

# International Cooperation of Education in Republic of Korea

## — Focused on KOICA —

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**要約**：本稿では、韓国の国際教育協力を3つのレベルで議論する。第一が政府レベルである。韓国では、国際協力プログラムを推進する KOICA という公的な組織があり、また韓国学術振興財団（KRF）や韓国科学財団（KOSEF）などの組織が同分野の研究者を財政的に支援している。第二が研究所・大学レベルである。韓国国際教育振興院を始め、多くの機関があり、その大半が海外にカウンターパート機関もっている。第三が NGO レベルである。NGO によるプロジェクト活動も KOICA 等と連携して柔軟に進められている。

**Key words** : KOICA, levels of international cooperation, NGO

Today we are facing very rapidly changing world that has never been before. World is competing to survive. Every country is alert to and pays attention to other countries. They also want to communicate with their competing countries about new technologies and cultures.

Not only on communication of information, economics and cultures, but also on trend of education which is highly activated among the world village. Education is one of the powerful tools effecting neighborhood nations toward improvements of better environment. Throughout the educational cooperation among countries, we receive benefits from each other and form strong ties.

In this article, we won't discuss all aspects of international cooperation because international cooperation occur everywhere and every moment. It is hard to describe the whole feature of international cooperation in education.

However the author suggests 3 kinds of levels of international cooperation in education area. First is on government level, that is, international cooperation is supported by national budget, and approved by the Assembly. We have an official organization named KOICA in which performs international cooperative programs including these areas; education and training, Health/Medical Care, Institution Building, information Technology and Agriculture. Also there

are research foundations such as Korea Research Foundation, Korea Science and Engineering Foundation to offer the financial supports for the individual researcher or a group of researchers.

Second is on institutes and universities level. In Korea we have 158 4-year universities and several institutes such as 'National Institute for International Education Development'. Most of which has sister counterparts in abroad, commuting with their studies. It is hard to figure out the whole scheme of their international cooperation on education because of their diversity and individuality.

Third is on level of non-governmental organizations (NGO). NGO has pure motives for their activities. Most of NGO are concerned about domestic affairs. Some of them are interested in international cooperation in various area including education. For example, Unesco, Goodneighbors, Globalcare, Worldvision, Goodfriends, Globalcivicsharing are leading NGO in Korea. KOICA also supports NGO foreign aid project in helping medical services, education and training, regional development etc. Through NGOs, KOICA creates more opportunities for Koreans to participate in international cooperation adding flexibility to the Korea Government's



Figure 1 Logo of KOICA

official development assistance systems.

However in this article we will introduce international cooperation of education in Republic of Korea focused on Korea International Cooperation Agency.

### 1. Foundation and Motto

Governmental level of cooperation on international education has been carried out by KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency). KOICA was founded on April 1, 1991 as a government agency exclusively responsible with Ministration of Korea's bilateral grant aid program. Before foundation of KOICA, several ministries of government such as ministry of education, ministry of foreign affairs, and ministry of science and technology have been involved in international cooperation with other countries. Through KOICA, we establish official systems helping other countries effectively, and also develop international specialists for directing optimal contributions.

It's founding motto was and remains, cooperation for a better world. With scientific breakthroughs and new technologies of telecommunications, national boundaries are disappearing. Every detail of happenings in the world is reported into our living room through multimedia. We know what is going on the other side of world, especially developing countries. The problems of developing countries are no longer only their own concern, but affect all the nations of the world. In every part of the world, people suffer from poverty, famine, disease, war and natural disasters.

50 years ago, Korea was in a similar situation. Since then, Korea has overcome adversity and achieved economic development provided by the international community. KOICA wants to transfer its invaluable experiences and knowledge to other developing countries. Therefore it contributes to the economic and social development in developing countries by transferring Korea's developing

experience and know-how. Eventually KOICA aims to help bring about world peace and prosperity.

### 2. Organization and Budget

KOICA has about 200 full-time workers and 4000 volunteers (see table 2 and 3). There are 7 departments, 4 offices, 27 teams, 26 overseas offices. In addition there is a President, auditors (part-time), 3 executive directors, and 1 task Force in KOICA.

It's budget reaches about 167 million dollars in 2005. Most of revenue are spend in 'Assistance' area (see table 1). In table 2, Education and training has about 10 million dollars, 10% of total budgets. Although education programs are considered to be important and crucial project, it costs less compared to other projects. It is interesting to find that in Table 3 Middle East has 38% of total budgets, but Asia Pacific gets highest portion(more than half) of participating peoples.

