



Seungho Han (Korea), UNV Environment Specialist with UNDP, photographs the opening ceremony for a new hydropower system at Houay Ngou, Lao PDR. (UNV, 2011)

ENGLISH

Overview

↗ UNV and the Republic of Korea: promoting volunteering for peace and development

The Republic of Korea has long valued volunteerism. UNV's partnership with the Republic of Korea began in 1986, and in 1989, the Government announced its first overseas volunteer programme. The Korea Overseas Volunteer Programme was launched in 1990 and in the very first round, 44 Korean volunteers were sent abroad.

The Government continues to highlight the importance of volunteerism. In 2006, it formed a committee on volunteer promotion to address social inclusion. In 2011, it established the annual Lee Tae-seok Award to recognize Korean volunteers who have helped uplift their country's image through volunteer service.

"My volunteer experience made me value the essence of teamwork, perseverance, readiness to help and believing in others. The values I gained become a great help in performing my current job as a rural development project manager promoting a sense of social mobilization based on mutual trust. For the rest of my life, I will always be grateful for the time I served as a UN Volunteer."

Jina Park, UN Youth Volunteer with UNDP in Uzbekistan

UNV and the Republic of Korea have had a strong and supportive relationship. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has steadily increased its contributions to UNV over the years; in 2014 its contribution totalled US \$1,540,000, up from US \$1,380,000 in 2013. On 2 July 2015, UNV and the Korea International Cooperation Agency signed the KOICA-UN University Youth Volunteer Programme Fully-Funded Agreement for US \$300,000 in 2015 and another US \$200,000 in 2016. On 8 October 2015, the first ever Korea-UNV Joint Forum on Youth Volunteering for Peace and Development will be held in Seoul.



**UN
Volunteers**
inspiration in action

Han Chul Kim (Korea) served as a volunteer with the UNDP Water and Sanitation project in Mongolia. (UNV, 2010)

Overall Goal:
To improve water and sanitation governance and living conditions of target area population through providing support to strengthened coordination mechanism and increasing access to safe drinking water sources and sanitation facilities and improving water resources management.

Objectives:

- Strengthen the institutional structure and legal framework on water governance and sanitation service;
- Increase knowledge, skills and practice of professionals, communities and schoolchildren on water, sanitation and hygiene practices;
- Improve laboratory capacity on drinking water and wastewater analysis, especially in rural areas;
- Support the construction of safe water supplies and adequate sanitation facilities in the target communities, schools and small hospitals, and enhance community-based management of water sources in target areas and improve their capacity to maintain/manage them in a sustainable manner in, as models for national

"One receives more than one gives, this is a lesson I learned from my previous volunteer experiences, which I cherish deep in my heart. I do have a great willingness to serve humanity, but I know I can't change the entire world. Nevertheless, I set out to make a positive impact on the lives of others."

Han Chul Kim, UN Volunteer with UNDP in MongoliaGlobal Youth Forum, Bali

Key milestones in UNV's collaboration with the Republic of Korea

In 1986, UNV and the Government of the Republic of Korea signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) that established a fully funded UN Volunteer scheme placing Korean volunteers with select UN agencies. The Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs contributed US \$50,000 a year until 2008, when contributions increased to US \$200,000 per year, then US \$300,000 in 2011, US \$1.3 million in 2012.

In 2012-2013, UNV partnered with the Asan Nanum Foundation of the Republic of Korea (a non-governmental programme) to promote youth engagement in achieving human development goals. Through the partnership, UNV and the Asan Nanum Foundation harnessed the energy of UN Youth Volunteers towards advancing peace and development around the world, while also enhancing the volunteers' work-related skills. In 2013, the Asan Nanum Foundation provided US \$422,400 for full funding of 10 Korean youth.

In 2014, the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs sponsored its first UNV Junior Professional Officer: Ms (Alice) Hae Yeon Jeong, a Programme Analyst covering peacekeeping in the Programme Coordination Section. Also in 2014, the Republic of Korea co-hosted a 'partnerships with civil society' dialogue as part of the United Nations Development Group project 'Continuing inclusive dialogue on the post-2015 development agenda'. The outcomes of this dialogue, which UNV co-led, fed into the UN Secretary-General's synthesis report on the post-2015 development agenda.

