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Special Interview

- Special Interview with Minister Park Beom Kye of Justice

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Emblem



Ministry of Justice

The Republic of Korea government has changed its official “government identity.” The new logo conveys the dynamism and enthusiasm of the country with the three colors of blue, red and white. It echoes off Korea’s national flag Taegeukgi with the taegeuk circular swirl and the blank canvas embodies in white. The typeface

was inspired by the font used in the “Hunminjeongeum” (1446), the original Hangeul text, in consideration of the harmony embodied in the taegeuk circle. Starting March 2016, the new logo is used at all 22 ministries including the Ministry of Justice and 51 central government agencies.

Special Interview with Minister Park Beom Kye of Justice



Park Beom Kye, Minister of Justice

Date of Birth	April 27, 1963
Place of Birth	Yeongdong-gun, Chungcheongbuk-do
Family Status	Spouse, Two Sons
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Passed the Qualification Examination for College Entrance• LL.B., College of Law, Yonsei University• B.A., Department of Economics, Hanbat National University
1991	Passed the 33 rd National Bar Examination
Feb.1994 - Mar.1996	Judge, Seoul Southern District Court
Apr.1996–Mar.1998	Judge, Seoul Central District Court
Mar.1998–Feb.2001	Judge, Jeonju District Court
Mar.2001–Oct.2002	Judge, Daejeon District Court
2003	Secretary to the President for Civil AffairsII / Secretary to the President for Legal Affairs / Secretary, Committee on Judicial Reform, Supreme Court of Korea
May.2012–May.2016	Member of the 19 th National Assembly(Daejeon Seogu B/Democratic United Party)
Jul.2012–May.2014	Member, 19 th Legislation and Judiciary Committee
Jun.2013–Aug.2013	Member, Special Committee on the Investigation of the Illegal Online Meddling in Election Campaigns by the National Intelligence Service, 19 th National Assembly
May.2016–May.2020	Member of the 20 th National Assembly(Daejeon Seogu B/Democratic Party)
Jun.2016–Sept.2017	Secretary, 20 th Legislation and Judiciary Committee
Nov.2016–Jan.2017	Secretary, Special Committee on the Investigation of the Influence-Peddling Scandal Involving President Park Geun-hye's Confidant Choi Soon-sil, 20 th National Assembly
Jul.2017 - Feb.2018	Chairperson, Democratic Party
Jan.2018–Jun.2018	Secretary, Special Committee on Judicial Reform, 20 th National Assembly
2018	Chief Spokesperson of the Democratic Party
May.2020 - Present	Member of the 21 st National Assembly (Daejeon Seogu B/Democratic Party)
Jun.2020 - Present	Member, 21 st Legislation and Judiciary Committee
Jan.2021– Present	Member, 21 st National Defense Committee
Jan.2021– Present	Minister, Ministry of Justice



Q: *A judge, a member of the National Assembly and the Minister of Justice. Normally, not one of them is easy to achieve. What was the key to success across the various fields of legislation, judiciary and administration?*

Last summer, a lawyer who is younger but very close to me asked a question: “Do you know what your special trait and strength is?” I assumed the answer to be “bright” and “eloquent,” but he told me that the answer is “patience.” “Patience.” I had never thought of it before. Never have I considered myself a patient person, but he got me thinking, and I realized that I was indeed, quite patient.

One unique thing about my life is that I did not graduate from high school normally. After entering and attending high school for two years, I dropped out and took the General Equivalency Diploma Examination. I was supposed to be in the class of 1984, but I actually entered university as the class of 1988. Attending university with friends who were four years younger than me, I became the departmental student representative, participated in student movements, and doing all that, I could not study much for three years. When I became a senior, I began studying hard for the judicial examination and passed it two years after graduation. After completing my training at the Judicial Research and Training Institute, I was appointed as a judge at Seoul Southern District Court.

I was working as a judge for about eight and a half years when there was a presidential election. I retired from being a judge and joined in as a Special Counsel for Legal Affairs to help former President Roh Moo-hyun, who at the time had the lowest approval rating among the candidates. For the next two months, the approval rating rose miraculously and President Roh won the election. As the Roh Moo-hyun administration was launched, I was appointed as the initial Second Secretary for Civil Affairs and the incumbent President Moon Jae-in was the Senior Secretary for Civil Affairs at the time. My relationship with the two presidents, Roh Moo-hyun and Moon Jae-in, began just like that.

After working at the Blue House, I went to Daejeon in 2004 to run for a member of the National Assembly. However, I lost the primary race, and I was not nominated in the subsequent by-election. Fortunately, I was nominated in the 2008 general election but was not elected and there were three setbacks in eight years in which I tried to become a member of the National Assembly.

For all those time from high school until now and especially after becoming a member of the National Assembly for the first time in 2011, eight years since I started politics until becoming the Minister of Justice today, people may think that I have experienced all of the legislative, administrative and judicial branches and everything was coming up roses but in fact, it was a very thorny road and there were many frustrations. Indeed there was honor, but the key to success was not giving up and



being “patient” while going through the thorny path. During the eight years of trying to become a member of the National Assembly, frustrations continued as I was not nominated or lost in the election, which could have led me to give up, but I endured such difficult times and eventually became a congressman. After entering the National Assembly, I mainly worked in the Legislation and Judiciary Committee with an interest in the prosecutorial and judicial reform, and I believe it became the basis for me in reaching the position of Minister of Justice today.

Q: *Since inauguration, you have focused on two keywords: “supporting the lives of the people” and “coexistence.” For what reasons do you place high value on those terms?*

“Justice of Coexistence” is aimed at Prosecution Service reform and “Legal Administration Supporting the Lives of People” is related to the innovation of legal administration.

Prosecution Service is one of the many constituents that construct a nation and society. In the past, elitism was thought to be the dominant atmosphere in the Prosecution Service. But now, it is difficult to persuade people with that concept. According to today’s public opinion polls, people’s credibility in the Police, Court and the Prosecution Service was very low, with the Prosecution Service showing the lowest figure. To regain lost trust, Prosecution Service reform that pursues universally acceptable justice is vital. The organizational culture of the Prosecution Service should become citizen-friendly and the Prosecution Service

should be an organization “for the people.” That is the only way to realize the “Justice of Coexistence.”

“Legal Administration Supporting the Lives of People” should be based primarily on direct communication. Today I visited a district in Ansan where 31,000 out of the total population of 39,000 people were foreigners. Foreigners from around 100 countries (60% are Chinese but there are people from African countries as well) gathered together in that single village. I visited the place and inspected how they are actually being employed, how they are coping with COVID-19, how their human rights are protected, and whether policies for foreigners are helpful. I tried to examine realities that cannot possibly be grasped just by reading documents. Conferences are often held when a minister visits the site but participants tend to talk in a way that can satisfy the minister. In order to prevent the visit becoming a mere display, I had passionate conversations with the staff working in the field. At first, conversations were generally superficial, but as time passed, the staff started to talk about the reality, which was an unscripted response. “Innovative administration” means listening to the staff on the field and incorporating their voice into policies.

In order to successfully innovate legal administration, we need a minister who understands the reality of people’s lives through honest conversations on field and tells policymakers beside him to come up with measures that address the problems arising from the gap between law and reality, and conflicting interests of different groups. Today, I focused on foreigners but the public also face difficulties in various areas, putting

them in similarly difficult situations. Unless I have firsthand experience of such difficulties, I can never understand the true reality just by reading documents and reports. Learning the reality by visiting sites and communicating with the public are the starting point of the innovation.

“Legal Administration Supporting the Lives of People” could be accomplished when the minister, through field-oriented administration, is well aware of the reality and when the operating department, under the guidance of the minister, plans and implements the measures to resolve the problems of conflicting policies and interests.

Q: *Due to COVID-19, there have been many changes to the status quo and the economic situation – this calls for changes in governmental tasks with respect to enhancing the people’s lives. Regarding companies and investments that are the basis of people’s lives, where should governmental policies be directed, especially regarding economic growth?*

Economy is the policy area that I am most interested in.

As you know, Korea lacks natural resources. Instead, we do have a plentiful supply of human resources. However, the youth nowadays are not as interested in marriage, pregnancy, and childbirth as in the past. Then what will Korea be like, 20 years from now? An aging society with a low fertility rate. The relative increase in the dependent population, as opposed to the productive population, will burden the youth even more. But nowadays, the youth do not have the same concept of family as they used to. This has yet to become the norm, but the increase in one person households has created a trend of people wanting to live their best lives by themselves. Aside from the issue of supporting the population, we are heading into an era with non-married couples. Why would people want to live by themselves? Why would they not want to get married and have children? It is because of increasing uncertainty about their future.

Among the uncertainties of the future, the one most in need of resolution is economic capacity, as in, the matter of getting bread and butter. Ultimately, this should be solved through economic growth, but Korea’s economic growth has hit somewhat of a wall. Now there are limits to the top-down economic model that we employed in the past. In the past, our economy grew thanks to strong policies oriented on promoting exports. A significant amount of such policies was based on taxes, meaning public support. But so far, the benefits of the aforementioned policies were centered on a few selected conglomerates.

Korea’s conglomerates have grown thanks to public support, so it is only right they compensate for it. But it is doubtful whether they are doing their part for the public. The most ideal form of compensation and way to contribute would be to create jobs. The best way for a company to contribute to society is to create many jobs for the youth, through employment. Hiring employees is not a sacrifice; rather, it in itself signifies the company’s growth. In order to hire employees, you need to invest. You need to build more factories and expand your offices – that is how you hire more employees and more workers.

But are Korean conglomerates making investments, the basis of employment? The internal reserve of the top 30 Korean conglomerates



reaches KRW 1,400 trillion. If a company makes short-term net profit, it distributes the profit to shareholders, raises wages, or improves employee welfare; if not, normally, it would make investments. But that is not the case for Korean conglomerates. They are passive when it comes to paying dividends to shareholders and improving working conditions; they are also stingy in making investments.

In fact, the youth unemployment problem in Korea would be resolved if they were to invest even 1% of their internal reserves of KRW 1,400 trillion. This is actually what Germany is doing. There are no “chaebols (super-rich)” in Germany, and conglomerates like famous automobile companies are putting together a couple trillion won (KRW) for funds to support youths to start businesses.

Thinking about the growth of conglomerates in terms of public welfare, especially in improving the future of youths, I am not sure if it made contributions. Korean conglomerates have always run a long-term surplus, even amidst economic recessions. But employment is not increasing; in fact, it is decreasing. Who is this growth for, then?

Had they at least resolved the job problem for the youth, it would have been nice; but Korean conglomerates are increasingly pursuing higher value-added industries, high-tech, robots, AI, ICT, big data, etc. However, these fields do not create mass job opportunities. One person would be doing what 100 people used to do in the past, and this in turn would create 99 people in unemployment. On the part of conglomerates, this signals the loss of the hiring power of 99 people.

For instance, today I visited the site of a plant in Ansan, where they used to extract pulp from trees to make paper; now they are reversing the process, compressing paper to make wood-like materials. This is classified as a 3D (difficult, dirty, dangerous) industry. There are 99 workers in total, 66 of which are Koreans and the rest are foreigners. Even here, Koreans take jobs that require a bit of technical skill, and foreigners do the so-called “unskilled labor.” If job creation is done in this manner, there is no prospect for employment.

Q: *The youth unemployment is becoming a serious issue amidst the economic crisis caused by COVID-19. As college students ourselves, we cannot help but be interested in this issue. Do you have any measures in mind for tackling the youth unemployment?*

As a result of economic and technological development, some youth are entering the high-tech industry. Then, what about the remaining young people? What can the government do for them? It is no other, but startups. This is because companies, even when they grow bigger, can no longer guarantee large-scale employment like they used to in the past. First, the government needs to build an infrastructure that would allow young entrepreneurs to freely start their own businesses, whether by themselves or in groups of three or five. However, most youth lack the technological skills or innovative ideas required to start their own businesses. Of course, there are those who are equipped with business ideas and relevant skills, but most of the young people are without sufficient capital or ideas to start their own businesses. On top of that, technology theft is also a critical threat. It is devastating. In this respect, we should usher in the era of single-person startups. Within a few years, startups are expected to take up 70% of the world economy. The government, therefore, must financially support the youth to develop ideas and make them reality. If they are short of ideas, the government should provide them as well.

Also, we need to nurture and train a pool of skilled manpower. Just look at Silicon Valley in the United States. The startups founded during the ICT revolution in the late 20th Century to the early 21st Century are now the top five most profitable enterprises in the world. Apple, Amazon, Facebook and Google all came to light in the garages of the founders' parents or college dormitories without a dime. At present, Apple's market value exceeds KRW 1500 trillion – three times the total budget of the Korean government, KRW 550 trillion. I am talking about a single company here. As far as I understand, Silicon Valley has a pool of human resources who studied in universities such as, Stanford. With our rich human resources, what can possibly stop us from achieving the same success in Korea?

Be that as it may, there are some people who copy and steal the technology owned by pre-entrepreneurs. This can become a serious obstacle in stimulating entrepreneurship. That is why I took initiative actions during my days in the National Assembly to legislate punitive damages to ensure those who have profited from technology theft return the wrongfully obtained benefits. Following these efforts and amendment in the Criminal Act, there are now legal grounds to prevent technology theft. What is left is for us to take action. The Ministry of Justice and other relevant ministries and government agencies should strive to address technology theft and improve the environment for entrepreneurs.

