



Photo Credit: Rapture700/Shutterstock 'A drive-through screening clinic to speed up Covid-19 virus screening and to block infections from other patients'

## IN FOCUS

### **Korea-World Bank Group Partnership on Pandemic Preparedness and Response**

While initial policy responses helped some countries mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 outbreak, preparedness and response measures need to evolve and adapt to the quickly changing nature of the virus. Countries around the world have a strong and growing demand for learning the best practices in pandemic preparedness and response to achieve a resilient recovery. To facilitate such knowledge sharing in the East Asia and Pacific (EAP) region, the World Bank Group (WBG)'s Korea Office and the Health, Nutrition & Population Global Practice, in partnership with the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Korea (MOEF), are supporting a knowledge exchange program known as the Korea-WBG Partnership on Pandemic Preparedness and Response.

The program has three pillars: knowledge generation, knowledge dissemination, and the development of a knowledge exchange platform. It brings together five countries from the EAP region—Fiji, Malaysia,

Mongolia, Vietnam, and the Republic of Korea—to share lessons learned on COVID-19 preparedness and response. Each country will deliver in-depth case studies, guidance, and policy notes that cover topics including contact tracing, lockdown measures, and vaccination. These resources will be published to better inform health experts and government officials. Through this effort, the program also aims to gain a deeper, more nuanced, and more systematic understanding of successful and practical approaches to tackling the pandemic, distill this information, and share the lessons with other regions. [Learn More](#)

## LATEST UPDATES



### **New Special Representative of the World Bank Group Korea Office**

Jason Allford, an Australian national, has been appointed Special Representative of the WBG Korea Office effective August 1, 2021. Mr. Allford joined the World Bank in 2014 as an Alternate Executive Director and then became Executive Director in 2016. His most recent position was a Consultant to the Fiscal Affairs Department of the International Monetary Fund. He has held various roles in the Australian Government and worked at the Indonesian Ministry of Finance and the Papua New Guinea Department of Finance and Treasury. In his new position, Mr. Allford oversees the implementation of the phase 3 financing agreement with Korea's Ministry of Economy and Finance (MOEF) and continue to deepen the links between Korean partners and World Bank clients especially in the areas of digital technologies and green growth.



### **DT4D 2.0 Winning Proposals Funded by WBG Korea Trust Funds**

Five teams have been awarded Disruptive Technologies for Development (DT4D) grants to implement disruptive technology solutions over the next 18 months. Provided by the WBG Korea Office and the IFC-Seoul Center of Finance and Innovation, the grants will offer the winning task teams space to work with technology providers and clients to find the best approaches to operationalizing disruptive technology solutions in developing countries. As part of the activity of the WBG EAP Regional Technology & Innovation Lab, ITS Technology & Innovation Lab (ITSTI) is supporting these teams in a safe lab/sand-box environment to explore and prototype novel ideas, and understand the potential of emerging technologies through hands-on learning support projects.

### **Seoul Center for Finance and Innovation Phase 3 (SC 3.0)**

The third phase of the Seoul Center partnership



agreed with MOEF in 2020 is under implementation with an expanded scope to promote innovation and competitiveness in the private sector in EAP. Cambodia, Indonesia, and the Philippines are developing comprehensive proposals, which will be processed under a revised governance mechanism with strengthened technical review aspects. Advisory and Analytical projects to support priority areas are being set up and will be delivered by the expanded FCI Seoul Center team in partnership with other colleagues in Korea Office. [Learn More](#)



### WBG Korea End-of-Year Gathering

WBG Korea teams reflected on their achievements of FY21 and bade farewell to Hoon Sahib Soh, former Special Representative and Country Manager, and Sameer Goyal, former Program Manager of the FCI-Seoul Center for Finance and Innovation. Hoon's new role is Practice Manager for Governance, South Asia and will be based in Bangkok. Sameer joins the East Africa FCI team in Nairobi.



### Interview: Innovation and Technology Leaders

Meet Jongkap Kim, Chief Executive Director of the Born2Global Centre, a business incubator and accelerator under the Korean Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT), which focuses on supporting startups to expand globally, especially in developing countries. [Learn more](#)



## Scaling up Sustainable Investing in Emerging Markets

This event, hosted by the IFC Korea Office in May 2021, brought together leaders from more than 40 Korean institutions and showcased some of their pioneering sustainable work on hydrogen energy and e-mobility as well as IFC's innovative financial instruments. [Learn More](#)

## KGGTF Streamlines Proposal Process: Greening the Post-COVID Recovery

In collaboration with the KGGTF Donor, the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Economy and Finance (MOEF), the KGGTF team has updated the application and selection process for Proposals for the 2021 funding cycle. [Learn More](#)

## Partner Events Participation

2021 Korea Fintech Week (May 2021) [Learn More](#)

Expanding Korea's Infrastructure Investment in Latin American (June 2021) [Learn More](#)

10<sup>th</sup> Information Security Day Celebration (July 2021) [Learn More](#)

UN DESA-FRILA Forum on 'Strengthening Public Governance and Accelerating Digital Transformation of Local Government for Emergency Response and Revitalization of Local Economy in the Post COVID-19 Era' (July 2021) [Learn More](#)

Smart GEO Expo 2021 (July 2021) [Learn More](#)

## New Staff Announcements

**Digital Development Global Practice** – Zaki Khoury (Senior Digital Development Specialist)

**Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy Global Practice** – Junu Shrestha (Senior Environment Specialist) and Milen F. Dyoulgerov (Senior Environment Specialist)

**FCI Seoul Center for Finance and Innovation** – Stuart Yikona (Program Manager), Anwar Aridi (Senior Private Sector Specialist), and Soohyang Lee (Financial Sector Specialist)

**Information and Technology Solutions Technology & Innovation Lab** – Jinhee Park (IT Officer) and Loun Lee (IT Officer)

**International Finance Corporation** – Dongkun Lee (Country Officer) and Gimin Kang (Operations Officer, ETC)

**Korea Office Country Management Unit** – Taehoon Kim (Operations Officer) and Kevin Yunil Kim (Operations Analyst)

**Urban, Disaster Risk, Resilience and Land Global Practice** – Stamatias Kotouzas (Senior Land Administration Specialist) and Bora Ju (Land and Geospatial Analyst)

## PUBLICATIONS

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### WBG Korea Office Innovation and Technology Note Series

Entering the 5G Era: Lessons from Korea (June 2021) [Learn More](#)

### Emerging Technologies Curation Series

Technologies Leveraging Edge Computing for Development Impact (May 2021) [Learn More](#)

### Other Korea related World Bank Papers

Korea Green Growth Trust Fund Annual Report 2020 [Learn More](#)

RISE (Resilience, Inclusion, Sustainability and Efficiency) Framework [Learn More](#)

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## KNOWLEDGE AND LEARNING

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### WBG Korea Office Innovation and Technology Webinar Series

Series #16: Offshore Wind Power in Korea (May 2021) [Learn More](#)

### Other Korea related Webinars

How to Make a Green New Deal (May 2021) [Learn More](#)

IFIGS-WB Webinar: “Navigating the Way Forward for the Last-resort Protection to Policyholders” (June 2021) [Learn More](#)

### Virtual Knowledge Exchanges

Strengthening Geospatial Information Management: Using the Integrated Geospatial Information Framework (March–April 2021) [Learn More](#)

Smart Cities for Sustainable Development (April–May 2021) [Learn More](#)

Sustainable Mobility Requires a New Policy Approach Today (September 13–October 8, 2021) [Enroll](#)



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