

# KGTF NEWSLETTER

January 2023

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## FEATURE STORY

### K-water and Korean startups showcased innovative and smart water technologies at CES 2023



**K-water**, Korea's state-owned water resources management corporation and key knowledge partner of the **Korea Green Growth Trust Fund (KGTF)**, participated in **Consumer Electronics Show (CES 2023)**. The CES 2023 was the largest international electronics and tech event held in Las Vegas from January 5 to 8, 2023. K-water attended this IT trade show with 14 Korean water startups and introduced 10 innovative water technologies including smart dam safety, blue-green algae management, and smart purification plant. At the K-water booth located in the Eureka Park Hall under the theme of "Water, Energy, City and Nexus", 14 Korean water companies exhibited innovative new technologies and products such as IT monitoring service for water quality and IoT-powered indoor air quality monitoring solutions and a digital twin-based smart city service 3D platform. K-water aimed to promote the Korean water industry and a win-win growth with Korean water startups at CES 2023.

**Seven Korean startups, such as BTE Inc. and WI.Plat**, out of 14 water companies were awarded for the "Best of Innovation" by Consumer Technology Association (CTA), which is the organizer of the CES 2023. Korean innovative technologies and products included a portable device that can detect pollution on-site (Simple Grow), Intelligent Water Leakage Management System (WI.Plat), a multi-purpose and integrated hydrogen recharger (BTE Inc.), energy-independent green hydrogen power generation system (K-WATERCRAFT), and a robot-based water management solution that automatically monitors, prevents pollution, and explores the drainage path environment (ARTWA). The Korean technologies received great attention and recognition for safe, cost-efficient, and environmentally friendly innovation.

Download [CES 2023 & K-water](#) and watch [K-water at CES 2023](#) and [Korean water startups \(Korean\)](#).

## KGTF PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

### The State Committee on Forestry of Uzbekistan visited Korea for forest management ICT promotion.



**The State Committee on Forestry (SCF) of the Republic of Uzbekistan visited Korea** from December 18 to 24, 2022, to collaborate with the **Korea Forest Service (KFS)** and Korean forest experts on the World Bank's forest ICT promotion project in Uzbekistan. The delegation led by Sherzod Usmonov, Deputy Chairman of the SCF, experienced Korea's advanced forest management and ICT technologies through on-site visits to Korea's Cheongtae Recreation Forest, Daegwallyeong Special Afforestation Site, Forest Fire Control Center, and National Institute of Forest Science. This knowledge exchange visit was supported by **KGTF Year 8 Grant - Promoting Forest Information and Communication Technology in Uzbekistan** (TTL: Paola Agostini, Lead Natural Resources Management Specialist, ENB GP).



The Uzbekistan delegation had a **high-level bilateral meeting with Sang Seop Lim, Deputy Minister of the Korea Forest Service (KFS)** on December 21, 2022, after the on-site visits. They discussed Uzbekistan's forest restoration and effective management plans and agreed to continue cooperation between the two countries for Uzbekistan's successful reforestation. The KFS pledged to share Korea's experience of afforestation and efficient information management technology and increase the global awareness of Korea's expertise in forest management. The SCF had meetings with international organizations such as [AFoCO](#) and [GGGI](#), and invited them to the 2023 UNCCD CRIC 21, which will be held in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, on October 9 and 10, 2023.

## NEWS



**The 2022 Trust Fund Annual Report: Navigation Uncertainty on the Path to Recovery** was published by the World Bank's Development Finance (DFI). This annual report showcases how the World Bank Group manages and utilizes trust funds (TFs) and Financial Intermediary Funds (FIFs) to deploy financing quickly, expand operations, and generate new knowledge to support client countries during the recent crisis. The report features how these instruments have supported a rapid response to the COVID-19 pandemic and other emergencies.

The KGGTF supported the **GRID diagnostic 'Building Back Better with Green Growth Diagnostics'** featured under Section 4.4 Global and Regional Knowledge-Generation Stories on page 58 of the annual report.

*"Building back better with green growth diagnostics. The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed the interconnectedness of natural, human, physical, and intangible capital and highlighted the need for a more balanced form of development that is better prepared for multiple threats. In response, the World Bank developed its GRID strategy. To support its implementation, the Bank has developed a comprehensive diagnostic, with support from the Korea Green Growth Trust Fund (KGGTF), to identify areas where investments will have the most impact. The Bank has completed GRID diagnostics in over 45 countries, including many impacted by FCV. They provide analytical underpinnings in core country documents, such as Systematic Country Diagnostics, Country Partnership Frameworks, and Country Climate and Development Reports, and to inform the preparation of lending operations."* (Page 58, The 2022 Trust Fund Annual Report)

## RECENT EVENTS



**The 53rd annual meeting of the World Economic Forum** was held in Davos, Switzerland, from January 16 to 20, 2023, under the theme of **'Cooperation in a Fragmented World.'** More than 2,700 participants including politicians, policy-makers, business leaders, economists, and stakeholders gathered to discuss diverse aspects of global challenges ranging from energy transition, natural resource crises, inflation, investment in agriculture and green jobs, and gender inequality. This year's meeting was crucial amidst the present crises facing the world after the COVID-19 pandemic and Ukraine's political situation.