Q: *From what you have said so far, it seems crucial to establish a legal infrastructure that contributes to the coexistence and innovative growth of both large corporates and micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (“MSMEs”). In this*

regard, are there any legislative bills that you either have drafted when you were a member of the Trade, Industry, Energy, SMEs, and Startups Committee or recognize the need for legislation as the Minister of Justice?

Although Korea is considered as one of the top three largest patent powerhouses in the world, half of the registered patents are not used in reality. As it is costly to apply for patents and commercialize the ideas, patent owners neither work on commercialization nor transfer their patent rights, leaving half of the registered patents unused. Hence, we need to build a system that allows unused patents to be used by entrepreneurs who are willing to start a business. While working as a member of the Trade, Industry, Energy, SMEs, and Startups Committee, I once drafted a legislative bill related to the patent box policy to establish such a system. The gist of the bill was to reduce the corporate tax by half for a company running its business using these unused patents, but it has yet to be passed.

Moreover, I was the chief author of the amendment of the Utility Model Act. It aimed to protect the utility model rights of unpatentable inventions that result from combinations of more than two expired free-to-use patents.

Q: *Pursuing a career in law is still a profession many students aspire to have in the future. As a legal professional yourself, would you share any words of advice for the future generation of legal professionals?*

Whereas legal professionals were selected by passing the judicial examination in the past, now they are nurtured and trained at law schools. It has been over 12 years since the introduction of the law school system in Korea and it seems it has taken root. As someone who has participated in building the law school system in Korea from scratch, I believe the law school system has mostly succeeded in Korea. However, there are still a few areas that require improvement.

Since the judicial examination was a one-time examination, the results were quite clear and straightforward with little room for objection. Nonetheless, the law school system was established due to the fact that legal professionals exist to serve the public interest. In order for a legal professional to fulfill his or her professional responsibilities, he or she is required to embrace a comprehensive list of qualifications that encompasses a high level of human understanding, a myriad of experiences related to social phenomena, and knowledge in the humanities. Against this background, I believe the law school system that “nurtures” people from all walks of life into legal professionals by helping them develop legal minds at law schools is better than “selecting” legal professionals through a one-time examination.

What I would like to advise the future legal professionals is that in order to become a trusted and devoted legal professional, one must spare no effort in building not only legal minds but also the aforementioned qualifications.

(Practitioner's Note)

Document Production in ISDS Proceedings – from the Perspective of the Respondent State



Hyeon Song Lee

Senior Deputy Director, International Dispute Settlement Division, Ministry of Justice

Hyeon Song Lee is the Senior Deputy Director of the International Dispute Settlement Division of the Ministry of Justice. Ms. Lee previously worked for Lee & Ko as a senior associate, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy as a deputy director. She holds a BS in Law from Yonsei University and completed the 41st class of Judicial Research and Training Institute. She also has an LLM in International Commercial Law from UCL and is licensed to practice law in England and Wales as a Solicitor.

Introduction

Under International Investment Agreement (IIA), the contracting parties agree to adopt an investment-state dispute settlement mechanism (ISDS). Investors from one of the contracting states have access to the remedies as specified in the Agreement for breach by the other contracting parties and thereby enabling them to claim compensation directly to the respondent state through international arbitration proceedings.

Taking evidence, just as in the case of domestic litigation, is one of the most important but also time-consuming procedures in international arbitration practice. The right to be heard requires the tribunal to weigh every submission on facts or requests on the taking of evidence, creating the basis of the right of a party to present its case.

Interestingly, the approaches in common and civil law systems are somewhat different. In civil law jurisdiction, the pleading party is usually required to submit evidence it wishes to rely on. A party requesting disclosure will sometimes be expected to specify the requested document in detail, in a sufficient manner, to comply with its procedural law. In addition, civil law courts are often reluctant to compel evidence production. On the contrary, disclosure in common law is usually much more extensive. It is standard practice for the parties to request evidence from each other and they are obliged to disclose a wide range of documents provided that such documents are relevant to the case.

Applicable Rules on Taking Evidence in ISDS Proceedings

The rules that apply to ISDS proceedings, including the underlying IIA and specific institutional rules such as, the ICSID Convention and its Rules only have general provisions regarding the taking of evidence procedure. For instance, the UNCITRAL Model Law, which most pro-arbitration states have adopted, stipulates that “where the parties have adopted a set of rules that do not touch upon a particular issue, the arbitral tribunal may conduct the arbitration as it considers appropriate, or the common international practice.” Furthermore, Article 24(3) of the UNCITRAL Rules provides that “at any time during the arbitral proceedings the arbitral tribunal may require the parties to produce documents.” In terms of ICSID arbitration, Article 34(2)(a) of the Rules



simply prescribes that “the tribunal may, if it deems necessary at any stage of the proceeding, call upon the parties to produce documents, witnesses and experts.”

To address the lack of guidance in the institutional rules and strike a balance between the different legal systems, the parties generally agree to rely on the International Bar Association Rules on the Taking of Evidence in International Arbitration (the “IBA Rules”). Nonetheless, in the case of an investment dispute as opposed to a commercial one, applying the IBA Rules gives rise to complexities due to the fact that a sovereign state is composed of various entities – but still regarded as “a party” of the dispute – and that the dispute, from time to time, concerns with complicated administrative structure that is strictly governed by domestic law of the state party. In consequence, investment tribunals must answer to the complex privilege questions and unique issues raised by the involvement of sovereign state as a party to the dispute.

In accordance with Article 3 of the IBA Rules, any documents in the possession, custody or control by the respondent state are potentially subject to the production order of the tribunal. In this respect, it is no surprise that the domestic legislation of the state party does not always align with the evidence-taking mechanism in ISDS on account of various obstacles, in particular, any domestic restrictions barring the Administration from collecting the ordered documents issued by other governmental agencies or third-party entities.

In principle, the IBA Rules provide explicit requirements for a party to request documents to the other party. Pursuant to Article 3 of the IBA Rules, the documents should be “a narrow and specific requested

category of Documents that are reasonably believed to exist”, and in addition to it, “relevant to the case and material to its outcome.” Once the request meets the requirements, tribunals would look into whether or not there are any objections to the request from the other party pursuant to Article 9(2) of the IBA Rules as:

- “(a) lack of sufficient relevance to the case or materiality to its outcome;
- (b) legal impediment or privilege under the legal or ethical rules determined by the Arbitral Tribunal to be applicable;
- (c) unreasonable burden to produce the requested evidence;
- (d) loss or destruction of the Document that has been shown with reasonable likelihood to have occurred;
- (e) grounds of commercial or technical confidentiality that the Arbitral Tribunal determines to be compelling;
- (f) grounds of special political or institutional sensitivity (including evidence that has been classified as secret by a government or a public international institution) that the Arbitral Tribunal determines to be compelling; or
- (g) considerations of procedural economy, proportionality, fairness or equality of the Parties that the Arbitral Tribunal determines to be compelling.”

If the tribunal regards that the other party's reasoning on its objection is not sufficient enough to deny disclosure and orders the state party to submit the requested documents, the party must do so even if it believes the documents are of security risk or contain confidential information. Non-compliance would draw adverse inference against the state party in arbitration proceedings.

Arbitral Tribunal's Authority v. Rule of Law under Domestic Legal System

The following are the three grounds on which objections have been raised by the respondent state:

First, state party may address "deliberative privilege" – or cabinet privilege, a common-law notion that the internal process of executive branch of a state should be immune from normal disclosure in civil litigations. In this vein, Article 9(2)(f) of the IBA Rules stipulates "*special political or institutional sensitivity (including evidence that has been classified as secret by a government or a public international institution)*" as grounds of objections, subject to "tribunal determines to be compelling." However, this objection is not necessarily successful.

In the United Parcel Service v Canada case, Canada claimed the cabinet privilege for 377 documents created within the administrative bodies. The tribunal accepted that the privilege may apply domestically, but not in the context of the law governing the tribunal. And as to the consequence of non-disclosure, the tribunal said that a failure to disclose documents where the tribunal had held the cabinet privilege to be unjustifiable, might lead to the tribunal drawing adverse inference on the issue in question. On the other hand, the tribunal in Glamis Gold v United States upheld the United States' objection based on deliberative privilege with regard to various pre-decisional documents comprising part of the governmental decisions making process.

As seen above, the decision of the tribunal appears to be dependent on specific factual backgrounds and the tribunal's former experiences, which eventually create inconsistencies in ISDS jurisprudence.

Second, state party often attempts to object based on restrictions under domestic legislation. For instance, Korean law generally precludes investigating authorities from using collected materials for purposes other than the concerned investigation. Also, the Official Information Disclosure Act of Korea explicitly provides the list of information, which is possessed and managed by public institutions, to be subject to non-disclosure to the third party, even including other government agencies.

This is significantly related to the fundamental rule of law including separation of power - the administration is obliged to respect and comply with the state's legislation.

Unfortunately, the IBA Rules - and many tribunals – have assumed that any document "technically possessed" by the state party may be freely and practically controlled by the representatives in charge of the matter in arbitral proceeding. In many cases, restrictions under domestic legislation were not able to act as "legal impediment" under the IBA Rules. In Biwater v Tanzania, the tribunal held that to accept a domestic law permitting a state party a wide and undefined discretion to declare itself immune from the duty to produce documents, would violate the principle of equal treatment, and did not qualify as "grounds" for resisting disclosure under Article 9.2(f) of the IBA Rules.

Third, pending issue on alleged attribution to the state creates further questions as to whether the third party agency should be regarded as a part of the state. The arbitration tribunal time to time make orders for the production of documents possessed by the third party as if these entities were the same as the state organ. Despite the fact that the respondent state may ultimately be responsible under international law for the actions of various institutions such as state-owned enterprises, these juridical entities should be treated as non-parties at document production stage. These entities are not necessarily controlled by the government in their day to day operation - including record keeping – even assuming that the government has the power to appoint board members or owns majority equity in specific entity.

Under lots of situations where the relevant documents are in the hands of third parties, submission of the ordered documents depends on the third parties' consent, i.e. giving voluntary cooperation. However, these entities would definitely have a concern over the impact from the production of document, particularly when the entity has a competitive relationship with the Claimant investor. Accordingly, the state party is unlikely to succeed in obtaining the voluntary cooperation of such entities. Moreover, any submission without a proper consent may expose the officials in charge of the matter to legal liability.



Way Forward

As seen above, the discrepancies between arbitral practice in document production and the state party's fundamental legal system often compel the state party to conduct ISDS proceeding under disadvantages – domestically overcoming the conflict. In normal practice, the state party may partly redact the document before submission, which allows for the party to highlight the phrases or sentences in black color so that it covers these phrases or sentences which qualifies as information meeting standards of Article 9(2)(f) of the IBA Rules. Simultaneously, the state party may attempt to avoid disclosure by submitting a log describing the documents withheld from production under a claim that the documents are "privileged," "confidential," or "redacted." However, this practical skill cannot fully solve the issue. Redaction often triggers further disputes in arbitral proceeding as to whether they were purely appropriate.

Ultimately, we may wish to slightly depart from the IBA Rules and establish an alternative evidence-taking guideline particularly tailored to ISDS proceeding and as for the future, to investment court system introduced by the European Union. ISDS proceeding should not be used to the detriment of fundamental legal system of the respondent state. In this regard, more prudential approach is necessary before drawing adverse inference when the respondent state has a clear and robust reasoning beyond the objections under the IBA Rules.



