COUNTRY AND INTERCOUNTRY PROGRAMMES AND PROJECTS

FOURTH COUNTRY PROGRAMME FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme period</th>
<th>Actual resources programmed</th>
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<tbody>
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<td>Third cycle balance</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other resources programmed</td>
<td>282 000</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
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<td>10 682 000</td>
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* Detailed listings of projects and other related data prepared as part of the country programming exercise are available on request. These listings include (a) ongoing projects; (b) proposed projects; (c) distribution of resources by objective; and (d) distribution of new country programme by sector.
I. DEVELOPMENT TRENDS, STRATEGIES AND PRIORITIES

A. Current economic trends

1. The Republic of Korea introduced economic development planning within the context of its free market system in 1962. Given a relatively rich endowment of human resources and a social environment conducive to rapid development, a stagnant traditional agricultural economy with limited natural resource was transformed into an export-oriented, semi-industrial economy within the span of a quarter of a century. The volume of exports increased from $55 million to $30 billion between 1962 and 1985, while per capita income rose from $87 to $2,032.

2. Despite the global recession that followed the second oil crisis in 1979 and its subsequent aggravation, the Korean economy rebounded for another period of growth from 1981 onwards, registering an average annual growth of 6 per cent during the 1982-1985 period. The Fifth Five-Year Economic and Social Development Plan (1982-1986) set stability as one of its major objectives. This was achieved as chronic inflation was reduced to an average of 3 per cent a year. Price stability contributed to the achievement of a second major objective of the Plan, increased efficiency of Korean industry and expanded exports of local products. Substantial progress was also made in achieving the last major objective of the Plan, increased social equity through government efforts to expand national medical insurance coverage, to extend telecommunications and transportation networks in the rural areas and to upgrade the public school system.

3. Influenced by the so-called "three lows" - drastically falling oil prices, declining international interest rates, and the weakness of the United States dollar against major currencies, Korea's economy has experienced a rapid expansion since late 1985. One result has been a favourable trade balance in 1986, the first time since the nation achieved independence.

4. Even though the nation embarks on the first year of the Sixth Plan under favourable international and domestic circumstances, difficulties and imbalances continue to trouble the Korean economy: the foreign debt in 1985 amounting to $47 billion for a population of 41 million, about 43 per cent of the total annual gross national product (GNP); the continuing alarming trend in negative trade balance with Japan, registering $5.5 billion in 1986, most of the imports being capital goods, machinery and component parts; the continuing erection of protectionist barriers by major importing countries; the undercapitalized and relatively inefficient nature of small and medium-sized manufacturers; the still shallow and weak research and development capabilities of manufacturing firms that endanger their ability to compete in the rapidly changing international market; the need for a more equitable distribution of the fruits of growth; and finally, the need for greater management of industrial pollution to provide a better environment for the population. These constitute some of the major priority concerns to be addressed in the Sixth Plan and are described in the next section.
B. National development strategies

5. The Sixth Plan includes a 7.2 per cent annual growth rate as a target, based on the assumption that economic conditions, both at home and abroad, will continue to be quite favourable. Greater efficiency in every sector of the economy is a primary goal of the Sixth Plan in order to promote the improved functioning of the market economy. Particular attention will be focused on the reorganization of the industrial structure and the strengthening of small and medium industries, the expansion and strengthening of the science and technology base to support industries, the development of human resources to keep pace with an increasingly sophisticated society and industry, balanced regional development, the management of industrial pollution and the advancement of social benefits.

6. In order to attain the objectives of the Sixth Plan, the Government is relying on a steep rise in domestic savings from 28 per cent in 1985 to 33 per cent by 1991, while foreign debt is expected to decline after the peak year of 1988. Foreign financial requirements, projected at about $6.7 billion a year, will be met increasingly by the private sector through commercial arrangements, while costs for social development objectives, such as the introduction of a national pension scheme and the expansion of medical insurance coverage, will be borne largely by the Government and private sector organizations directly involved.

