy issues."

She continued, "KOICA is supporting sustainable and inclusive development in Africa through projects focused on 'accelerating entry into the digital economy' and 'addressing the digital gap', as well as promoting transparent and efficient governance through the e-government project," and stressed, "Given the high demand for Korea's IT technology and e-government solutions from African countries, KOICA will continue to strive to offer tailored support by taking into account each country's infrastructure, digital policies, and readiness for the 4th industrial revolution ecosystem."

The first field of the three signature programs announced by KOICA on the occasion of this 'Korea-Africa Summit' is 'Digital Education for Future Africa'. In addition, digital technology is expected to be used as an important solution in promoting other signature programs such as 'Innovative Rural Community for Rising Africa' and 'Empowerment of Health System for Safe Africa'.





KOICA's major digital ODA project cases in Africa

Country	Project name	Support scale
Rwanda	Rwanda Coding Academy Capacity Development Project (2021-2024)	$7.1 million
Ethiopia	Project to promote and support ICT based startups and SMEs(Small and Medium-sized Enterprises) to create quality jobs in Ethiopia (2020-2026)	$10 million
Uganda	Project for enhancing the distance education environment at the Makerere University in Uganda (2023-2028)	$12.2 million
Ghana	Project to Establish Ghana-Korea Center of Excellence (GK-IMPACT) for ICT-based Startups and Asian Research (2021-2026)	$9 million
Tanzania	Strengthening STEM Education in Tanzania (2023-2027)	$10 million
Egypt	The Enhancement of the Public e-Procurement in Egypt (2022-2026)	$7.9 million
Algeria	Project on Establishment of the Trade Single Window System for Algeria (2021-2025)	$7.5 million
Cameroon	Project for Enhancing Awareness and Capacity Building for Public Service Transformation in Cameroon (2022-2026)	$8.23 million

Health system strengthening for improving RMNCAH service delivery in 5 districts in Busoga sub-region, Uganda

Efforts for healthier mothers and healthier children


1

Located 150 km east of Kampala, the capital of Uganda, the Busoga region can be reached after a drive of over 3 hours. According to the 2016 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS), the total fertility rate in the Busoga region is 6.1, which is higher than the national average of 5.4. However, the level of maternal, child and adolescent health is below the national average. The infant mortality rate is 53 per 1,000 live births and the under-five mortality rate is 84 per 1,000 live births, higher than the national averages of 43 and 64 respectively. The proportion of infants aged 12 to 23 months who received required vaccinations is 45%, which is 10 percentage points lower than the national average and is practically the lowest in the country. In particular, the rate of women who underwent cesarean section was 2.6%, which was significantly lower than the national average of 6.2%.

KOICA, in collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO), has been implementing a project since 2020 to enhance services for Reproductive, Maternal, Newborn, Child, and Adolescent Health (RMNCAH) in order to strengthen maternal and child health facilities and provide medical equipment to hospitals and public health centers in the Busoga region. This marks the fifth year of the initiative. Specifically, health services have been provided, ambulances



2



and equipment have been procured, and capacity-building training in health has been conducted for local residents, including health personnel. The project targets a total of five locations in the Busoga region: Bugiri, Buyende, Kamuli, Iganga, and Mayuge. A total of $10 million (approx. KRW 136 billion) has been invested in this project, including $9 million from KOICA and $1 million from WHO.

Ambulances operate in villages across Uganda

It has become a familiar sight to see ambulances transporting pregnant women in Busoga. Just five years ago, during emergencies, most mothers were transported by motorcycles. Even then, the lack of adequate healthcare facilities discouraged hospital visits.

But things have changed now. With the support of KOICA and WHO, public health centres and hospitals have been equipped with proper medical equipment, and the installation of solar panels has made it possible to provide 24-hour care, building confidence that 'going to a hospital will ensure proper treatment'. KOICA has consistently provided medical equipment necessary for emergency obstetric services, such as delivery tables, dopplers, neonatal airway tubes, and neonatal resuscitation tables, to 30 local public health centers. There are a total of 7 ambulances supported by KOICA. Each ambulance transports an average of 146 patients per month. The ownership of the ambulances has been transferred to the currently operating public health centers, and the operating budget has been secured from the local community and the central government to ensure normal operation. To ensure the sustainability of its initiatives, KOICA has set up a community ambulance operating committee and is running training programs on operations.

It has become a familiar sight to see ambulances transporting pregnant women in Busoga. Just five years ago, during emergencies, most mothers were transported by motorcycles.

Currently, discussions are underway to include the KOICA initiative in the 'National Ambulance Operation Guidelines' being established by the Ugandan Ministry of Health.

Medical staff at local public health centers agree that the rate of prenatal care and deliveries within public health centers has increased. For instance, the rate of prenatal care for pregnant women in the Iganga region in the first quarter of this year improved by 25% compared to the fourth quarter of the previous year. Before the project, the number of births at the public health center averaged only 23 per month, but this number increased significantly to 66 in January alone. Mothers' satisfaction is high because they can directly hear the baby's heartbeat through the doppler, which measures the fetal heartbeat.

Comprehensive education 'from medical personnel to students'

Training programs for medical personnel are also a key aspect of the project. Even when high-end medical equipment is provided, there are cases where it may be neglected due to failure to utilize it properly.

KOICA has completed training on comprehensive emergency obstetrics, kangaroo care, and prenatal and postnatal care for 600 medical workers. As of the first half of last year, the number of professionals who received medical education and training amounted to 2,067. Additionally, KOICA fostered medical teams in 35 regional bases. In particular, counseling training for postpartum mental health management was provided, including testing for the mother's human immunodeficiency virus (HIV). Through this training, health workers have been able to provide more professional and efficient services, thereby contributing to raising the overall health level in the community. The education taking place in the educational field is also a notable change. This involves implementing a system where health education provided to teachers is passed on to students. So far, sexual health and hygiene education has been provided to 699 teachers and 2,464 students. The 'Health Club' established in each school included in the project is also actively engaged in activities. Students in the 'Health Club' are carrying out a variety of activities, including making reusable sanitary pads and discussing health issues.

The effects of education are evident in the field. For instance, at Kidera Secondary School in the Kamuli region, there were no reported cases of teenage pregnancy in the 2023 school year. This is the first time in the last 10 years that such an achievement has been made in the field of child protection.

Recently, exchanges have taken place between schools and local health centers. In the Mayuge region, following capacity building for teachers on adolescent sexual and reproductive health, a youth committee was formed within the school to liaise with health facilities. The number of students attending has increased almost sixfold, from around 100 initially to 600 recently. Last February, the Kiyerera Public Health Centre conducted 'on-site health education' at Kiyerera Middle School. Education sessions between schools and medical institutions will take place on a regular basis, once a month. In addition, Nakigo Middle School in the Iganga region is making efforts to spread health knowledge by inviting students from nearby Iganga Middle School to provide education on the Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR).

This project is a successful example of collaboration between development partners for sexual, reproductive, maternal, and child health in Uganda. In particular, the number of beneficiaries has significantly increased since 2024, thanks to the renovation of public health centers and the improvement of the water supply system. KOICA will continue to work with mothers and children in the Busoga region of eastern Uganda to help them maintain good health and improve their quality of life.

1 RMNCAH training site for youth in the Buyende area
2 RMNCAH training site for youth in the Mayuge
3 Maternal education provided at Iganga District Public Health Center
4 Exterior view of Buyende Regional Public Health Center



Rwanda Coding Academy Capacity Development Project, etc.

Something happened in Rwandan classrooms ‘when Education met ICT’



1

Information and communication technology is developing rapidly in Africa. As mobile phone regulations in Africa have been relaxed to allow competition between companies, the price of mobile phones has fallen, leading to a dramatic increase in the number of people using mobile phones. According to a UN study*, the number of mobile phone subscribers per 100 people reached 82 in 2022, almost doubling from 44 in 2010. In addition, the proportion of people using the internet increased tenfold, from 3 in 2010 to 26.5 in 2022.

The rapid development of information and communications technology has led to rapid progress in various fields. Many young people in Africa are increasingly using mobile technology to build digital platforms in various fields, creating industries and business opportunities. In particular, the use of ICT has improved the efficiency of work in almost all economic and social sectors, including finance, education, health, agriculture, distribution and public administration. KOICA has decided to support the strengthening of ICT education to bolster Africa’s rapidly developing ICT ecosystem. Among them, KOICA chose Rwanda as its business region because of its high potential in this field, and implemented in an integrated manner the ‘Rwanda Coding Academy Capacity Development Project’ to train future software professionals, the ‘Project of Capacity Development for ICT in Education (CADIE)’ to train ICT education manpower, and the ‘Strengthening Digital Literacy through Supporting Digital Ambassador Program’ to increase the digital literacy rate of Rwandan citizens.

* Source: UN E-Government Knowledgebase

Responding to the rapid growth of the ICT sector through education

Established in 2019, the Rwanda Coding Academy is the first institution in Rwanda to specialize in software education. Modeled after Korea’s software meister high schools, it was established to train 60 outstanding young people each year to become software professionals. Although it was quickly implemented by presidential decree at the time of its creation, there were many areas that needed improvement. Unable to afford a school building, they had to rent part of the building from the Nyabihu Technical Vocational Education and Training School to operate, and the curriculum was not well equipped. In addition, there were no licensing or diploma certification policies for specialized high schools, making it difficult for students to find employment after graduation.

Accordingly, KOICA is implementing the “Rwanda Coding Academy Capacity Building Project” with a budget of USD 7.1 million (approx. KRW 8.3 billion) starting from 2021. This initiative aims to enhance the capacity of the software developer training base in Rwanda and contribute to the development of the country’s ICT industry and economy.

The first project undertaken was to reorganize the school’s operational and educational systems. To address the challenges faced by the Rwanda Coding Academy, which was established without sufficient preparation and relying on existing curricula, KOICA developed a school-specific certification system, operational and quality control guidelines, an exclusive curriculum and specialized training programs. The much-needed issue of diploma certification was also addressed. KOICA has succeeded in establishing institutional status and securing public trust in diplomas by implementing essential policies for school accreditation, diploma certification, and quality control.

At the same time, KOICA is in the process of building a new campus and providing support for equipment to create a better educational environment. To address the Rwanda Coding Academy’s lack of basic infrastructure, KOICA plans to build a new 4,792m² campus. This will include an education building, a student exchange building and separate male and female dormitories, and is scheduled for completion in the second half of 2025. In addition, KOICA plans to quickly equip the schools with the necessary furniture, computers, networks and various ICT lab equipment to create different learning spaces such as a multimedia lab, an iOS lab and an embedded lab.

Great talent from great teachers

KOICA has also made significant efforts to train ICT education staff to teach students. According to Rwandan government statistics in 2015, appropriately qualified computer teachers accounted for only 60% of the total number of teachers. The ‘Project of Capacity Development for ICT in Education (CADIE)’ aimed at fostering Rwanda’s ICT education manpower, was conducted with a budget of 7 million dollars (approximately 8 billion won) over four years, from 2017 to 2020.

This project was implemented by improving the training skills of Rwandan secondary school teachers in the use of ICT. KOICA formed a joint task force team of Korean and Rwandan experts to develop a teacher training course tailored to the Rwandan environment. In particular, with the approval of UNESCO and the Ministry of Education, public confidence in the training program has been enhanced by officially awarding a UNESCO Essential completion certificate. To enable systematic teacher training, Korean experts, UNESCO, the Ministry of Education, the Education Bureau and the National University of Rwanda worked together to develop teacher training materials. KOICA has also established regional ICT smart classrooms to facilitate the smooth integration of ICT into school education. 69 smart classrooms have been selected across Rwanda. KOICA worked with the Rwandan government to set standards for smart classrooms and selected two or more schools in each of the country’s 30 districts to receive support for classroom refurbishment. The rooms were equipped with laptops, LCD projectors, screens and sound equipment.

Becoming an African ICT hub

Although Rwanda is implementing various government policies utilizing ICT, the digital literacy rate of its citizens is very low. This makes it difficult to disseminate and implement the policy. As of 2019, Rwanda’s digital literacy rate is around 20.4%, and the computer literacy rate for youth aged 15 to 24 is very low at around 6.5%. In addition, the gender gap in digital literacy has become more pronounced. According to the International Telecommunication Union, Rwanda’s overall internet utilization rate as of 2020 is low, at 23.8%. Based on this, when the Information and Knowledge Access Gap Index was applied by gender, it was found that women accounted for only about 70.3% compared to men.

KOICA has developed a plan to help Rwandans utilize digital-based services and enhance digital literacy. It supports the activities of approximately 400 young Digital Ambassadors and 30 Digital Ambassador Supervisors who will spearhead digital literacy education in the local community. After completing various ICT utilization and lecture capacity building programs, they are deployed to regional areas to assist in enhancing the ICT capabilities of residents in digitally underprivileged areas.

In particular, an invitational training programme will be conducted for Digital Ambassador Supervisors to experience and explore Korea’s related services and technologies, which can be used as a reference for the introduction of new Internet services in Rwanda. In addition, KOICA will develop a Service Access Point(SAP) Improvement Strategy and Implementation Plan, which will include operational objectives and management plans to improve local residents’ access to digital services, and on this basis will support the procurement of equipment and materials to build a pilot Service Access Point by 2025. Various ICT support projects based in Rwanda are creating remarkable ripple effects. Some 30,000 secondary school teachers have received training to enhance their competency in utilizing ICT through the project, representing 94% of Rwanda’s secondary teachers. Meanwhile, the World Bank is providing additional training to all elementary school teachers using the curriculum developed by KOICA. The number of smart classrooms in Rwanda will also be increased from the original 60 to 69*. In addition, 56 of the 57 first-year graduates of the Rwanda Coding Academy, Rwanda’s first specialised high school, were recommended for bachelor’s scholarship programmes at leading national and international universities. Nine students went on to study at prestigious American universities such as Columbia University, enhancing the school’s reputation as a high school for gifted students in the recipient countries.

* 61 completed, 8 more under construction

1 ICT System Development Hackathon: Rwanda Coding Academy’s specialized education program

Interviews with RCA graduates

"ICT is the key to solving Africa's problems"

Since 2021, KOICA has been implementing a project to strengthen the capabilities of software-specialized high schools in Rwanda, with the aim of training African ICT personnel and expanding related infrastructure. Now, three years after the start of the project, how are the students who studied at the Rwanda Coding Academy (RCA), supported by KOICA, progressing, and what goals are they working toward? Through interviews with RCA graduates, KOICA gains new insights into the purpose and achievements of the Rwanda Support Project.

Q. Why do you think ICT skills are important in Africa?

Verite Makuza Mugabo The world is changing at an astonishing pace, with ICTs at the center of it all. Africa is also significantly affected by these changes, and there are numerous challenges in figuring out how to adapt. Africa is particularly rich in resources, which provides it with significant strengths in hardware manufacturing. However, I believe the development of the industry is still in its early stages. I believe that to strengthen this potential, we need to create opportunities for young people. This is why education is crucial.

Shallon Kobusinge Prior to enrolling in the RCA, I wasn't entirely sure of who I wanted to be or my position in this world. The three-year program at the RCA helped define my role in this world in a bigger picture. I believe computer science skills are critical in Africa because we are facing numerous challenges today in sectors like education, climate change, transport, etc., and I think that young people like us are the ones who can address many of the problems we face in this regard.

Q. What specific areas did you focus on learning at the RCA?

Gervais Ishimwe The RCA systematically provides education in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics, also known as STEM. After enrolling, I immersed myself in a curriculum encompassing software programming, embedded systems, and network security, alongside core math and physics courses.


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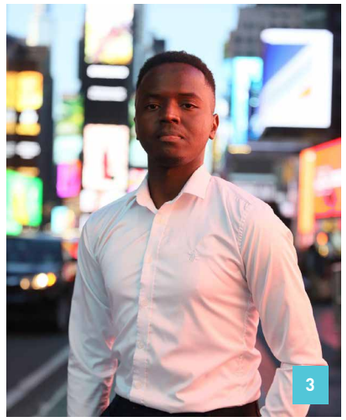
Q. What do RCA graduates mainly do now?

Didier Munezero Students who graduate from the RCA hope to secure jobs in software-related industries. If they are interested in furthering their studies, they also consider attending universities overseas. I am currently attending Northwestern University, pursuing a degree in computer science. Other students interviewed today are also majoring in computer, data, and information fields at American universities such as Columbia University, the University of Notre Dame, and Lehigh University.

Q. You have an impressive passion for learning in the field of ICT. What motivated you to enroll in the RCA?

Verite Makuza Mugabo A lot of ICT-related infrastructure is currently being built in Africa. As a result, Africa has achieved a lot of progress, but academic interest in the ICT field is still low. In this situation, the RCA offered a very good solution. I had enough time to hone my programming fundamentals, which helped me succeed in different internship positions.


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Didier Munezero The technologies the world needs are changing and evolving at a very rapid pace. To keep up with these changes, I believe that both rich theoretical education and diverse practical training must be provided. I enrolled in the RCA because it understands the fields students want to work in and provides an educational curriculum tailored to them.

Q. What are your future plans and goals?

Egide Nwari After completing my studies in the United States, my dream is to become an IT entrepreneur. Even if it is small in scale, I believe that the changes brought about by ICT will be innovative and have a huge impact. I aim to bring change to Africa, including Rwanda, particularly by promoting sustainable product development. I want to educate young Rwandans about the innovation and creativity of technology, as I have learned, and I believe this will ultimately lead to social innovation solutions.

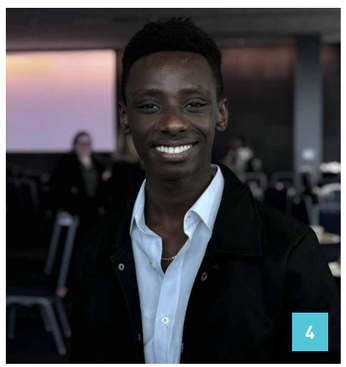
Gervais Ishimwe After my studies, I aim to specialize further in machine learning, considering graduate school to deepen my understanding and skills in this field. I want to innovate technology related to machinery, and in the future, I would like to collaborate with fellow Rwandan engineers to solve the technological problems that Rwanda is facing and contribute to the country's growth.

Q. If you have any messages you'd like to convey to the Korean government or Koreans, please feel free to share.

Shallon Kobusinge Thank you for your contribution and partnership with Rwanda. Through your support, we were able to bring about significant change in the local community, and we witnessed firsthand how education is gradually enriching the lives of people in society and the country. What is especially amazing is that, thanks to the support from the RCA, most of our graduates are now able to pursue their big dreams of empowering Rwanda's future generations.