In 2015, the Korea International Cooperation Agency signed a new agreement to support the UNV UN University Youth Volunteer programme. Under the agreement, 15 Korean university students in 2015, and another 10 in 2016, will be fully funded to serve as UN Youth Volunteers on peace and development projects. In addition, UNV has established a number of its own initiatives that promote university-level volunteering in partnership with leading universities in Europe, and the successful Online Volunteering service which opens up possibilities for young people to volunteer off-site through the internet.

Korean UN Volunteers in Action

↗ Social innovation in Uzbekistan

Jina Park (Republic of Korea) served as a UN Youth Volunteer with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Uzbekistan, where she supported the 'Social Innovation and Volunteerism' project as a community outreach specialist. Her team, which included seven national UN Volunteers, launched a creative workshop called 'Garbage Lab', bringing together some 40 young people, including some with disabilities.

The workshop raised environmental awareness by showing people how to reuse materials to make furniture that they otherwise could not afford and encouraged cooperation between youth and people with disabilities. The local media covered the three-day workshop and the project was eventually selected by UNDP to be scaled up nationwide as a DIY Lab.

↗ Preventing the next pandemic through communication and outreach

UN Youth Volunteer Ki Jung Min (Republic of Korea) served as Communications Officer in Viet Nam with the Food and Agriculture Organization's Emergency Centre for Trans-boundary Animal Diseases (ECTAD) Programme. She was funded by the Government of the Republic of Korea. Her team worked to control and prevent zoonotic diseases that significantly affect Viet Nam, primarily avian influenza, rabies, and foot and mouth diseases.

Ki Jung Min coordinated with ECTAD's technical officers and the One UN communications team to raise awareness among policymakers and the public on animal health issues. Viet Nam is located in a hot spot where there is a higher risk of new infectious diseases emerging. Her team created and designed reader-friendly materials and assisted in developing and implementing communication strategies to help people establish a methodology of virus transmission, which resulted in changed behaviour.

Table 1. Number of UN Volunteers from the Republic of Korea, 2009-2014

Year	Fully Funded UN Volunteers	UN Volunteers total	Online Volunteers
2009	11	23	87
2010	7	31	50
2011	15	30	42
2012	17	30	44
2013	12	40	56
2014	31	56	48

These volunteers serve on a range of assignments, including on climate change, disaster risk reduction, environment, education and child protection.

Table 2. Financial contributions from the Government of the Republic of Korea to UNV 2007-2014 (in US \$)

	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
KOICA*	0	400,000	0	1,201,966	0	0	0	0
MoFA**	50,087	188,721	200,000	200,000	300,000	1,300,000	1,380,000	1,540,000
TOTAL	50,087	188,721	200,000	1,401,966	300,000	1,300,000	1,380,000	1,540,000

*KOICA: Korea International Cooperation Agency

**MoFA: Ministry of Foreign Affairs



Jungeun Sohn (Korea, left), UN Volunteer Intern fully-funded by the Asan Nanum Foundation, worked on women's economic empowerment with UN Women in Nicaragua. As a volunteer initiative outside her assignment, she participated in an environmental awareness-raising activity at an elementary school. (UNV, 2013)

**«My favourite quote is
Gandhi's 'Be the change that
you wish to see in the world.'
I am thrilled to be a small part
of this great opportunity to
generate change.»**

Jungeun Sohn, UN Volunteer with UN Women in
Nicaragua

Online volunteering

In 2000, Korean nationals began volunteering through UNV's Online Volunteering service. Between then and the end of September 2015, some 337 Koreans have served as Online Volunteers, completing 470 online volunteering assignments.

Five organizations (three civil society and two UN entities) based in the Republic of Korea are registered with the UNV Online Volunteering service: Good Neighbours International; the 10th International Congress on HIV/AIDS in Asia and the Pacific Local Organizing Committee; Save the Children; the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction – Global Education Training Institute; and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. These organizations have published 33 opportunities on the Online Volunteering service website to date.

About UNV

The United Nations Volunteers (UNV) programme is the UN organization that promotes volunteerism to support peace and development worldwide. Volunteerism can transform the pace and nature of development and it benefits both society at large and the individual volunteer. UNV contributes to peace and development by advocating for volunteerism globally, encouraging partners to integrate volunteerism into development programming, and mobilizing volunteers.

UNV is administered by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). For more information about UNV, please visit www.unv.org.