Achieving a more stable and efficient economy

7. To an economy largely dependent on international market conditions for the export of its manufactured goods, the international price of oil and access to large amounts of foreign capital, greater efficiency in every economic sector is of paramount importance. Wherever possible, the government role will be decreased while the private sector will become more involved in the sectoral policy-making process. Fair trade practices will be enforced to strengthen competition, particularly to curb the monopolistic tendencies of big business conglomerates and to improve efficiency throughout the entire economy. Import liberalization will be increased further as a result of pressures from major trading nations - another factor expected to increase general economic efficiency.

Reorganization of the industrial structure

8. More research and development institutions will be established, while those which exist will be strengthened and their incentives expanded. The Government and private sector will raise the nation's total research and development investments to over 2 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) annually. Particular emphasis will be placed on small and medium-size firms to strengthen this weaker segment of Korean industry in order to reduce imports of machinery and various component parts, as well as to reverse the alarming trend of the economy's increased dependency upon Japan. Because of the lack of natural resources, the quality of Korean skills is particularly important and special efforts will be made through further training and expansion of professional and technical personnel to meet the needs of research and development institutes and of industry. At the same time, efforts will be made to integrate women more actively into the national development process.
Regional social development and environmental protection

9. The Government will expand the functions of local governments, extend social infrastructure and facilities in less developed regions, and increase opportunities for raising the income of non-agricultural families through locating enterprises appropriately in rural areas. The Plan envisages increased worker protection and compensation through the introduction of an appropriate minimum wage system, the expansion of national medical insurance from the current 50 per cent coverage to most of the population and the introduction of a national pension scheme to respond to the needs of the growing elderly population and the nuclear family structure rapidly evolving from the traditional extended system. Environmental management and preservation, which did not receive sufficient attention in the race for rapid industrialization, will be strengthened.

C. Technical co-operation priorities

10. Although technical co-operation needs during the Sixth Plan period have not been quantified, their requirements will increase in proportion to the expansion and sophistication of the national economy and Korean society. The Government is relying increasingly on initiatives and resources from the private sector, in addition to its own, particularly for responding to social needs which are unique to Korea.

11. Technical co-operation from the United Nations system totalled $4.7 million in 1985, of which 50 per cent was provided by UNDP. The Government wishes to concentrate UNDP assistance primarily on industrial reorganization; strengthening the science and technology base; human resource development; and environmental management and protection to support some of the most important goals of the Sixth Plan. The World Health Organization (WHO), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and other United Nations system agencies will be requested to support programmes in their respective fields of competence.

D. Aid co-ordination arrangements

12. The Ministry of Science and Technology co-ordinates technical assistance. Through its Bureau of Technical Co-operation, it co-ordinates all bilateral and multilateral technical co-operation, including that of UNDP. The Economic Planning Board and the Ministry of Finance are responsible for international economic co-operation and external loans and they co-operate closely with the Ministry of Science and Technology on the technical assistance components of loans and credits from international financial institutions.

13. For the preparation of the fourth country programme, the Ministry of Science and Technology sought the views of the Economic Planning Board, the Ministry of Finance and the sectoral Ministries concerned. In addition, it co-ordinated preparations with the major bilateral donors, as well as with the various agencies of the United Nations system, through an active consultation process. After the objectives of the new UNDP country programme were defined, the Ministry of Science
and Technology set up an inter-Ministerial Project Selection Committee to screen and select project proposals.

II. THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

A. Assessment of current country programme

14. As the second country programme for Korea was extended by an additional year to include 1982, the third country programme covered the four-year period 1983-1986 to coincide with the national Fifth Five-Year Plan period, 1982-1986. The IPF for the third country programme was $18 million, of which 55 per cent, or $9.9 million, was actually made available for programming. After the inclusion of the unspent balance from the second cycle ($2,075,781) and the reduction of the 1982 resources ($1,790,670), the funds actually available for the third country programme totalled $11,975,781.

15. The third country programme made notable contributions towards the achievement of the Fifth Five-Year Plan objectives. Its main achievements were the strengthening of national development policy and planning; the development of indigenous industry, particularly small and medium industries; the establishment and upgrading of research and development institutes; development and efficient use of natural resources, particularly in the energy sector; and increased forestry and agricultural production.