Act on the Establishment and Operation of the Corruption Investigation Office for High-Ranking Officials

[Enforcement Date 15. Jul, 2020.] [Act No.16863, 14. Jan, 2020., New Enactment]



CHAPTER I GENERAL PROVISION

Article 1 (Purpose)

The purpose of this Act is to prescribe for matters necessary for the establishment and operation of the Investigation Agency for Crimes of Senior Public Officials

Article 2 (Definitions)

The definitions of terms used in this Act shall be as follows:

1. The term "senior public official" means a person who holds the office of any of the following positions or retired from such any position: Provided, That general-grade officers shall be included in the scope of senior public officials even after they are exempted from active duty:
 - (a) The President;
 - (b) The Speaker of National Assembly and a member of the National Assembly;
 - (c) The Chief Justice and a Justice of the Supreme Court;

- (d) The President and a Justice of the Constitutional Court;
- (e) The Prime Minister and a public official in political service belonging to the Prime Minister's Secretariat;
- (f) A public official in political service of the National Election Commission;
- (g) A public official in political service of a central administrative agency under subparagraph 2 of Article 2 of the Act on Public Sector Audits;
- (h) A public official of Grade III or higher belonging to the Office of the President, the Office of National Security, the Presidential Security Service, or the National Intelligence Service;
- (i) A public official in political service of the National Assembly Secretariat, the National Assembly Library, the National Assembly Budget Office, or the National Assembly Research Service;
- (j) A public official in political service of the Office of the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, the Judicial Policy Research Institute, the Training Institute for Court Officials, or the Department of Court Administration of the Constitutional Court;
- (k) The Prosecutor General;



- (l) The Special Metropolitan City Mayor, a Metropolitan City Mayor, the Special Self-Governing City Mayor, a Do Governor, the Special Self-Governing Province Governor, or a superintendent of education;
 - (m) A judge or a prosecutor;
 - (n) A police officers not lower than a superintendent general;
 - (o) A general-grade officer;
 - (p) The Governor, the Deputy Governor, or the Chief Executive Auditor of the Financial Supervisory Service;
 - (q) A public official in political service of Grade III or higher belonging to the Board of Audit and Inspection, the National Tax Service, the Fair Trade Commission or the Financial Services Commission;
2. The term "family" means the spouse, lineal ascendants and descendants: Provided, That in the case of the President, it refers to his or her spouse and relatives within fifth degree of kinship;
 3. The term "crime of a senior public official" means any of the following crimes committed by a person or his/her family member while he/she is in office as a senior public official: Provided, That in the case of a family member, such crime shall be limited to a crime committed in connection with the duties of the relevant senior senior public official:
 - (a) A crime under any of Articles 122 through 133 of the Criminal Act (including cases of aggravated punishment under any other Act);
 - (b) A crime under any of Articles 141, 225 and 227, 227-2 and 229 (limited to 225, 227 and 227-2) of the Criminal Act related to duties, and crimes under Articles 355 through 357 and 359 (including cases of aggravated punishment under any other Act);
 - (c) A crime under Article 3 of the Act on the Aggravated Punishment of Specific Crimes;
 - (d) A crime under Article 111 of the Attorney-at-Law Act;
 - (e) A crime under Article 45 of the Political Funds Act;
 - (f) A crime of Article 18 or 19 of the National Intelligence Service Korea Act;
 - (g) A crime under Article 14 (1) of the Act on Testimony and Appraisal before the National Assembly;
 - (h) A crime under Article 3 or 4 of the Act on Regulation and Punishment of Criminal Proceeds Concealment related to criminal proceeds, etc. under subparagraph 4 of Article 2 of that Act due to an act of crime falling under items (a) through (e);
 4. The term "related crime" means any of the following crimes:
 - (a) A crime under any item of the subparagraph 3 committed by a person having relations under Articles 30 through 32 of the Criminal Act with a senior public officials;

- (b) Any of the crimes under Articles 133 and 357 (2) of the Criminal Act committed by a person against a senior public official;
 - (c) Any of the crimes of Articles 151 (1), 152 and 154 through 156 of the Criminal Act related to a crime of a senior public official, and any of the crimes under Article 14 (1) of the Act on Testimony, Appraisal, etc. at the National Assembly;
 - (d) The crime committed by a senior public official, which is directly related to the crime of such senior public official identified in the course of investigating him/her;
5. The term "crime, etc. of a snior public officials, etc." means a crime falling under any of subparagraphs 3 and 4.

Article 3 (Establishment and Independence of the Investigation Agency for Crimes of Senior Public Officials)

- (1) The Investigation Agency for Crimes of Senior Public Officials (hereinafter referred to as the "Investigation Agency") shall be established to perform the duties necessary for the following matters concerning crimes, etc. of senior public officials:
1. Investigation of the crimes, etc. of senior public officials;
 2. The institution and maintenance of prosecutions of any crimes and related crimes committed by any person or his/her family member thereof while he/she is (was) in office as a senior public official falling under subparagraph 1 (e), (k), (m) or (n) of Article 2.
- (2) The Investigation Agency shall perform its official affairss falling under its authority independently.
- (3) With respect to the administrative affairs of the Investigation Agency, the President or any public official belonging to the Office of the President shall neither require the Investigation Agency to report any business affairs or submit an materials, nor issue an order, nor present his/her opinion to the Investigation Agency, nor conduct any other act interfering in the performance of its duties.

CHAPTER II ORGANIZATION

Article 4 (Director-General, Deputy Director-General, etc.)

- (1) The Investigation Agency shall have one Director-General and one Deputy Director-General, and they shall be appointed as a public official in special service.
- (2) The Investigation Agency shall have Investigation Agency Prosecutors and Investigation Agency Investigators, and other necessary staff.
- Article 5 (Qualification for and Appointment of Director-General)(1) The Director-General shall be appointed by the President via a personnel hearing after the President nominates one person from among the two persons recommended by the Recommendation Committee for Candidates for the Director-General of the Investigation Agency for Crimes of Senior Public Officials under Article 6 from among those who were in any of the following positions for at least 15 years:
1. A judge, prosecutor or attorney-at-law;

- 2. A person qualified as an attorney-at-law, who was engaged in legal affairs at a state agency, a local government, a public institution under Article 4 of the Act on the Management of Public Institutions, or other corporation;
- 3. A person qualified as an attorney-at-law, who served as an assistant professor of law or higher at a university;
- (2) In case of a person who served in two or more of the positions referred to in subparagraphs of paragraph (1), the numbers of his/her service years in such positions shall be added.
- (3) The term of office of the Director-General shall be three years, and he/she shall not be reappointed and the retirement age shall be 65 years.
- (4) When the position of the Director General is vacant, his/her successor shall be appointed within 60 days through the procedures under paragraph (1). In such cases, the term of office of the newly appointed Director-General shall begin anew.

Article 6 (Recommendation Committee for Candidates for Director-General of Investigation Agency for Crimes of Senior Public Officials)

- (1) The Recommendation Committee for Candidates for the Director-General of the Investigation Agency for Crimes of Senior Public Officials (hereinafter referred to as the "Recommendation Committee") shall be established in the National Assembly to recommend candidates for the Director General.
- (2) The Recommendation Committee shall consist of seven members, including one Chairperson.
- (3) The chairperson shall be elected from among the members referred to in the subparagraphs of paragraph (4).
- (4) The Speaker of the National Assembly shall appoint or commission the following persons as the members:
 - 1. The Minister of Justice;
 - 2. The Minister of National Court Administration;
 - 3. The President of the Korean Bar Association;
 - 4. Two persons recommended by the negotiating group of the political party to which the President belongs or belonged;
 - 5. Two persons recommended by a negotiating group other than the negotiating group under subparagraph 4.
- (5) The Recommendation Committee shall be convened by the Chairperson at the request of the Speaker of the National Assembly or at least one-third of the incumbent members of the Recommendation Committee, or if deemed necessary by the Chairperson, and any decision thereof shall require the concurring vote of at least six members.
- (6) The members of the Recommendation Committee shall maintain political neutrality and perform their duties independently.
- (7) When the Recommendation Committee recommends candidates for the Director-General pursuant to Article 5 (1), it shall be deemed to be dissolved.
- (8) Other matters necessary for the operation, etc. of the Recommendation Committee shall be prescribed by the National Assembly Regulations.

Article 7 (Deputy Director-General)

- (1) The Deputy Director-General shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation of the Director-General from among those who served for at least 10 years in the positions referred to in the subparagraphs of Article 5 (1).
- (2) Article 5 (2) shall apply mutatis mutandis to the appointment of the Deputy Director-General.
- (3) The term of office of the Deputy Director-General shall be three years, and he/she shall not be reappointed, and the retirement age shall be 63 years.

Article 8 (Investigation Agency Prosecutors)

- (1) An Investigation Agency Prosecutor shall be appointed by the President upon the recommendation by the Personnel Committee under Article 9 from among those who have held the qualification of attorney-at-law for at least 10 years and performed the affairs of judgments or criminal investigation or the affairs of inspection prescribed by Regulations of the Investigation Agency. In such cases, the number of persons who were in the position of a prosecutor shall not exceed 1/2 of the fixed prescribed number of Investigation Agency Prosecutors under paragraph (2).
- (2) Investigation Agency Prosecutors shall be appointed as acpublic official in special service, and the number thereof shall be 25, including the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General.
- (3) The term of office of an Investigation Agency Prosecutor shall be three years, and he/she may be consecutively appointed only three times, and the retirement age shall be 63 years.
- (4) In performing his/her duties, an Investigation Agency Prosecutor may perform the duties of a prosecutor under Article 4 of the Prosecutors' Office Act and the duties of a military prosecutor under Article 37 of the Military Court Act.

Article 9 (Personnel Committee)

- (1) The Personnel Committee shall be established in the Investigation Agency to deliberate and resolve on the appointment, the transfer, and other important matters related to personnel affairs, of Investigation Agency Prosecutors, excluding the Director-General and Deputy Director-General.
- (2) The Personnel Committee shall be comprised of seven members, including one chairperson, and the Director General shall be the chairperson of the Personnel Committee.
- (3) The composition of the Personnel Committee members shall be as follows:
 - 1. The Director-General;
 - 2. Deputy Director-General;
 - 3. One person with knowledge and virtue appointed by the Director-General, who has much experience in various preffessional fields;
 - 4. Two persons recommended by the negotiating group of the political party to which the President belongs or belonged;
 - 5. Two persons recommended by a negotiating group other than the negotiating group under subparagraph 4.
- (4) The term of office of the members under paragraph (3) 3 through 5

- shall be three years.
- (5) The Personnel Committee shall pass resolutions with the consent of a majority of the incumbent members.
- (6) Other matters necessary for the composition, operation, etc. of the Personnel Committee shall be prescribed by Regulations of the Investigation Agency.

Article 10 (Investigation Agency Investigator)

- (1) The Investigation Agency Investigator shall be appointed by the Director-General from among the following persons:
 - 1. Persons qualified as an attorney-at-law;
 - 2. Public officials of Grade VII or higher who were engaged in affairs of inspection and investigations;
 - 3. Persons who have at least five years of actual experience in the inspection affairs prescribed by Regulations of the Investigation Agency;
- (2) Investigation Agency investigators shall be appointed as a public officias in general service, and the number thereof shall not exceed 40: Provided, That, where an Investigation Agency investigators are dispatched from the Prosecutors' Office, they shall be included in the fixed prescribed numbers of Investigation Agency Investigators.
- (3) The term of office of an investigation Agency investigator shall be six years, he/she may be reappointed, and the retirement age shall be 60 years.
- Article 11 (Other Staff Members)(1) Investigation Agency may have staff members necessary to manage its administrative affairs.
- (2) The number of staff members under paragraph (1) shall not exceed 20.

Article 12 (Remuneration, etc.)

- (1) The remuneration and treatment of the Director-General shall be equivalent to those of the Vice Minister.
- (2) The remuneration and treatment of the Deputy Director-General is equivalent to those of a public official of the highest Grade among the positions of members of the Senior Civil Service Corps
- (3) The remuneration and treatment of an Investigation Agency Prosecutor shall be equivalent to those of a prosecutor.
- (4) The remuneration and treatment of an Investigation Agency Investigator shall be equivalent to those of a public official in prosecutory service of not lower than Grade VII but not higher than Grade IV .

Article 13 (Grounds for Disqualifications, etc.)

- (1) No person who falls under any of the following may be appointed as the Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, an Investigation Agency Prosecutor, or an Investigation Agency Investigator:
 - 1. A person who is not a national of the Republic of Korea;
 - 2. A person who falls under any subparagraph of Article 33 of the State Public Officials Act;
 - 3. A person who has been sentenced to imprisonment without labor or greater punishment;
 - 4. A person for whom five years have not yet elapsed since removal

- from office following an impeachment decision;
- 5. A person who retired as a public official belonging to the Office of the President and for whom two years have not yet elapsed since his/her retirement from office.
- (2) A prosecutor may not be the Deputy Director-geneal unless three years have elapsed since his/her retirement, and may not be the Director-General unless one year has elapsed after his/her retirement from office.

Article 14 (Guarantee of Status)

The Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, and Investigation Agency Prosecutors shall not be removed from office, unless they are impeached or sentenced to imprisonment without prison labor or heavier punishment, nor shall they be subject to such dispositions as dismissal, removal or suspension from office, reduction of salary, reprimand or retirement unless a disposition of disciplinary action is taken against them.

Article 15 (Retirement Due to Mental and Physical Disability)

When an Investigation Agency prosecutor is unable to perform his/her duties due to serious mental or physical disability, the President may hi/her to retire from office upon the proposal of the Director-General.

Article 16 (Restrictions on Appointment as Public Officials)

- (1) The Director-General and the Deputy Director-General shall not be appointed as the Prosecutor General, the Prime Minister, or a public official in political service of a central administrative agency, the Office of the President, the Office of National Security, the Presidential Security Service, or the National Intelligence Service (excluding a Justice of the Constitutional Court appointed pursuant to Article 111 (3) of the Constitution of the Republic of Korea) within two years after his/her retirement from office.
- (2) The Director-General, the Deputy Director-General, and Investigation Agency Prosecutors may not be appointed as a prosecutor unless two years have elapsed since retirement from office.
- (3) A person for whom one year has not elapsed since his/her retirement as an Investigation Agency prosecutor may not be appointed to any position of the Office of the President.
- (4) A person who has served in the Investigation Agency shall not accept any case of the Investigation Agency as an attorney-at-law for one year after his/her retirement from office.

CHAPTER III DUTIES AND AUTHORITY

Article 17 (Duties and Authority of Director-General)

- (1) The Director-General shall exercise overall control over the affairs of the Investigation Agency and direct and supervise the staff under his/

her jurisdiction.

