



POSITION PAPER

Country: Republic of South Korea

Committee: World Health Organization

Agenda: Medical Training in the Developing World

The Republic of South Korea believes in free access of healthcare to all. Giving wings to this policy, the government, in the 1970s took a decision to mandate health insurance to employees and their dependents working in a company with more than 500 employees. Gradually, the limits were reduced and in a matter of 12 years, health insurance was available to every person in the country.

Our preparedness for an eventual health catastrophe, and the strength of our healthcare system were put to test during the COVID-19 pandemic. South Korea's response to the disease has been termed remarkable by global health experts. South Korea remains only one of the few countries which has survived the pandemic without initiating a complete lockdown of the country. South Korea followed a stringent policy of testing, isolation and free treatment; all of which together helped us contain the spread of the pandemic. Our belief in the three core competencies against an outbreak: efficient health governance, digital technology and civic partnership has to a great extent helped the government contain the spread of the disease.

The Korean Disease Control and Prevention Agency has now started working towards developing a strategy to counter the monkeypox infection on the side-lines of the policy adopted to counter the coronavirus infection.

The Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), established in 1991 by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of South Korea, works towards the proper distribution of government aid to developing countries. Major chunk of its work is part of the healthcare sector. The KOICA sends volunteers abroad, to developing countries to carry out its work. We believe in our three core competencies against any disease, and hence, its work in medical training in the developing world is mainly focused on:

1. Efficient Health Governance (Health emergency preparedness and response) –

- Capacity building, to respond to global threats posed by infectious diseases
- Prevention and eradication of major infectious diseases and neglected tropical diseases
- Providing safe water, sanitation and hygiene

2. Civic Participation (Promoting Safer Health through volunteer ship) –

- Ensuring access to essential health services for reproductive, maternal, child and adolescent health.
- Training medical staff
- Vaccinations

3. Digital Technology –

- Health Statistics capacity building
- Establishment of health information systems

The KOICA has partnered with around 125 countries to work towards a better healthcare system worldwide. In the years gone by, it has spent a massive 85 million USD towards the greater cause of a better health in the developing world.

The ROK believes that with better health comes better socio-economic progress and which in turn results in development. After seeing a fruitful progress in the country's GDP after adopting beneficiary health policies, the government of ROK appeals to all nations of the world to come together and create a robust healthcare system, wherein the health of the third world and the developing world is given an equal importance as that of the developed world.