16. The most effective projects for industrial and scientific development included assistance to various national Centres in the fields of industrial packaging; toxicology serving the chemical and pharmaceutical industries; textile dyeing and finishing, and offshore mineral prospecting. Projects strengthening Korean extension services to small and medium industries and the modernization of its industrial property system also made major contributions. National development policy and planning benefited from projects in improving statistics, structural adjustment, development planning and public enterprise performance evaluation. For agricultural and forestry development, the most effective projects have been in forestry personnel training, forestry resources management, agricultural drainage, crop insurance, the development of new food resources and the strengthening of veterinary services. For natural resources and basic infrastructure development, UNDP has contributed significantly through assistance supporting a groundwater resources survey; a national civil aviation training centre; a national environment protection institute; the Korea Energy Management Corporation and the strengthening of national meteorological services.

17. Although modest in monetary terms, UNDP resources helped establish institutions or support others which continue to play central and leading roles in their respective fields. Such assistance has had a substantial impact on national policies in the fields concerned and has also produced highly favourable multiplier effects.

18. Because expenditure requirements for the third country programme rose beyond the drastically diminished level of the resources actually available, and because
funds were already committed to approved projects, most were reduced in size. To some extent, the distribution of IPP resources among country programme objectives was also affected by changing priorities. Thus, unforeseen and urgent requirements in the agricultural sector resulted in an increase in actual expenditures from the 8 per cent originally allocated to 19 per cent, while a corresponding reduction of expenditures took place in the health and employment sectors.

19. Korean projects during the third country programme period averaged approximately $300,000 in value, with large expert and fellowships components, while equipment components remained small with the Government providing the required supporting items. The use of resources by component was: experts (39 per cent), subcontracts (1 per cent), training (31 per cent), equipment (27 per cent), and miscellaneous (2 per cent). Given the experience gained from the third cycle, the Government plans to reduce equipment expenditures further to about 10 per cent in the fourth country programme.

20. Most projects have been managed by national project co-ordinators, rather than resident international managers. This arrangement has necessitated the involvement of the UNDP field office staff in the administrative aspects of project management. Toward the end of the third cycle, projects increasingly incorporated components of technical co-operation among developing countries (TCDC), involving international workshops or seminars to share experiences with other nations. Government execution arrangements were adopted for two projects.

B. New programme proposal

21. The resources available for the fourth cycle are $10,682,000, including a $9.9 million IPP allocation, an expected balance of $500,000 from the third cycle and a Government cost-sharing contribution of $282,000.

22. The objectives of the new country programme reflect the development priorities of the Sixth Plan: (a) support to the industrial sector, particularly the strengthening of small and medium industries; (b) expansion and strengthening of the country's science and technology base; (c) human resources development; and (d) environmental management and protection. In establishing the objectives of the fourth country programme, the programme and project priorities recommended by a UNDP technical co-operation needs assessment mission fielded in April/May 1986 were, by and large, incorporated, as were certain ongoing projects extended into the fourth cycle. The unique nature of UNDP co-operation and experience with successful project modalities during the third country programme period were also reflected in the new programme.

23. After the direction of the new programme was established by the Government co-ordinating Ministry, in consultation with planning Ministries, UNDP and other international and bilateral donors to Korea, a Project Selection Committee was established, composed of the sectoral Ministries concerned and independent experts. This Committee reviewed some 130 ongoing and new project proposals received from the various Ministries and institutions, and selected priority projects in accordance with the major programme objectives. The new country
programme contains 22 ongoing projects begun during the third cycle, 1 extension of an ongoing project, 4 follow-up new phase projects, and 19 new proposals.

24. Most projects included in the new Programme will be managed by national co-ordinators in close contact with the Ministry of Science and Technology, UNDP and the United Nations system agencies concerned. The average size of projects will be $300,000. Almost all UNDP resources will be allocated for the provision of experts and training, and only a small amount for specialized equipment, particularly as the value of UNDP assistance lies in its catalytic role.