(2) The Director-General may attend the National Assembly to state his/her opinion on the affairs under the jurisdiction of the Investigation Agency, and shall, if requested by the National Assembly, appear before the National Assembly to report or answer, unless affecting any criminal investigation or judgment.

(3) Where an agenda related to any affair under his/her jurisdiction is introduced into the State Council, the Director-General may attend and speak at the State Council and recommend the Minister of Justice to submit a bill (including a bill of the Presidential Decree concerning the enforcement of this Act) concerning the affairs under his/her jurisdiction.

(4) If necessary for performing his/her duties, the Director-General may request the heads of the relevant agencies, such as the Supreme Prosecutors' Office and the National Police Agency, to provide investigatory cooperation, including the submission of materials, such as criminal investigation records and evidence of cases related to crimes, etc. of senior public officials, and support for criminal investigation activities.

(5) The Director-General shall concurrently hold the position of an Investigation Agency Prosecutor under Article 8.

(6) Where the Director-General performs budget-related affairs of the Investigation Agency, he/she shall be deemed the head of a central government office under Article 6 (2) of the National Finance Act.

Article 18 (Duties and Authority of Deputy Director-General)

(1) The Deputy Director-General shall assist the Director-General, and shall act on behalf of the Ditector-General when the Director-General is unable to perform his/her duties due to any unavoidable cause.

(2) The Deputy Director-General shall concurrently hold the position of an Investigation Agency Prosecutor under Article 8.

Article 19 (Delegation, Transfer and Succession of Duties of the Investigation Agency Prosecuro)

(1) The Director-General may have an Investigation Agency Prosecutor handle part of any duties under his/her authority.

(2) The Director-General may handle the duties of an Investigation Agency Prosecutor himself/herself or have any other Investigation Agency Prosecutor handle such duties.

Article 20 (Duties and Authority of Investigation Agency Prosecutor)

(1) An Investigation Agency Prosecutor shall conduct the acts necessary for the conduct of criminal investigation and as the institution and maintenance of a prosecution, under each subparagraph of Article 3 (1).

(2) An Investigation Agency Prosecutor shall follow the direction and supervision of the Director-General, and direct and supervise Investigation Agency Investigators.

(3) An Investigation Agency Prosecutor may raise an objection when he/she disagrees on the legality or legitimacy of any direction and supervision under paragraph (2) related to a specific case.

Article 21 (Duties of Investigation Agency Investigator)

(1) An Investigation Agency Investigator shall perform his/her duties

under the direction and supervision of Investigation Agency Prosecutors.

(2) An Investigation Agency Investigator shall perform the duties of a judicial police officer under Article 196 (1) of the Criminal Procedure Act with respect to investigation of crimes of senior public officials.

Article 22 (Political Neutrality and Independence in Performing Duties)

Public officials belonging to the Investigation Agency shall maintain political neutrality and shall not be subject to any instructions or interference from outside in performing their duties.

CHAPTER IV INVESTIGATION, AND INSTITUTION AND MAINTENANCE OF PROSECUTION

Article 23 (Investigation by Investigation Agency Prosecutor)

When an Investigation Agency prosecutor thinks that there is suspicion of a crime of a senior public official, he/she shall investigate the criminal concerned, and the fact and evidence of the crime.

Article 24 (Relationship with Other Investigation Authorities)

(1) Where, with respect to any criminal investigation by other investigation authority, which overlaps with the criminal investigation conducted by the Investigation Agency, the Director-General request such investigation authority to refer such criminal investigation to the Investigation Agency by deeming it appropriate for the Investigation Agency to conduct the criminal investigation in light of the degree of process of such criminal investigation, and of controversies over fairness of such criminal investigation, the relevant investigation agency shall comply with the request.

(2) Where any other investigative agency comes to identify a crime, etc. of any senior public official in the course of investigating other crime, it shall immediately notify the Investigation Agency of such fact.

(3) Where the Director-General deems it appropriate for any other investigation authority to investigate any crime of a senior public official in light of the suspect, the victim, and the content, scale, etc. of the case of such crime, he/she may refer that case to that investigation authority.

(4) Upon receipt of the notification of the fact of a crime, etc. of a senior public official pursuant to paragraph (2), the Director-General shall reply whether to begin the investigation to the head of that other investigation authority who has made the notification in accordance with the peirod and method prescribed by Regulations of the Investigation Agency.

Article 25 (Investigation of Crimes of Investigation Agency Prosecutors, and Prosecutors)

(1) Where the Director-General discovers a suspicion of a crime of any

Investigation Agency Prosecutor, he/she shall notify the Supreme Public Prosecutor's Office of such fact, together with the relevant materials.

(2) If an investigation authority other than the Investigation Agency discovers a suspicion of a crime of any senior public official, the head of that investigation authority shall refer such case to the Investigation Agency.

Article 26 (Sending, etc. of Related Documents and Evidential Materials of Investigation Agency Prosecutor)

(1) When an Investigation Agency prosecutor conducts investigation concerning a crime of any senior public official, etc. other than a case prescribed in Article 3 (1) 2, he/she shall, without delay, send the relevant documents and evidential materials to a prosecutor belonging to the Seoul Central District Prosecutors' Office.

(2) The prosecutor who handles the case after receiving the relevant documents and evidential documents pursuant to paragraph (1) shall promptly notify the Director-General of whether to institute a prosecution for the relevant case.

Article 27 (Referral of Related Case of Identified Crime)

When the Director-General decides not to prosecute any crime of a senior public official, he/she shall refer to the Supreme Prosecutors' Office the case of a related crime which he/she has identified in the course of investigating the former crime.

Article 28 (Execution of Sentences)

(1) If a judgment on any case, such as a case of a crime of a senior public official, for which the Investigation Agency prosecutor institutes a prosecution, becomes final and conclusive, a prosecutor belonging to the Public Prosecutors' Office which corresponds to the competent district court of the first instance shall execute the sentence.

(2) In the cases referred to in paragraph (1), the Director-General shall transfer the relevant case and all the records to the head of the competent prosecutors' office for the smooth execution of the sentence.

Article 29 (Special Cases concerning Application for Adjudication)

(1) When a complainant or accuser receives a notification of non-prosecution from an Investigation Agency prosecutor, he/she may file an application for adjudication on the properness of the non-prosecution with the Seoul High Court.

(2) A person who intends to file an application for adjudication under paragraph (1) shall file a written application for adjudication with the Director-General within 30 days from the date of receiving the notification of non-prosecution.

(3) The grounds which make an application for adjudication reasonable, such as the fact and evidence of the crime with respect to which the application for adjudication is filed, shall be entered in the written application for adjudication.

(4) Upon receipt of an application for adjudication pursuant to paragraph

(2), the Director-General shall send such application for adjudication, a statement of his/her opinion, an investigation-related documents and evidential materials to the Seoul High Court within seven days from the date of receiving it: Provided, That when the Director-General deems such application reasonable, he/she shall immediately institute a prosecution and notify the purport of such prosecution to the Seoul High Court and the applicant for adjudication.

(5) Except as prescribed in this Act, the Articles 262 and 262-2 through 262-4 of the Criminal Procedure Act shall apply to application for adjudication. In such cases, the competent court shall be the Seoul High Court, and "chief prosecutor of a district prosecutors' office or branch office" shall be deemed as "Director-General" and "prosecutor" as "Investigation Agency prosecutor."

Article 30 (Special Cases concerning Application for Adjudication by Director-General)

(1) When the Director-General receives a notification of non-prosecution from a prosecutor pursuant to Article 26 (2), he/she may file an application for adjudication on the properness of the non-prosecution with the High Court (hereinafter referred to as "competent High Court") having jurisdiction over the location of the district prosecutors' office to which that prosecutor belongs.

(2) Where the Director-General intends to file an application for adjudication under paragraph (1), he/she shall submit a written application for adjudication to the chief prosecutor of a district prosecutors' office or branch office within 30 days from the date of receiving the notification of non-prosecution.

(3) The grounds which make an application for adjudication reasonable, such as the fact and evidence of the crime with respect to which the application for adjudication is filed, shall be entered in the written application for adjudication.

(4) Upon receipt of an application for adjudication pursuant to paragraph (2), the chief prosecutor of a district prosecutors' office or branch office shall send such application for adjudication, a statement of his/her opinion, investigation-related documents and evidential materials to the competent High Court via the competent High Prosecutors' Office within seven days from the date of receiving it: Provided, That if the chief prosecutor of a district prosecutors' office or branch office deems such application reasonable, he/she shall immediately institute a prosecution and notify the purport of such prosecution to the competent High Court and the Director-General.

(5) Except as prescribed in this Act, the Articles 262 and 262-2 through 262-4 of the Criminal Procedure Act shall apply to application for adjudication. In such cases, the competent court shall be the Seoul High Court, and "chief prosecutor of a district prosecutors' office or branch office" shall be deemed as "Director-General" and "prosecutor" as "Investigation Agency Prosecutor."

Article 31 (Jurisdiction)

The first instance of a case, such as a case of a crime, etc. of a senior

public official, for which an Investigation Agency Prosecutor institutes a prosecution, shall be under the jurisdiction of the Seoul Central District Court: Provided, That an Investigation Agency prosecutor may institute a prosecution with the competent court under the Criminal Procedure Act, considering the place of the crime, the place of evidence, the special circumstances of the defendant, etc.

CHAPTER V DISCIPLINARY ACTION

Article 32 (Grounds for Disciplinary Action)

Where the Investigation Agency Prosecutor falls under any of the following, disciplinary action shall be taken against him/her:

1. Where he/she commits any of the following acts while in office:
 - (a) Being involved in political activities;
 - (b) Being engaged in any affairs for the purpose of obtaining monetary interests;
 - (c) Being engaged in any duties in exchange of remuneration without the permission of the Director-General;
2. Where he/she violates or neglects any of his/her duties;
3. Where he/she commits any act impairing his/her dignity or prestige as an Investigation Agency Prosecutor, regardless of whether such act is related to his/her duties;

Article 33 (Disciplinary Committee for Investigation Agency Prosecutors)(1) The Investigation Agency Prosecutors' Disciplinary Committee (hereinafter referred to as the "Disciplinary Committee") shall be established in the Investigation Agency to deliberate on disciplinary cases of an Investigation Agency Prosecutor.

(2) The Disciplinary Committee shall be comprised of seven members, including one chairperson, and shall have three reserve members.

Article 34 (Duties of Chairperson of Disciplinary Committee, and Term of Office of Members)

- (1) The Deputy Director-General shall be the chairperson of the Disciplinary Committee: Provided, That, if the Deputy Director-General is suspected of any act subject to disciplinary action, the Director-General shall be the Chairperson, and if both of the Director-General and the Deputy Director-General are all suspected of an act subject to disciplinary action, the Investigation Agency Prosecutor prescribed by Regulations of the Investigation Agency shall be the Chairperson.
- (2) The following persons shall be the members:
1. Two Investigation Agency Prosecutors appointed by the Chairperson;
 2. Four persons appointed by the Chairperson from among attorney-at-laws, professors of law, and other persons with abundant knowledge and experience.
 - (3) Reserve members shall be appointed by the Chairperson from among Investigation Agency Prosecutors.
 - (4) The term of office of a member commissioned pursuant to paragraph

- (2) 2 shall be three years.
- (5) The Chairperson shall exercise overall control over the affairs of the Disciplinary Committee, and shall convene and preside over meetings thereof.
- (6) If the Chairperson is unable to perform his/her duties due to unavoidable reasons, the member designated by the Chairperson shall act on his/her behalf, and if the member designated by the Chairperson is unable to perform his/her duties due to unavoidable reasons, the reserve member designated by the Chairperson shall act on his/her behalf.

Article 35 (Administrative Staff of the Disciplinary Committee)

- (1) The Disciplinary Committee shall have one executive secretary and several clerks.
- (2) The executive secretary shall be the Investigation Agency Prosecutor appointed by the Chairperson, and the clerks shall be commissioned by the Chairperson from among the public officials belonging to the Investigation Agency.
- (3) The executive secretary and the clerks shall, upon receipt of an order of the Chairperson, be engaged in affairs concerning the keeping and preservation of records and other documents concerning disciplinary action.

Article 36 (Requests for and Commencement of Disciplinary Action)

- (1) Disciplinary deliberation by the Disciplinary Committee shall commence at the request of the Director-General (referring to the Deputy Direcor-General if the Direcor-General is suspected of an act subject to disciplinary action, and the Investigation Agency Prosecutor prescribed by Regulations of the Investigation Agency, if both of the Direcor-General and the Dupty Direcor-General are all suspected of an act subject to disciplinary action; hereinafter the same shall apply in this Article and Article 38 (1), 39, 40 (2), and 42 (1)).
- (2) The Director-General shall make a request under paragraph (1) when he/she deems that an Investigation Agency Prosecutor has committed an act falling under any of the subparagraphs of Article 32.
- (3) A request for disciplinary action shall be made in writing to the Disciplinary Committee.