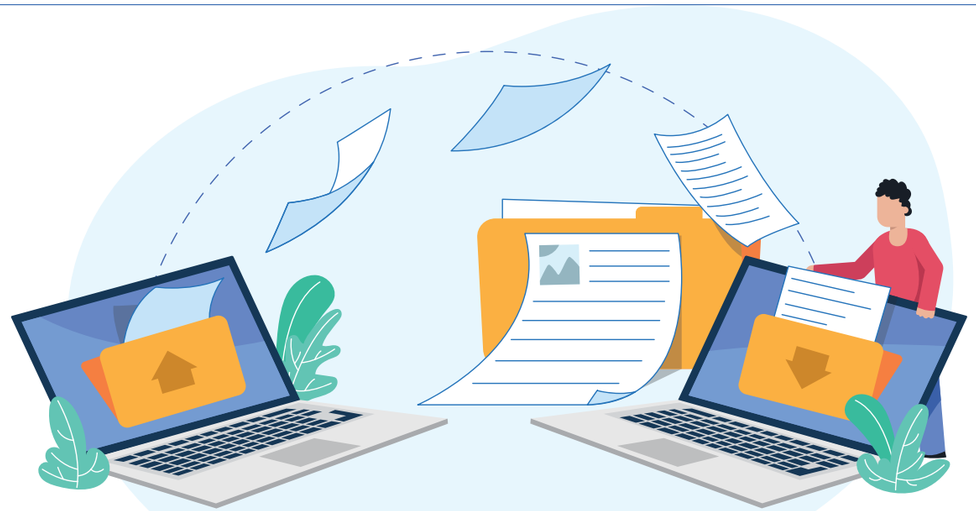
Didier Munezero First of all, I want to thank you for your partnership with Rwanda. Your contributions have been pivotal in helping me and my colleagues discover opportunities that allowed us not only to develop ourselves but also to serve our community. We are committed to paying it forward, ensuring that others benefit from our experiences in the future, just as we have benefited from KOICA's support.

1 Didier Munezero
2 Shallon Kobusinge
3 Gervais Ishimwe
4 Egide Nwari


4

Project on Establishment of the Trade Single Window System for Algeria

Algeria's full-fledged one-stop trade economy with the introduction of 'Single Window'



The era of overseas direct purchase! Personal customs clearance codes are not unfamiliar to consumers who purchase products directly from global online shopping malls. According to the Korea Customs Service earlier this year, the cumulative number of customs clearance codes issued increased from 1377 million in 2019 to 2544 million at the end of last year. It exceeded 25 million for the first time in history. The personal customs clearance code is a specialized identification code for direct purchases from overseas that allows for quick customs clearance.

In this way, the internet-based electronic customs clearance service quickly and easily handles all customs clearance procedures, including customs declaration and tax payment, for individual or corporate import and export goods. In particular, Korea's excellent electronic customs clearance system is being disseminated overseas through Official Development Assistance (ODA) projects.

KOICA is pursuing the Project on Establishment of the Trade Single Window System for Algeria over a five-year period starting in 2021. It is called the Trade Electronic Single Window system. The aim is to create a one-stop system for Algeria's 25 government agencies to handle export- and import-related tasks using electronic documents. The Single Window will serve as the basis for the electronic documentation of up to 100 trade-related forms, facilitating the exchange and use of information between the Algerian Customs Department (DGD) and the National Import and Export Agency (CBRA), as well as electronic payment (e-payment) in trade transactions.

'One-stop' for export and import transactions of 25 government agencies

According to the World Bank's Doing Business report, Algeria's international trade index ranks 172 out of 190 countries. In particular, customs clearance is still manual and based on paper documents. The complexity and inefficiency of issuing import and export documents and the lack of cooperation between ministries in controlling customs clearance are seen as major causes of the decline in trade competitiveness. As a result, corruption in customs procedures is inevitable.

Algeria's processing time for documents required in international trade and related costs are high at 176% and 154% of neighbouring countries, respectively. Jang Bong-hee, Director of KOICA's Algeria Office, said, "Like UNI-PASS, which electronically processes Korea's customs duties, the Single Window can unify export and import administrative procedures by integrating the work of various trade-related ministries," and explained, "In simple terms, it's a system that links the Food and Drug Administration and the Customs Service, whose approvals are needed, for example, for the export and import of pharmaceuticals".

The Algerian government is implementing a customs information modernization project in partnership with Korea. In 2017, Algeria requested the Korea Customs Service to implement an electronic customs clearance system in Algeria. Out of a total budget of $30 million, the first $23 million is provided through Korean companies using the Algerian government's own budget, and the second $7.5 million Single Window project is being promoted with KOICA. This is a very unusual request given Algeria's diplomatic stance.

Director Jang stressed that "Algeria, which still bears the scars of colonialism and the pain of the war of independence, is concerned about the influence of foreign powers, so it is national policy not to participate in loan projects from development banks such as the World Bank or credit assistance organisations such as the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF)". At the same time, she said, "The reason Algeria does business with Korea in sensitive areas such as customs is because it has built trust in Korea as a technology cooperation partner".

From KOICA's perspective, the recipient government's initial investment of a large amount of its own budget provides a favourable environment for achieving business results, as it minimises business risk factors and promotes the project under the strong ownership of the Algerian government.

Spreading Korean know-how beyond Algeria to three North African countries

Now in its fourth year, the project is drawing to a close. Construction of the system will be completed shortly, and full operations and training will begin in May. KOICA predicts that by 2026, the processing rate of electronic documents confirming requirements for each relevant agency will exceed 60%. Director Jang said, "The level of satisfaction of the Algerian customs service is very high. The Algerian government expects to shorten logistics time by unifying import and export operations for each agency and to maximize the effectiveness of national administration by preventing smuggling and tax evasion."

KOICA is also implementing trade and economic diversification technology projects in three North African countries, including Morocco and Tunisia, in addition to Algeria. This joint project with the International Labor Organization (ILO) aims to improve vocational training programs and job placement services to address skills gaps in export-competitive industries. A total of $5.22 million has been invested in the project over four years from 2019 to this year.

What the three countries have in common is that there is a huge gap between supply and demand for technology. They also lack the capacity to address this problem. Because the views of the private sector are not properly reflected in the government education system, the technical training needed for industrial sites is not provided.

In particular, in Algeria there is no implementing agency that manages the labor market at government level. In Morocco, the National Agency for the Promotion of Employment and Skills (ANAPEC) is also not providing much help to unskilled workers or jobseekers who do not meet the qualifications. In Tunisia, the National Centre for Training of Trainers and Training Engineering (CENAFIF) conducted a sectoral skills needs assessment using the Canadian competitive approach, but the project was discontinued several years ago.

In 2016, the ILO supported the conduct of a technology needs assessment through the STED project and recommended the establishment of a national human resource development organisation, which has not yet been implemented.

Through this project, KOICA has focused on increasing the trade value of three industries, including home appliances, olives and dates, and examining the value chain of the industries. Director Jang said, "KOICA presented 6 axes to promote trade and investment and provided action plans for each government," adding, "This is particularly recognized as a business achievement for the Algerian government, which is trying to find export items other than oil and natural gas exports."





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Project for the improvement of student achievements through multimedia education capacity building and teacher incentive program in Nigerian public primary and junior secondary schools

Nigerian education dressed in 'Smart'

It was only 30 years ago that Korea embarked on the digital transformation of education. The government initiated the digital transformation in 1996 with the implementation of the 'Phase 1 Basic Plan for Educational Informatization.' According to the '2023 Digital Education White Paper' published by The Korea Education and Research Information Service (KERIS) in February, one in every two elementary school students in Korea has received a computer or tablet PC. The number of digital devices per teacher is 2.13, providing the conditions for teaching with a variety of digital technologies. Starting in 2025, 'AI digital textbooks', in which AI will act as an assistant teacher to diagnose students' learning levels in advance and provide educational content, will be introduced to schools.

Korea's leading digital education model is expanding overseas through international development cooperation projects. In Nigeria, Africa's most populous country, the construction of 'smart schools' is in full swing with the support of KOICA. It is part of a project to develop guidelines and strengthen operational capabilities to establish a digital-based education model. In this project, which started in 2021, a budget of $10.41 million (about 14 billion won) will be invested until 2025.

Nigeria's Universal Basic Education Commission (UBEC), with support from KOICA, is building 'smart schools' in six major locations across the country, including the federal capital. The smart schools are spread evenly across 37 locations in the country, including Bauchi State, Kano State and Nasarawa State. The state government provides the school land, UBEC establishes the school, and KOICA builds the capacity of the smart school management to train teachers and develop ICT learning content.

Through this project, 4,320 students will receive direct digital education, and 480 teachers in elementary and middle schools will receive capacity-building training. In particular, teachers and students across the country who use ICT curriculum content based on the pilot schools can now benefit from digital education.

There is a huge divide in Nigerian education between public and private schools. According to Nigeria's UBEC digital facilities status report, computer penetration in public elementary schools nationwide is only 5.6%. This compares with a computer penetration rate of 52.2% in private elementary schools. In particular, only about 14% of public elementary schools were found to have electricity.

The pilot school aims to strengthen public education through digital education infrastructure. Each school will have 20 classes, including 2 kindergarten classes, 12 elementary classes and 6 middle school classes. In addition to classrooms for 40 students each, there are separate broadcasting rooms, computer labs, science rooms, libraries, and special classrooms for hearing and visually impaired students. KOICA supported the supply of learning materials and IT equipment, as well as the construction of a broadcasting room to enable the smart schools to deliver lessons using ICT content.

UBEC aims to improve the educational environment and quality of education by creating an ICT-based public school model across Nigeria. Specifically for sustainable management, UBEC plans to hire its own school manager for at least five years to establish the school's overall management system and then hand it over to the state governments.


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KOICA supported the supply of learning materials and IT equipment, as well as the construction of a broadcasting room to enable the smart schools to deliver lessons using ICT content.

"Investing in teachers is investing in students"

Building a digital education infrastructure is important, but effectively utilizing it is another matter. In Nigeria, there are no official statistics on digital or ICT-related literacy rates at the national level. According to a study*, the average computer literacy rate of public and private teachers nationwide is 59%. Reducing regional disparities is also a key issue. The level of computer literacy of the regional bases was 45% in the North East, 48% in the North West, 64% in the South East and 74% in the South West.

The Nigerian government is driving digital transformation. Through the National Digital Economy Policy and Strategy (2020-2030), the Ministry of Communications, Innovation and the Digital Economy aims to increase broadband penetration rate from the current 37.8% to 70% by 2025 and to accelerate internet download speed to 25 Mbps in cities and 10 Mbps in rural areas from the current 1.5 Mbps. As part of its strategy to support education, UBEC has set a goal of training 105,000 teachers capable of ICT-based teaching and 2,000 IT professionals.

* International Journal of Research in STEM Education (IJRSE) A Study of Computer Literacy Among STM Teachers in Colleges of Education in Nigeria(May 2020)



KOICA judged that it would be difficult to promote a smart school master plan at the federal level, given the unique characteristics of Nigeria, which has clear local decentralization. For this reason, KOICA suggested that UBEC and the state government develop smart school guidelines to effectively run the school curriculum in line with the completion and opening of the school. In particular, collaboration between state governments has been encouraged through the Smart School Committee, paving the way for a wider application across the country.

The focus of this project is to strengthen teachers' ICT capabilities. A small number of leading ICT teachers were trained to improve the capabilities of general teachers, and general teachers were instructed to deliver lessons using ICT. The trained lead teachers and developed programs will be utilized to continuously enhance the capabilities of teachers in Nigeria's smart schools in the future.

KOICA also organized and supported research groups for each subject, such as mathematics and science, in elementary and middle schools. Teachers belonging to the Curriculum Research Council were encouraged to develop ICT content suitable for the Nigerian teaching context through school-based learning community activities. The content was certified as a standard model by the National Education Research and Development Council (NERDC) for use throughout Nigeria.

KOICA is planning to hold a 'Smart Education Fair' in six states in August, together with Nigeria's UBEC. The fair selects and awards cases of excellence in school management, teaching and learning methods and student achievement. Through this process, schools that have adopted innovative approaches and effective teaching methods in the field of education seem to receive attention. The Smart Education Fair is expected to be a good opportunity to promote innovation and development in the education field and to recognize the efforts of excellent educational institutions.



1 Invitation training: Visit to an elementary school in Jochiwon, Sejong City
2 Invitational training for teachers: Participation in COEX EdTech Expo
3 Digital device experience at the National Science Museum
4 Digital literacy/Pedagogy/Copyright education (2023)
5 Korea-Nigeria smart school principals' round table conference (2022)
6 Lead Teachers local training: Micro-teaching presentation (2024)

Steven HEO, CEO of the Corporation Africa Insight

A different view of Africa

*The content of this column may differ from the editorial direction of the magazine.



Worldwide interest in the African region is hotter than ever. Several countries have been holding summit meetings to promote cooperation with Africa. Japan has been hosting summit cooperation meetings through the Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD) since 1993, while China has been doing so through the Forum on China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) since 2000. The United States, United Kingdom, France, India, and Russia have also been engaging in cooperation with Africa, and the Italy-Africa Summit was recently held in January 2024. Korea initiated a new plan for Korea-Africa cooperation with President Roh Moo-hyun's visit to three African countries in 2006, and since then, the Korea-Africa Forum (KAF) of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Korea-Africa Economic Cooperation Forum (KOAFEC) of the Ministry of Strategy and Finance have been held regularly. In June this year, Korea hosted the first Korea-Africa Summit, inviting African heads of state. There may be many reasons why many countries are paying special attention to the African region, but it is evident that the significance of the African continent to the international community is growing day by day. But how much do we really know about Africa? First, let's learn the most fundamental aspects of the African continent.

Ski resorts in Africa?

How large is Africa? To answer accurately, you need to be aware of the hidden secrets



Steven HEO CEO of the Corporation Africa Insight

He majored in philosophy and psychology in college. He has worked as an international volunteer activist in Tanzania and Senegal. In 2013, he established and currently manages Africa Insight, an international cooperation and advocacy NGO focusing on the African region. He is the author of the book <Tanzania as it is> and serves as a member of the Evaluation Committee for the Affiliated Organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



behind the commonly seen world maps. The maps we are familiar with are Mercator projections, designed to facilitate navigation during the Age of Exploration. In this map, regions near the equator appear smaller, while those near the poles seem relatively larger, leading to a misconception about their actual size. On the other hand, the Peters projection was devised to show the area of each country and continent more accurately. Comparing the two maps, you can see that the African continent appears smaller than its actual size on the commonly seen maps. In reality, the combined area of the United States, China, India, Mexico, Peru, France, Spain, Papua New Guinea, Sweden, Japan, Germany, Norway, Italy, New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Greece is similar to that of the African continent. The African continent occupies approximately 20% of the Earth's land area and stretches approximately 8,000 km from north to south and 7,400 km from east to west.

Do you know how many countries there are in Africa? Many people guess around 30. However, there are actually 54 countries in Africa (according to the United Nations). There are 49 countries in Asia, the largest continent, and by comparing these, you can see how many countries there are in Africa. You might be thinking, "Are there that many countries in Africa?" The easiest way to find out is to search for the names of each of the 54 African countries on an internet search site. Especially in the case of countries whose names are unfamiliar to you, it will be a new discovery and learning experience.

What is the weather like in Africa? Generally, there's a widespread misconception that Africa is "hot." Certainly, the African continent is positioned along the equator, and North Africa and the regions south of the Sahara Desert commonly have hot and humid or arid climates. However, Africa's climate is much more diverse than commonly perceived. Even at similar latitudes, Nairobi, the capital of Kenya, and Addis Ababa, the capital of Ethiopia, have mild temperatures year-round, providing very comfortable living conditions. Meanwhile, in Morocco, Algeria, South Africa, and Lesotho, there are areas where you can enjoy snow or skiing in the winter. The expression "Daefrica," a combination of Daegu, one of the hottest cities in Korea in the summer, and Africa, is the result of oversimplifying the diverse climates and weather of the African continent.

So, how many languages are spoken in Africa? This question is challenging to answer without background knowledge. According to linguists, there are approximately 2,000 languages spoken in Africa. For instance, Nigeria alone has more than 500 languages. Due to this linguistic diversity, individuals across Africa often speak several languages. The abundance of languages reflects Africa as a land where diverse peoples and cultures coexist.

African culture and economy attracting world attention

Africa also stands out in the realm of culture. The works of writers such as Wole Soyinka and Abdulrazak Gurnah, both Nobel Prize in Literature laureates, Nigeria's 'Nollywood' (portmanteau of Nigeria and Hollywood) video content industry, which produces over 1,000 works annually, and the Mawazine Festival, a large-scale music festival in Morocco attracting approximately 2.5 million attendees, are representative examples. Furthermore, Afrobeats, gaining a surge in global popularity, boasts such great influence that even famous K-pop singers have recently released songs incorporating dance and rhythm. In addition, lesser-known traditional mask carvings from Congo and West Africa, which inspired Picasso's work, Tanzania's Tingatinga art genre, a unique African art form derived from the style of Tanzanian artist Edward Saidi Tingatinga, and the remarkable works of emerging writers and artists recently active online, are attracting public attention beyond borders.

Economically, there are disparities between countries and cities, but even amidst the global economic downturn, countries such as Ethiopia, Ghana, and Côte d'Ivoire have recorded annual average economic growth rates surpassing 6% over the past few years. Of course, this is partly due to the relatively small economic size and low starting point, but what is important is that the major countries leading Africa's economy are achieving rapid economic growth. Among the cities leading development, Johannesburg in South Africa, Lagos in Nigeria, Nairobi in Kenya, and Cairo in Egypt are emerging as hubs of finance, trade, and technological innovation. Additionally, young entrepreneurs are leading start-up innovation in Nigeria, South Africa, Kenya, Egypt, and Ghana, and there are many examples of technological innovation such as leapfrogging. For example, Kenya's M-Pesa is attracting global attention for its mobile financial services, and Nigeria's fintech industry is growing rapidly. In 2018, the signing and promotion of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), the world's largest single market, began, aiming to create a market worth approximately $1.3 trillion. If tariffs are eliminated and trade barriers are eased in the future, it is expected to have a positive impact on African economic development through job creation, improved productivity, and increased foreign direct investment.

> Africa stands out as the place that best preserves the original values of humanity in an increasingly harsh modern society.

Consideration and reflection needed on living together with Africa

It is necessary to reflect on whether we have oversimplified the diversity within the word 'Africa'. Amidst the world's competitive expansion of cooperation on the African continent, as mentioned at the beginning, a broad and balanced perspective from the general public on the African region is needed in order to move toward a relationship of true mutual development based on respect rather than unilaterally.

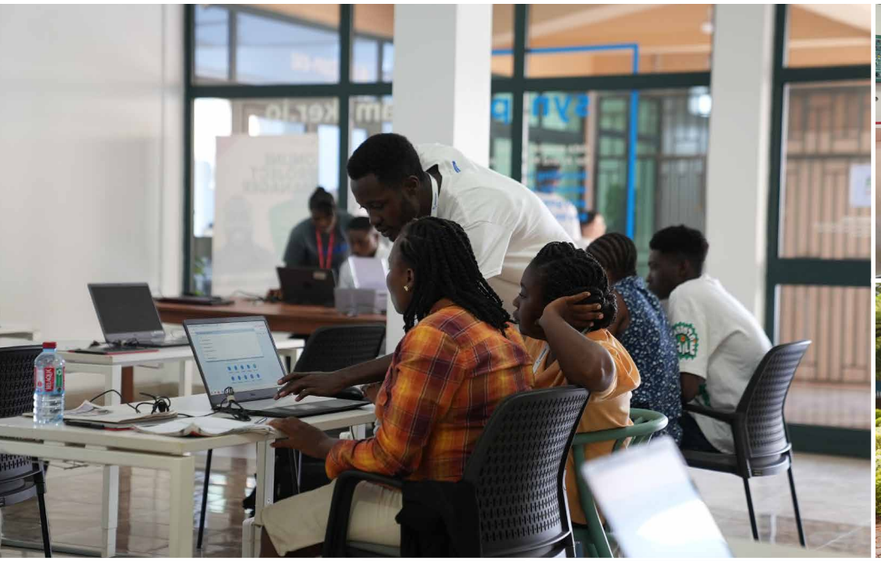
Of course, amidst your busy lives, you might wonder, "Do I really need to know about Africa?" Rather than adopting a partisan approach to this, I hope that readers will explore new facets of Africa that resonate with their interests. By doing so, I aspire that, akin to this summit, you experience intellectual enrichment by gaining deeper insights into Africa, a continent that has already become relevant to our lives and will continue to grow in significance in the future. If you get the chance, I recommend visiting Africa in person, as the saying goes, seeing is better than hearing. It will be a unique and special experience that will open your eyes to a whole new world.