**Yoon Suk-yeol**, President of the Republic of Korea, attended the meeting and called for strengthening energy security, increasing reliance on clean hydrogen and nuclear power, and securing the stability of global supply chains.



The World Bank hosted the **7th Urbanization and Poverty Reduction Research Conference** at Preston Auditorium, the World Bank HQ, Washington DC, on January 30 and 31, 2023, and brought together academics, policy-makers, and development practitioners. They presented academic researches and shared insights into how to make them practical in development projects on critical issues related to climate change. The agendas focused on **climate change and sustainable development**, specifically on climate induced migration, local and global damages from climate change, city resilience, and climate change mitigation.

**Bernice Van Bronkhorst**, Global Director for Urban, Resilience and Land Global Practice (GPURL), opened the conference and emphasized new sustainable development opportunities from adaptation and mitigation benefits of cities. **Richard Damania**, Chief Economist of the Sustainable Development Practice Group, chaired the afternoon session and discussed social costs of damages from climate change at the global and local levels and growing inequalities. Watch the [Opening Session](#) and [Keynote Address and Debate](#).



### The Energy and Extractives Team, EEX

EEX invited clients of East Asian and Pacific countries to "EAP Energy Transition Conference" in Seoul, Korea, from the 13th to 15th of December as an event under KGGTF Year 9 grant (Programmatic Technical Assistance on Energy Transition in the East Asia and Pacific region). 16 people participated in-person from Mongolia, Vietnam, Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia, Lao PDR, and Cambodia, while one participated online from China. They all shared their country's plan and progress towards energy transition, visited sites to observe Korea's energy transition efforts including grid-scale BESS and fuel cell power plant.

EEX successfully hosted the World Bank Energy Forum at Bitgaram International Expo of Electric Power Technology (BIXPO) on November 4, 2022, in Gwangju, under the theme of "Energy Transition amid Global Recession." Over 150 people attended the session to learn about energy transition in Korea and the Pacific Island Countries (PIC). In addition, EEX also organized "Closing Workshop on E-mobility and BESS" in Jeju island, Korea, from November 7 to 9 as an event under KGGTF Year 7 grant (Regional E-mobility and Battery Storage Programmatic Technical Assistance (TA) for Pacific Island Countries and Territories). The event invited 13 utilities from the Pacific islands to observe Jeju island's effort for a carbon free island, regarding E-mobility, renewable energy, and BESS.



### The Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy Team, ENB

As part of ongoing technical assistance (TA) funded by the KGGTF to promote the Circular Economy in Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and other Central Asian countries for climate and environment. ENB Korea and Laos teams (TTL: Maurice Rawlins) jointly organized the knowledge exchange event in Korea from November 28 to December 1, 2022. Counterparts from Central Asia countries and Laos visited the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Korea, KEITI, KECO, SLC, and Seoul Metropolitan Government to share technical and operational knowledge in promoting circular economy. The visits included observing circular economy technologies and discussing potential collaboration between Korea and Central Asia countries. The last day of the event included participation in the KGGTF 10th Anniversary Conference on December 1, 2022.

Mona Sur, Practice Manager of ENB GP, presented at a networking event by MOEF and MOTIE at the World Bank Group and Post-Conflict, Post-Disaster Recovery and Reconstruction. Responding to the MDB Project Plaza organizers' demand, she presented the World Bank's strategy and approaches to recovery projects. The presentation provided an overview of changing trends in recovery programs and highlighted how the Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development (GRID) approach is integrated into the recovery programs of the World Bank.

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## KGGTF K-PARTNERS



### K-Partner Newsletters

**KEPCO** - Korea Electric Power Corporation  
[Newsletter, January 2023](#)

**KOTI** - Korea Transport Institute  
[Newsletter, January 2023 \(Korean\)](#)

**KRIHS** - Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements  
[Newsletter, January 2023 \(Korean\)](#)

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### About KGGTF

The Korea Green Growth Trust Fund (KGGTF) is the green growth partnership between the World Bank Group (WBG) and the Republic of Korea. Since its inception in 2012, as a technology-driven and implementation-focused trust fund, the KGGTF has supported partner countries in their innovative and sustainable solutions, strategies, and investments geared towards Green, Resilient, and Inclusive Development (GRID). The KGGTF portfolio has now supported 196 green growth programs and activities across the world, reaching a total of \$106 million and leveraging over \$17 billion in WBG lending and external co-financing.

For more information about KGGTF activities please visit our website [www.wbgkggf.org](http://www.wbgkggf.org).



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