

International Development Cooperation Capacity Building Program

In 2008, The Asia Foundation Korea office launched a comprehensive development program in partnership with the Korea Development Institute School of Public Policy and Management to help strengthen Korea's public and non-governmental international assistance efforts and Asian developing countries' empowerment in national development.



As a country that has transformed from development assistance recipient to OECD (Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development) donor country status, Korea is expanding its role in international development cooperation. The contemporary aid ecosystem is complex, and emerging donors, civil society, and the private sector are fostering new thinking on development effectiveness. An increase in development exports, both in quantity and quality by capacity building, is critical for the effectiveness of Korea's Overseas Development Assistance. At the same time, many Asian developing countries desire to learn more about Korea's successful development experience. Many of these countries are encountering similar challenges in human resources and capacity building, despite different development contexts among countries.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Strengthen the capacity of staff in the international cooperation branch of the Korean government, NGO leaders and their staff, and also advanced students in development studies, so that they are able to plan and implement effective development assistance programs in developing countries.

- Provide government officials and NGO representatives from developing Asian countries with exposure to Korea's experience relating to economic, social and political development.
- Facilitate dialogue between Korea and other Asian countries in order to set common goals and strategies for addressing the obstacles to development in Asia.

PROJECT ACTIVITIES AND EXPOSURE VISITS FOR KOREAN YOUNG PROFESSIONALS

The International Development Cooperation Capacity Building Program strengthens delegates' understanding of how to effectively plan and implement development assistance in developing countries in Asia. Each study visit takes place during a one-week period and includes an orientation in Korea followed by a workshop and five days of meetings in the host country where the study visit takes place. The program is unique because each study visit is chosen according to the current development issues in the host country, with a focus on Sustainable Development Goals. This allows the delegates to gain experience and knowledge in their area of specializa-



tion in a more targeted way, whether in the environment, gender, Islam, post-conflict, immigration, urbanization, balanced regional development, or economic empowerment for disenfranchised populations.

For young professionals and graduate students who seek a deeper experience, The Asia Foundation additionally has a fellowship component to the International Development Cooperation Capacity Building Program. This fellowship dispatches one or two researchers to The Asia Foundation field offices in developing countries for one to three months where they delve deeper into their area of research within developmental studies.

The local offices of The Asia Foundation utilize their networks on the ground in each country in order to provide every fellow with the necessary tools for their research that in turn they will use to strengthen Korea's role as an aid provider to developing nations.

FOR ASIAN DEVELOPMENT EXPERTS

The study visits and fellowships to Korea provide government officials, NGO representatives, and policy analysts from developing Asian countries the opportunity to study Korea's historical and recent development experience in a particular sector or thematic area; to share the experience of the participants' country and organization with Korean counterparts; and to develop contacts that are helpful for future cooperation. The study visits to Korea provide

lectures by prominent thought leaders and experts, followed by in-depth discussions, visits to relevant government institutions and non-government organizations, and site visits that will serve to deepen the participants' knowledge and opportunities to create lasting connections. The fellowships offer qualified mid-career professionals from Asian developing countries the opportunity to spend 1-3 months conducting research in Korea on an issue related to development. During the fellowship, the fellow will carry out research according to an approved research plan and produce a written research outcome at the end of the fellowship term.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

An international conference is held annually for development experts from across the Asia-pacific, including from developing countries, and emerging and traditional donors to provide a forum for sharing perspectives and approaches on addressing social and economic challenges faced in the region. The ongoing series addresses how Asian countries' engagement in development and South-South cooperation is changing the global aid landscape and the development prospects for the region. The two-day conference provides a rare opportunity for government, NGOs, and the private sector to discuss strategies for more effective collaboration.

The Asia Foundation is a nonprofit international development organization committed to improving lives across a dynamic and developing Asia. Headquartered in San Francisco, The Asia Foundation works through a network of offices in 18 Asian countries and in Washington, DC. Working with public and private partners, the Foundation receives funding from a diverse group of bilateral and multilateral development agencies, foundations, corporations, and individuals.



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