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| For immediate release |
| \*6 pages in total (including annexes) [www.kwdi.re.kr](http://www.kwdi.re.kr) |

Sharing Experiences from Gender Policies and Online Violence against Women in South Korea and Asia:

Exploring Ways to Achieve Gender Equality in the Asia-Pacific Region

Korean Women’s Development Institute, UN Women, Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea hosts the 11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Development and Gender

* Korean Women’s Development Institute (President Dr. Insook Kwon) in collaboration with UN Women, and the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family of the Republic of Korea (Minister Jung Ok Lee) will host the 11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Development and Gender (AP Forum hereafter) under the theme of “Gender Equality and Online Violence against Women: Experiences from South Korea and Asia” on Thursday, 28 November at 12:30pm at UN Conference Center (UNCC) in Bangkok, Thailand.
* This year’s AP Forum is designed as part of a side event at the UNESCAP’s Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing 25+ Review[[1]](#footnote-1). The purpose of the AP Forum is to disseminate results of Korea’s achievements in implementing international women’s agenda and to seek ways to address major gender equality issues.
* In highlighting the significance of holding the AP Forum, Ms. Insook Kwon stated that "It is to be hoped that the Forum will serve as a momentum to understand current status of Korean and Asian women’s agenda, to find ways to achieve gender equality and empowerment of women in our society, and to disseminate KWDI’s research findings to the international community”.
* Presentations at the AP Forum will introduce main results of researches carried out by Korean Women's Development Institute (KWDI) and UN Women.
* KWDI’s session will be held under the main theme of “Achieving Gender Equality in the Asia-Pacific region: Progress and challenges of South Korea”. Key findings on gender mainstreaming, women’s health, violence against women from KWDI’s research on “Review of Korea’s Implementation of Global Women’s Agenda”, conducted as part of the preparation for Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on the Beijing 25+ Review, will be shared.
* UN Women’s session will be held under the theme of “Standing up to Online Violence against Women in a Connected World”. This session will introduce the current status and response to online sexual violence from a research conducted by UN Women and commissioned by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family.
* Meanwhile, Korean Women’s Development Institute (KWDI) has annually organized the AP Forum on Development and Gender since 2009 with an objective of mainstreaming gender into development cooperation projects.

Annex 1. AP Forum Program Detail

2. Summary of Presentations

3. AP Forum on Development and Gender

**Korean Women’s Development Institute (KWDI)** is a policy research think-tank under the Prime Minister’s Office of South Korea. Since its establishment in 1983, KWDI has been researching on comprehensive issues in South Korea’s Women’s Policies. By providing information on women’s policy, women’s development and research, KWDI seeks to contribute towards women’s participation in the society, promoting welfare and family, and South Korea’s Development.

Annex 1. **AP Forum Program Detail**

* **Title:** 11th Asia-Pacific Forum on Development and Gender
* **Topic:** Gender Equality and Online Violence against Women: Experiences from South Korea and Asia
* **Date & Time:** November 28, 2019 (Thursday), 12:30~13:50
* **Venue:** UN Conference Center (UNCC) Room No. CR 3, Bangkok, Thailand
* **Hosted by:** Korean Women’s Development Institute (KWDI), UN Women
* **In Cooperation with:** Ministry of Gender Equality and Family
* **Expected Participants:** KWDI researchers, UN Women, ministers and high-level officials from relevant line Ministries (eg. Ministries of Women, National Planning, Finance) in the Asia-Pacific region, research institutions, gender experts, etc…
* **Program**

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| **Time** | **Content** |
| **12:30~12:40** | **Opening Ceremony**Opening Remarks* **Ms. Jung Ok Lee Minister of Gender Equality and Family, Republic of Korea** (MOGEF)
* **Ms. Insook Kwon** President of Korean Women’s Development Institute (KWDI)
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| **12:40~13:10** | **Presentation by KWDI****Achieving Gender Equality in Asia-Pacific Region: Progress and challenges of South Korea*** Women and Health in South Korea (Young Taek Kim, Ph. D., Research Fellow)
* Gender Mainstreaming in South Korea (Kyung Hee Kim, Ph. D., Director of Center for Gender Impact Assessment)
* Violence against Women in South Korea (Jiso Yoon, Ph. D., Associate Research Fellow)
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| **13:10~13:30** | **Presentation by UN Women****Standing up to Online Violence against Women in a Connected world*** Ms. Zarizana Abdul Aziz, Director of the Due Diligence Project
* Ms. Sandy Kunvatanagarn, Public Policy Manager, Facebook Thailand
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| **13:30~13:50**  | **Q&A** |