Article 37 (Disciplinary Dues)

- (1) Where the Director-General requests disciplinary action against an Investigation Agency Prosecutor pursuant to Article 36, she/she shall, if the ground for such disciplinary action is receipt of money and valuables, or entertainment, or embezzlement or misappropriation of public fund, request the disciplinary committee to decide on the imposition of disciplinary dues up to five times the amount of money and valuables or entertainment, or the amount of embezzlement and misappropriation of public funds, in addition to the relevant disciplinary action,

- (2) Articles 78-2 (2) and (3) of the State Public Officials Act shall apply mutatis mutandis to the adjustment, reduction or exemption, and collection of disciplinary dues under paragraph (1).

Article 38 (Request for Another Disciplinary Action, etc.)

- (1) Where a judgment to nullify or revoke the disposition of disciplinary action and the imposition of disciplinary dues under Article 37 (hereinafter referred to as "disciplinary action, etc.") is rendered by a court on any of the following grounds, the Director-General shall request disciplinary action, etc. again: Provided, That, he/she may decide not to request any disciplinary action, etc. for a disposition of salary reduction or reprimand with respect to which a court is rendered a judgment for nullity or revocation on the ground referred to in subparagraph 3:
1. Where there is any obvious defect in the application of any Act or subordinate statute, or the investigation of evidence and facts;
 2. Where there is any defect in the composition of the Disciplinary Committee, the resolution of disciplinary actions, etc., or any other procedural defect;
 3. Where the disciplinary action or disciplinary dues are excessive.
- (2) Where the Director-General requests disciplinary action, etc. under paragraph (1), he/she shall request disciplinary action, etc. to the Disciplinary Committee within three months from the date on which the relevant judgment of the court becomes final and conclusive, and the Disciplinary Committee shall decide on disciplinary action, etc. in preference to other disciplinary cases.

Article 39 (Inquiry of Grounds for Disciplinary Action of Investigation Agency Prosecutor Desiring Retirement)

- (1) Where an Investigation Agency Prosecutor desires to retire from office, the Director-General shall inquire of the Board of Audit and Inspection, the prosecutors' office, the police, and other investigation agencies about whether there is a ground for disciplinary action under Article 32.
- (2) Where there is a ground for disciplinary action corresponding to dismissal or removal or suspension from office as a result of inquiry under paragraph (1), the Director-General shall request disciplinary action, etc. without delay, and the Disciplinary Committee shall decide on disciplinary action, etc. in preference to other disciplinary cases.

Article 40 (Delivery of Copy of Written Request for Disciplinary Action to Disciplinary Suspect, and Suspension of Performance of Duties thereof)(1) The Disciplinary Committee shall deliver a copy of a written request for disciplinary action to the disciplinary suspect.

(2) The Director-General may, if deemed necessary, order the disciplinary suspect to suspend the performance of his/her duties.

Article 41 (Decision of Disciplinary Action)

- (1) When the disciplinary committee shall, when completing deliberation on the relevant case, decides whether to take disciplinary action with

the concurrent vote of a majority of the total members of the disciplinary committee.

(2) The Chairperson shall have the right to vote in a decision and shall have a casting vote in case of tie in votes.

Article 42 (Execution of Disciplinary Action)(1) In the case of reprimand, the Director General shall execute the disciplinary action, and in the case of dismissal, dismissal or suspension from office, or reduction of salary, the President shall execute the disciplinary action upon the recommendation of the Director General.

(2) When disciplinary action is taken against an Investigation Agency Prosecutor, such fact shall be published in the Official Gazette.

Article 43 (Application of Other Acts)@ Articles 3, and 9 through 17, Articles 19 through 21, 22 ("Article 23" in paragraph (2) shall, however, be deemed as "Article 42"), and 24 through 26 of the Act on Discipline Of Prosecutor shall apply mutatis mutandis to the matters not prescribed in this chapter. In such cases, "prosecutor " shall be regarded as "Investigation Agency Prosecutor."

CHAPTER VI SUPPLEMENTARY PROVISIONS

Article 44 (Dispatched Public Officials)

Public officials may, if necessary, be dispatched from other administrative agencies in consideration of the contents, specificity, etc. of the duties of the Investigation Agency.

Article 45 (Organization and Operation)

Except as otherwise provided for in this Act, matters necessary for the organization and operation of the Investigation Agency shall be prescribed by Regulations of the Investigation Agency.

Article 46 (Protection of Information Providers)

- (1) When anyone becomes aware of a crime, etc. of a senior public official, he/she may provide the Investigation Agency with information on such crime, and shall not be subject to any disadvantageous measures for this reason.
- (2) The Investigation Agency may take protective measures and supporting actions under the Protection of Public Interest Reporters Act to whistle blowers. Detailed matters concerning the protection of whistle blowers shall be prescribed by Presidential Decree.

Article 47 (Application Mutatis Mutandis of Other Acts)

The Prosecutors' Office Act (excluding, however, Article 4 (1) 2, 4, and 5), and the Criminal Procedure Act shall apply mutatis mutandis to other duties, powers, etc. under this Act of the Investigation Agency Prosecutors and the Investigation Agency Investigators, unless such Acts are contrary to the provisions of this Act.

(Source: law.go.kr)

Special Act on the May 18 Democratization Movement, etc.

[Enforcement Date 07. Jul, 2017.] [Act No.13722, 06. Jan, 2016., Amendment by Other Act]



Article 1 (Purpose)

The purpose of this Act is to tighten national discipline, settle democracy and nourish national spirit by prescribing matters concerning the suspension of prescription of public prosecution, etc. against crimes disrupting constitutional order committed on or around December 12, 1979 and May 18, 1980 and other relevant matters.

[This Article Wholly Amended by Act No. 10182, Mar. 24, 2010]

Article 2 (Suspension of Prescription of Public Prosecution)

Crimes disrupting constitutional order under Article 2 of the Act on Special Cases concerning the Prescription for Public Prosecution, etc. against Crimes Disrupting Constitutional Order committed on or around December 12, 1979 and May 18, 1980 shall be deemed suspended during the period from the date each of the relevant crimes terminated until February 24, 1993.

[This Article Wholly Amended by Act No. 10182, Mar. 24, 2010]

Article 3 (Special Provisions on Applications for Rulings)

(1) When a person who lodges any complaint or accusation regarding a crime referred to in Article 2, is notified that the competent public

prosecutor or military prosecutor will not institute public prosecutions, he/she may apply for a ruling as to whether the decisions not to institute public prosecutions are appropriate with the competent High Court or High Military Court corresponding to the competent High Public Prosecutor's Office or High Military Prosecutor's Office to which the relevant public prosecutor or the military prosecutor belongs. The same shall also apply where it has been determined not to institute a public prosecution against a crime referred to in Article 2 before the Special Act on May 18 Democratization Movement, Etc. (Act No. 5029) enters into force. <Amended by Act No. 13722, Jan. 6, 2016>

(2) The relevant provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act or the Military Court Act shall apply to an application for a ruling under paragraph (1). [This Article Wholly Amended by Act No. 10182, Mar. 24, 2010]

Article 4 (Special Reopening of Procedures)

(1) Notwithstanding Article 420 of the Criminal Procedure Act and Article 469 of the Military Court Act, a person, on whom a judgment of guilty has become conclusive and binding due to deterring or opposing any act related to the May 18 Democratization Movement or any crime referred to in Article 2, may file a request for reopening of procedures.



(2) The court which has made original judgment shall have jurisdiction over the request for reopening of procedures: Provided, That if the court which has made original judgment on a person not subject to the application of the Military Criminal Act is the court-martial or military court, the court at the place of his/her domicile, the level of which corresponds thereto, shall have jurisdiction.

(3) The court having jurisdiction over reopening of procedures shall investigate ex officio the fact that a person who had committed a crime referred to in Article 2 was judged guilty in relation to such crime and the punishment became final and conclusive.

(4) Notwithstanding Articles 326 through 328 of the Criminal Procedure Act and Articles 381 through 383 of the Military Court Act, where a person who has requested reopening of procedures under paragraph (1) was granted a pardon or the punishment on him/her became invalidated, the court having jurisdiction over reopening of procedures shall make a final judgment of the fact.

(5) The procedures for reopening of procedures under paragraph (1) shall be subject to the application of the relevant provisions of the Criminal Procedure Act and the Military Court Act within the extent not conflicting with the character of the reopening of procedure.

[This Article Wholly Amended by Act No. 10182, Mar. 24, 2010]

Article 5 (Memorial Projects)

The Government shall promote memorial projects succeeding to the spirit of the May 18 Democratization Movement.

[This Article Wholly Amended by Act No. 10182, Mar. 24, 2010]

Article 6 (Legal Fiction as Compensation)

A reward conferred under the Act on Compensation, etc. to Persons Associated with the May 18 Democratization Movement shall be deemed compensation.

[This Article Wholly Amended by Act No. 10182, Mar. 24, 2010]

Article 7 (Deprivation of Awards and Decorations)

If any evaluation of the Government on persons who have been conferred awards or decorations in connection with the May 18 Democratization Movement reveals, as a result thereof, that any person has been conferred an award or decoration only owing to the recognition of his/her meritorious service in suppressing the May 18

Democratization Movement, such conferment of awards or decorations shall be revoked and the decoration, etc. shall be recovered under Article 8 of the Awards and Decorations Act.

[This Article Wholly Amended by Act No. 10182, Mar. 24, 2010]

ADDENDUM <Act No. 10182, Mar. 24, 2010>

This Act shall enter into force on the date of its promulgation.

ADDENDA <Act No. 13722, Jan. 6, 2016>

Article 1 (Enforcement Date)

This Act shall enter into force one year and six months after the date of its promulgation date. (Proviso Omitted.)

Articles 2 through 10 Omitted.

(Source: law.go.kr)

Médecins Sans Frontières Korea (Doctors Without Borders)



Thierry Coppens

General Director of Médecins Sans Frontières Korea

Thierry Coppens is the General Director of Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders (MSF) in Seoul, Republic of Korea. He was involved in various senior roles for humanitarian contexts for over two decades in 18 countries, including Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Haiti, Sudan, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of Congo. He has worked with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), International Crisis Group (ICG), and Handicap International. He served as the Head of Mission for MSF field operations in Lebanon for two years before joining the MSF Korea in 2015. Mr. Coppens holds Master's Degrees in Political Science and International Relations, and a Special Master in Management.

Médecins Sans Frontières (Doctors Without Borders)

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) translates to Doctors without Borders in English. MSF provides medical assistance to people affected by conflict, epidemics, disasters, or exclusion from healthcare. Its teams are made up of tens of thousands of health professionals, logistic and administrative staff - bound together by our charter. Its actions are guided by medical ethics and the principles of impartiality, independence and neutrality. MSF is a non-profit, self-governed, member-based organization. MSF was founded in 1971 in Paris by a group of journalists and doctors. Today, it is a worldwide movement of nearly 65,000 people. The MSF Korea office, based in Seoul, was established in 2012.

Q: Can you briefly tell us about the work of Doctors without Borders, and more specifically what the MSF Korea Office does?

A: MSF is an international medical humanitarian organization that provides aid to people in distress, victims of natural or man-made disasters and victims of armed conflict. We assist people irrespective of their race, religion, creed or political convictions. Established in 1971, the organization comprises of 40 offices worldwide and projects in over 70 countries where we respond to humanitarian emergencies and provide medical humanitarian aid. MSF opened an office in Seoul in 2012 because it recognized the role Korea could play in contributing to our social mission. The MSF Korea office focuses on four key pillars: (1) fundraising from private donors to directly support our medical humanitarian activities, (2) recruitment of skilled Korean medical and non-medical staff as humanitarian field workers for our projects, (3) communications to the Korean public on global humanitarian crises and urgent health



emergencies, and (4) outreach to Korean stakeholders and policymakers to support international engagement and action. This year is MSF's 50th anniversary. Many MSF offices worldwide, including MSF Korea, will be holding commemorative activities to mark this major milestone. We are in planning stages but I encourage you to regularly visit the MSF Korea website and social media channels to see what we have planned later this year.

Q: COVID-19 is a global health crisis that has destroyed the lives of many; what are some of the actions that MSF has taken to reduce the spread of the virus?

A: COVID-19 was a major medical and operational challenge in 2020 and continues to be in 2021. Our priority has been to support countries in preparing for or managing COVID-19 outbreaks (e.g., infection prevention and control training and health promotion). We also provide support in diagnosing and treating COVID-19 patients. COVID-19 has been a major stress on health systems in low-and middle-income countries so we have projects in countries like South Sudan, Brazil and Iraq. Western Europe and the U.S have been facing major challenges with the virus so MSF also opened projects in some of these countries to help them cope with COVID-19. Our other priority is to maintain essential health care in our existing programs and to respond to non-COVID-19 emergencies. While it is important to continue our battle against COVID-19, we must continue to respond to humanitarian crises in countries like Ethiopia, Afghanistan and Yemen. Currently, we are responding to a deadly outbreak of measles in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as well as recent Ebola outbreaks in Guinea and the DRC.

What can MSF, along with other NGOs, governments, and civilians, do to stop the virus?

A: Beside our field operations, MSF advocates for the availability and affordability of diagnostics, vaccines and drugs for low-and middle-income countries. We do this through the Access Campaign, which was created by MSF in 1999 after we received the Nobel Peace Prize.

