

KGTF NEWSLETTER

March 2023

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FEATURE STORY

The International Women's Day - Women in Online Work in Kosovo



International Women's Day (March 8) is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. This year, **International Women's Day 2023** marked a call to action for accelerating digital gender equality under the theme of **DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality**. This month's newsletter highlights the contribution of the **Korea Green Growth Trust Fund (KGTF)** to gender parity in celebration of International Women's Day 2023. Women are left behind because of the digital gender divide and growing inequalities are increasingly apparent in digital skills and access to technologies. The need for inclusive technology and digital education is therefore crucial for a sustainable future. The KGTF provided financial support to the efforts of addressing gender inequality in the digital sector and creating economic opportunities for young women while facilitating the digital economy. **The KGTF Year 2 Grant Program – Innovative and Green Growth for Rural Areas: Investing & Scoping** (TTL: Natalija Gelvanovska-Garcia, Senior Digital Development Specialist) supported the World Bank team to design and implement a pilot project for unemployed and underemployed women on the request of the Ministry of Economic Development (MED) in Kosovo.

The **Women in Online Work (WoW)** pilot project explored the opportunities for online work of young women in Kosovo. The two-phase WoW pilot helped five municipalities and trained young women in skills that had a growing demand for the online freelancing market. The WoW pilot also encouraged female participants to work with career counselors, participate in networking events, and build skills in presentations, communications, and basic management. The pilot project showed that online work was a promising option for helping young Kosovar women find jobs and gain financial independence. After two phases, 78 program graduates earned \$25,000 from jobs they gained online.



Insect farming provides a supply of nutritious food and healthy proteins for humans and animals. Opening a business is viable at a low cost and does not emit carbon emissions. Insect farming offers immense opportunities to create climate-resilient jobs and empower women, youth, and refugees by increasing their access to livelihoods and agricultural resources. **The KGTF Year 8 Grant - Novel Protein: Insect Farming for Food and Feed for a Circular Green Growth Economy** (TTL: Dorte Verner, Lead Agriculture Economist) - supported the development of training modules on insect farming and hydroponics to build skills of small entrepreneurship for women in Kenya and Gambia, grow their own food, and have more access to income-earning opportunities.



The **Energy Storage Partnership**, hosted by the World Bank Energy Sector Management Assistance Program (ESMAP) and the Global Women's Network for the Energy Transition (GWNEN), offers the "**Women in Energy Storage Mentoring Program**" to engage young women in developing their career in the energy storage sector. It is a meaningful opportunity for both mentors and mentees to expand their knowledge and shape the direction of future generations of junior female professionals. **Chong Suk Song**, Energy Specialist at the World Bank, joined this mentoring program as a mentor with the support of **the KGTF Year 7 Grant - Capacity building and technical Learning workshops on Energy storage to Accelerate energy Transition, CLEAN**, (TTL: Chandrasekar Govindarajalu, Lead Energy Specialist).



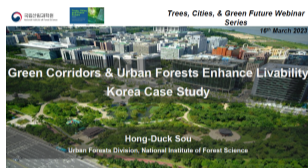
Solid waste management in South Asia creates tremendous opportunities such as a more attractive environment for tourism, new jobs for waste treatment as resources, and business opportunities for local entrepreneurs. Women also make a strong contribution to solid waste management and the circular economy as engineers, collectors, and recyclers. **The KGGTF Year 5 Grant - Solid Waste in Mountainous Regions of India, Pakistan, and Nepal** (TTL: Rahat Jabeen, Environment Specialist) - supported female opportunities such as organizing Mother's groups by women's committees, promoting female leadership in decision-making roles at the community level, and providing waste process training and micro-financing loans.