When we examine world history, we come to realize that we all owe a debt to the African continent. This is because Africa endured significant challenges in modern history, including colonial rule and the slave trade. However, Africa stands out as the place that best preserves the original values of humanity in an increasingly harsh modern society. In this era when we face serious crises due to human alienation, pandemics, global economic downturn, and climate change, we must learn about the unique values and heritage of the African continent as global neighbors. It is a time for serious consideration and reflection on how to live together with Africa, rather than just offering unilateral aid.

Africa, a region that many of us have not personally visited and which may not have been extensively covered in formal education courses, might still feel unfamiliar and distant to us. However, on the occasion of the Korea-Africa Summit, I hope that readers will at least gain a new and balanced perspective on Africa through this brief article. Rather than being overly optimistic or overly pessimistic, I hope you see them as global citizens who are similar to us and have much to learn from each other. Taking it a step further, I wish that this would be an opportunity to see Africa not within the confines of a specific continent or country, but as an equal friend and neighbor to each and every person. I conclude this article with the hope for more opportunities for exchange and cooperation as global citizens.

1 Ski resort built in Morocco
2 African artist painting Tingatinga
3 Tanzanian novelist Abdulrazak Gurnah (Image source: Wikipedia)

























KOICA in Africa

As the youth change, so does the future

KOICA is implementing various youth education support projects, such as vocational training, digital education, and science and technology education, to help African youth become economically independent and grow into talented individuals who will drive national development.
KOICA is creating a bright future for Africa together with Africans.













1

Kim Ga-ram, PD of KBS1 <Walking Expenditure>

A place where sadness and beauty coexist, Republic of South Africa

*The content of this column may differ from the editorial direction of the magazine.

Asians, Europeans, and Africans flocked along the coastline where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet, making this land a pivotal base for the sea route connecting the East and the West.

As the plane descended, exclamations could be heard here and there. We were flying as if we were about to be sucked into a towering mountain, like a huge theater. The houses huddled together at the foot of the mountain looked like an audience. I came to the realization as I looked out of the window at Table Mountain, a 1,086-meter-high national park located north of Cape Town, South Africa. 'Landmark' is a term aptly used in situations like this. A milestone of this land, impervious to the ravages of time, found nowhere else in the world. I swiftly retrieved my camera from my backpack stowed under the seat. It was the first and last time I broke my promise not to work before landing.

A land of rich history and tolerance

For a cultural documentary producer, Africa is a land of both excitement and trepidation. Everyone dreams of a business trip to Africa at least once, in the excitement of being overflowing with items that have not yet been broadcast. However, the apprehension of venturing to such a distant place and successfully capturing the intended footage, coupled with the uncertainty of creating a program that will captivate Korean viewers with limited exposure to Africa, makes them hesitate to take a step there. For PDs who have to produce an output program, Africa is like an exam with no previous questions or wrong answer notes to consult. It was only after 7 years since I became a producer that I set foot in Africa for the first time. It was due to a promise I made to myself when I joined the KBS1 <Walking Expenditure> team. First, to visit a continent I had never been to before. Second, to travel to a large country that could represent that continent.

As spring was drawing to a close, I arrived in South Africa, transitioning across the seasons. In May, as the southern hemisphere entered into winter, the sunlight in Cape Town, the legislative capital, felt as warm as late spring in Korea. Cape Town's Mediterranean climate remains clear and mild throughout the year, making it extremely pleasant for travel and filming, dispelling any concerns about the off-season.

The weather wasn't the only factor that helped with filming. For the Asian woman holding a tripod and camera, Cape Town was a place entirely free from harsh stares or unpleasant confrontations. Thanks to the city's racial composition, more diverse than any other place I've visited, I, as a stranger, seamlessly blended into the streets. I was able to feel the city's rich history and culture of tolerance through the sight of different people living together in harmony, including an interracial couple I met in the East India Company's Garden, a same-sex couple on a boat heading to Robben Island, and Malaysian descendants from Bo-Kaap Village.



Kim Ga-ram KBS Cultural Documentary Producer

Graduated from the Department of Communication at Seoul National University and joined KBS where she directed <Walking Expenditure>, <Environment Special> and <Mysteries of the Human Body>.
In 2022, she won the Grand Prize at the Korea Communications Commission's Broadcasting Awards for her episode titled 'No Earth for Clothes' in the <Environment Special> series.





Sad history transformed into beauty

Cape Town, with the Cape Mountains that seem to rise from the sea and proudly stretch out toward the Atlantic Ocean, was already an international city 400 years ago. Asians, Europeans, and Africans flocked along the coastline where the Atlantic and Indian Oceans meet, making this land a pivotal base for the sea route connecting the East and the West.

A statue of the Dutchman Jan van Riebeeck stands in the center of the city, looking up at Table Mountain. Dispatched to Cape Town in the 1650s as the head of the Dutch East India Company, he initiated the importation of slaves to establish a supply base for ships bound for Asia. The people brought in had to build a colorful city during the day and then be locked in a dark barn at night. The reason why the locations where they were traded like commodities and the accommodations where they were confined are listed as must-see 'tourist attractions' is because they are integral to the origins of this beautiful city.

Nazwa, a publicist who helped film the slave quarters, said: "This city exists today because of our ancestors who were slaves. Many of Cape Town's famous attractions were built by their hands."

Standing in front of a harrowing picture depicting the inside of a ship full of people who had been forcibly taken there, her face was filled with pride, not sadness. It was a sense of pride that, thanks to the blood and sweat of ancestors, there exists the beautiful city that people from all over the world come to visit. Tens of thousands of people ended their lives without freedom, yet their lives were transformed into this city and memorialized forever.

It was not just Europeans and Africans who created Cape Town. In the colorful Bo-Kaap area, where British and Dutch houses stand side by side, the descendants of those brought from Southeast Asia have settled down. Awal Mosque, the oldest mosque in South Africa, housed a Quran written by an Indonesian immigrant more than 200 years ago. On one side of the wall, the clay and stones from when the mosque was built in the 16th century have been preserved. Mosque guide Ismail said that he feels the profound history of the mosque every time he looks at the wall crafted by the forcibly brought ancestors. As enjoyable as tasting the Cape Malay food brought to Africa by immigrants was conversing with various individuals who assembled under the name of 'South Africans.' In the foundation of this world-class city, with flavors of Asia, Europe, and Africa in every alley, lies the love and pride that its inhabitants proudly exhibit for this land.

A land of diverse charms, from relaxation to extreme activities

Even today, my travel lectures always begin with photos of South Africa. From Table Mountain and the Drakensberg Mountains, which elicit awe as soon as they appear on the screen, to beaches where penguins stroll along, to diving where you can lock eyes with a great white shark, and so on. For those who set out in search of something beyond their daily routines, South Africa is a travel destination that will never disappoint.

I'll never forget the peace I felt in Cederberg's cave lodge. The feeling of immersing myself in clear silence in a place where the rocks carved by the wind became a picture frame and the blue and red sky turned into a picture. That evening, with only the moon and sun facing each other on the horizon, became a serene respite in the midst of exhausting business trips.

South Africa is a destination where a diverse array of attractions that can only be experienced by traveling across a whole continent are gathered in one country, from recreation in Mother Nature, to exploration of historical sites, to world-class wines and gourmet food, to mountaineering, and to extreme activities.

As I reminisce about the warm, spring-like winter in South Africa, the faces of the Malay Muslim family I encountered at Table Mountain come to mind. An elderly couple, who had visited Table Mountain as newlyweds during the apartheid era, returned there decades later with their daughter. They were all smiles, saying they were treated much better at the ticket booth than before and that they finally felt a sense of complete freedom. I wonder how much South Africa, which has a deep history but is still busily changing towards the future, will change while I'm away. A place where descendants of indigenous people, immigrants and conquerors danced together in the square, while a statue of Nelson Mandela looked on with delight. Although it is far from anywhere else in the world, I miss that generous land that embraced everyone.

1 Cape Town city view. The mountain in the distance is Table Mountain.

2 Cape Town's Bo-Kaap village has now become a tourist attraction as residents painted their houses in vibrant colors to welcome the ban on discrimination against people of color.

3 Kim Ga-ram, trying out rock climbing at Table Mountain



Interview: Sonia Ben Salem, Director of HAICOP

"K-electronic procurement with high transparency and efficiency, optimal for the African environment"

A ceremony was held at the Korean embassy last June to present a commendation from the President of the Republic of Korea to Sonia Ben Salem, Director of the Tunisian High Authority of Public Procurement (HAICOP), for her role in the successful establishment of the Tunisian e-Procurement System (TUNEPS). HAICOP, to which she belongs, received the UN Government Partnership Regional Award in 2015 and the Korean Public Procurement Service Administrator's Commendation in 2022, but this is the first time she has received an award as an individual. Director Sonia Ben Salem has made significant contributions to promoting the excellence of K-Electronic Procurement beyond her home country and throughout the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region.

The Tunisian e-procurement system pilot construction project was carried out by KOICA, modeled on Korea's Online E-Procurement System (KONEPS), to establish an e-procurement system in Tunisia in two phases: first from 2011 to 2013, and then from 2019 to 2023. Through the active efforts and collaboration between KOICA and the Tunisian government to enhance the system, the use of TUNEPS



became mandatory for all Tunisian government ministries and public institutions in 2019.

Q. Congratulations on receiving a commendation from the President of the Republic of Korea. Please tell us how you feel about receiving the award.

I am extremely proud of myself because I have succeeded in achieving the goals of my institution. And I feel great to know that this accomplishment is important for me and my country.

Q. Please start by introducing HAICOP, the organization you belong to.

The High Authority of Public Procurement is a department affiliated to the Presidency of government. It's a kind of regulatory authority for Tunisian public procurement. It's in charge of the strategy of public procurement, legal framework audit, and control of public procurement.

> Through collaboration with KOICA, we are now a leader in e-procurement systems in Africa and the MENA region.

Q. Tunisia was the first country in Africa to launch TUNEPS in 2011, modeled after Korea's KONEPS (Korea ON-line E-Procurement System). Could you share the background behind this project at the time?

In the process of digitalization of the procurement process, there were various factors to adopt the Korean model(KONEPS). First of all, after the Jasmine Revolution in 2011, there was a demand from citizens to ensure transparency, fairness, and effectiveness in the field of public procurement. To this end, it was necessary to develop the field of public e-procurement. KOICA has accumulated know-how while operating projects related to the field of public e-procurement. KOICA was differentiated in that it not only improved productivity by using information and communication technology but also established reliable governance through innovation in public administration.

Through the e-procurement system established in the first Tunisia e-Procurement System Pilot Establishment Project (2011-2013), Tunisia was able to receive continuous support from international organizations such as AfDB, EBRD, OECD, KDI, and KEXIM. The initial project with KOICA played a major role in the success of TUNEPS.

Through the collaboration with KOICA, we are now a leader in e-procurement systems in Africa and the MENA region. For example, we are receiving requests from various countries, including Jordan and Cameroon, which have transplanted Korea's e-procurement system, to transfer experience and know-how, which naturally leads to South-South cooperation* and triangular cooperation*.



Q. In the process of electronicizing Tunisia's procurement, what specifically drew your attention to Korea's procurement system over other countries?

According to the results of several surveys, Korea has conducted a pilot project related to e-procurement. Secondly, the full digitalization of procurement in Korea represented the success of the higher level of end-to-end procurement. Thirdly, my institution has been cooperating with Korea since 2008.

Q. What are the most significant changes when comparing the period before and after the introduction of TUNEPS?

Since the introduction of TUNEPS in Tunisia, there have been improvements in procurement across the board, including the, the shortening of the procurement process you mentioned. Other than that, I would like to point out the transparency of all transactions and the fact that users can access these systems for free.

And with the use of digital-based e-procurement, it has become possible to track procurement procedures and results.

Q. What factors do you believe enabled TUNEPS to establish stable roots in Tunisia?

First of all, I can mention trust in the system of Tunisian people. In addition, TUNEPS resists all requests from users and considers them in the action plan. And we follow up on the treatment of requests and try to resolve the issues. Because we reflect such diverse feedback promptly, we have a high level of trust in the system.

In addition, in the process of developing TUNEPS system, KOICA did not simply transplant the Korean system but considered the sustainability of the project in Tunisia. The Korean company was in charge of the system design, but the procurement of equipment and software development was led by the Tunisian companies. As a result, if there was an issue with the system, it could be quickly maintained by a local company. Based on KOICA's concerns about sustainability, I believe that the system has been able to settle down well in Tunisia.

Q. The number of public institutions registered in TUNEPS has increased by 10,193%, from 14 in 2015 to 1,441 in 2022. That's a substantial increase. What does this mean for the field?



TUNEPS covers the public procurement process from planning to contracting and this study sheds a positive light on its successful implementation in the country. The study demonstrates that TUNEPS has, and continues to improve transparency and the efficiency of procurement, it has ushered in a series of reforms in the area of public procurement.

Q. Tunisia has now established itself as a hub for the Korean-style e-procurement business model that neighboring countries wish to benchmark. Jordan and Iraq are notable examples. What effects can be expected if e-procurement systems like TUNEPS are established in the Africa and Middle East?

Tunisia has more than a decade of experience operating systems and adapting them to local conditions. And I think it would be helpful to contribute to the development of countries in Africa and the Middle East that have similar cultural and administrative conditions to Tunisia. I think it can be a stepping stone to move away from the traditional ODA perspective and seek cooperation among developing countries.

Q. What have you felt while carrying out projects with KOICA over the years?

It has been a fruitful collaboration and a continuous joint effort.

This is an opportunity for us to run a new process for public procurement and to share valuable experiences between Tunisia and Korea. We are building partnerships together to promote and expand this e-procurement system.

Q. Finally, please share your thoughts with the Korean government and the Korean people.

Many thanks to the Korean government and KOICA for their cooperation with Tunisia. We hope to continue this effort to promote e-procurement and reforms globally.

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* **South-South cooperation:** A form of collaboration in which two or more developing countries pursue joint capacity development by exchanging knowledge, technology, and financial resources, or by promoting regional cooperation.
* **Triangular cooperation:** A form of aid in which two or more donors collaborate as facilitators and pivotal partners to support one or more beneficiary countries

project to strengthen the economic capacity of rural women in Kenya

From a supporting role in life to a leading role, their laughter blooming in a drought

It was the worst drought in 40 years. Across East Africa, including Kenya, Ethiopia and Tanzania, there was no adequate rainfall even during the rainy season due to climate change. The drought, which began with the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020, has lasted four years. In an area plagued by chronic food shortages, even crops and pasture for livestock have dried up. According to the World Food Program (WFP), more than 23 million people are facing extreme food insecurity as a result of the drought. The hardships of life have become more severe. Kenya is an arid region where 89% of the country receives less than 850 mm of rainfall per year. Due to this drought, 27% of the region's population (4.4 million people) faced a severe food crisis and 5% of the livestock (2.61 million animals) died.

KOICA has been promoting a project to strengthen the economic capacity of rural women in Kenya since 2020 when the drought began. This project focuses on supporting women who are vulnerable to climate change. In partnership with the Government of Kenya, UN Women, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and World Vision, KOICA has been working to build the capacity of women farmers in four provinces, including West Pokot, Laikipia, Kitui and Isiolo. KOICA helped women to secure food and generate income by providing agricultural and livestock techniques adapted to the changing climate. In addition, KOICA conducted leadership development training and self-help organization support programs to empower women to become the main agents of change. This project, which involved an investment of approximately 9 billion won, transformed the lives of 2,964 African women.



1

"The granary is full for the first time in a long time... I've been a happy farmer this year"

Avia Munyao(46), a resident of Kitui County, is a mother of three. She used to support her family by growing maize and using the proceeds to pay her children's school fees, but her income was often unstable. The challenges worsened in 2020 when the pandemic and drought coincided, making it even harder to sustain a livelihood. However, her circumstances took a positive turn when she enrolled in the KOICA program in 2021. Through the program, she attended classes that provided her with knowledge on farming techniques and goat husbandry adapted to the changing climatic conditions.

She planted a new crop, sorghum, known for its drought resistance. Sorghum thrived even under conditions of limited water availability. Last year, a total of 20 kilograms of sorghum was harvested. Of this, 1.3 kilograms was sold to other farmers as seed, while the rest is being stored for sale to a brewery. She also harvested 90 kilograms of mung beans, making a profit of $5,850 (about 7.75 million won).

Abia also reintroduced corn farming. This time, she used the "Zaipit" farming technology she learned from the KOICA program. This innovative method maximizes water use efficiency in arid areas by digging holes deeper than traditional farming methods.

"I have been a very happy farmer this season. I've never seen so much maize growing. I will harvest 4 bags and sell them when the price goes up accordingly".

She recently used her profits to buy more land and 10 more goats. Until three years ago she only had four, but now she has a total of 35. As she learned from the KOICA program, she checks the goats daily to see if they are sick and vaccinates them. The goats give milk every day. She milks 8 liters of milk every morning, drinks 2 liters with her family, and sells the remaining 6 liters. Last summer, she earned about 867,000 won by selling eight well-grown goats at the market.



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"Goats are like a gift from God. They don't require much initial capital and the returns are high. They are a great economic support for women in rural areas."

With the money she earns, she manages the household and pays school fees for her three children. As she gained confidence in herself, her opportunities expanded. She now holds several positions, including head of a village self-help organization and head of the local church council.

"The drought in Kitui County was severe, but after overcoming it, my life has improved immeasurably. It's all thanks to learning something new."

"I want to train more young leaders"

Julia Nyambura Wachira(30), a resident of Laikipia County, took over the leadership of a self-help organization for Kapron residents at the age of 29. She had previously received general training from KOICA on leadership, finance, marketing, and farm and land management. The residents decided to appoint a young leader in the hope of fostering a village environment where new oppor-





tunities and technologies could be effectively embraced and utilized. As a result, she was ultimately selected as the leader because of her unparalleled passion and active participation in KOICA training.
The self-help organization has a total of 17 members who meet regularly to discuss and share information on poultry farming, potato seed production, medicinal herb cultivation, and credit services.
After assuming the leadership of the self-help organization, she took the initiative to communicate directly with the local government, sharing the stories and concerns of the residents. Last year, she was elected as the youth representative to the Laikipia North Constituency Development Fund Committee and as the youth leader for Mukogodo East District in the Kenya Youth Union. She now voices the concerns of local residents and youth on a variety of issues, including water shortages caused by drought, community conflict issues, and funding challenges.