MSF has been quite active in our medical response in many countries during the pandemic but also by speaking out on vaccine nationalism. We want to make sure that COVID-19 vaccines are available for all countries affected by the virus while pushing for more transparency in how those vaccines will be distributed worldwide. In addition, we want to ensure the vaccines are made affordable for low-income countries.

No one should be left behind in a pandemic, especially in today's interconnected world. If the entire population of Korea is vaccinated but neighboring countries are not, people in Korea remain at risk. That's why we have been and still are advocating on the issue of vaccine accessibility as well as fair vaccine distribution.

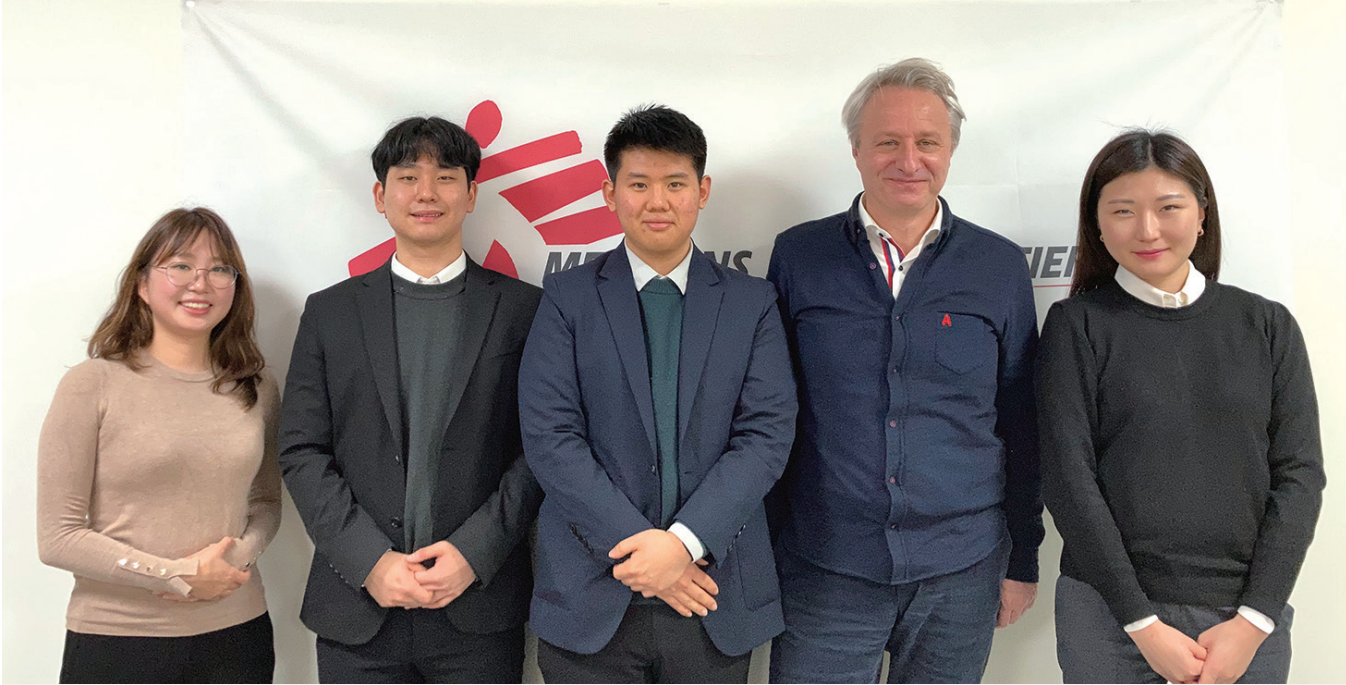
Q: "Films Without Borders" was held in November with the slogan "Nothing Can Stop Us." Could you tell us about the festival and the meaning of the slogan?

A: MSF has been working in humanitarian aid for fifty years and has faced numerous obstacles during our operations. Yet we carry on, so the slogan "Nothing Can Stop Us" was chosen to highlight this. It highlights the commitment, dedication, and motivation of our teams to reach patients in need. Another meaningful slogan we use is "patients first," which means that we fight against obstacles to provide health care for patients, whether they are in a war zone or an area hit by a natural disaster. We also fight against intangible obstacles to health care access such as discrimination or persecution of marginalized people. In summary, "Nothing Can Stop Us" describes our determination and commitment to reach the most vulnerable in the countries where we work. Nothing should stop us from doing that.

Q: You have emphasized the phrase "The pandemic will not be over until it is over for everyone." What does this phrase specifically mean?

A: We are facing an unprecedented global health crisis. The pandemic is a worldwide issue that affects everyone. If we want to end the





pandemic, access to vaccines is paramount. We need to make sure low-income countries are not left behind. They should have access to the right vaccines at the right time and at the right price. It's also important that all residents in a country are vaccinated. This includes nationals, foreigners, migrants, and illegal immigrants because the virus doesn't discriminate. Finally global solidarity is important. Wealthy countries should support global initiatives like COVAX – amongst others - to make sure there is equitable COVID-19 vaccine access.

Q: *MSF has continuously urged governments to waive COVID-19 vaccine patents. Could you tell us the basis of this claim?*

A patent waiver would allow countries the choice of not enforcing patents that could impede the production and supply of COVID-19 vaccines (and other medical tools), and facilitate collaboration for vaccine development, production and supply without being restricted by corporate interests. While the pharmaceutical industry claims that patents are needed to drive research and development, in reality, public funding has been the main driver of research efforts for COVID-19 medical tools. For example, 12.6 billion USD of public funds were granted to pharmaceutical companies for the research and development of COVID-19 vaccines. Furthermore, there is not a single pharmaceutical company today that can provide enough COVID-19 vaccines to meet global demand. Efforts must be made to increase global production and supply. In that regard, having a protectionist approach doesn't make any sense.

Q: *What is the biggest obstacle standing in the way of COVID-19 vaccines becoming a public good? Is there anything you want from the Korean government in this regard?*

There have been a lot of bilateral agreements between governments and pharmaceutical companies, and there needs to be more transparency in those discussions. Also, there should be stronger commitments for vaccines to be made available for the COVAX initiative that will ensure vaccines go to low-and middle-income countries. I think Korea has an influential international role to play and Korea could be one of those countries contributing to the success of COVAX, as well as other international aid efforts.

Q: *What do you think is crucial in preventing a disease like COVID-19 in the future? And what role can MSF play in preventing the next pandemic?*

MSF is a medical humanitarian organization with expertise in emergency response, we have the knowledge and capacity in emergency preparedness that could be a game changer for future outbreaks. In each country, depending on the environment we work in, we have emergency response plans to respond efficiently to any type of unplanned event. The aspect of a potential pandemic-like virus will be included in those plans. We should take into account the impact of climate change on public health. Climate change affects the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and where we shelter. We have seen in some developing countries, mass migrations triggered by the lack of safe



water and dwindling agricultural food production. We need to be ready to respond to the new medical challenges that will be a consequence of climate change. MSF is paying close attention as it will affect our ability to respond to evolving scenarios, and to prepare for new crises to come.

Q: *Was it your dream to be a humanitarian expert when you were a kid? How did you get involved with MSF?*

When I was 14 years old, I read a book about MSF in the mid-1980s. Providing humanitarian aid for people that transcends national borders fascinated me. I thought being a humanitarian worker was an interesting job because you can really make a difference in people's lives. You help people during times of great need when they are deprived of basic health care and education, two universal standards that everyone should have a right to. I got involved with MSF because it allowed me to discover new ways of thinking, and more specifically it allowed me to travel and meet people with different perspectives from around the world.

Q: *You have dedicated more than 20 years of your life to help other people. Can you tell us about your most memorable work or operations?*

When people say, "You dedicated 20 years to help others," I want to say I did it because I wanted to. Being a humanitarian worker is not a job, it's a lifestyle. You contribute to make a difference for the people you serve, and it's always rewarding when the community you've worked with thank you for your efforts and solidarity. The first mission always has a special place in your heart because you are young, there are a lot of unknowns, and you are not as prepared as you may wish. My first mission in Rwanda was a very strong episode in my life. Not only was it my first mission but it was the first country where I confronted a high level of violence in the Rwandan genocide that started on April 7, 1994. Over 800,000 people were killed in three months. Despite lessons learned from World War II, and teachings about genocide and mass atrocities, history repeats itself with genocides happening again and again. We must be extremely vigilant and seek

justice for victims against the perpetrators of genocide. What happened in Rwanda was a tragedy. If I had to choose a most memorable mission, it would be this one.

Q: *You have worked at various sites around the world for more than 20 years. How is the work in Korea different from other sites? And as General Director of the MSF Korea office, what is your goal?*

Being the General Director of MSF Korea is quite different from the Head of Mission where you lead the implementation of humanitarian field operations. While the nature of MSF Korea's work is different in that we indirectly support MSF operations worldwide, it is no less important because financial and human support are needed to sustain our operations. It's intriguing to be in a country where people still know the meaning of war. When I talk with some of our older donors and supporters, they know about war and poverty and what it means to be a refugee, starving and without access to healthcare. MSF speaks to these people because the events they experienced are still fresh. The fact that Korea has gone from being an international aid recipient to a large international aid donor is also unique. I have found MSF resonates also with the younger generation as well. It is encouraging to see young generation committed to make positive change for global access to healthcare. Korea is a country that is evolving very quickly, and with this strong dynamic, I believe Korea, in the future, can play a bigger role when it comes to humanitarian aid. My goal is to anchor MSF in Korea through sharing our testimonies, humanitarian experience and expertise with the general public, and to engage more with stakeholders such as governments, universities, and other humanitarian aid actors. MSF in Korea is rapidly growing and we want to sustain this growth by cultivating more support from Korea for our social mission and for our patients.



Recent Events

Minister Park Beom Kye of Justice Visits Seoul Juvenile Classification Examine Center

Examining the frontline of preventing recidivism of juvenile crimes

On March 3rd, 2021, Minister Park Beom Kye of Justice visited the Seoul Juvenile Classification Examine Center and said, “after realizing the importance of the classification examine center while working as a judge at Daejeon District Court, I planned to visit the center immediately after I get appointed as the Minister of Justice, but there has been a slight delay due to the COVID-19 situation.” The Minister of Justice has also requested the Director to take special care of juvenile delinquency and its prevention. During the hearing of the business status, Minister Park Beom Kye emphasized that “the role of the Seoul Juvenile Classification Examine Center in preventing recidivism of the admitted juveniles who are at a prior stage of intensifying delinquency is extremely important.”

Minister Park has also stressed the importance of making accurate diagnosis of the cause of delinquency to address proper measures to the juveniles, enforcing education programs through ways such as providing actual efficient education in prevention of delinquency, and taking care of the employees’ mental health to the Director.

Minister Park Beom Kye then looked around the education facilities, medical facilities, residence halls, cafeteria, classification examinant room and held a special meeting with the students, and online meetings with their guardians.

Minister Park asked “A”, who admitted to the center due to violence in guidelines of probation, whether he is facing any discomforts and encouraged him to faithfully participate in the educational programs and readjust well into the society.

Minister Park held an online meeting with the mother of “B” (15 years old,



▲ Minister Park is observing the lecture at Seoul Juvenile Classification Examine Center



▲ Minister Park is interviewing a student at Seoul Juvenile Classification Examine Center

male) who was hospitalized three weeks ago after committing theft and violating traffic laws, and promised to make sure that “B” adapt well in society through education in prevention of delinquency.” The Minister also requested the mother that as a psychology therapist herself, she should pay special attention to her child.

* Juvenile protection agencies across the country are limiting visiting hours due to social-distancing standards, and initiating online-meetings. Lastly, Minister Park Beom Kye gathered suggestions and difficulties during the one hour working-level meeting and praised the employees for their efforts in educating misdeed juveniles.

Minister Park requested the employees to put special efforts in their duty as “the important role of the Juvenile Classification Examine Center is to educate and guide the juveniles during the early stage of misdeed, and prevent recidivism.”

The employees have expressed the lack of manpower due to 24 hours shift and convoy duty, and requested for △recruiting more employees △supplying snack fee for night-shift employees △improving the living facility and accommodation environment △opportunity of professional education for the employees to the Minister of Justice, and the Minister of Justice promised “to examine the current status and provide professional lectures in fields such as psychology through the Legal Research and Training Institute and encouraged the employees in the vulnerable working environment.

Vice Minister Lee, Yonggu of Justice Visits the Immigration Contact Center [1345]

Inspection of the COVID-19 Response

On Wednesday, March 17, Vice Minister Lee, Yonggu visited the Immigration Contact Center (1345) in Mok-dong, Yangcheon-gu, Seoul. Vice Minister Lee examined the current status of preventive measures against COVID-19 and encouraged the counselors who are fully occupied in the fight against the epidemic.

Vice Minister Lee, Yonggu was reported details of Call Center operations by Lee, Ingyu, Chief of the Seoul Immigration Office and also inspected the density of the working environment, and codes of conduct for personal hygiene.

The Immigration Contact Center employs a total of 104 counselors including 96 Koreans and other Chinese, Vietnamese, and Mongolian employees. The Center is currently divided into two, the Mok-dong and Yeomchang-dong division, which is run separately to lower the spatial density of the Center.

