

# World Bank Group Korea Office Newsletter November/December 2016



## *Global Symposium on ICT Use in Education Marks 10 Years of Successful Partnership*



From November 9 to 11, the Korea Education Research & Information Service (KERIS) hosted the tenth annual *Global Symposium on ICT Use in Education* in Seoul. For the past decade, with financial support from Korean Trust Fund at the World Bank, the World Bank and the Korean Ministry of Education have co-sponsored this event as part of a longstanding strategic partnership exploring uses of technology in education, together with other partners.

The symposium theme changes each year while the size and scope of each event differs. This year's theme was "4th Industrial Revolution and its Impact on Learning: The Transition to Digital." Over 100 people from 36 countries discussed establishing collective understanding on the new demands of learning in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution as well as the emerging technologies and educational models to empower the next generation. Participants also shared good working models of country level policy changes and on ground experiences for transforming education systems to gear to the new demands and needs.

"As someone who has been involved in all ten events in the past decade, it was remarkable to see how the event has grown over the years, and the tangible impact it has had," said Michael Trucano, World Bank Global Lead for Innovation in Education.

Since the first global symposium ten years ago, over 1400 policymakers from 65 countries have visited Korea as part of the global symposium to see and learn first hand from Korean experiences with the use of information and communication technologies (ICTs) in education. "Along the way, Korea has come to be seen as a global hub for related information and knowledge, and KERIS itself increasingly is regarded by many countries as a useful organizational model to help guide their own efforts to help implement large scale educational technology initiatives," he said.



The field of ICT use in education looks much different in 2016 than it did back in 2007, when the first Global Symposium on ICT Use in Education was held. Most notably, according to Mr. Trucano, specific attention to the specifications for individual devices has given way to broader consideration around the need for and impact of connectivity. "Over the years, connectivity-related discussions have evolved from ones focused on providing simple access via dial-up to the need for, and uses of, broadband," he said.

Mr. Trucano pointed out that another noticeable general trend has been the gradual shift from discussions about the importance of access to technology to a greater concern about the potential differential impacts of this access, and the observable inequities that are becoming apparent in many places as a result of increased technology use.

## Interest in Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) Gains Momentum in Asia

Strong economic development and increasing urbanization have sharply increased demand for roads, bridges, airports, as well as energy, water and sanitation. As governments realize that they do not have the financial resources necessary to meet these infrastructure needs, many have sought partnerships with the private sector for investment, technical expertise, and management skills. This, in turn, has made the Asia PPP Practitioners Network (APN) – a regional Asian forum for PPP practitioners – an important and relevant event for governments, corporations, and PPP experts. The most recent took place in Seoul from November 30 – December 2, 2016.



The 2016 APN Conference brought together PPP practitioners from more than 12 countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including both jurisdictions with extensive PPP experience – such as the Philippines – and states that have only recently embarked on their PPP programs – such as Myanmar. The discussions were detailed and enriching, with participants actively sharing a wide variety of viewpoints and lessons learned.

Mr. Amr Quari, who represented the Asian Development Bank (ADB), provided an overview of the results of ADB's recent survey of PPP investors. Representing the World Bank, Mr. Mark Moseley focused on the 2016 *Report on Recommended PPP Contractual Provisions*. The report provides practitioners with sample provisions that can be customized for specific projects, which saves significant amounts of time and money. The draft report has recently been [released for public consultation](#). He also spoke about the related Global Infrastructure Hub report on [Allocating Risks in PPP Contracts](#).

Regional support for PPPs was emphasized by presentations from the Korean Ministry of Strategy and Finance (MOSF). In addition, Dongjim Kim of the World Bank PPP Group outlined the recently-released report on [Benchmarking PPP Procurement 2017](#), which generated a lively discussion of the data during the Q&A session, particularly on the topic of unsolicited PPP proposals.

Two site visits provided participants with a first-hand view of PPPs in action. The first was to the Shinbundang Project, a combined heavy rail/light rail transportation system featuring driverless trains operated from a management control center. The second was to the Yong-In Sewage Treatment Project, sponsored by the Yong-In City Government, located near Seoul. This project involves both a water treatment facility and an associated pipeline, with a 20-year build and operate agreement. These visits showed that PPPs are more than signed agreements – when properly designed and executed, they lead to infrastructure that directly contributes to the national economy.

The tradition of annual APN meetings dates back to 2010, when the first APN event was held under the sponsorship of the Government of Korea – specifically, the Korean Ministry of Strategy and Finance (MOSF) and the Korea Development Institute (KDI) – along with the Asia Development Bank (ADB) and the World Bank Group (WBG). The MOSF, KDI, ADB and WBG have continued to be the organizers for each of the APN events held since then.