Wachira plans to establish more seed potato shops in the village and implement a system to increase seed potato production. She also wants to develop more active young leaders like herself.
"I am very grateful to have participated in a training that gave me insights into new areas such as leadership, agriculture, and finance. In the future, as a young leader, I will strive to encourage more young people to participate in the policy-making process. I hope that more colleagues will take responsibility and actively participate in regional development.

"I will give my children a college education and build a new house"

Selina Loron(50) raises four sons and six daughters in West Pokot. Loron is busy all day. She takes care of 15 chickens, 2 cows and 2 calves, while also farming 20,000 square meters of land. She provides five liters of milk to a nearby school every day. In addition, she serves on the management committee of a local church and school, and is the treasurer of a secondary school.
She was an ordinary farmer and housewife when she and 29 colleagues began training with KOICA in 2022. During this time, she learned accounting and now manages her household finances in a well-planned manner. She pays her children's school fees with the profits she earns from farming and selling milk, and saves the rest. Last year, with the money she saved, she increased the area of land under cultivation to about 40,000 square meters and expanded the scale of farming by buying fertilizer and seeds.
"I will continue to expand my business in the future. My goal is to give my children a college education and build a new home for my family.
Her husband is a strong supporter. Women who participate in the KOICA program often face conflict with their husbands at first. This is because Kenya's patriarchal culture leads husbands to oppose their wives' involvement in activities outside the home. She joined the program with her husband and received training to raise awareness of gender equality. As a result, her husband now takes care of the children and helps with household chores when she has outside commitments.
"There is still a stereotype that housework is only a woman's role, but it is something that men can also contribute to. I firmly believe that by nurturing the next generation with positive changes in gender roles, we can foster long-term cultural shifts that will significantly improve women's lives."
The project will conclude this year. During the remainder of the project, KOICA will work with the county government to establish a system to ensure that the impact continues after the project ends. Mr. Lim Jang-hee, Country Director of the KOICA Office in Kenya, said, "KOICA plans to increase the number of beneficiaries from the current 3,000 to 10,000 by identifying follow-up projects and securing government funding. He added, "KOICA will strive to promote sustainable change in the final phase of the project.

1 Avia Munyao
2 Julia Nyambura Wachira
3 Ceremony to donate beekeeping kits to improve the economic capacity of Kenyan women
4 Kenyan couple showing produce harvested using climate-smart farming methods
5 Selina Roron

From electric blankets to baby cries to Hakuna Matata

'The Real Africa' as told by KOICA employees who 'know a bit' about Africa

How different is the Africa we think we know from the real Africa? KOICA employees with experience working in Africa gathered to share a plethora of vivid African stories from their experiences. The high-quality, five-person African talk show, produced as YouTube content, is lively, interesting, and full of useful tips and information, and can be watched directly on KOICA's official YouTube channel.

Chairperson
Park Da-seul Public Relations and Communications Office / Public Relations Officer / Worked in Ethiopia
Panel
Lee Ji-hyun Conflict, Fragility and HDP Nexus Team / Manager / Worked in Cameroon
Kim Dong-rib Africa Team I / Director / Worked in Rwanda·Senegal
Park Seo-yeon Africa Team I / Associate / Worked in Tanzania
Lee Gyu-hong Department of Southeast Asia I / Manager / Worked in Senegal·Cameroon·Egypt



Chairperson Park Da-seul Among the countries or regions you have lived in, is there a place where you would say, 'I really want to tell you about this'?

Manager Lee Gyu-hong I lived in Cameroon for 4 years and in Senegal for 3 years. I volunteered in Egypt before joining KOICA. Personally, I found Senegal to be a great place for families to live, thanks to its pleasant weather and beautiful beaches. Dakar, the capital of Senegal where I lived, is the westernmost point of the African continent. Traveling north along the coast, it is just south of the Sahara Desert, which has a desert climate. It's fascinating to experience various climates. Senegal's Pink Lake is also renowned for its unique pinkish hue.

Director Kim Dong-rib I worked in Rwanda for three years starting in 2012, and Koreans who came to Rwanda of-

ten said it was a good place to live after retirement. Located at a high altitude in Africa, Rwanda is comfortable to live in because there is little temperature variation throughout the year. Additionally, the people are hardworking, and the environment is relatively clean.

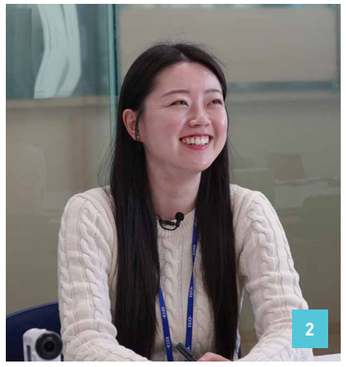
Associate Park Seo-yeon I think Tanzania is great as a resort city or travel destination. I think natural scenery such as mountains, fields, and the sea is beautiful. I lived in a port city called Dar es Salaam where it was pleasant to live, and the sea was very beautiful.

Chairperson Park Da-seul Have any prejudices or illusions you had before leaving for Africa ever been shattered?

Associate Park Seo-yeon When I think of Africa, the images that come to mind are grasslands, the Lion King, and 'Hakuna Matata' (Swahili for 'no problem'). When I went there, there really was a lot of Hakuna Matata. I once rented equipment to go snorkeling on Zanzibar Island, and when I asked the staff to bring me flippers, they said, "Hakuna matata~" and just walked away. I ended up snorkeling barefoot. It seemed like they were thinking, "What do you think? We're just playing in the water." Looking at that, I felt, "These people are less worried and more optimistic than we are," and "They view the world positively."

Director Kim Dong-rib Aren't there similar words in other African countries? In Rwanda, they say 'Nta Kibazo' (Kinyarwanda, meaning 'No problem'), and in Senegal, they say 'Inshallah' (Arabic, meaning 'God willing').

Chairperson Park Da-seul A thought suddenly occurred to me, and if I tell you, everyone will agree. Africa isn't always hot. It's even cold. Before I was dispatched to Ethiopia, my predecessor there said, "Be sure to bring an electric


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blanket." I didn't know what he was talking about at the time, but I thought I absolutely had to have an electric blanket. There is a large daily temperature difference, so it is quite cold at night and in the morning.

Manager Lee Ji-hyun: It was my first time encountering African culture after joining KOICA. Until then, I had not thought about the differences between countries in Africa, but after joining KOICA and experiencing them firsthand, I

"Everything's OK with 'Hakuna Matata', the power of positivity felt in Africa"

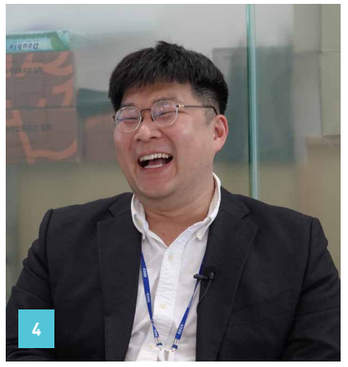

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realized that "even within Africa, each country is very different." In other words, the significant difference before and after encountering African culture was the realization that it is a continent where diversity must be respected. I went on a business trip to Morocco, Côte d'Ivoire, and Cameroon in North Africa. These three countries are so different, I wonder 'how varied the other countries are in detail?' I think the individuality and characteristics of each of the many countries or tribes on the African continent are incredibly diverse.

Director Kim Dong-rib Since the identity of each of the 50 or so countries in Africa is unique, as Manager Lee said, neighboring countries may share similarities, but each country seems to have its own distinct characteristics. It is as if Korea is different from Japan and China, even though it is next to them.

Manager Lee Gyu-hong Since KOICA is an organization that supports the development of developing countries, I thought Africa would welcome all of our KOICA employees. But when I actually got there, I found out that wasn't the case. In terms of supply and demand, it was actually the other way around. There are many suppliers (donors) including KOICA, the US, and the UK, but there is only one consumer or recipient. As competition was forming among suppliers, I thought, 'KOICA needs to think a lot and provide strategic support so that they will welcome us' and 'We need to work hard.'

Chairperson Park Da-seul I think most of you have a memorable episode from your time in Africa. In my case, in Rwanda, our car had an accident with the car in front while driving. If it had been Korea, the process would have been complicated, including contacting the insurance company, but the driver of our car said, "Are you OK?" and shook


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hands with the driver of the car in front, quickly completing the process. The driver said, "If it's not a big problem and you're not hurt, just leave," so it remains an unforgettable memory for me.

"When you hear babies crying here and there, you realize you're in Africa"

Manager Lee Ji-hyun I got my driving licence in Korea, but I started driving in Cameroon, so I think I'm more familiar with that culture. Even when I come to Korea, if my car gets scratched, I just say, "The car got scratched," and move on without checking the black box.

Director Kim Dong-rib There are so many babies in Africa that you can hear them crying here and there. We often use the expression 'Young Africa', but this is what we actually see and hear. There are a lot of babies on planes to Africa, and I have often spent the night awake because of the sound of babies crying. When I'm on a plane to Africa and I hear a baby crying, I realize, "I'm going to Africa again!"

Manager Lee Gyu-hong They are particularly tolerant of children. One day my children were running around my house so much that I apologised to the neighbours downstairs for the noise. But they asked me why I was sorry and said it was fine.

Manager Lee Ji-hyun I think they have a generous heart, even towards mistakes. They tend to overlook things like noise in daily life. I started raising cats in Cameroon. Africa has surprisingly well-equipped animal hospitals. My cat has received the required local vaccinations and has also been neutered there, although it is mainly used by foreigners.

Chairperson Park Da-seul Is there any African culture you would like to introduce to our country?

Associate Park Seo-yeon Swahili is spoken in Tanzania, so I learned a little Swahili. We usually learn greetings first, don't we? I imagined things like 'Hello', 'Nice to meet you', 'My name is ○○', but the first expression I learned in Tanzania was 'asking how someone is', such as "How are you these days?", "How is your family doing these days?", and so on. In reality, Tanzanians say hello a lot when they meet someone. For example, when we make a phone call, in our case, we say "Hello. My name is ○○. I'm calling you because of ○○○." But there, it goes like this: "Hello. How are you doing now? How's your family?" They ask how you are doing for a minute or two and then get to the point.


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Director Kim Dong-rib That's right. If you apply the Korean work style as is, it may feel rude. You should avoid talking too directly.

Associate Park Seo-yeon At first, I thought it was TMI (Too Much Information), but this conversation method can build rapport (a trusting relationship between people) with the other person at work. It can also break the awkwardness and foster intimacy with people you meet for the first time. I find it meaningful because these interactions can accumulate over time.

Manager Lee Gyu-hong Hosting the Korea-Africa Summit is also significant in terms of building good relations. From the Korean government's perspective, this is the first summit meeting with the African continent, and I believe that face-to-face conversations with leaders from each country can have a positive impact on future projects with Africa.

Check out the following story in the video on KOICA's YouTube channel.

KOICA YouTube Channel
Watch the video

1 Group photo of the High-Quality African Talk Show cast (Park Da-seul, PR Officer, in the center)
2 Associate Park, Seo Yeon
3 Director Kim Dong-rib
4 Manager Lee Gyu-hong
5 Manager Lee Ji-hyun



1

Youth Employment and Skills for Development in Tanzania

Tanzanian youth find their dreams by learning 'In-Demand Skills'

A wind of change is blowing through Tanzania, Africa's leading agricultural country. It began with the launch of large-scale transport, energy, tourism, and IT projects in Tanzania. The Tanzanian government built a 2,500km Standard Gauge Railway (SGR) line and the Julius Nyerere Hydro Electric Power Project (JHNPP) to address energy issues such as electricity shortages. There have also been industrial changes with the launch in Tanzania of Starlink, Elon Musk's low-orbit satellite internet service. The Citizen, an English-language daily newspaper in Africa, positively evaluated Tanzania's economy last year, despite the prospect of a global recession due to the economic downturn in the US, EU, and China.

With these opportunities for industrialization, what Tanzania needs most now is the training of technical experts to meet the needs of industry. Tanzania is a young country where young people make up 80% of the total population, but 75% of jobs are insecure and non-regular, and youth unemployment in the major urban areas where industrialization is concentrated reaches 28.8%, creating an unprecedented shortage of young talent with the vocational skills needed by industry. As a result, the Tanzanian government has identified skills development as one of the key strategic programs in its five-year development plan, and is seeking to build more vocational training centres and develop a young technical workforce at middle and senior levels.

KOICA has been implementing a $5.3 million (approx. KRW 6 billion) 'Youth Employment and Skills for Development in Tanzania' from 2021 to this year to address Tanzania's high unemployment rate and youth poverty. This project is helping to increase youth employment and income through vocational and entrepreneurship training that meets the needs of local industry in Tanzania. To date, the project has trained around 4,300 people in welding, industrial plumbing, domestic plumbing, and mechatronics*, 630 of whom have received an additional start-up support program.

KOICA joined hands with GIZ, a German aid agency with extensive experience in the field, to provide quality vocational training that meets labor market needs.

* **mechatronics:** A field that integrates mechanical engineering and electronics. Representative products that apply electronic technology to machine control include electronic calculators and industrial robots.

TVET adapting to the changing labor market

KOICA identified 'providing appropriate vocational training' and 'supporting trainees to set up their own businesses' as the key to solving Tanzania's youth unemployment problem. Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) was already being provided, but in order for graduates to have the level of skills required by local and foreign companies, the training environment needed to be improved, for example by replacing training equipment, training technical teachers and revising the curriculum.

KOICA joined hands with GIZ, a German aid agency with extensive experience in the field, to provide quality vocational training that meets labor market needs. GIZ was carrying out the 'E4D (Employment and Skills for Development in Africa)' project in six African countries, focusing on strengthening the competitiveness of local companies, developing vocational skills in line with labor market needs, and establishing a job matching program.

KOICA provided financial support for GIZ's E4D project, focusing on supplying training equipment, revising curricula, and offering training in high-demand fields such as welding, industrial plumbing, domestic plumbing, and mechatronics at VETA centers in four regions of Tanzania: Dodoma, Manyara, Lindi, and Dar es Salaam.

In addition, efforts have been made to revise various curricula developed in the existing E4D project, based on validation from the private sector and industry, to make them more practically useful for job development. Various pre-employ-



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ment internship opportunities were also offered.

Approximately 4,300 young people received training in welding, industrial plumbing, home plumbing, and mechatronics through this project. Of these, 3,435 were provided with internship opportunities. As a result, about 1,200 young people got better jobs and saw their incomes increase by about 10% compared to before participating in the KOICA project.

Among the VETA centers, three regional centers, excluding the Dodoma regional center, are training facilities supported by credit assistance from the Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) in 2012 for the 'Vocational Training Center Construction Project'. This support is meaningful in terms of increased effectiveness through a link between grant aid and credit assistance.

'From training to jobs'··· Employment promotion achieved through public-private cooperation

KOICA, which has contributed to creating practical jobs for young people through vocational skills training provided at regional VETA centers, offered a startup support training program for graduates independently of its cooperation with GIZ. In addition, a competition was held to provide equipment and mentoring for startups to outstanding trainees. Among the 630 people who participated in the program, 171 graduates succeeded in starting their own businesses. As a result, 67 new micro-industries providing welding and plumbing services have been registered.

After graduating from the VETA MANYARA Center in 2023, Juma Bahati and four others (three men and one woman) started a business named 'Manyara Welding Group' through vocational skills training and start-up support programs provided by KOICA. Within three weeks of starting the business, it made a profit of 3.5 million Tanzanian shillings (approximately 1,380 USD). The business is still steadily expanding and inspiring other young people. James Gerald Chami, the founder of Mimaco Babati, a company specializing in welding and piping services established through KOICA's Start-up Support Program, expressed his gratitude, saying, "Thanks to KOICA for providing the necessary equipment for the company. My employees and I are enjoying our work, and we are even playing a role in creating jobs that contribute to the community."

KOICA attributes this business success to partnership. By providing advanced vocational skills training through collaboration with a German donor agency, enhancing the effectiveness and visibility of the Korean government's support in Tanzania through linkage and cooperation with the Korean government's credit assistance provider, EDCF's support project, identifying market-tailored vocational skills training provision courses through continuous communication with leading Tanzanian industries, and enhancing startup performance through cooperation with the Tanzanian government, KOICA succeeded in nurturing young technical personnel and facilitating their startups and employment in businesses within a short period of time.

In addition, while existing start-up support programs typically only offer knowledge and skills for launching a business, KOICA's start-up support program, in collaboration with the Tanzania Vocational Education and Training Authority, stands out by providing excellent graduates with essential business equipment for a certain period of time, offering ongoing mentoring, and giving assistance to young individuals with technical skills to achieve self-reliance.

Joyce Ndalichako, Minister of State in the Prime Minister's Office responsible for Labour, Youth, Employment, and Persons with Disability, stated at the E4D business vocational skills training graduation ceremony held in December 2023, "The successful integration of youth start-up groups into business through KOICA's support is expected to create a positive virtuous cycle in the Tanzanian labor market, and in the near future, the government will strive to support young people with the technology and seed capital required in the market, similar to KOICA's start-up model."

> Approximately 4,300 young people received training in welding, industrial plumbing, home plumbing, and mechatronics through this project. Of these, 3,435 were provided with internship opportunities.

In the future, KOICA plans to establish vocational skills training centers in key regions of Tanzania and continue supporting projects that facilitate the entry of young people into the market through industry-academia collaboration by providing mid- to high-level vocational skills training tailored to industrial demand.

1 Welding training site at VETA MANYARA
2 KOICA Startup Program Technology Theory Training Site
3 Front view of VETA MANYARA Center
4 Employees of 'Mimaco Babati,' a welding and plumbing service company that participated in the KOICA startup program



4



Project to establish a start-up incubating center and makerspace in Senegal

"KOICA supports startups that create Senegal's future"

PropTech startup 'Zigbang' has attracted more than 200 billion won in investment from US investment bank Goldman Sachs and others. PropTech is a portmanteau of 'property' and 'technology,' referring to an industry that provides real estate information and services, including procedures such as contracts, through the internet or applications. Within 10 years of its establishment, its revenue exceeded 100 billion won, and it was selected as a unicorn company, which indicates a company value of more than 1 trillion won.

Kanimmo, often referred to as the 'Senegalese version of Zigbang', is a platform company that has automated local real estate brokerage through the internet. It is characterized by optimizing management operations through the automation of about 85% of real estate agent tasks. Both landlords and tenants are satisfied with the time and cost savings.

Kanimmo is a startup that went through the Project for Establishing a start-up Incubating center and Makerspace in Senegal implemented by KOICA in Senegal. KOICA is investing $7.5 million (approximately 10 billion won) from 2021 to 2026 to expand the entrepreneurship ecosystem and support startups for Senegalese youth.