25. Government execution of projects will be expanded, as will the utilization of national experts to the greatest extent possible. This will help promote greater national self-reliance, as well as extend the limited UNDP resources to as many new projects as possible. In addition to its financing of project equipment during the third cycle, the Government now intends to undertake modest cost-sharing of the new programme. The strict annual budgetary regulations of Government and semi-governmental agencies constituted the main constraint to cost-sharing in the past. However, at this stage the Government has agreed to start using cost-sharing. Eventually, the Government expects to enlarge such contributions to permit the expansion of the UNDP programme in Korea.

26. Another feature of the fourth country programme is the government plan to utilize UNDP resources to help establish a quasi-governmental TCDC Centre in Korea. The objective of this Centre will be the implementation or strengthening of technical co-operation programmes and projects that may interest other developing countries.

Reorganization of industrial structure ($3,390,978)

27. During the early stages of Korean industrialization until the early 1980s, the economy was characterized by large capital and technology imports and deep governmental involvement in its planning and management. Although this approach led to rapid economic and industrial development, it also created rigidities in the industrial structure, fostered the emergence of large business conglomerates which hampered the growth of small and medium industries, and lowered the competitiveness of Korean manufactured goods.

28. The industrial development strategy of the Sixth Plan focuses on the balanced development of industries through minimum government intervention, allowing for the maximum operation of market mechanisms, while enforcing vigorous fair trade practices. Industrial policy has also been concentrated on functional, rather than sector-specific requirements, and the enforcement of the Industrial Development Act adopted in September 1986. Industrial policy consequently gives particular emphasis to the strengthening of small and medium industries.

29. To help achieve these objectives, the UNDP programme is concentrated on the promotion of small and medium industries, which comprise more than 95 per cent of total Korean manufacturing concerns, and employ about 70 per cent of the total industrial labour force.
Ongoing projects

Assistance to venture capital organizations (new phase)

30. This project will continue to strengthen the appraisal and management functions of venture capital financing organizations. Project objectives are similar to those of the project Korea Technology Development Corporation (ROK/82/016).

Assistance in establishing an industrial property centre (new phase)

31. This project aims to promote innovative industrial activities by strengthening the protection of inventions, by increasing and facilitating the use of available technological information for new product development and by making available up-to-date information on patent systems and procedures to interested parties.

Extension services for small and medium industries (ROK/82/034)

32. This project provides technical guidance and extension services for improving the technical and managerial capability of small and medium industries.

Improving agriculture and production of food through the aid of nuclear and related techniques (ROK/84/003)

33. This project is intended to enhance the capability of Korean scientists to use nuclear techniques in agricultural research, covering plant breeding, with particular emphasis on cereal and oil crops, sericulture, horticulture and cell culture, as well as soil science, plant nutrition and pesticide residues.

New projects

Carbon fiber and carbon fiber composite materials

34. This project aims to upgrade the research and development capabilities at Choongnam National University for producing carbon fibers and carbon fiber composite structural materials and, in particular, for developing technologies from the pilot/laboratory scale to the industrial production level.

Selected technologies for small and medium industries

35. This project will foster technologies in the development of machine parts, process automation and low-cost automation. It will complement a Japanese Overseas Economic Co-operation Fund (OECF) financial assistance project amounting to $6.3 million, through financing the technical co-operation component.

Transport information management system

36. The Korea Transport Institute was established in early 1986 with a mandate to conduct research and policy studies on land transportation. The project will assist in the establishment of a Transportation Information Management Centre and a related technical training programme.
Other industry projects

37. The sum of $350,000 will be set aside for activities that have not yet been fully defined in Computerization of Small and Medium Industries ($150,000), Development of New Materials ($200,000), and Energy Conservation Technologies ($250,000).

Strengthening of the science and technology base ($3,045,823)

38. As Korea has few natural resources, one of the most important thrusts of the country's economic development is sustained technological development for the manufacture of export products. Since the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, the first modern research and development institution in Korea, was established in 1966 to provide the base for industrial technology, much progress has been made in expanding the country's research and development infrastructure, as well as its capacity. However, science and technology in Korea is still quite weak. Most current research and development activities need to be strengthened and new ones established.