Moreover, as a contingency plan in the case of an outbreak of infections within the Center, each municipal immigration office is to post its emergency hotline on the HiKorea website to effectively process civil petitions.

The Vice Minister urged “the vulnerable working environment of the Center should be frequently inspected for ventilation and disinfection, furthermore to take every precaution such as applying flexible working hours, ensuring enough rest to protect counselors from the infection.



▲ Vice Minister Lee is encouraging the counselor at the call center

Vice Minister Lee, Yonggu also applauded the Center for its performance in 2020 despite its lack of personnel. The Center had provided 2,006,719 cases of translation and onslutation in 20 Call Center since February through a 24-hour emergency working schedule.

* Since February 2020, the Center conducted 1,429 three-sided translations for the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (1339) and local health centers, 182,826 cases of COVID-19 related counseling. Completing the inspection, Vice Minister Lee, Yonggu highlighted that “the Immigration Contact Center greatly contributed not only to the adjustment of foreigners but also to their participation in the COVID-19 disease control” and encouraged the counselors take pride in their work and do their best to help regain our ordinary life.



▲ Vice Minister Lee is listening to the current status of the call center

Policies of the Ministry of Justice

MOJ Holds Briefing Session on Electronic Travel Authorization

Following the establishment of a legal basis and a five-month preparation, the Ministry of Justice (Minister Park Beom Kye of Justice) will run a trial of the Electronic Travel Authorization (ETA) system from the coming May, 2021. On March 11, Director General of the Office of Immigration Planning visited the Seoul Southern Immigration Office, the site where the ETA is being developed, to be updated on the development of the ETA and the future plans and also to boost the morale of employees working on the system.

The continuous expansion of visa-free entries for the purpose of increasing people-to-people exchange with other countries and attracting foreign visitors has brought adverse effects, such as a rise in 1) entry refusals to Korea and 2) the number of foreign nationals with visa-free entry staying illegally* in Korea.

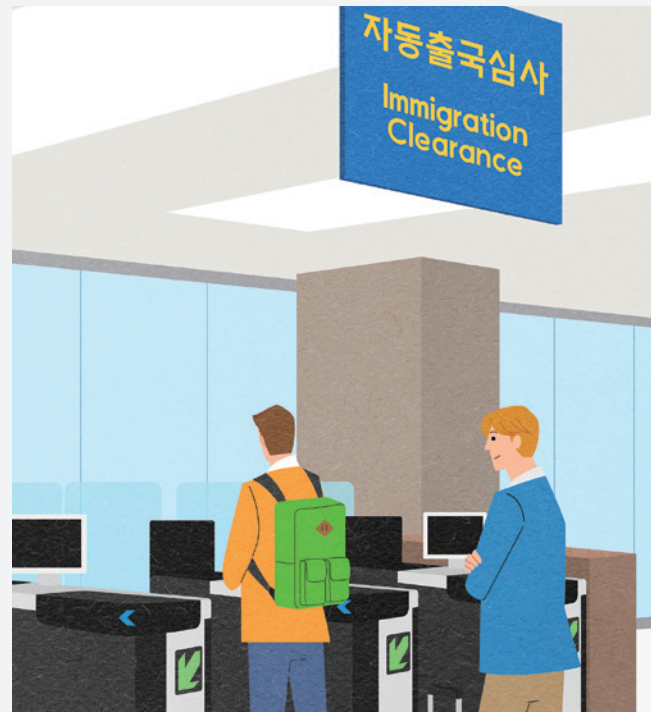
*No. of foreign nationals with visa-free entry staying illegally in Korea: 82,352 in 2016 206,516 in 2019

However, some point out that a sudden reduction in the number of visa-exempt countries will incur significant loss to the country as a result of diplomatic friction between countries or decrease in the number of foreign visitors. In this respect, the ETA has been implemented while maintaining the current visa exemption policy following the precedents set by other developed countries.

Moreover, the ETA has been developed on account of the growing need to confirm in advance whether or not passengers have travelled to or stayed in high-risk areas so to prohibit their boarding if this is the case in the event an infectious disease, such as COVID-19 breaks out.

The ETA allows a foreign national who wishes to visit another country without a visa to obtain a travel permit if he or she has submitted in advance his or her personal and travel-related information to the ETA website of the concerned country. The ETA is already in effect in some leading countries including, Australia, Canada, the United States, the United Kingdom, Taiwan and New Zealand while the EU plans to impose this system from 2022.

In order to implement the ETA, 1) the Immigration Act was revised in January, 2020 to newly establish a relevant clause (Article 7.3 of the Act), 2) KRW 2.9 billion of budget has been allocated in August 2020, and 3) the first step of the development of the ETA began in October 2020 with the aim of finishing the development by April 2021, which will then undergo trials from May to August of the same year to officially launch the system in September of the same year.



Nonetheless, taking into account the current COVID-19 pandemic situation, the ETA will first be only eligible to foreign nationals from 21 visa-exempt countries as well as nationals with priority entry, such as business people from 91 countries that are temporarily suspended visa-free entry.

During his site inspection, the Director General observed demonstrations of the entire ETA process from application to assessment to the result notification. In addition, he encouraged all the workers who took part in establishing the system and, at the same time, requested to complete it well.

Before the site inspection, the Ministry of Justice held a briefing session on the ETA on March 9 for workers from 45 airlines serving the Incheon International Airport and the session was held twice, in the morning and afternoon, to abide by the social distancing policy. The briefing session was to introduce the ETA before its official implementation and to hear from the workers from the airlines.

출국심사 Immigration 2



About the ETA

Overview

The ETA allows a foreign national who wishes to visit another country without a visa to obtain a travel permit if he or she has submitted in advance his or her personal and travel-related information to the ETA website of the concerned country.

Eligibility

Once the ETA is in effect, visa-exempt foreign nationals* must upload in advance their personal and travel information online and be granted permission, if they wish to visit Korea for purposes, such as tourism.

*A total of 112 countries: 66 countries that are parties to the Visa Waiver Agreement, 46 countries that are on the Visa-Exempt Countries List.

However, if COVID-19 persists, the ETA will only be eligible to 1) foreign nationals from 21 visa-exempt countries and 2) nationals with priority entry, such as business people from 91 countries that are temporarily suspended visa-free entry.

(21 countries) the United States, the United Kingdom, Mexico, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, Barbados, Venezuela, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Malta, Ireland, Guyana, Monaco, Vatican City, San Marino, Andorra, Albania, Slovenia, Guam, New Caledonia, and Palau

How to Apply and Fees

Applicants shall apply at least 24 hours prior to boarding domestic flights via the Korean ETA website or mobile app*. The online application fee is KRW 10,000.

*(PC) www.k-eta.go.kr, (mobile app) m.k-eta.go.kr.

Result Notification

The permission is determined in a swift manner by assessing the information submitted by the applicant and the result will be notified via the applicant's email.

Validity

The boarding pass to Korea will only be issued when the foreign national has received the ETA in advance. The ETA will be valid for two years.

Beneficial Effect

A foreign national who obtained an ETA will be exempt from submitting an arrival card and pass through immigration quickly.



Change in National Health Insurance Regulations



Introduction

A. What is National Health Insurance?

National Health Insurance is a social welfare system in which applicants pay an insurance premium on an ongoing basis to prevent exposure to inordinate medical expenses in the event of illness or injury, and the National Health Insurance Service manages and operates the premiums to issue benefits and payouts when necessary, dispersing risk among the insured and ensuring that required medical services are received. If the national health insurance system was not mandatory, only those at a great risk of illness would become insured and the purpose of national health insurance, which is to disperse the cost of medical care, would not be achieved. People who meet certain legal requirements are automatically registered for national health insurance regardless of their will, and the duty of premium payment is imposed. While coverage of private insurance varies from individual to individual according to the premium paid and the terms of agreement, national health insurance provides uniform benefits regardless of the premium paid and in accordance with the relevant legislations (National Health Insurance Service website – System Outline – National Health Insurance).

B. Scope of Health Insurance Coverage

► Items Covered by Insurance

Medical care benefits (nursing and transport excluded) are provided at the following medical facilities:
A medical institution established in accordance with the Medical Act
A pharmacy registered in accordance with the Pharmaceutical Affairs Act
A distributor of rare/essential Korean drugs registered in accordance with the Pharmaceutical Affairs Act
A distributor of rare/essential Korean drugs registered in accordance with the Pharmaceutical Affairs Act
A health clinic as defined by the Regional Public Health Act
A health clinic established in accordance with the Act on Special Measures for Public Health and Medical Services in Agricultural and Fishing Villages

*The detailed standards of coverage can be found on the website Easy Law (easylaw.go.kr) on the section of National Health Insurance.

► Items Not Covered by Insurance

In setting the standards of medical care benefits, the Minister of Health and Welfare may specify treatments of illnesses that produce no impediment in work and everyday life as not covered (Paragraph 4 of Article 41 of the National Health Insurance Act).

*The detailed standards of non-coverage can be found in the Attached Table 2 of the Regulations on the Standards of National Health Insurance Medical Care Benefits.

How did regulations change?

The amendment introduced by the Ministry of Health and Welfare on the 16th of July, 2019, regarding overseas Korean nationals and foreigners with extended periods of stay will be implemented starting March 1st, 2021. Aiming to promote the reasonable management of health insurance and equity among foreigners in Korea, it entails a few major changes.

Expansion of Mandatory Enrollment

First, it is now mandatory for foreign students to register to a health insurance plan. Previously, registration had been optional. Second, foreign workers whose workplace does not have worker permits are eligible to apply for their regional health insurance policy immediately upon entering Korea. Among workplaces who have hired foreign workers, those without permits all pertain to the agriculture, fishery, and livestock industry. Previously, such workers could only register to their regional health insurance plan if 6 months have passed since entry.

Foreign Students' Insurance

Rates per year

Considering the difficulties COVID-19 has incurred to the educational field and attempting to transition smoothly into the mandatory registration policy, the insurance fee rates for the first year (March 2021 to February 2022) will be 30% of new insurance fee rates. The rate is expected to increase by 10% per annum until the March of 2023. Thus, from March of 2021 to February of 2022, the rate will be 30%; from March of 2022 to February of 2023, it will be 40%; from March of 2023 and onwards, it will be 50%.

Foreigners whose income and assets are indeterminable will be charged



the average insurance fee of all recipients of the health insurance plan. Payment records will be taken into account when assessing period of stay or applying to prolong stay.



Date of registration per residency status

The amendment also stipulates registration dates per visa: students with a (D-2) or (D-4-3) visa will register on the date of entry to prevent a lapse in medical service. The same applies to Korean residents abroad (F-4) who are seeking degrees or studying overseas for elementary/middle/high school education. Other cases such as (D-4) are required to apply after 6 months of residence.

Issue of a Health Insurance Card

Upon receiving a declaration of acquisition or change of status from an employer-sponsored insurance subscriber or his/her dependent, the Service shall issue a health insurance card without delay (Paragraph 1 of Article 12 of the National Health Insurance Act and Paragraph 1 of Article 5 and Attached Template No. 10 of the Enforcement Regulations of the National Health Insurance Act).

Prohibition of Health Insurance Fraud and Abuse

Prohibition of Fraud and Abuse

An employer-sponsored insurance subscriber or his/her dependent who no longer qualifies for national health insurance must not use an old health insurance card or proof of health insurance to receive insurance benefits (Paragraph 4 of Article 12 of the National Health Insurance Act). Transfer or lending of a health insurance card or form of identification to another person to enable fraudulent access of insurance benefits is prohibited, as is fraudulent access of insurance benefits with a health insurance card or form of identification transferred or borrowed from another person (Paragraphs 5 and 6 of Article 12 of the National Health Insurance Act).

Penalties for Violation

Fraudulent access of insurance benefits and enabling fraudulent access of insurance benefits by another are grounds for imprisonment of up to 1 year or a fine of up to 10 million won (Subparagraph 5 of Paragraph 3 of Article 115 of the National Health Insurance Act).

Q & A Section: Case Studies

Case A. Loss of membership

Q. It has been a year since I have enrolled in the National Health Insurance Policy as a regional applicant. I have gotten a deferral of stay. Once, and am delaying my departure for a couple of weeks due to business reasons. However, today I went to the local physician to treat my Flu and they told me I was not eligible for insurance benefits since I am currently not enrolled in the health insurance program. Will my health insurance plan automatically expire only on the basis that my set period of stay has passed, even though I continue to reside in Korea?

A. If your period of stay has expired as according to the Immigration Act, you will no longer be a member of the National Health Insurance Plan the day after the expiration date. Thus, according to your inquiry, you have lost your membership.

Case B. Eligibility for regional membership

Q. If a child to foreign parents is born on Korean land, under what conditions is said child eligible for a membership to the National Health Insurance Plan?

A. If either parent is a member of the Regional Plan? And obtained their membership before their child's date of birth, the child will be eligible since its birthdate.

Even if both parents do or do not have National Health Insurance, if they have obtained it after the birth of their child, said child will be eligible since its Alien Registration Date.