This article was originally published on the APN blog <http://blogs.worldbank.org/ppps/helping-ppp-practitioners-connect-asia-ppp-practitioners-network>

## Financial innovation is a major driver of financial inclusion



Financial access facilitates day-to-day living, and helps families and businesses plan for everything from long-term goals to unexpected emergencies. While there has been progress toward financial inclusion, an estimated 2 billion adults worldwide do not have a basic account and more than 50% of adults in the poorest households are unbanked.

World Bank Lead Financial Sector Specialist Alwaleed Alatabani discussed financial innovation as a major driver of financial inclusion at the 3rd International Financial Cooperation Forum organized by the Financial Services Commission (FSC) of Korea and the Council on International Financial Cooperation (CIFIC).

He explained that digital financial technology, or “fintech,” and particularly the global spread of mobile phones, has facilitated expanding access to financial services to hard-to-reach populations and small businesses at low cost and risk. “The spread of mobile technologies, mobile network coverage, and mobile based financial services in developing countries represent a game-changer in global financial inclusion efforts.” He further stressed that digitization of cash-payments is introducing more people to transaction accounts and greater availability of customer data allows providers to design digital financial products that better fit the needs of unbanked individuals.

In October 2013, WBG set forth a goal of Universal Financial Access by 2020, adults globally have access to a transaction account or electronic instrument to store money, send and receive payments as the basic building block to manage their financial lives.

## Stakeholder involvement is key to ensuring project quality and success



At a special lecture hosted by State University of New York (SUNY) Korea, Special Representative of the World Bank Group Korea Office, Ms. Joyce Msuya, emphasized that involvement of diverse stakeholders is central to ensuring project quality and success. “As the World Bank pursues decentralized decision making process, it helps to identify development challenges and opportunities in different angles and therefore helps to build comprehensive picture for projects,” she said.

The World Bank’s work on multi-stakeholder engagement has increasingly become a matter of regular practice and, in various cases, has been a source of innovative solutions to country needs and development challenges. Ms. Msuya explained that even from the very initial stage of decision making, the World Bank involves multiple stakeholders such as economist, social scientists, and procurement specialists, and invites breadth of expertise to come up with recommendations with a project.

She also highlighted that understanding the local context is critical as different cultural nuances influence decision making process at the country level. “Each country has its own unique development challenges depending on their economic and social circumstances. Therefore, it is important to understand the context of each client country and actively reflect them in decision making to deliver more customized and fitting solutions to clients.”

### Global Community Makes Record \$75 Billion Commitment to IDA Fund



On December 15, a coalition of more than 60 donor and borrower governments agreed to ratchet up the fight against extreme poverty with a record \$75 billion commitment for the International Development Association (IDA), the World Bank's fund for the poorest countries.

“The commitments made by our partners, combined with IDA's innovations to crowd in the private sector and raise funds from capital markets, will transform the development trajectory of the world's poorest countries. We are grateful for our partners' trust in IDA's ability to deliver results,” said World Bank Group President Jim Yong Kim.

The funding will enable IDA to dramatically scale up development interventions to tackle conflict, fragility and violence, forced displacement, climate change, and gender inequality; and promote governance and institution building, as well as jobs and economic transformation—areas of special focus over the next three years. These efforts are underpinned by an overarching commitment to invest in growth, resilience and opportunity.

To finance this groundbreaking package, IDA is proposing the most radical transformation in its 56-year history. For the first time, IDA is seeking to leverage its equity by blending donor contributions with internal resources and funds raised through debt markets. By blending concessional contributions from donors with its own resources and capital market debt, IDA will significantly increase the financial support it provides to clients.

The additional financing will enable IDA to double the resources to address fragility, conflict and violence (more than \$14 billion), as well as the root causes of these risks before they escalate, and additional financing for refugees and their host communities (\$2 billion). Increased financing will help strengthen IDA's support for crisis preparedness and response, pandemic preparedness, disaster risk management, small states and regional integration.

### World Bank Group Launches a Free MOOC on Korea's Development Lessons

#### POLICY LESSONS FROM SOUTH KOREA'S DEVELOPMENT STARTS January 17, 2017

For countries seeking to accelerate the pace of development, Korea's strategy and the policies it has employed to continually transform its economy, are a rich source of lessons. Late starting low-income countries and middle-income countries can derive insights from Korea's transition to a high-income economy, by stimulating creative industries and promoting green technologies. The World Bank Group is launching a FREE Massive Open Online Course (MOOC) on Policy Lessons from Korea's Development on January 17, 2017.

This free online course will last four weeks and is taught by prominent representatives of academic and research institutions in Korea and the United States. It discusses Korea's compelling story of economic growth, and how it was able to make the transition from a resource-poor, low-income nation to a high-income economy in only three decades. Participants will also have an opportunity to consider and discuss institutional and policy lessons applicable to the developmental challenges facing their own countries.

To sign up, please visit: <https://www.edx.org/course/kee01x-korea-economic-development-wbgx>



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