Entrepreneurship for Senegalese youth

About 50 km east of Dakar, the capital of Senegal, and after about an hour's drive you will reach the new town of Diamniadio. This is where a knowledge industrial complex is located. The Senegalese government has set up the 'ISEP Amadou TRAWARE du Diamniadio' here and is pursuing policies to accelerate job creation and economic growth. ISEPDD plays a role in nurturing global talent who will lead the future of Senegal's information and communication technology (ICT) and automobile industry through a dual education system that combines vocational education at school and internships at a separate training center. KOICA fosters the local startup ecosystem by building a makerspace and running youth startup support programs. The makerspace has a total area of 380㎡ and consists of a Working Space with various digital production equipment such as 3D printers, a Cooperation Space where up to 30 trainees can discuss and communicate, and a Creativity Space for idea generation and individual work. Yeon Kyu-hwang, project manager in charge of the project, said, "Awareness of the importance of starting a business is not yet widespread in Senegal," adding, "Although a law has been enacted to support startups, a lot of time and effort is needed to improve the reality because practical and legal support as well as investment infrastructure for startups are lacking."

There are rare cases of makerspaces being established in Senegal. Accordingly, KOICA planned a project to support the incubation of startups, so that ideas could develop and lead to startups, based on a makerspace where Senegalese young people could conceive and share creative ideas to solve problems. Project Manager Yeon said, "This is a project to build a startup ecosystem in Senegal in a long-term, continuous and organised way," adding, "From a long-term perspective, a ripple effect of the startup ecosystem in Senegal is expected."

Strengthening the ecosystem by nurturing pre-startups

Compared to the size of its startup ecosystem, Senegal lacks pre-incubation institutions to nurture budding entrepreneurs. To create a successful technology startup, an institution is needed to educate prospective entrepreneurs in the basics of entrepreneurship, planning start-up ideas, and building business models. In Senegal, pre-incubation support for this sector of the startup ecosystem is poor. Tafsir Babacar Ndoye, coordinator of this project, said, "The Senegalese government established the Research Innovation Department 10 years ago and is pursuing intellectual property, technology transfer and innovation, but there is still a lack of policy-making related to start-ups," stressing, "Senegal needs an agency in charge of creating and implementing a vision and strategy to build an ecosystem." He added, "The continued cooperation between the Senegalese government and KOICA is significant in enabling young people to create and work on their own."

For effective incubation of technology startups, KOICA provides professional coaching programs to help achieve technical and commercial goals. In addition, KOICA is maximizing the investment effect by operating a matching fund that connects with local accelerators and investors.

Building a support system for startups is also an important task. For this reason, KOICA supports marketability and technical feasibility verification consulting to help startups determine the viability of the business model they have established. KOICA also seeks to promote the revitalisation of the Senegalese startup ecosystem by strengthening networking among startups, investors, pre-startups and successful startups, as well as stakeholders in the startup ecosystem. KOICA also plans to organize workshops on overall entrepreneurship for decision-makers to encourage institutional, legal and policy support for the Senegalese startup ecosystem, and to improve the level of support for startups by organizing seminars for Senegalese startup trainers, business and technology coaches as well as trained mentors.

Major Senegalese startups that have benefited from KOICA incubation

Company name	Business content
Guerte Rewmi	Agri-food startup producing food products such as peanut butter from peanuts grown on Senegalese farms
Kanimmo	Real estate brokerage service platform through applications such as Korea's 'Zigbang' or 'Ohouse'
WaW Tech	Selling a technology and maintenance platform to recycle rainwater at gas stations with car washes
WeTrust NFT	Establishing an investment support service for local African farmers using cryptocurrency transactions
STEMtastic	Early childhood education platform

1 Certificate in Senegalese Start-up Incubation and Makerspace Business Training

2 Pre-incubation program sessions for entrepreneurs seeking to test and validate innovative business projects



Lee E-noch, CEO of Datamaker / Shin Min-yong, CEO of Bodit

Africa chosen by young entrepreneurs

Africa is 'the world's new growth engine' and 'the land of opportunity'. This also applies to new 'startups' starting in Korea. Lee E-noch (33), CEO of Datamaker, and Shin Min-yong (35), CEO of Bodit, who ventured into Africa with technology utilizing artificial intelligence (AI), said with one voice, "Africa, a market abundant with talented young individuals and immense potential, is a land of boundless opportunities."



"Africa's population growth greatly benefits IT companies entering the market."
Lee E-noch CEO of Datamaker

Ghana's excellent human infrastructure... Global corporations also prefer it

Founded in 2018, Datamaker specializes in professional labeling and processing of AI training data. Datamaker is involved in creating a kind of textbook for AI, inputting the location and vehicle type data from driving images to train autonomous driving artificial intelligence systems. In 2020, Datamaker CEO Lee E-noch entered Ghana, Africa, and established a data lab there.

CEO Lee already has ties to Africa. During his middle and high school years, he lived in Ghana for five years with his missionary parents. This experience has helped him develop his data labeling business.

"The initial product launched in 2018 was an AI-based parking surface reading system. It utilized intelligent CCTV to monitor parking surfaces in real-time. Tens of thousands of real-time collected images had to be labeled as either 'no parking' or 'parking available', which was a massive amount of data. At that time, Ghana suddenly came to mind. I was confident that my local friends in Ghana, whom I knew from my student days there, would be capable of carrying out the data labeling task."



1

Most global companies in the data labeling business establish human infrastructure in developing countries. Ghana is favored by global companies because English is the official language there. As a result, Ghana has won contracts from a number of major companies and is engaged in Prompt Engineering, which includes the overall development of LLM (Large Language Model) services such as ChatGPT and Gemini, as well as working on challenging tasks such as labelling the LiDAR sensor data needed to develop artificial functions for autonomous driving.



2

The perception of the African market needs to change

As a result, the entry into Ghana has been successful. The Ghanaian subsidiary alone currently employs more than 180 local people, and this number is growing every year.

"They receive the data labeling guidelines from the Datamaker Korea project manager and proceed with the labeling work and inspection. Having been in Ghana for 6 years now, Datamaker has developed the capability to handle overall project sales and operations. I find that Ghana's human resources exceed my expectations. Currently, an increasing number of our clients are choosing to conduct work in Ghana."

Datamaker is also committed to training local personnel. CEO Lee said, "We successfully transitioned a company's female cleaner into a 'labeler,'" adding, "It was a worthwhile effort to nurture local talent by covering training costs." He emphasized, "The growing population in Africa, especially the young population, will be a great help to the advancement of information technology (IT) platform companies."

"The government and the private sector need to change their perception of the African market. Except for rural areas, Africa has a well-established communications infrastructure and a very high smartphone penetration rate. SNS such as Instagram are also widely used. If a smartphone application is a business item, Africa's large population will help secure subscribers."

CEO Lee expressed his hope that many Korean companies would expand into Africa as well as Southeast Asia. He acknowledged that it's not an easy endeavor but emphasized the potential benefits to be gained. While it's true that gaining traction based solely on price competitiveness can be time-consuming, from a young entrepreneur's perspective, Africa remains a land of opportunity.



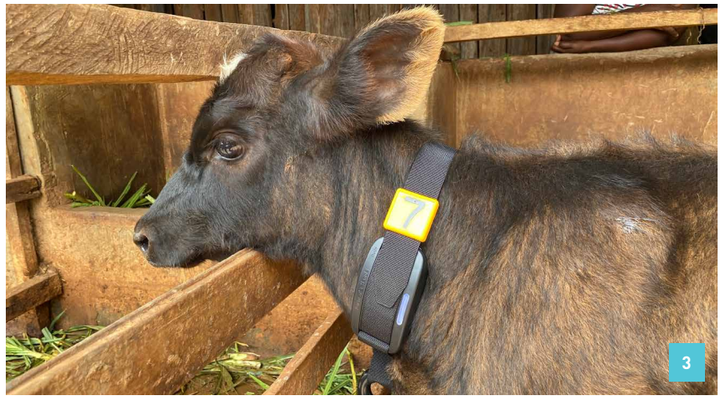
"Africa is a market with great potential."
Shin Min-yong CEO of Bodit

K-livestock solutions successful in Kenya

Bodit is a startup that analyzes the subtle movements of calves using 'Farmers

Hands' (AI-based fine movement analysis technology) developed by the company and detect early signs of digestive and respiratory diseases, which account for approximately 90% of calf deaths. In 2020, as part of the task execution test for the Ministry of Science and ICT's Innovation Growth Engine Demonstration and Planning Support Project, Bodit applied its Farmers Hands technology to 256 calves and reduced calf mortality from an average of 13% to around 1%. Kenya is renowned as a world-class livestock country. It is home to the International Livestock Research Institute (ILRI), the world's foremost authority on livestock farming, and houses approximately 20 million head of cattle. Considering that there are 3.5 million cattle raised in Korea, this is a significant number. Bodit's livestock solutions have also proven effective in Kenya.

"Bodit supported 13 farms and reduced the average mortality rate from 32.6% to 0.6%. This experience has convinced Bodit that with the right business model in Africa, it can succeed anywhere in the world. Moreover, since Kenya has a culture that highly values livestock, to the extent of giving names to cows, Bodit knew that its technology would meet the needs of farmers."



Korea's expected role in Africa's development

Were there any difficulties entering Africa? Shin Min-yong, CEO of Bodit, said, "It was unfamiliar to me how diverse the local culture and livestock farming environment were."

"In terms of culture, the relaxed concept of time posed some challenges compared to Korea. However, it became clear that the universal human desire for a better quality of life was crucial. For a company with limited resources and capabilities, it is challenging to initially find local partners and establish relationships with public institutions like the central government and local public entities in a foreign country. However, Bodit was introduced by the KOICA Kenya Office to the dairy cooperative created as part of KOICA's civil society cooperation project."

In this way, Bodit was able to provide and receive satisfactory assistance to and from the cooperative through KOICA's matching program, discovering many areas where synergy could be created. Thanks to this, CEO Shin was able to apply Farmers Hands in various environments in Kenya, gaining insights into the actual benefits it can provide in developing countries and how to maximize its effectiveness.

CEO Shin said of Africa, "It is a distant market, but it is a market with great potential." He also expressed his expectations that Korea could play a significant role in Africa's development.

"Currently, many countries in Africa have a positive image of Korea, and a strong foundation of trust is well established. Based on this background, it would be advantageous for any company with unique technology or services to explore entering Africa as an opportunity to validate their potential and significantly expand their reach. Successful outcomes in institutional development processes in developing countries also have the potential to lead to substantial, country-wide projects. The great appeal of the African market is the opportunity to play a significant role in a market that is still developing step by step, compared to a market that already has many established elements in place."



1 Datamaker_Signing ceremony of business cooperation
2 Datamaker_Training for employees by CEO Lee Enoch
3 Bodit_A cow wearing Farmers Hands
4 Bodit_Group training site for farmers

Visiting the Korean War Veterans Village in Ethiopia

"We are very grateful to Korea for not forgetting us and visiting us"

"We will not forget the noble sacrifice and dedication of the countries that participated in the Korean War." Even though 70 years have passed, the Korean government and related organizations continue to remember their gratitude. KOICA has also been conducting various support projects for the countries that sent troops to assist Korea during the Korean War. One such country is Ethiopia. At that time, Ethiopia dispatched a battalion-sized army and played a significant role on Mount Chokkun, located in Hwacheon County, Gangwon State. To repay their sacrifice and dedication, KOICA continues to provide support, including building an elementary school in the Korean War Veterans Village in Ethiopia, where veterans and their descendants live. Veterans and their descendants have expressed their gratitude to Korea, a 'country of blood brothers,' for repaying the sacrifices of the past through generous support.



Korean War veteran
Belachew Ameneshawa

Q. Please briefly introduce yourself.
My name is Belachew Ameneshawa, and I was born in 1934. I served in the Korean War and am currently a member of the Korean War Veterans Association.

Q. How was the journey to Korea to participate in the war?
I participated in the Korean War twice. The first time I set foot on Korean soil was in March 1952. The journey to Korea was neither easy nor comfortable. After a long three-week voyage aboard an American warship, we arrived in Busan. At that time, Korea was devastated by war. Everything was destroyed, and there were no signs of people. The battlefields were desolate. There was truly nothing there.

Q. Do you remember what the war was like back then?
Sure. Our unit was assigned to the U.S. 32nd Regiment and deployed to the front

lines in the Hwacheon County area. It was a challenging situation, but we faced it bravely.

Q. How have you been since returning to Ethiopia from the Korean War?
After returning to Ethiopia, I served a few more years in the army. Later, I attended the Institute of Technical Education and studied electrical and electronics for four years. After graduating with my degree, I got a job at Ethiopian Airlines. I retired after 27 years of service as a mechanic in the Radio Division of the Technical Service Department. In the meantime, I got married and have four children. Now that my children are grown and living successful lives, I am currently living the life of a retiree and am active as a member of the Korean War Veterans Association.

Q. What support do veterans need the most right now?
It is true that veterans need a lot of support. The medical assistance provided by Korean hospitals is of great benefit to veterans, especially as the elderly often face various health problems. Without this medical support, veterans would not have been able to access neither doctor's appointment, laboratory visits, nor prescriptions for medications. Cash support is also crucial for their needs. Given the current price hikes in Ethiopia, cash support is vital for veterans. With their retirement benefits often insufficient, cash assistance plays a crucial role in meeting their basic needs.

Q. Please tell us about the most memorable among Korea's support projects.
The most memorable moment was the establishment of the war memorial to honor Ethiopian war veterans, and the earlier mentioned medical support cannot be overlooked. When I heard that a decision had been made to operate a Korean hospital in Addis Ababa, I thought it was a miracle. Others may not think so, but for us, it was a miracle. It was a very impressive and memorable day.

Q. What kind of support should be provided for the descendants living at the Korean War Veterans Village?
Education is a representative example. I believe that providing comprehensive education across various fields, including technical education, is very important for the descendants of war veterans. Koreans seemed to understand this better than anyone else. After the Korean War ended, Koreans taught their children not only in schools but also on the streets and under the shade of trees. That's the value of Korean education. Therefore, I believe Korea can provide excellent support in the field of education.

Q. Is there anything you would like to say to the Korean people about Ethiopian war veterans?
Ethiopian veterans say something every time they have a meeting. First, "We are very grateful that Koreans have not forgotten and continue to support us, war veterans." Second, "We pray for the peace of the Korean people."

Descendant of a
Korean War veteran
Musefa Kemal

Q. Please briefly introduce yourself.
My name is Musefa Kemal, son of a war veteran. I currently work at a museum within the Veterans Association.

Q. Please give us a brief introduction to the Korean War Veterans Village.
The Veterans Village, also known as Korean Village, was established in 1951. Ethiopian soldiers departed for Korea from the exact site where the Veterans Village now stands, and they were stationed in the same area upon their return to Ethiopia. This is why this place came to be known as Korean Village. Afterwards, veterans began constructing homes and settling in the vicinity. My parents also married and lived here, and my older sister was born in this village.

Q. How many people are currently living in the Veterans Village?
The population of the Veterans Village is approximately 50,000 to 60,000 people.

Q. Did you know that your father was a soldier in the Korean War?
From a young age, I knew I was the descendant of a war veteran. I grew up hearing stories about the Korean War from my father. At home, we had many medals that my father received during his military service, as well as numerous books about Korean history.



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Q. Did you receive any special support as a descendant of a war veteran?
I received a lot of support. Not only KOICA, but also many Korean organizations, provide us with significant assistance. For example, Hwacheon County in Gangwon Province has supported the education of more than 400 students living in the Veterans Village. They also provide scholarships for Ethiopian college students to study in Korea. Currently, my daughter is attending Addis Ababa University thanks to a scholarship offered by a Korean organization.

Q. Please tell us about the Korean support project that was most memorable and for which you were most grateful.
There was a project carried out by KOICA at the Technical and Vocational Education Training School (TVET). One hundred twenty students from Entoto Technical & Vocational Training College received training over three sessions. Those trainees are now living in a very good environment. Additionally, every year, 50 students receive scholarships.

Q. What kind of support should Korea provide in the future?
The most important support is education. After receiving the education provided at the LG-KOICA Vocational Training School, many students have found quality jobs. However, many other students are unable to find employment after graduation. Even if they try to start a business, many face significant financial difficulties. Therefore, it would be very helpful if KOICA provides continuous support to help graduates find employment.

Q. Do you know about Hibret Fire Elementary School? What changes has it brought to the Veterans Village since its establishment?
Of course I know. The school was built by KOICA to help children in the Korean War Veterans Village attend school more easily, and many descendants of veterans attend the school. Even parents who are not descendants of veterans want to send their children to this school. At Hibret Fire Elementary School, volunteers from Korea teach children various subjects, including IT and physical education. I have personally witnessed the graduates of this school become successful adults.



Q. What more would you like Koreans to know about Ethiopian veterans?
I'm sure older Koreans are familiar with Ethiopian veterans, but the younger generation may not know much about them. I hope the younger generation in Korea will understand that Ethiopia and Korea are blood brothers. During the Korean War, a Korean civilian was attacked by North Korean troops near a war barracks. As the civilian protested and screamed, an Ethiopian soldier stepped forward to help. However, he was also attacked, and both of them died on the spot. They became one through shedding blood together and were buried side by side. This is an example of why the relationship between Ethiopia and Korea is said to be bound by blood.

Q. Please say a word to the Korean government and KOICA, who have not forgotten the veterans of the Korean War and are extending a helping hand.
KOICA provides support in various fields, including drinking water and education, not only to war veterans and their descendants but also to many Ethiopians. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to the Korean government and people who have not forgotten us even after all this time.

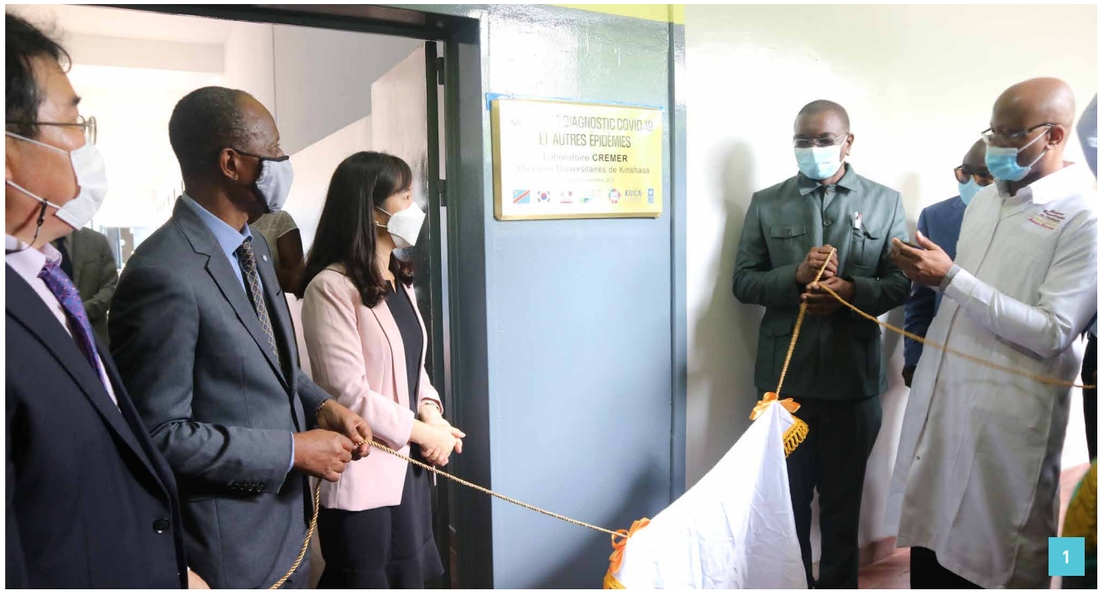
KOICA YouTube Channel
Watch the video

1 Korean War veteran Belachew Ameneshawa
2 Descendant of a Korean War veteran Musefa Kemal

Interview: Park Joon-woo, Director of the UNDP Country Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

The role of ODA experts: Insights from 10 years of experience in Africa

The Democratic Republic of Congo (DR Congo) is located in the centre of Africa and is often referred to as the 'Heart of Africa'. Mr Park is the Field Director of the DR Congo Country Office at UNDP. He started as an overseas volunteer with KOICA and then became a full-time staff member of the international organization. He is now an ODA expert who has been working in Africa for 10 years. Let's hear about the DR Congo and the role of an ODA expert from the perspective of Director Park, who has spent a decade working in Africa as an employee of an international organization.