### 3. Programs

KOICA offers variety of international cooperation programs including economic helps such as Provision of Equipment Program, Project-Type Cooperation, and also education related programs such as Invitation of Trainees Program, Dispatch of Experts Program, Development Study Program, and Special Aid Program for Afghanistan. It is generally recognized that education and training is the essence of human resources development. Through broad-based educational support, KOICA helps to enhance the literacy and vocational training in partner countries. The followings are quoted from video data 'cooperation for a better world' distributed by KOICA.

<Invitation of Trainees Program>

The Invitation of Trainees Program is to provide with Korea's development experience and technology to

&lt;Table 1&gt;

Unit US\$ in thousands

Category		2004 Budget	2005 Budget	Growth (Percentage)
Funding	contributions	118,380	164,702	39.10%
	KOICA-generated funding	2,008	2,873	43.10%
	Total	120,388	167,575	39.20%
Expenses	Assistance	111,078	157,801	42.10%
	Overhead costs	7,609	8,025	5.50%
	Current Expenses	626	688	9.90%
	Affiliates	1,075	1,061	1.30%

&lt;Table 2&gt;

Unit: US\$ in thousands

Category	Number of People	Number of Projects	Budget	Share %
Education and training	338	10	10,391	6.4%
Healthcare	309	9	12,979	7.9%
Government Administration	448	1	35,725	21.9%
IT	409	15	20,175	12.4%
Industrial Infrastructure	457	8	16,414	10.0%
Trade and Financial Services	217	1	8,494	5.2%
Agriculture and fisheries	378	9	44,487	27.2%
Etc	1,628	38	14,691	9.0%
Total	3,988	83	163,356	100.0%
Total may not add up due to the overlapping projects				

&lt;Table 3&gt;

Region	Number of People	Number of Projects	Budget	Share (%)
Asia Pacific	2,365	52	55,407	35.1%
Latin America	406	13	9,356	5.9%
Eastern Europe / CIS	440	4	8,164	5.2%
Middle East	204	6	59,939	38.0%
Africa	367	6	9,725	6.2%
International Organizations	1	2	539	0.3%
Not Yet Decided	205	—	14,671	9.3%
Total	3,988	83	157,801	100%

developing countries. Government officials, technicians, and experts in developing countries are invited to Korea for training in specific fields.

Trainees are trained in a wide range of areas, including economic development, public administration, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, finance, trade, education and training, health, IT and transportation.

The Invitation of Trainees Program also helps trainees better understand Korean culture and builds friendly ties with participating countries.

#### <Dispatch of Experts Program>

KOICA experts to the developing countries provide technical counseling in specific field such as economics, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, IT, education and training, and construction. Medical doctors provide medical services for the improvement of public health and social welfare in developing countries.

TaeKwonDon instruction promote public health, build pride and provide a better understanding of Korean culture through TaeKwonDo, Korea's national marshal art. Hundreds of Korean experts have been dispatched over the years, building cooperative ties with developing countries. The number of requests from developing countries for Korean experts increase every year.

#### <Dispatch of Korea Overseas Volunteers>

With the spiritive share and respect, Korea overseas volunteers provide many different services. They encourage local residence to voluntarily participate in their own development, and help establish lasting peace throughout the world.

1,343 KOVs has been dispatched to 33 countries since the KOV program was launched in 1990. And 379 KOVs are currently working with local residence in 26 countries in education and vocational training, agriculture and forestry, fisheries, and health.

#### <Development Study Program>

Under the Development Study Program, Korean Experts are dispatched to provide grand-type of technical services such as grafting, master plans, and performing basic studies, visibility studies and implementation study designs.

They survey and study the specific situation and technical factors in project sites before launching the large scale development projects.

The development study program facilitates projects such as construction of roads, railroads, seaboards, airports, electric

power grids, telecommunication systems, and other types of social overhead capitals as well as projects for agriculture, forestry and fisheries, and energy. By 2002, KOICA had conducted 48 projects in 18 countries and one international organization.

#### <Special Aid Program for Afghanistan>

After the Afghanistan interim government was established, the Korea government promised grant aid equivalent to 45 million U.S dollars for 3 years, 2002 – 2004 to help refill Afghanistan.

A wide variety of programs are offered, including project-type cooperation in health, vocational training, rural development, and information and technology as well as the invitation of government officials, provision of equipment, and support through NGOs. The assistance to Afghanistan focuses on human resource development, agriculture, social infrastructure, essential for reconstruction of the country.

## 4. Conclusion

In the 21st century, the world is rapidly becoming one community. All nations should work together to resolve global issues like poverty, over population and the environment through education and research collaborations. KOICA is the official governmental organization, which works with the developing countries for a better future in the world.

So KOICA's program is mainly focused on social education and vocational training.

However there are some universities commuting with counterparts for research results, and there are some other higher education institutes commuting for better classroom teaching and learning. It is not easy to uncover the whole outline of international cooperation of education institutes.

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