Annex 2. **Summary of Presentations**

**[Presentation by Korean Women’s Development Institute (KWDI)]**

**Achieving Gender Equality in the Asia-Pacific Region: Progress and challenges of South Korea**

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| * **Women and Health in South Korea** (Young Taek Kim, Ph. D., Research Fellow, KWDI)
* South Korea continuously pursued various policies to secure women’s health rights such as supporting medical services during pregnancy and childbirth, preventing abuse of cesarean section, supporting plans for infertility treatment for infertile couples or couples having difficulties getting pregnant, enhancing systems to support health of working women. For example, the Mother and Child Health Act has been continuously revised to promote the development of maternal health since its enactment in 1973. The Mother and Child Act was enforced to protect maternal life and health and to achieve birth and upbringing of healthy children. In addition, pregnant workers are protected by the Labor Standards Act, which outlines rules for prohibited kinds of work for pregnant and nursing mothers.
* On the other hand, women's health issues in Korea focus only on diseases and symptoms that occur frequently or only in women, and lack interest in diseases that may occur in both men and women. In addition, establishment and implementation of policies related to women's health in general are insufficient, and they are mainly centered on maternal health.
* Korea's future task is to pay attention to sex education and issues related to sexually transmitted diseases among adolescent girls, considering the increase in frequencies of sexual intercourse at a young age as a result of increased openness to sex and the mass media. Korean adolescents usually receive sex education at school but the problem is that the higher the grade, the lower the likelihood of receiving sex education.
* Recently, abortion is emerging as a major social issue and there is a need for policy makers to utilize more accurate research data so that legal and institutional improvements in abortion can be made at a level that is both realistic and does not violate bioethics at a moment where women's right to self-determination and bioethics are at odds.
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| * **Gender Mainstreaming in South Korea** (Kyung Hee Kim, Ph. D., Director of Center for Gender Impact Assessment, KWDI)
* This study analyzes South Korea's major gender mainstreaming policies and achievements and suggests future tasks and recommendations. The South Korean Government has institutionalized gender mainstreaming since the mid-2000s based on four policy tools: gender impact assessment, gender responsive budgeting, gender responsive statistics and gender responsive education. With the implementation of gender impact assessment (2005), gender responsive budgeting (2009), South Korea has enacted a separate Gender Impact Analysis and Assessment Act in 2011 and strengthened the link between gender impact assessment and gender responsive budgeting, and continuously expanded gender responsive education. In addition, legal basis was laid out in the Framework Act on Gender Equality to create the synergy among the main tools of gender mainstreaming.
* While South Korea has been building the legal basis for gender responsive budgeting, gender responsive statistics and gender responsive education by institutionalizing gender mainstreaming policies centering on gender impact assessment, however, there is a gap between the system and reality. This necessitates institutional improvements including strengthening the authority of agencies and bodies. To ensure effective operation of gender mainstreaming, it is recommended that South Korea establish the Gender Equality Committee under the Office of the President. The Ministry of Gender Equality and Family can be a dedicated secretariat for this Committee, and review the implementation of gender impact assessment and gender responsive budgeting. Furthermore, it is required to conduct performance management based on the link between gender impact assessment and gender responsive budgeting, and to build a cooperative system among government agencies. In addition, adequate equipment of human, financial and technical resources is necessary at the central and local government levels to establish the ministry-specific gender equality goals that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family has consolidated into guidelines for gender impact assessment since 2018. Lastly, it is essential to expand monitoring and governance of gender mainstreaming by reinforcing citizens’ participation.
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| * **Violence against Women in South Korea** (Jiso Yoon, Ph. D., Associate Research Fellow, KWDI)
* Comprehensively evaluating Korea's achievements over the past decade, there have been various institutional achievements in the areas of sexual violence, domestic violence, prostitution and cyber-space violence, including abolition of \**Chingojoe*, expansion of the scope of sexual violence prevention education, and the enactment of the Violence Against Women Act. The Violence Against Women Act was enacted recently in 2019 to provide a comprehensive and systematic implementation of the violence against women prevention policy, including issues such as sexual violence, domestic violence, prostitution and other types of violence inflicted on women namely date-related sexual violence, stalking, and digital sexual violence. However, despite the provision of laws and systems, limitations exist in terms of effectiveness and improvements are needed.
* Progress has been made as the number of charges reported by victims of sexual violence is increasing along with changes to laws and systems related to sexual violence crimes such as abolition of *Chingojoe* since 2013. However, addressing the issue of secondary damages on victims during police investigation processes due to lack of consideration for victims, victims bearing the burden of proof, improving the Violence Against Women Act, and institutionalizing the #MeToo movement remain as future challenges. In addition, it is difficult to punish perpetrators of date-related sexual violence and stalking as legal grounds for their punishment is vague despite the increasing number of such cases. In addition, it is necessary to actively respond to digital sexual violence and online misogyny as violence and prostitution against women in online spaces have increased rapidly due to development of internet and rapid spread of smart phones.

\**Chingojoe*: a category of offence which cannot be prosecuted without a complaint by the victim |

Annex 3. **Asia-Pacific Forum on Development and Gender**

* About the AP Forum
* Importance of global development cooperation has been emphasized since 2000.
* As a member of the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC), Korea is expanding its support for gender equality and women's empowerment in the area of development cooperation.
	+ - As a policy research think-tank for women's policy under the Prime Minister's Office of South Korea, KWDI has been annually hosting the AP Forum since 2009 with an objective of mainstreaming gender in Korea's development assistance projects, and this year has marked its 11th anniversary.
* List of Themes Discussed
* Incorporating Gender Perspectives into Development Cooperation in North Korea (2018)
* Gender and Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs): Regional and National Perspectives (2017)
* Better Life for Girls: Towards an Inclusive and Sustainable Future (2016)
* Gender in International Development Agenda: with a Special Focus on Beijing+20 and the SDG in China, Japan and Korea (2015)
* Achieving Gender Equality within Beijing+20 and Post- 2015 Framework: Opportunities and Challenges (2014)
* Towards Gender Equality in the Asia-Pacific Region: Current Efforts and Future Tasks (2013)
* KWDI’s Knowledge Sharing on Women’s Policy in the Asia-Pacific Region (2012)
* Gender Mainstreaming in ODA: Experiences and Challenges of Norway and Korea (2011)
* Development and Gender: Good Practices, Sustainable Partnership, Effective Aid (2010)
* The MDG 3: Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (2009)
1. The year 2020 not only marks the 25th anniversary of the establishment of Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and 1325 UN Security Council resolution but also marks the 5th anniversary of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs. This conference is a regional conference held in preparation for the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action established at the 4th World Conference on Women, and as the year coincides with the 5-year milestone for the 2030 Agenda, agendas will be addressed in connection with the 5th anniversary review of SDGs. This conference is also important as it provides an opportunity to disseminate and share Korea's gender policy achievements to governments, international organizations, and NGOs in the Asia-Pacific region. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)