1

REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and forest Degradation / climate change mitigation activities, including preventing forest degradation and deforestation, conserving forests, practicing sustainable forest management, and enhancing forest carbon storage) is a framework for combating climate change specified in Article 5(2) of the Paris Agreement. DR Congo contains 60% of the Congo Basin, which has the world's second largest tropical rainforest after the Amazon. Director Park has taken on the responsibility of assisting countries around the world, including Korea, to implement REDD+ in this region. KOICA is also supporting the REDD+ project for Haut Uele Province based on its implementation experience in the UNDP field.

Q. You started out as a KOICA overseas volunteer and are now a full-time staff member of UNDP, an international organization. How did your relationship with KOICA begin and how has this experience influenced your career as an ODA specialist?

I have been interested in international development since I was a teenager. While pursuing my dream at university, I felt an urgent need for field experience. It was then that a senior introduced me to the KOICA Overseas Volunteer Program. I didn't realize it at the time, but looking back, working as a KOICA volunteer was an excellent opportunity to experience first-hand both the beginning and the end of international development cooperation. By spending time with the villagers in the field, I was able to learn the overall business cycle of identifying, discovering, developing and implementing business needs. Through this process, I realized the need for more in-depth study, so I pursued a Masters in Development Studies. The volunteer experience also influenced my decision to specialize in business program development and implementation. In Korea, when we think of 'international development cooperation', the first thing that comes to mind is the development and implementation of business programs. In reality, however, there are various detailed areas such as finance, human resources, legal affairs and business quality management within the realm of implementation and operation. I've been working in my field for about 10 years.

During his time as a KOICA overseas volunteer, the rewarding moments of communicating directly with villagers and solving problems, big and small, led him to where he is today. People creating something out of nothing in a place where there is no electricity, water or roads. A place where people support each other, learn and make a living in a harsh environment. Although more than 10 years have passed since then, conflicts continue to occur in Africa for various reasons such as race, resources and external intervention. Although there are still many unresolved issues, Director Park still feels the same overwhelming excitement he did as a volunteer, especially when he travels to the field.

During his time as a KOICA overseas volunteer, the rewarding moments of communicating directly with villagers and solving problems, big and small, led him to where he is today.

Q. You became a full-time UNDP staff member after going through several processes, including the KOICA Overseas Volunteer Program, the Career Ladder Program and the ODA Expert System. How has your career developed along the way?

After completing my KOICA overseas volunteer service, I went on to do a Masters in Development Studies at the Institute of Development Studies in the UK, focusing on the topic of 'Poverty and Development.' At the time, KOICA had a program that provided partial tuition support for people with experience, so I was fortunate enough to be able to continue my studies. Through the now defunct KOICA ODA Expert System, I worked as an agricultural and rural development expert at the KOICA office in DR Congo, focusing on enterprise development and management. As I had just finished my Master's degree, I was a bit confused because I didn't have much practical experience, but I was given many opportunities to apply what I had learned in graduate school in the field. I also planned and carried out an impact assessment of a large rural development project with a team of professors from the Department of Agricultural Economics at a local university. Based on my experience working mainly with the Rural Extension Department of the Paraguayan Ministry of Agriculture as a KOICA volunteer, I planned and received approval for a rural extension capacity-building project with the Ministry of Agriculture of the Democratic Republic of Congo. Subsequently, while working for an NGO in Ethiopia, I successfully completed the then new KOICA Multilateral Cooperation Officer (KMCO)* program. I was then seconded to UNDP DR Congo, where I have been working ever since.

Q. What has been your most memorable experience working as the only Korean in an international organization stationed in DR Congo?

When I was the only Korean working there, I struggled with my French, and my colleagues from other countries were not familiar with KOICA or Korea. However, Koreans tend to be more perceptive than people from other countries, and once they learn a task, they adapt quickly and become efficient. So from then on, I actively participated in discussions about

* This program supports local talent who wish to work in international organizations. It offers them the opportunity to work for up to two years in the offices of international organizations in developing countries. The aim is to increase the effectiveness of cooperation between KOICA and international organizations and to strengthen networks.



Park Joon-woo Field Office Director, UNDP Country Office, DR Congo

He is currently the Head of the UNDP Country Office in DR Congo and Program Manager for the REDD+ Climate Change Project in Haut Uele Province. He represents UNDP in Haut Uele Province and is also responsible for overseeing the REDD+ project in the region.



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the situation on the ground, the culture and the main agendas, and was able to make a positive contribution.

Now he can see how each stage he went through affected his career. But back then, he had to faithfully take the next step every day, challenging himself with a new program. For the first five years immediately after his posting to DR Congo, he was the only Korean expert there. Currently, there are two Koreans, including him, working as local experts.

Q. How does multilateral cooperation work in DR Congo?

Having worked in Africa for over 10 years, I have come across various forms of multilateral cooperation within the country offices of UN agencies. In my experience, in fragile countries such as DR Congo in Africa, UN agencies have direct authority to implement projects, with the approval of the partner government, because of the financial risks involved. In some cases, government ministries carry out projects directly with their own funds. Funding mechanisms vary for each UN agency, but UNDP typically collects financial resources from each country in the form of grants and distributes them to country offices to implement projects based on strategic priorities. KOICA also provides substantial funding to these UN agencies.

In particular, DR Congo, home to the Congo Basin rainforest, is attracting major aid agencies from around the world because of the importance of the 'climate crisis' on the international agenda and the country's status as a 'traditionally vulnerable country'. There is a significant degree of fatigue among local people with the process of major donor countries and organizations providing funding and technical support for implementation. The basis for building trust with local governments, stakeholders and residents is 'authenticity'.

Q. Looking back over the past 10 years, which business or activity stands out as memorable? I am also curious about the development of the businesses and activities and the results they have achieved.

I remember overseeing a project to build and operate the second coronavirus diagnostic center in DR Congo during the coronavirus outbreak. It was also difficult to set up a business meeting with the government of DR Congo, as they seemed intimidated by the process of doing business with a large organization like UNDP. However, with the active support of the Korean government and KOICA, the establishment of the second COVID-19 diagnostic center was completed within 5 months.

Q. In a complex international order, what is the greatest challenge facing African countries, including DR Congo?

Most African countries suffer from a severe lack of infrastructure, with road infrastructure being the most pressing problem. In the case of a landlocked country with no access to the sea or a limited coastline, logistics costs are 3 to 10 times higher than in other countries. High logistics costs hinder overall industrial growth and threaten the livelihoods of citizens. Although electricity, water, schools and hospitals are important, I believe road infrastructure is the first priority. In the case of DR Congo, the ongoing conflict with rebels in the eastern region and the unstable situation with neighboring countries are also major concerns.

Q. Given Africa's diverse cultural, economic and political backgrounds, what strategy is required for a successful project in DR Congo?

It's not an easy question, but I would like to approach the definition of 'business success in DR Congo' differently in order to give a more realistic answer. I believe we should shift our focus away from existing indicators and success criteria and instead place more emphasis on 'what can be achieved'. Specifically, I believe it is necessary to strengthen the capacity of all stakeholders, to establish medium to long-term sectoral governance within the overall governance of the country, and to develop medium to long-term regional development based on development priorities. In terms of project implementation, it seems best to pursue the project in a consortium format, taking into account francophone countries and regional expertise. I believe that a project implementation structure involving stakeholders such as local government and local NGOs, with international NGOs taking the lead, is a crucial factor in determining success or failure. There are still areas where cooperation needs to be sought, such as regional expertise, language and regional security, but I believe there are ample opportunities for Korean experts to contribute in terms of field expertise and project coordination skills.

Q. Do you have any goals you would like to achieve in the future?

I am interested in and want to help ensure that people who need a helping hand can benefit as much as possible from aid projects. Although I observe projects in which billions and trillions of financial resources are invested, the most worrying aspect of working here is determining the actual impact of the aid provided on the people who should benefit from it. That is why, in recent years, I have wanted to work as the head of a country office of an international organization. This is because as the head of a country office, you can play a more active role in delivering benefits and support to those who need it most.

Director Park mentions that the term 'accompagnement' is often used in discussions with local governments. Sometimes this word is used as an expression to indirectly convey 'support from the international community'. However, having spent 10 years in Africa and 10 years in an international organization, he hopes that the meaning of 'accompagnement' will expand to include 'new partnerships'. He hopes to see a robust development cooperation ecosystem that goes beyond the mere investment of financial resources to deliver benefits to those who need it most. Finally, he didn't forget to give some advice to young people who want to become ODA experts. He urged them to start by gaining diverse experience and then focus on narrowing down their areas to develop expertise. He will also continue to make efforts to present alternatives in the field and develop the capacity to implement them.

1 Opening Ceremony of the 2nd Corona Diagnostic Center in DR Congo

2 Forest REDD+ Project site

3 Container truck stuck on dirt road due to poor road conditions



Interview: Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA)

“Korea is the best partner in development cooperation”

Natalia Kanem, Executive Director of UNFPA, visited the KOICA headquarters, located in Seongnam-si, Gyeonggi-do, on March 6. UNFPA is the UN’s representative sexual and reproductive health agency that carries out the mission of ‘delivering a world where every pregnancy is wanted, every childbirth is safe, and every young person’s potential is fulfilled.’ UNFPA has been collaborating with Korea since 1974 and has been supporting Korea’s population policy, population planning, family planning, and census efforts.

On this day, KOICA and UNFPA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to prevent sexual violence and support survivors of sexual violence in conflict-prone areas such as Africa and the Middle East over the next three years. Executive Director Kanem said, “Over the next three years, KOICA and UNFPA will implement humanitarian projects valued at USD 32.7 million (approximately KRW 42.5 billion) to prevent sexual violence and support the sexual and reproductive health of women and girls in conflict-prone areas such as Africa and the Middle East.” She added, “Through this project, approximately 700,000 people are expected to receive support in six countries, including the Central African Republic, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Palestine and Lebanon.” The following is a Q&A with her.

Q. How many times have you visited Korea?

This is my third visit. In 2017, upon assuming the position of Executive Director, I visited Korea for the first time to attend the MOHW-KIHASA-OECD-UNFPA Joint Conference on Low Fertility, Challenges and Responses in the Era of Ageing Population and the Global Symposium on Population Ageing and Low Fertility in Seoul. Then, in 2019, I attended the opening ceremony of the UNFPA office in Seoul.

Q. How do you perceive Korea today?

As the Executive Director of UNFPA, I cannot help but mention Korea’s demographic changes. As Korea adopted Western medicine and health systems in the early 20th century, the death rate plummeted and average life expectancy soared. The birth rate is most notable. As of 2022, Korea had the lowest birth rate in the world at 0.78. This is a number that exacerbates the demographic problem. However, I believe that Korea will overcome the current demographic crisis because it has a history of overcoming various internal and external crises, and the resilience derived from it.

> UNFPA has been collaborating with Korea since 1974 and has supported Korea’s population policy, population planning, family planning, and census efforts.

Q. Could you please explain the project between KOICA and UNFPA?

KOICA and UNFPA have decided to further strengthen their cooperation in the areas of Sexual Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR), Maternal Health, and Gender-Based Violence (GBV), which has been ongoing since 2007. The goal of the Conflict-affected and Fragile Countries Supporting Programme is to expand sexual and reproductive health services by providing diagnosis and treatment for sexual diseases, including AIDS, and contraceptive education Additionally, the program aims to enhance accessibility to gender-based violence prevention and response services, with the overarching objective of saving the lives of pregnant women and newborns and preserving the dignity of women and girls in humanitarian settings.

Q. Which countries are set to receive support?

Six countries, including Central African Republic, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, Palestine, and Lebanon, are recipients. A





total of 653,627 people in four countries in the African region will benefit from sexual and reproductive health services provided through 344 health facilities. In the Middle East, more than 42,000 people are expected to benefit through 14 health facilities.

Q. Please tell us about the results that KOICA and UNFPA have achieved so far through their cooperation projects.
A representative example is the project on the treatment of obstetric fistula in Côte d'Ivoire. Women who have undergone circumcision often suffer from "obstetric fistula," a condition where a hole (fistula) forms in the bladder or intestines during difficult childbirth, causing urine and feces to leak into the vagina. Since UNFPA initiated the fistula treatment project with KOICA in 2007, they have participated in a total of 27 different projects (as of 2024). KOICA and UNFPA are currently continuing 20 projects with a total value of $116 million. In addition, they plan to continue projects worth $32.7 million through a new program to support conflict-prone countries.

> It is essential to respect the opinions of local people, to consider their needs from their perspective and to ask questions.



Q Carrying out multilateral cooperation projects in conflict areas seems challenging.
What I have learned over the past 35 years is that we need to listen to local residents. In that respect, KOICA's great strength lies in its approach, which doesn't rely solely on one-off interventions or paper plans. Instead, it demonstrates a direct interest in people's problems and intervenes directly when necessary. When working in poor or developing countries, it is essential to respect the opinions of local people, to consider their needs from their perspective and to ask questions. For this reason, a very serious and sincere attitude is necessary, and I believe that KOICA is fully aware of this aspect and is acting accordingly.

Q. Korea is experiencing an unprecedented low birth rate compared to the rest of the world.
The continuing decline in the birth rate is a common phenomenon not only in Asia but also in other regions. Recently, there was a media article highlighting the decline in Chile's fertility rate. Only by reducing personal burdens can we hope to increase the birth rate. When we examine the factors that contribute to the burden of pregnancy and childbirth, the economic costs and the emotional exhaustion of striving to be good parents play significant roles. It's crucial that we comprehend these factors. In particular, women should be empowered to make decisions that are best for them and their families, as their childbearing years often coincide with their periods of economic activity.

Q. What do you think is needed to address the problem of low fertility?
Women need to have a balanced work-life schedule, and men should also have access to paternity leave and weekends to spend time with their children. Marriage often involves taking on a kind of "second job" called housework, and it's crucial that the division of labor between women and men be equitable.

Q. Are there any specific methods we can try?
UNFPA has worked with private companies on projects to address low birth rates. We set up a nursing room in the workplace and implemented a system that allowed women to leave their seats for regular check-ups during pregnancy without worrying about what their colleagues might think. The results showed improvements in company productivity and a positive impact on talent attraction. For more details, refer to UNFPA's report titled 'The Coalition for Reproductive Justice in Business.'

(Link: https://www.unfpa.org/updates/coalition-reproductive-justice-business-mobilizing-private-sector-womens-health-and-rights)



Q. Lastly, what do you think is the most important value in international development cooperation projects?
Of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN, I think the most important one is 'peace'. The 'ICPD Programme of Action' , adopted at the first International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo, Egypt in 1994, avoided setting numerical population targets and instead reached a new agreement that recognized the right of all couples and individuals to make free and responsible decisions about the number of children and when to have them. UNFPA's message is "leave no one behind," including pregnant women and children. We actively support women's ability to determine their own future, including their fertility and empowerment.





2024 KOICA Civil Society Cooperation Program Achievements Sharing Meeting

KOICA envisions a wider world with civil society

Even amid various crises in the international community, KOICA's Civil Society Cooperation Program continues to make progress. Last year alone, 47.5 billion won was spent to promote 122 projects in 31 countries with 80 domestic partner organizations, and the number of beneficiaries reached 160,000.

30 years of Civil Society Cooperation Program, program budget increased by more than 1,000 times

This year marks the 30th anniversary of KOICA's Civil Society Cooperation Program. For the past 30 years, KOICA has collaborated with civil society to improve the quality of life for residents in developing countries. KOICA's Civil Society Cooperation Program is a flagship public-private partnership project that collaborates with governments, nonprofit civil society organizations, universities, research institutes, and social economy organizations. It can be described as a citizen-participatory international development cooperation project that contributes to sustainable development and poverty alleviation in partner countries by leveraging private sector expertise and local networks.



This program is significant as it focuses on local resident-friendly development cooperation, complementing intergovernmental projects. It supports the implementation of private sector-led grassroots development cooperation projects through civil society cooperation programs, including strategic, growth, and entry-type partnership projects. KOICA's role is not limited to simply supporting civil society groups, but extends to promoting qualitative growth and innovation in projects through diversification, such as incubation programs, Development Alliance Korea (DAK) policy cooperation projects, and performance management systems.

> In terms of budget size, it has increased from 46 million won in 1995, when the project first started, to 47.5 billion won in 2023, and further to 57 billion won this year.

The program has experienced rapid growth over the past 30 years. In terms of budget size, it has increased from 46 million won in 1995, when the project first started, to 47.5 billion won in 2023, and further to 57 billion won this year. The budget has expanded by more than 1,000 times over the past 30 years.

2024 Civil Society Cooperation Program Achievements Sharing Meeting

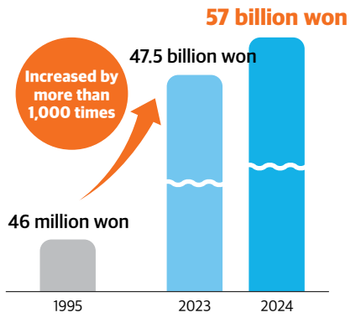
KOICA hosted the '2024 KOICA Civil Society Cooperation Program Achievements Sharing Meeting' on March 27. About 100 people, including representatives from civil society organizations, universities, and the general public, attended this results sharing meeting, held under the theme of 'Beyond Livelihood to Income: Steps Toward Economic Independence'.

At the event, KOICA introduced its Civil Society Cooperation Program, which has been ongoing for 30 years, reviewed the achievements of the program promoted with civil society partners in developing countries in 2023, and shared lessons learned and know-how gained during the implementation process. In particu-

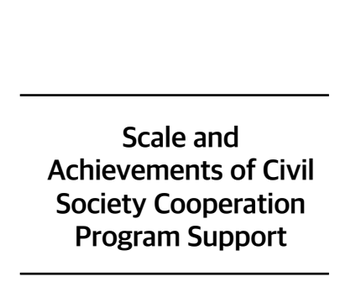


Scale and Achievements of Civil Society Cooperation Program Support

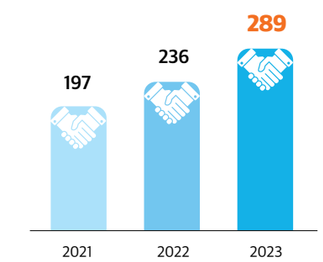
Support Fund



Number of beneficiaries



Number of local partners





4

lar, the event focused on the achievements of the Civil Society Cooperation Program that addressed various socioeconomic challenges in grassroots communities in developing countries, aiming for sustainable development and economic self-sufficiency.