39. To support this Government objective, new UNDP technical co-operation will be concentrated on the popularization of science and on laying the foundations for such technologies as fine chemistry, bio-engineering and ocean research. In addition, several ongoing projects will be extended into the new cycle.

Ongoing projects

Korea Ocean Research Development Institute (new phase) (ROK/82/010)

40. The project continues assistance intended to strengthen the technical capability of the Korea Ocean Research Development Institute to maximize the utilization of the ocean resources, with particular attention to surveys of mineral resources.

Toxicology Research Laboratory (ROK/82/028)

41. The project continues to help strengthen the capacity of the Toxicology Research Laboratory of the Korea Research Institute of Chemical Technology to acquire the experimental techniques and expertise required for toxicity studies and for the regulation of chemical compounds.

Screening centre for pharmaceuticals (ROK/86/003)

42. This project assists with the establishment of a Centre for the testing and screening of new pharmaceuticals required for the development of the fine chemical industry.

Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ROK/84/004)

43. This project assists in upgrading the research and development capability of the Institute in support of the local manufacture of telecommunications and related...
products. The project consists of seven subprogrammes. A Government cost-sharing contribution will provide $282,000 for advanced expertise and training facilities.

New projects

Assistance to the Germplasm Bank

44. This project will strengthen the capability of the recently established Germplasm Bank of the Rural Development Administration in the collection, evaluation, conservation, utilization, and exchange of plant genetic resources with a view ultimately to developing superior varieties of local crop species.

Assistance to the Genetic Engineering Centre

45. This project will constitute the technical assistance component of a $5 million OECF loan for the establishment of a full-fledged bio-engineering research institute.

Linkage

46. While the Germplasm Bank is primarily concerned with germplasm of seeds and other plant-related materials for use in agriculture, the Genetic Engineering Centre will be involved with genes and cell-lines of micro-organisms used primarily in industry. Collaboration will be sought between the International Board for Plant Genetic Resources (IBPGR) in Rome and the Germplasm Bank project.

Science museum, mobile science van and science library

47. The project will provide expertise in the management of the newly constructed National Science Museum; demonstration equipment, software and expertise in fitting out mobile science vans; and support for the establishment of a central science library in the Daeduk Science City. The project aims to popularize and humanize modern science and technology for the population at large, and to provide insights into potential applications of research as well as its impact on daily life.

Environmental management and protection ($911,800)

48. The establishment of the Environmental Administration in 1980 is regarded as a landmark in environmental preservation and pollution control activities in Korea. It has permitted the development of comprehensive and rigorous environmental quality standards, as well as the development and enforcement of environmental regulations.

49. The areas to be covered by UNDP co-operation include a survey of the country's ecosystem and the establishment of base-line data, assistance in managing industrial wastes in controlling plant pests and diseases.
New projects

Assistance in establishing a master plan for investigation of the country's ecosystem

50. This project will assist the Environmental Administration to complete the national survey of the country's ecosystem, initiated in 1982 and scheduled for completion in 1990. Concurrently, it will help establish a national plan for the detailed investigation of the ecosystem, collect base-line data and consolidate the findings to assist the Government strategy for environmental conservation.

Assistance in managing toxic chemicals and hazardous wastes

51. It is estimated that approximately 750 tons of industrial waste are already produced daily throughout Korea, while disposal and management techniques remain seriously below the capacity required to handle the increase expected. This project aims to upgrade the capability of the Environmental Administration in the management of hazardous wastes and, to a lesser extent, toxic chemical by-products produced by industry.

Linkage

52. The objectives of the above two projects reflect the United Nations global concern for environmental protection. Active co-ordination will also be maintained with activities of the planned UNDP regional project Safety and Control of Pollutants and Toxic Chemicals, as well as with the World Health Organization (WHO)/Korea programmes in environmental protection and pollution control.