Case C. Exemption from the company-based health insurance plan for foreigners working in Korea

Q. Is it possible to be exempt from the company-based health insurance plan, even though I am a foreigner working in Korea?

A. There are 2 scenarios under which it is possible. First, according to cross-country social security agreements, you may apply to be exempted as an optional candidate for health insurance. For instance, French citizens have been able to apply for exemption since June 1st, 2007.

Second, during the period of employment in Korea, if you can receive health care benefits amounting to that of the National Health Insurance Plan as according to foreign statutes/law, foreign insurance, or contract with the employer, you may apply for exemption.



certificate and make a dispute claim on the website of the National Health Insurance Service (Ministry of Government Legislation, 2020.)



Raising of Disputes

A person who disputes a disposition of eligibility, premiums, or benefits of an employer-sponsored insurance subscriber or his/her dependent by the Service can raise a dispute with the Service (Paragraph 1 of Article 87 of the National Health Insurance Act).

Deadline for Raising a Dispute

A dispute must be raised in writing (electronic documents included) within 90 days after the day on which the person raising a dispute becomes aware of the disposition to be disputed; after 180 days, disputes cannot be raised. However, a dispute may be raised even after the deadline if it can be proved that the dispute could not have been raised by the deadline (Paragraph 3 of Article 87 of the National Health Insurance Act).

Process of Raising a Dispute

A person seeking to raise a dispute must complete and submit a dispute claim form to the National Health Insurance Service (head office or a branch office) in person or by mail or fax. Instead of downloading a template, log in with a financial authentication

K-pop & Baseball, What Koreans are Into



K-pop: an Insider’s Insight

Even if you are not a fan of K-pop, you probably have heard of “Dynamite” by BTS somewhere. Despite the prolonged downturn in the music industry following the outbreak of COVID-19, BTS has managed to achieve No.1 on Billboard’s Hot 100 Chart with three of their songs in 2020. Such colossal popularity of BTS is sometimes misinterpreted as an unusual exception for both K-pop and North American music industry. However, BTS is far from the only K-pop group to have gained global popularity. BLACKPINK, NCT, and many other groups have also been proving their influence by setting various records, including “the fastest music video to reach 100 million views on YouTube.” With the recent surge of demand for K-pop artists and related contents, more and more people are starting to learn about K-pop. Here are some basic questions that will help you better understand K-pop.

What is K-pop?

K-pop (short for Korean popular music) is literally a genre of music that

is popular in Korea. By its contextual meaning, however, K-pop refers to the genre of music performed by what Koreans call “idol groups.” An idol group is a general term for a boy or girl band in Korea. As in any other country, Korea also has a wide spectrum of musicians. However, it is hard to deny the immense popularity and influence of such idol groups in Korea’s music industry. In fact, this kind of trend has dominated Korea’s music industry for the last three decades. Although K-pop is mainly used to describe the genre performed by idol groups in Korea, it is important to keep in mind that there is more to K-pop than just the music itself.

What makes K-pop unique?

Performance

Most songs by idol groups are usually characterized by fast beats and a catchy melody. In other words, K-pop is usually great to dance to and this is why choreography is crucial to K-pop and idol groups. Choreography, coupled with the music, creates a consistent mood, and this mood or the so-called “concept” is the key to designing the stage. The song, the dance, and the stage under a certain concept will let the



audience remember the song as an overall performance. In this respect, it is only natural for K-pop aficionados to watch K-pop stages and music videos countless times. Just listening to a K-pop song cannot satisfy a K-pop fan just like a musical fan cannot be pleased by just listening to a number.

Fan culture

If you are familiar with BTS, you might also have come across the name of their official fanclub, ARMY. Although each K-pop artist has their

own fanclub, the word “army” defines what fanclubs of K-pop artists are like. The fans of K-pop artists indeed resemble army soldiers considering their strong solidarity. Since the K-pop industry mainly targets the young generation in their teens or 20’s, K-pop fans effortlessly utilize multiple internet platforms such as, Twitter and YouTube to interact with each other and share what they love the most. Constant interaction on multiple platforms leads to the formation of a special bond among the fans, and this bond acts as a pivot for their constant enthusiasm and devoted support towards the artist. A great opportunity to get a glimpse of the K-pop fans’ solidarity is attending one of the concerts held by these K-pop artists. As if to prove their strong bond, the fans devise chants that go along with the music not only to support the artist but also to enjoy the concert in their own way. Each fanclub has their unique cheering sticks, contributing to the “we-are-one” atmosphere. Since the K-pop industry invests immense efforts in creating a great show performance for each song, K-pop concerts are worth going to even if you are not a fan. If you are willing to learn the chants, the experience would be even more entertaining. Although there are no on-site concerts at the moment due to COVID-19 pandemic, a K-pop concert is definitely one of the things you should add to your post-pandemic to-do list.



Baseball, the Source of Fury and Enthusiasm in Korea

When it comes to thoroughly understanding the Korean culture and mingling with Koreans, nothing can beat sports. That being said, it is impossible to bring up Korean sports culture without baseball.

One of the Most Popular Sports

Baseball is definitely the most popular sport in Korea. Before the outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic, baseball stadiums were full of crowd cheering for their supporting teams. In particular, the Korean Series postseason tickets were frequently sold out in less than a minute. According to a recent survey conducted by various poll institutes, baseball and soccer are regarded as the two most popular sports in Korea. Furthermore, the accumulated total crowd in the 2017 season exceeded 8 million, setting a new record. Now, the number is expected to reach a record of 10 million, opening a new era for the baseball industry.

The Largest Sing-along

Why are Koreans so fanatic about baseball? To explain the source of enthusiasm, “sing-along” may be the best answer. Ballparks in Korea are



sometimes referred to as the largest sing-along concert. A crowd of more than ten thousand people sings along to team songs (usually famous K-pop songs where the lyrics have been changed to support their teams) will certainly make you get goosebumps. Even those who are totally ignorant to the rules and statistics of baseball may easily be fascinated by such atmosphere. During the Korean Series season, the sound of fans cheering and booing in the stadium in Jamsil sometimes reaches COEX in Seolleung, a distance of two stations away. The fact that cheering is different by regions and teams makes the Korean baseball more unique and attractive. Such cheering culture can only be found in Korea.



Beyond Watching a Game

A ballpark in Korea lets baseball fans to do more than just watch the game. Rather, the place provides entertainment and leisure. You can munch on fried chicken and barbequed pork belly while gulping down a pint of beer or you can crawl into your tent or dance to music while cheering for your team.

Many Koreans also deem ballparks as a place where they can relieve stress as they can shout out loud to cheer for their teams and enjoy various fun activities.

Korean Baseball Worldwide

There are many popular teams and players who are in command of enormous number of fans. Many Korean players currently play for MLB (Major League Baseball) teams, a pride for baseball fans. Hyun-Jin Ryu, 34-year-old left hand pitcher who plays for Toronto Blue Jays, is currently known as the best baseballer in Korea. He became the first Asian pitcher to win the lowest era title, playing for Los Angeles Dodgers in 2019. In January 2021, San Diego Padres announced the signing of Ha-Seong Kim, the national team shortstop attracting the eyes of Korean fans. Korean fans are currently interested in the national team’s performance as the Olympic Games in July can be an opportunity for them to defend their championship. In fact, Korea is the last team to win the Gold Medal in baseball in the Olympic Games for baseball had been excluded from the Olympics after the Beijing Olympics in 2008. Fortunately, baseball is making a comeback in the coming Tokyo Olympic Games.

Government Departments

Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission

<http://www.acrc.go.kr/eng/index.do>
82-44-200-7151~6

Constitutional Court of Korea

<http://english.ccourt.go.kr/>
82-2-708-3460

Fair Trade Commission

<http://eng.ftc.go.kr>
82-44-200-4326

Financial Services Commission

<http://www.fsc.go.kr/eng/index.jsp>
82-2-2156-8000

National Assembly Law Library

<http://law.nanet.go.kr/eng/index.do>
82-2-788-4111

Judicial Research & Training Institute

<http://jrti.scourt.go.kr/>
82-31-920-3114

Korea Communications Commission

<http://eng.kcc.go.kr/user/ehpMain.do>
82-2-500-9000

Korea Consumer Agency

<http://english.kca.go.kr/index.do>
82-43-880-5500

Korea Customs Service

<http://english.customs.go.kr/>
82-1577-8577

Ministry of Food and Drug Safety

<http://www.mfds.go.kr/eng/index.do>
82-43-719-1564/ 82-1577-1255

Korean Intellectual Property Office

<http://www.kipo.go.kr/kpo/user.tdf?a=user.english.main.BoardApp&c=1001>
82-42-481-5008

Korea Law Service Center

<http://law.go.kr/LSW/main.html>
82-2-2100-2520
(Ministry of Government Legislation)/
82-2-2100-2600
(Legislative Research Services)

Korea Meteorological Administration

<http://web.kma.go.kr/eng/index.jsp>
82-2-2181-0900

Korean Bar Association

<http://www.koreanbar.or.kr/eng/>
82-2-3476-4008

Korean Library Information System Network

<http://www.nl.go.kr/kolisnet/index.php>
82-2-590-0626

Korean National Police Agency

<http://www.police.go.kr/eng/index.jsp>
82-182

Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs

<http://english.mifaff.go.kr/main.jsp>
110 (from Korea) / 82-2-6196-9110 (from overseas)

Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism

<http://www.mcst.go.kr/english/index.jsp>
82-44-203-2000

Ministry of Education

<http://english.moe.go.kr/enMain.do>
82-2-6222-6060

Ministry of Employment and Labor

<http://www.moel.go.kr/english/main.jsp>
82-52-702-5089 (National Labor Consultation Center)
82-44-202-7137 (International Cooperation Bureau)
82-44-202-7156 (Foreign Workforce Division)

Ministry of Environment

<http://eng.me.go.kr/>
82-44-201-6568 / 82-1577-8866

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

<http://www.mofa.go.kr/eng/index.do>
82-2-2100-2114

Ministry of Gender Equality and Family

<http://www.mogef.go.kr/eng/index.do>
82-2-2100-6000

Ministry of Government Legislation

<http://www.moleg.go.kr/english>
82-44-200-6900

Ministry of Health and Welfare

<http://www.mohw.go.kr/eng/index.jsp>
82-44-202-2001~3

Ministry of Justice

http://www.moj.go.kr/moj_eng/index.do
82-2-2110-3000

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport

<http://www.molit.go.kr/english/intro.do>
(Day) 82-44-1599-0001, (Night) 82-44-201-4672

Ministry of National Defense

<http://www.mnd.go.kr/mbshome/mbs/mndEN/>
82-2-748-1111

Ministry of the Interior and Safety

<https://www.mois.go.kr/eng/a01/engMain.do>
82-2-2100-3399

Ministry of Economy and Finance

<http://english.moef.go.kr/>
82-44-215-2114

Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy

<http://www.motie.go.kr/language/eng/index.jsp>
82-2-1577-0900 / 82-44-203-4000

Ministry of Unification

https://www.unikorea.go.kr/eng_unikorea/
82-2-2100-5722

National Assembly Library

<http://www.nanet.go.kr/english/>
82-2-788-4211

National Intelligence Service

<https://eng.nis.go.kr/>
82-111

National Research Foundation of Korea

<https://www.nrf.re.kr/eng/index>
82-2-3460-5500 / 82-42-869-6114

National Tax Service

<http://www.nts.go.kr/eng/>
82-2-397-1200 / 82-1588-0560

Network of Committed Social Workers

<http://www.welfare.or.kr/>
82-2-822-2643

Public Procurement Service

<http://www.pps.go.kr/eng/index.do>
82-70-4056-7524

Ministry of SMEs and Startups

<https://www.mss.go.kr/site/eng/main.do>
82-1357

Statistics Korea

<http://kostat.go.kr/portal/english/index.action>
82-2-2012-9114

Supreme Court Library of Korea

<https://library.scourt.go.kr/base/eng/main.jsp>
82-31-920-3612~3

Supreme Prosecutors' Office

<http://www.spo.go.kr/eng/index.jsp>
82-2-3480-2337

The Board of Audit and Inspection of Korea

<http://english.bai.go.kr>
82-2-2011-2114

The Supreme Court of Korea

<http://eng.scourt.go.kr/eng/main/Main.work>
82-2-3480-1100

The National Assembly of the Republic of Korea

<http://korea.assembly.go.kr/index.jsp>
82-2-788-3656

National Library of Korea

<http://www.nl.go.kr/english/>
82-2-535-4142

VOD Service for Conferences

<http://na6500.assembly.go.kr/>
82-2-788-3056/2298

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*Justice of Coexistence Empathized by the People,
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Emblem

The Republic of Korea government has changed its official "government identity." The new logo conveys the dynamism and enthusiasm of the country with the three colors of blue, red and white. It echoes off Korea's national flag *Taegeukgi* with the *taegeuk* circular swirl and the blank canvas embodies in white. The typeface

was inspired by the font used in the "*Hunminjeongeum*" (1446), the original *Hangeul* text, in consideration of the harmony embodied in the *taegeuk* circle. Starting March 2016, the new logo is used at all 22 ministries including the Ministry of Justice and 51 central government agencies.



Ministry of Justice, Republic of Korea



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