Changing the lives of recipient countries by enhancing income-generating businesses and livelihood capacity

In the achievements presentation, the following were introduced in detail:

① Good Neighbors International's project which contributed to the development of the local economy by improving the production, storage, and sales structure of small-scale farmers in the central region of Malawi over six years

② Merry Year International's project which contributed to increasing the income of poor households by providing small loans to small merchants and strengthening local government capacity for 11 years in V²nh Long Province, Vietnam

③ Projects by World Vision and Better World, which comprehensively improved the living standards of extremely poor female households in Rwanda over three years.

① Good Neighbors International - Malawi

- Sustainable income generation project through conservation agriculture in Malawi (Phase 1, KRW 1.763 billion from 2018 to 2020)
- Income generation project through sustainable agriculture and improving the cooperatives' value chain in central region of Malawi (Phase 2, KRW 1.927 billion from 2021 to 2023)

Good Neighbors International has been implementing a project to address the production, storage, and sales challenges faced by small-scale farmers in the central region of Malawi for six years.

They promoted the provision of farming inputs, training in sustainable agriculture, the establishment of a quality management system for agricultural products, and set up a grain distribution system. As a result, corn production per unit area on participating farms was more than double the national average in Malawi, and the net agricultural profits of these farms increased by an average of 149%. In addition, it had a positive impact on the lives of 1,858 beneficiaries and the local economy.

② Merry Year Internation - Vietnam

- Microfinance for the poor and increasing empowerment in the community of Vĩnh Long Province (Phases 1 to 4, 2011 to 2021, KRW 2.195 billion)

Merry Year International has promoted various projects for 11 years since 2011, including its own initiatives aimed at increasing the income of poor households and strengthening the capacity of local governments in V²nh Long Province, Vietnam. They promoted small-scale loan support, basic economic education, and maintenance of traditional market infrastructure for small merchants, and formed a business management team led by village People's Committee officials to successfully implement field-oriented projects. As a result, a total of 5,847 small loans were provided, and the income of 63.4% of beneficiaries increased (based on monitoring results from 2017 to 2021).

③ World Vision · Better World - Rwanda

- KOICA Ultra Poor Graduation Project for female-headed households - KRW 2.695 billion from 2021 to 2023

From 2021 to 2023, World Vision and Better World promoted basic living support, livelihood capacity building, and financial literacy education for approximately 600 extremely poor female-headed households through the *UPG Model project in Rwanda. As a result of this project, 69% of participating households were able to escape extreme poverty, and social participation expanded along with maintaining basic livelihood. Access to financial services has also improved, significantly raising the living standards of female-headed households.

"We will achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in developing countries through partnerships"

On that day, chaired by Shin Jae-eun, Director of the Policy-Education Center of the Korea Council for Overseas Development Cooperation (KCOC), Nam Jae-jak, CEO of the Korea Precision Agriculture Institute, Lee Sung-bum, CEO of Wonders International, and three other speakers engaged in in-depth discussions on strategies for sustainable development and economic self-reliance in developing countries. A question-and-answer session between presenters and attendees followed, during which civil society officials shared project plans and engaged in discussions on practical partnerships.

Lastly, KOICA introduced the direction of system improvements aimed at efficient project administration, ensuring safe overseas stays, and maintaining stable project site management, and accounced plans for a briefing session on public competitions for Civil Society Cooperation Program projects for 2025, scheduled to be held in May of this year.

KOICA President CHANG Won Sam, commented, "Our civil society offers prompt, professional, and innovative solutions based on their understanding of the situations in developing countries, which contributes significantly to improving the quality of life of vulnerable groups in partner countries and addressing multi-layered crises in the international community."

To effectively respond to the era of global complex crises, KOICA and civil society plan to continue forging a solid partnership aimed at assisting people in developing countries to achieve the sustainable development goals set by the United Nations.

* UPG (Ultra Poor Graduation) Model: A model for alleviating extreme poverty. It is a comprehensive approach designed to help the poorest individuals escape their current situation through social protection, livelihood activities, social empowerment, and financial inclusion.

1 2024 Civil Society Cooperation Program Achievements Sharing Meeting
2 KOICA President CHANG Won Sam
3 Beneficiaries of Malawi's income increase project
4 Beneficiary of Microfinance for the poor and increasing empowerment in the community of Vinh Long City
5 Beneficiaries of KOICA Ultra Poor Graduation Project for female-headed households



5

2023 KOICA Civil Society Cooperation Program Achievements by Sector

Education (including higher education)

Number of projects	Support Budget	Beneficiaries
32	8.56 billion won	18,185 people

Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries

Number of projects	Support Budget	Beneficiaries
18	6.71 billion won	10,296 people

Health

Number of projects	Support Budget	Beneficiaries
37	15.63 billion won	113,905 people

Multi-sectoral (social and solidarity economy, human rights, gender, climate)

Number of projects	Support Budget	Beneficiaries
35	11.45 billion won	17,153 people



Song Young-jun, Deputy Country Director of KOICA Cambodia Office

Pride in reviving traces of history

I have been assigned to the KOICA Cambodia Office in August 2021, amidst the full swing of COVID-19. Although most air routes had been cancelled or blocked, the route between Cambodia's capital, Phnom Penh, and Incheon remained open, which was fortunate for me to safely come and commnece my mission in Cambodia. After working only in the headquarters departments since joining the organization, I felt a mix of excitement and apprehension as it was my first time working overseas. Simultaneously, there was a sense of anticipation about finally meeting beneficiaries and partners at the forefront of development cooperation, whom I had previously only encountered through reports.

Cambodia had long been classified as a least developed country with a per capita GDP of less than $1,000. It has met the criteria to potentially graduate from least developed country status in 2021, and is waiting for the final evaluation. The country has witnessed continuous economic growth, with the support from various international communities, including Korea.

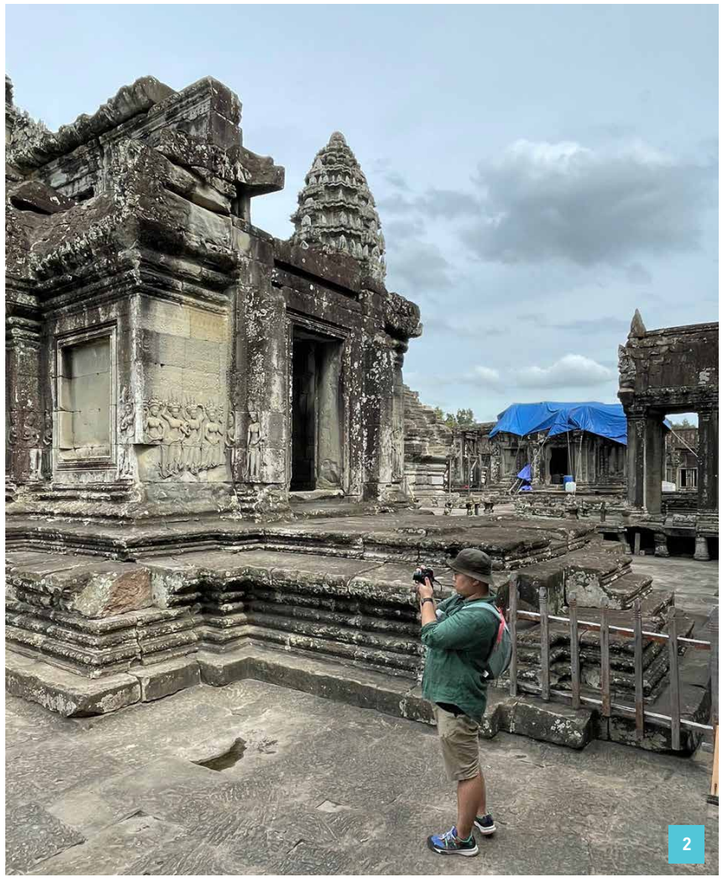
The Korean government through KOICA provides intensive support in three major sectors: education, health, and rural development. In the KOICA Cambodia office, four deputy directors under the country director oversee each respective project areas. While other deputy directors are each responsible for one of the three areas mentioned earlier, I have been responsible for the "etc", which include public administration and culture. The public administration is at least a relatively familiar sector, because KOICA has traditionally implemented many projects,

The site of the Angkor was the capital of the Khmer Empire, which are known to have thrived from the 9th to the 15th century.

including capacity building for public officials in partner countries, improvement of legal systems or framework, and enhancement of administrative efficiency. However, the culture area was completely new to me.

One of the cultural projects involves the restoration of Angkor Heritage site. Cambodia is renowned for the Angkor Heritage site, which served as the backdrop for the movie 'Tomb Raider'. Our office is currently implementing a conservation project for the Angkor Heritage site. Throughout my three-year-mission in Cambodia, I had the privilege to visit the Angkor Heritage site in Siem Reap more than ten times, whereas it is once in a lifetime experience for many people.

The site of the Angkor was the capital of the Khmer Empire, which are known to have thrived from the 9th to the 15th century. As the empire declined, the entire city had been abandoned for many centuries and later rediscovered by a French archaeologist in the 19th century. In recognition of its historical and cultural significance, the Angkor site has been inscribed on the UNESCO World Cultural Heritage list in 1992. However, due to the risks posed by illegal excavations, looting of archaeological remains, and the impact of war, Angkor was designated as a 'World Heritage in Danger,' which is under special management by UNESCO. Since then, international restoration teams have been dispatched to preserve and restore its cultural properties. As a result of these international efforts, Angkor site managed to graduate from the World Heritage in Danger in 2004. However, international teams continue to carry out restoration work at the site.



Since 2015, KOICA has been conducting a conservation and restoration project in collaboration with the Korea Cultural Heritage Foundation for the Preah Pithu Temple and the Terrace of the Elephants in Angkor Thom. In particular, the Terrace of the Elephants, which is over 300 meters long and features carvings of farming on elephants and elephant training, was in urgent need of repair and restoration as the long-accumulated, water-retaining soil inside was expanding and pushing out the wall.



Song Young-jun Deputy Country Director of KOICA Cambodia Office

He joined KOICA in 2017, worked in the Development Innovation Department and Performance Management Team, and has been working at the KOICA Cambodia Office since 2021 on various cultural restoration projects, including the Chorm Temple of Preah Pithu Temple Group and Elephant Terrace of Angkor Thom restoration project and Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum support project.



When I first decided to work in the field of Development cooperation, I imagined myself building schools and meeting students, constructing hospitals and meeting patients, and conducting rural development projects and meeting farmers. However, over the past three years, I have met more tourists from around the world visiting Cambodia than students, patients, or farmers. In particular, when meeting groups of tourists from Korea, I would feel somewhat flattered hearing the guide explain over my shoulder, "KOICA is restoring the Angkor ruins."

In addition to the Angkor site restoration project, KOICA is also conducting a project to support the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum in Phnom Penh. From 1975 to 1979, the museum served as a prison where the Khmer Rouge regime, a radical communist armed group, imprisoned, interrogated, and tortured citizens to extract false confessions before executing them. KOICA has been supporting the preservation and archiving of records at the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museuam, which document the tragic modern and contemporary history, as well as the creation of a digital archive. Prisoners' photographs, confessions, and personal records of prisoners, guards, and security personnel from the prison have been inscribed as a UNESCO Memory of the World in 2009. Currently, sites related to Cambodia's dark modern history, such as the Tuol Sleng Genocide Museum and the Cheong Ek Genocidal Center, which is more widely known as Killing Fields, are also in the process of evaluation on inscription to the World Cultural Heritage list.



Not many people are aware that KOICA is actively engaged in cultural restoration projects. For the past three years, I have promoted for KOICA's projects in cultural sector whenever given the opportunities, sometimes acting like a tour guide or even a professional YouTuber. When delegations from the Korean National Assembly, the Office for Government Policy Coordination, or the Ministry of Strategy and Finance, which deliberate on and evaluate the ODA budget, visited the sites for inspection and monitoring, I would introduce the projects myself in person in order to help them better understand the ODA project in cultural sector. Additionally, to further promote these collective efforts in Cambodia to more Korean people, I undertook the task of opening a YouTube channel, filming video clips, and editing them for upload.

Initially when I was assigned for the cultural sector, I felt rather under pressure coming from unfamiliarirty with the field, but it turned out to be the best thing happened to me. I have acquired extensive knowledge about Cambodian culture and history. Through this experience, I have also gained a deeper understanding of the people here, which helped me do better at my job as a deputy country director of KOICA Cambodia office. It is said that the sparrow near a school sings the primer, and now I have an interesting imagination that I may be able to live a second life as a tour guide in Cambodia after my retirement.

1 Staff from relevant ministries for the restoration of Cambodian ruins
2 Photographing the Angkor ruins
3 Cambodian traditional Apsara dance
4 Angkor ruins restoration work

Latest issues at a glance KOICA NEWS

January



'2024 Should Be a Better Year' KOICA Opening Ceremony Held

On January 2, KOICA held an opening ceremony to celebrate the New Year and pledged once again to take a leap forward as a leading global development cooperation agency. KOICA held the opening ceremony in the main auditorium of its headquarters in Seongnam, Gyeonggi-do, with executives and staff in attendance. During the event, President CHANG Won Sam emphasized that 2024 is the year in which they must demonstrate concrete progress in becoming a 'leading global development cooperation institution' and urged "all executives and staff to combine their wisdom and efforts to drive continuous innovation in projects and management". He also said that as KOICA has entered the era of a budget exceeding 2 trillion won for the first time in its history, executives and staff should feel a deep sense of responsibility and commit themselves to greater dedication and effort. Additionally, he outlined this year's priorities, which include reorganizing the project discovery and implementation system, addressing the three major gaps (development, digital and climate), and leading the development cooperation ecosystem, based on three major management strategies such as future management, communication management and efficiency management.



Providing work experience opportunities to 30,000 young people through ODA projects

KOICA will create 30,000 work experience opportunities for young people through OOfficial Development Assistance (ODA) projects by 2027. On January 3, KOICA announced the launch of the 'KOICA Youth Initiative' this year, aiming to expand opportunities for youth work experience through overseas volunteer groups, youth interns in overseas offices, and coordinators in ODA projects, and to foster competent global young talent. Aligned with the government's youth policy, this initiative aims to provide more young people with opportunities to participate in addressing global challenges such as poverty, inequality, and climate change through ODA projects, and to support them in leveraging these experiences to develop their careers globally. Accordingly, KOICA plans to enhance the work experience of participants in its flagship overseas youth participation programs, including World Friends Korea, overseas office youth interns (Young Professionals), and coordinators, while increasing the cumulative number of participants to 30,000 by 2027.



Simultaneously obtained global-level information security and personal data protection certification

KOICA simultaneously acquired two types of certification: 'ISO/IEC 27001' for Information Security Management System and 'ISO/IEC 27701' for Personal Data Protection Management System, which are international standards for information security management and personal information protection. These certifications signify that KOICA has established a robust management foundation by effectively managing information security and personal data protection risks and has implemented an international-level information security management system. ISO/IEC 27001 is an international standard for information security management systems established by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC), which issues certification by assessing the level of implementation and conducting an officially recognized evaluation against 93 certification standards encompassing four control areas: organizational controls, human controls, physical controls, and technical controls. ISO/IEC 27701 is an extension of ISO/IEC 27001, which grants certification only if 49 certification standards in eight areas are met, including the conditions for collecting and processing personal data, obligations to personal information subjects, and the sharing, transfer, and disclosure of personal information, as required by the European Union General Data Protection Regulation (EU GDPR).



The number of Youth Mid-Term Volunteer Group members sent overseas more than doubled

The number of Youth Mid-Term Volunteer Group members dispatched overseas will significantly increase, more than doubling compared to last year. On January 26, KOICA held a bidding and public offering for the implementing agency for the '2024-2026 KOICA-Youth Mid-Term Volunteer Group Dispatch Project'. The Youth Mid-Term Volunteer Group is an overseas volunteer program for young people aged 19 to 34, launched in 2014. It primarily selects volunteers based on ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) topics and involves a commitment of 5 months of service abroad. In alignment with the government's youth policy, KOICA strives to provide young people with career development opportunities in international development cooperation. From this year, the themes for the activities of the Youth Mid-Term Volunteer Group have been diversified to five, adding digital, disability and human rights to the existing environment, society and governance. The number of personnel dispatched overseas has increased significantly from 151 last year to 400 this year. The organization chosen as the final implementation agency for the Youth Mid-Term Volunteer Group project will recruit volunteer members from May to July this year and conduct training and dispatch of the volunteer groups from August to September.

February



‘Project Efficiency UP’ Strengthening Cooperation with the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency

On February 2, KOICA signed a revised Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency, pledging cooperation to effectively implement ODA projects in the health sector and enhance global health security. KOICA and the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency signed a business agreement for the first time in 2018, and they have now signed a revised MOU to ensure effective operation of ongoing projects and to explore opportunities for cooperation in new projects. Through this revision of the MOU, the two organizations will engage in joint planning and mutual cooperation on health ODA projects aimed at developing countries. In particular, they will expand their collaboration to include sharing rapid information on trends such as overseas infectious disease outbreaks and public health issues, in preparation for pandemics.



Joining hands more tightly with the ‘partner’ Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry

KOICA signed an MOU with the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry to establish a cooperative relationship for conducting ODA projects and global talent training initiatives. The two organizations held a business agreement signing ceremony at the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry on February 13 and agreed to mutually cooperate in the identification, implementation, and evaluation of various development cooperation initiatives such as projects for developing countries, invitation-based training, dispatches of experts and the overseas volunteer group World Friends Korea. They will expand joint or commissioned research for development cooperation with developing countries and collaborate on sharing domestic and international development cooperation networks and ODA-related information.



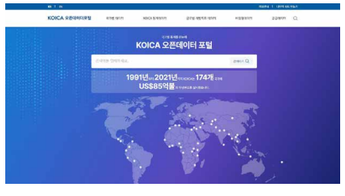
Nurturing ICT talent in Cambodia, a ‘Youthful Nation’

KOICA has actively started nurturing ICT talent for the era of the 4th Industrial Revolution in Cambodia. On December 14, KOICA held an opening ceremony to establish 48 ICT labs at 4 local teacher training centers and 20 leading ICT schools across 4 provinces in Cambodia. Cambodia is a youthful nation, with 60% of its total population under the age of 34. However, only 52.9% of students have completed the compulsory education (grades 1 to 9) mandated by the Cambodian government. Results from the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) published by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) also indicate the lowest levels. Accordingly, KOICA is promoting the ‘Project for ICT Capacity Building of Lower Secondary Education in Cambodia’ worth $7 million from 2021 to 2026 in order to contribute to nurturing 21st-century talent in alignment with social changes in Cambodia. The main focus of the project is to enhance the educational environment and strengthen teacher capabilities at local teacher training centers and leading ICT schools across four provinces in Cambodia, where the recent opening ceremonies were held.