Assistance in control of plant pests and diseases

53. Korea currently imports about $2 billion worth of agricultural products annually. This is due largely to the severe limitation of arable land. By making a thorough survey of all pests and diseases in various plants and plant products in the country, the Government hopes to attain a clearer understanding of their distribution and thereby prepare an effective management and control policy consistent with environmental protection considerations.

Programmed reserve

The sum of $384,800 is being set aside for possible additions to the programme of environmental management.

Human resources development ($2,729,450)

54. The Korean people are highly motivated for learning and work and have been the most important driving force in transforming a poor traditional rural economy to semi-industrialization in a short span of time. This subprogramme covers the fields of education and training in various fields and those projects which do not logically fall under other subprogrammes, but which aim generally at further human resources development.
55. In addition to training government officials, university professors and laboratory instructors, the programme will introduce, for the first time in Korea, special programmes for women and gifted students, hitherto neglected segments of society. This subprogramme also includes a project to assist with the establishment of a TCDC Centre to share the Korean development experience with other developing countries.

General fellowships (ROK/80/003)

56. This umbrella project makes provision for overseas fellowship training for government officials. The training for 1986 and 1987 focuses on the training requirements of officials from the Ministry of Science and Technology and from the scientific community on science policy and research development management.

New projects

Assistance to Centre for Science Technology Policy

57. The project will help to establish the Centre as a "think-tank" in the field of science and technology policy which will conduct policy studies on science and technology through providing consultant services and overseas training.

Centre for Technical Co-operation among Developing Countries

58. The Government is currently spending more than $1.5 million per year for TCDC activities and wishes to strengthen and expand these activities through the establishment of a TCDC Centre. The project will assist in its establishment and in drawing up its plan of work.

59. The UNDP allocation will also be used to finance the travel of a team of Korean experts to selected countries in the region to assess their technical co-operation needs and to determine ways in which these needs might in part be met through exchanges with Korean institutions. The training would be followed by a regional consultative group meeting in Seoul to formulate a Regional Action Plan.

Linkage

60. The project reflects global concerns for greater TCDC.

Training of science and engineering professors

61. This project will serve as the technical co-operation component of a $30 million OECF loan for science laboratory equipment during the period 1988-1991. The Government particularly wishes to apply UNDP funds for overseas training in advanced countries for junior science and engineering faculty members in the basic and applied sciences and engineering. Close contact will be maintained with the OECF loan project, under which only science laboratory items are provided to Korean universities.
Vocational training for economically disadvantaged women

62. The Korea Women's Development Institute was established in 1983 to undertake research, provide education and training programmes and initiate strategies so as to upgrade the status of women. The project will assist the development of vocational training programmes for economically disadvantaged women.

Linkage

63. Starting with its Sixth Plan, the Government has added a sectoral priority for the integration of women in development; vocational training is one of the policy goals. The project aims are consonant with United Nations global concerns for the participation of women, particularly the disadvantaged, in development. Co-ordination will be maintained with the UNDP regional project, the Asia Pacific Skills Development Programme (APSDEP) executed by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

Studies on policy development for gifted students

64. The determination of the Government to provide wider educational opportunities to all Koreans has resulted in a very successful expansion of the formal educational system, which does not however, provide sufficient opportunity for developing the potential of gifted students. This project aims to support policy studies currently under way at the Korea Educational Development Institute on gifted students, particularly those who are scientifically oriented, beginning at the junior high school age.

Other projects

65. The sum of $300,000 has been set aside for Studies on Economic and Industrial Planning and $200,000 for Rehabilitation of the Disabled in Industry.

C. Unprogrammed reserve

66. In order to help meet unforeseen contingencies, $453,949 or 4.3 per cent of total resources, will be held as an unprogrammed reserve.
Annex

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

I. ACTUAL RESOURCES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR PROGRAMMING

A. UNDP-administered sources

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B. Other sources

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TOTAL ACTUAL RESOURCES TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT FOR PROGRAMMING

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II. USE OF RESOURCES

A. Programmed (all objectives)

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TOTAL USE OF RESOURCES

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