KOICA and USAID join hands in India

On February 20, the KOICA India Office signed an MOU with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) India Office, aiming to strengthen development cooperation partnerships in India, a key country in the Korean government’s Indo-Pacific strategy. The signing of this MOU is significant as it lays the foundation for the first joint development cooperation projects between Korea and the United States in India, a pivotal country in the Korean government’s ‘Indo-Pacific Strategy of Freedom, Peace, and Prosperity’. With the signing of the MOU, the two organizations plan to focus on cooperation in India, emphasizing strengthening women’s economic empowerment, enhancing resilience to disasters and climate change, increasing digital literacy, and promoting Korea-US-India triangular cooperation. India is a prominent representative of the Global South, with the world’s largest population and fifth largest economy. With the signing of this agreement, triangular cooperation between Korea, the United States, and India is expected to play a pivotal role in enhancing sustainable development and climate change response capabilities across the Indo-Pacific region.



Top-rated organization in public data operations evaluation for ‘5 consecutive years’

On February 29, KOICA received the highest rating of ‘Excellent’ for five consecutive years in the ‘2023 Public Data Provision Operation Status Evaluation’ hosted by the Ministry of the Interior and Safety. The evaluation of the operational status of public data provision is conducted by the Ministry of the Interior and Safety for 696 central and local governments and public institutions in order to actively open public data needed by the public and promote the efforts of each organization for convenient use of data. In this evaluation, KOICA achieved a total score of 89.4 points, significantly exceeding the average score of 63.1 points for the organizations evaluated. In particular, it received high evaluations for the systematic management of public data provision tailored to the development cooperation field, discovering and opening new data through communication with various stakeholders, and efforts to improve the quality of data held.

March



Discussion on KOICA-Vietnam ODA Cooperation Plans

KOICA President Chang Won Sam discussed with high-ranking officials of the Vietnamese government on cooperation in the field of ODA. During an official visit to Vietnam from March 17-19 (local time), President Chang met with key government officials such as Vietnam’s Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Science and Technology to discuss in detail a new ODA program. This program aims to act as an important catalyst for Vietnam’s future national development, with a focus on nurturing the industrial workforce, promoting R&D cooperation, and fostering innovative rural communities. Of particular note is the “KOICA Developing Countries Industrial Human Resources Training Program” (tentatively named), which serves as a new “signature program” designed by KOICA to effectively implement the government’s Indo-Pacific Strategy and the Korea-ASEAN Solidarity Initiative. This initiative is expected to expand its scope to various developing countries, including Vietnam and Cambodia.



“KOICA supports the dreams of Cambodian entrepreneurs”

KOICA President Chang Won Sam attended the opening ceremony of the National Incubation Center of Cambodia (NICC) on March 14 (local time). NICC is a newly established business incubation center as part of the KOICA project “Establishment of IT-based Job Incubation Center in Cambodia”. KOICA plans to cultivate talented young entrepreneurs through close industry-academia linkages centered on NICC, and build a “virtuous cycle” structure so that these entrepreneurs can drive national development. KOICA will systematically support the provision of business space, initial investment (seed money), management and digital technology guidance, as well as facilitate Korean-Cambodian university start-up exchanges, so that Cambodian youth can start their businesses in a stable manner. In his congratulatory remarks, President Chang said, “NICC is an ‘incubator’ that will help Cambodia’s future generations realize their dreams, and KOICA will continue to support these young people on their journey to make their dreams come true and drive Cambodia’s economic and social development.”



KOICA and NGOs strengthen cooperation in “Emergency Disaster Response”

KOICA has strengthened its ability to cooperate more seamlessly with domestic NGOs in global emergency situations. Since 2022, KOICA has been implementing Emergency Disaster Response Projects through public-private cooperation with domestic NGOs to ensure prompt and flexible responses to disasters occurring around the world. On March 20, KOICA and five domestic NGOs (World Vision, Save the Children Korea, Friends of Hope Korea, Food for the Hungry International, Good Neighbors International, and ChildFund Korea) held a signing ceremony. They decided to introduce a new method in which KOICA forms a consortium with NGOs to jointly plan projects and share financial resources in the event of an emergency disaster starting this year. Previously, KOICA had only participated by providing project budget support when an emergency disaster occurred. At the signing ceremony on this day, Son Jeong-mi, Director of the Office of Global Solidarity and Partnerships at KOICA, said, “The public-private consortium type of cooperation, which will be introduced for the first time this year, is expected to become a milestone for public-private cooperation projects that require humanitarian support in the future”.



Development Cooperation Participation Strategy Briefing Session

KOICA successfully concluded the ‘2024 Development Cooperation Participation Strategy Briefing Session’ on March 12. This session, now in its eighth year, serves as a platform to consolidate valuable information on ODA participation and provides guidance to potential partners seeking to engage in overseas markets. It provides insights into ODA project participation methods and strategies, as well as one-on-one consultations. Under the theme ‘Expanding Our Companies’ Entry into the Global ODA Market,’ the briefing session, attended by about 300 people, received a positive response, sharing specific information on entering the ODA market, including guidance on procurement participation procedures and corporate cooperation projects, with a focus on the 450 billion won procurement plan for 2024. KOICA expects that this briefing will boost the interest and participation of Korean companies in both domestic and overseas ODA projects.



‘Innobiz-K’ launched to spearhead technological innovation in Ethiopia

The “Innobiz-K” business incubation center, aimed at spearheading Ethiopia’s future technological innovation, opened its doors on March 22 (local time). Supported by the Korean government and KOICA, Innobiz-K serves as a business incubation center that provides comprehensive support to Ethiopian startups and small and medium-sized enterprises. It provides services such as prototype production, startup education, and funding for exceptional companies. Since 2020, KOICA has been implementing a business development project focused on technological innovation, in line with the Ethiopian government’s goal of transitioning to a low- to middle-income country by 2025. The construction of the Innobiz-K Center was part of this project. KOICA Director Kim Dong-ho, who attended the opening ceremony, said, “Innobiz-K symbolizes KOICA’s commitment to the economic development of Ethiopia, a long-standing ally of Korea. KOICA will continue its efforts to stimulate Ethiopia’s economy by supporting the younger generation to enter the manufacturing and innovation sectors”.

April



Signing of an MOU to support the overseas expansion of small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups

On April 1, KOICA signed an MOU with the KISED(Korea Institute of Startup & Entrepreneurship Development) and KOTEC(Korea Technology Finance Corporation) to establish an interconnection system between small and medium-sized and venture business support programs. The essence of the MOU is that each organization will work together to support projects that will help Korean small and medium-sized enterprises and start-ups advance overseas and achieve the sustainable development goals of developing countries. According to the MOU, the three organizations plan to achieve the following objectives: Identifying linkage projects between the Ministry of SMEs and Startups' private investment-led Tech Incubator Program for Start-up (TIPS), which leads the activation of start-ups by high-level technical personnel, and KOICA's Development Innovation Program (DIP), which collaborates with partners with expertise in various fields; Upgrading and revitalizing KOICA's Creative Technology Solution (CTS), which supports budding entrepreneurs and start-ups that solve problems in developing countries; Public relations and other collaborations. At the signing ceremony, CHANG Won Sam, President of KOICA, said, "I hope that through this agreement, capable small and medium-sized enterprises and venture companies will show great interest and actively participate in solving problems in developing countries."



Joining hands with Korea Energy Agency to address climate change in developing countries

KOICA joins hands with the Korea Energy Agency to actively respond to climate change in developing countries. On April 9, KOICA signed an MOU with the Korea Energy Agency to respond to climate change and to establish an organic business cooperation system for ODA projects in the field of new and renewable energy. The main contents of the MOU include cooperation on ODA projects to reduce greenhouse gases and expand the supply of new and renewable energy in developing countries, organic links between the two organizations' projects to support the overseas expansion of companies, and the exchange of information and personnel in specialized fields between the two organizations. The two organizations decided to support developing countries' new and renewable energy projects and policy establishment, greenhouse gas inspection and certification, and contribute to achieving the international community's sustainable development goals, improving energy accessibility in developing countries, and alleviating energy poverty. KOICA has made special efforts in climate change response projects by establishing the 'Climate Change Response Mid-Term Strategy (2021-2025)' and expanding the identification of green ODA projects to respond to climate change in developing countries.

'Best' rating in the Ministry of SMEs and Startups' evaluation for shared growth

KOICA received the highest rating of 'Best' in the '2023 Public Institution Shared Growth Evaluation' organized by the Ministry of SMEs and Start-ups. KOICA achieved excellent results in most areas, including the establishment and implementation of a shared growth strategy, the promotion and dissemination of fair trade culture, and the development of a creative and leading shared growth ecosystem, scoring a total of 99.08 points, a good rating among 134 public institutions. It was also highly praised for its contribution of funds that are difficult to achieve due to the nature of a public institution, such as the establishment of a stable win-win cooperation fund of 790 million won for a total of 5 years in 2023 in cooperation with Shinhan Bank.
The Ministry of SMEs and Start-ups has been announcing the results of the shared growth assessment since 2007 to promote the leading role and efforts of public institutions in the field of shared growth and win-win cooperation in accordance with the 'Act on the Promotion of Collaborative Cooperation between Large Enterprises and Small-Medium Enterprises.'



Information session on the International Organizations Entry Program on 30 April

KOICA, which is selecting the largest ever group of KOICA Multilateral Cooperation Officer (KMCO) and KOICA-UNV* student volunteers, will hold an information session on April 30 at HEYGROUND in Seongsu-dong, Seoul.
In 2024, the number of KMCOs and KOICA-UNV student volunteers is expected to reach 80, with 51 and 29 respectively. This is the highest ever and more than double the number of the previous year. The KMCO program enables professionals from various fields with a passion for international development cooperation to work in international organizations that have signed an agreement with KOICA. The KOICA-UNV University Student Volunteer Corps is an internship program that offers opportunities for hands-on experience in the field of development cooperation at UN-affiliated organizations. This briefing session will be held in parts 1 and 2 under the theme "Be Global with KOICA". Part 1, "KOICA Career Ladder to International Organizations Session", provides guidance on the career ladder system that helps young people enter international organizations, the eligibility requirements for each program, recruitment areas, selection procedures and plans, etc. Attendance is only open to those who have pre-registered by the 25th using the QR code on the information session poster. For young people who cannot attend the event on the day, there will also be a live, real-time broadcast on the World Friends Korea YouTube channel (youtube.com/@WFKvideo).

May



Establishing facility horticulture infrastructure in the Dry Corridor regions of three Central American countries

KOICA is joining hands with Costa Rica to actively strengthen facility horticulture capabilities in the 'Dry Corridor' region of Central America. The 'Dry Corridor,' spanning approximately 1,000 km along the Pacific coast of Central American countries such as Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador, is an extremely arid region with an average annual rainfall of less than 500mm. Local residents are experiencing food shortages and poverty as crop conditions have deteriorated due to recent abnormal climate events. Although governments in each country are making efforts to supply quality seeds resistant to dry climates, fundamental technological development for horticultural crops is insufficient. Accordingly, KOICA is collaborating with Costa Rica, which has successful experience in facility horticulture in the Dry Corridor region, and is promoting a project to enhance the facility horticulture technology capabilities of the three Central American countries belonging to the Dry Corridor region. As part of the project, a completion ceremony for horticultural infrastructure was held at The National Agriculture, Livestock and Forestry Technology Center (Osicala Branch) in El Salvador on May 21. Priority crops selected by each of the three countries will be cultivated in the facility horticulture infrastructure installed on a total area of 3,728㎡ across three countries: El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. It is also used as a venue for technology trials, field trips, training and new technology information for horticultural growers.



Cooperation with 8 international organizations to spur support for conflict-affected and vulnerable countries

This year, KOICA has signed business agreements with eight international organizations, including the International Organization for Migration (IOM), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the World Food Program (WFP), and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), in order to promote new programs to support conflict-affected and vulnerable countries.
KOICA's budget for conflict-affected and vulnerable countries has expanded significantly from KRW 33.5 billion last year to KRW 123.3 billion this year. Accordingly, KOICA drew on the comparative advantages and experience of eight international organizations to form eight new programs to assist some 20 conflict-affected and vulnerable countries, with a total support of 243.6 billion won over three years. The new program is designed to respond more effectively to transnational crises by providing long-term support on a 10-year basis as a regional project rather than a single national project. In addition, pathways were paved for domestic NGOs and academia to participate in the project, and for young talents to enter international organizations.



Korea and the US collaborate once again for global health security

On May 17, KOICA and the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) held a ceremony at the Kempinski Hotel in Accra, the capital of Ghana, to exchange the MOU for the 'Health Security Capacity Strengthening Project through Implementation of Global Health Security Initiatives across Ghana.'
This project aims to enhance the capabilities for prevention, detection, and response to public health risk factors and incidents, including COVID-19, yellow fever, and cholera. It is scheduled to be implemented with a budget of $10.85 million (approx. KRW 14 billion) by 2027.
Prior to this project, KOICA has been collaborating with the U.S. CDC to promote the 'Ghana Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) Strengthening Project' from 2018 to 2023. The 'Health Security Capacity Strengthening Project through Implementation of the Ghana-wide Global Health Security Initiative,' which is being promoted as a second follow-up project, holds greater significance as it aims to disseminate the outcomes of the initial project throughout Ghana.



KOICA introduces AI in ODA

Artificial intelligence (AI) is also being incorporated into the ODA field. As a quasi-governmental organization, KOICA is at the forefront of adopting AI in the public sector, utilizing chatbots to streamline operations.
Earlier this year, KOICA established the 'KOICA Artificial Intelligence Introduction Basic Plan (2024-2026)' to actively drive digital transformation through AI implementation and is enhancing related capabilities across the organization. The initiative aims to innovate operations by integrating AI technology into all ODA-related tasks, spanning from organizing international conferences to promoting and overseeing overseas aid projects.
KOICA has implemented a micro-agile development system to improve workflow using digital technology, which has yielded significant results in streamlining procedures for each unit task. In the future, KOICA plans to continue the task of upgrading its business systems, such as constructing a next-generation integrated business management system and reinforcing information system connectivity.

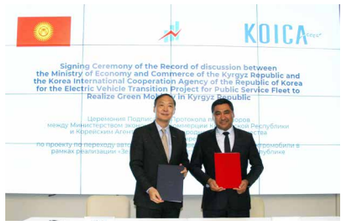
June



Handover Ceremony for Temporary Housing Complex for Victims of Türkiye Earthquake

KOICA held a handover ceremony for the temporary housing complex 'Korea-Türkiye Friendship Village' in Antakya, Hatay Province, Türkiye. The Korea-Türkiye Friendship Village was established through cooperation between the Korean government, KOICA, and private organizations to support victims of the 2023 Türkiye earthquake.

The village, which consists of 500 container houses covering an area of approximately 40,000 square meters, has been home to survivors since August last year, and KOICA has successfully implemented a range of economic and social support programs for residents, including emergency material aid, child protection, psychosocial support, job creation, drinking water sanitation, and gender-based violence prevention initiatives. At the handover ceremony, KOICA President CHANG Won Sam presented Türkiye with a large signboard bearing the name of the road, symbolizing the friendship between Korea and Türkiye. As the 'Building and Operation of Temporary Settlement for Earthquake-Affected People in Turkiye Project' concluded in June, the local Turkish government and related ministries will oversee the overall operation, including management and support, of the Korea-Türkiye Friendship Village.



Agreement Signed to Promote Public Institution Electric Vehicle Conversion Project in Kyrgyzstan

KOICA President CHANG Won Sam met with Kyrgyz Minister of Economy and Commerce Daniyar Amangeldiev during his official visit to Kyrgyzstan and signed the minutes of the meeting after discussing this year's new project, 'Electric Cars and a Network of Electric Charging Stations: A Pilot Project to Convert the State Vehicle Fleet to Electric Cars.' This project, which will invest $11 million (approximately KRW 15 billion) from 2024 to 2027, aims to achieve 'Green Mobility' in Kyrgyzstan to reduce greenhouse gases and adapt to climate change.

The Kyrgyz government has shown great interest in this project, where KOICA plans to supply 130 electric vehicles and 134 electric vehicle chargers to public institutions and post offices in Bishkek and parts of Chuy Province. Additionally, KOICA plans to develop an electric vehicle monitoring system, establish a server room for system operation, and conduct training sessions in Korea to enhance the capabilities of public sector workers in green mobility.



Bilateral Meeting Held with Leaders of 18 African Countries

KOICA held bilateral meetings with representatives from a total of 18 countries, including leaders from five countries such as Tanzania and Somalia, during the 'Korea-Africa Summit' on June 4-5.

KOICA President CHANG Won Sam met successively with Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan, Comoros President Azali Assoumani, Togolese President Faure Gnassingbé, and Lesotho Prime Minister Samuel Matekane to exchange view on bilateral issues and concerns. On the 5th, he met with Somali Prime Minister Hamza Abdi Barre.

In his first meeting with Tanzanian President Samia Suluhu Hassan, KOICA President CHANG discussed ways to promote cooperation, including supplying safe drinking water, improving maternal and child health, and expanding vocational skills and digital education for youth. President Hassan expressed her hope to benefit from Korea's know-how and experience to develop Tanzania's sustainable blue economy. They also agreed to work closely together to achieve balanced economic growth through the development of transportation infrastructure.



Successful Completion of the Briefing Session on the 2024 Integrated Public Contest for Ministries, Local Authorities, and Public Cooperation

KOICA held the 'Briefing Session on the 2024 Integrated Public Contest for Ministries, Local Authorities, and Public Cooperation' and introduced in detail this year's revised contents of contest-type government ministries and public cooperation projects by country. Held for the first time this year in its integrated form, the briefing session aimed to provide potential public sector partners wishing to participate in ODA projects with guidance on methods and strategies for participating in public sector projects and to support partners' future development cooperation projects through small group consultations.

Starting this year, KOICA has decided to integrate and operate projects that were previously managed separately, such as those proposed by government ministries and public cooperation projects. This initiative aims to expand locally tailored projects utilizing the unique business areas and expertise of the public sector.



KOICA Leads Rwanda's Education Revolution Using ICT

KOICA held the closing ceremony of the 'Capacity Development for ICT in Education(CADIE) Project' and the smart classroom completion ceremony at Dihiro Elementary, Middle, and High School in Rwanda. KOICA provided $7.3 million from 2017 to this year to build ICT education smart classrooms at a total of 69 schools, with at least two in each district of Rwanda. KOICA also remodeled classrooms and provided educational equipment such as laptop computers, LCD projectors, projector screens, and sound equipment.

In addition, KOICA developed a curriculum to strengthen teaching capabilities using ICT and trained about 94% (approximately 30,000 people) of all secondary school teachers in Rwanda, and collaborated with the World Bank to provide ICT training programs for elementary school teachers, aiming to enhance their capacities in this area.

KOICA plans to leverage the successful 7-year experience of the Rwanda project as a model and develop it into a signature project that will lead the 'ICT education revolution' throughout Africa.

KOICA
WORLD FRIENDS KOREA








Global encounters
Growing Together

KOICA's overseas volunteers
strive for prosperity together with partner countries.

we support change and development in partner countries.

Together, let's move forward toward a better future.

The images are actual activity photos of WFK creators In partner countries*.
*Mongolia, Vietnam, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Uganda

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Tel 1588-0434
Fax 031-740-0260
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