KGGTF PROGRAM SPOTLIGHT

I. The World Bank's Trees, Cities, & Green Future Webinar Series

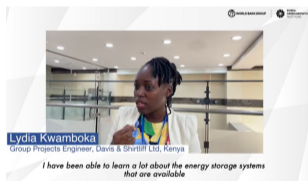


The World Bank Webinar Series, [Trees, Cities, and Green Future](#), was co-hosted by the Environment, Natural Resources, and Blue Economy (ENB) Global Practice and the Urban, Resilience, and Land (URL) Global Practice on March 16, 2023. The webinar series was held under the World Bank's [RESILAND CA+ Regional Landscape Restoration Program](#) (Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan) which aimed to prevent land degradation and increase resilience in Central Asia. The webinar explored the complex interconnections between trees, urban environments, and sustainable cities and provided an online knowledge platform. By harnessing examples of best practices from cities such as Seoul, Barcelona, Milan, and Melbourne, the webinar addressed progressive planning processes including Master Planning for Urban Trees, novel financing mechanisms, and foundational frameworks to ensure project sustainability.



Dr. Hong-Duck Sou, Research Scientist at the National Institute of Forest Science of Korea, presented [Korea Case Study: Green Corridors and Urban Forests Enhance Livability](#), and introduced various urban green corridors and forestry best practices in Korea. In particular, the urban forests absorbed carbon emissions and reduced fine dust concentrations and the urban heat island effect. The [Korea Forest Service](#) and 17 municipal governments implemented urban forest projects and urban wind ventilation forest projects. The KGGTF supports RESILAND CA+ Program through **Year 8 Grant - Promoting Forest Information and Communication Technology in Uzbekistan** (TTL: Paola Agostini, Lead Natural Resources Management Specialist).

II. The KGGTF 10th Anniversary Event Interview Series



The KGGTF 10th Anniversary Event celebrated a decade of supporting innovative and sustainable growth strategies and investments in countries around the World. The KGGTF team interviewed a diverse group of event participants to hear their insights and experiences, including policymakers, innovators, entrepreneurs, and more, all working towards a greener future, and created the [KGGTF 10th Anniversary Event Interview Series](#).

Watch the [Interview Series](#) to discover the motivations behind these participants' visits to Korea, and how their experiences and insights can contribute to a greener and more sustainable world. Don't miss out on this opportunity to learn from the experts and be inspired to take action toward a more sustainable future.

NEWS



International Women's Day (IWD 2023) was celebrated by UN Women and the United Nations on March 8, 2023, to recognize women's achievements under the theme **DigitALL: Innovation and technology for gender equality**. This theme is aligned with the priority theme for the upcoming 67th Session of the [Commission on the Status of Women \(CSW-67\)](#), **"Innovation and technological change, and education in the digital age for achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls."** IWD 2023 explored the impact of the digital gender gap on widening economic and social inequalities and shed light on the importance of protecting the rights of women and girls in digital spaces and addressing online gender-based violence.

A gender responsive approach to innovation, technology, and digital education can increase the awareness of women and girls regarding their rights, representation, and civic engagement. Digital technology can create opportunities to address gender inequality and humanitarian challenges. The event brought together technologists, innovators, entrepreneurs, and gender equality activists to provide a venue where they highlighted the role of all stakeholders in improving access to digital tools.

RECENT EVENTS



[The Korea Digital Days 2023](#) was hosted by the World Bank Digital Development Global Practice and the Ministry of Science, and ICT (MSIT) of Korea in Washington DC from March 21 to 23, 2023. The Korea Digital Days 2023 aimed to showcase the strong collaboration of the World Bank's partnership with Korea in the digital space. This event also demonstrated Korea's commitment to expanding global partnerships and cooperation to create universal values for all people in the digital era and facilitate digital transformation in developing countries.

Christine Zhenwei Qiang, Director, Digital Development Global Practice, and **Guangzhe Chen**, Vice President, Infrastructure of the World Bank, opened the Korea Digital Days and gave welcoming remarks. **Kwang Jun Ryu**, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) of Korea, highlighted five key goals such as building the world's best digital capabilities, fostering a digital economy, creating an inclusive digital society, promoting an open digital platform government, and innovating the digital culture.

UPCOMING EVENTS



[The 2023 Spring Meetings of the World Bank Group and the International Monetary Fund](#) will take place in Washington DC from April 10 to 16, 2023, under the theme of **Reshaping Development for a New Era**. The Spring Meetings will bring together central bankers, ministers of finance and development, parliamentarians, private sector executives, representatives from civil society organizations, and academics to discuss issues of global concern, including the world economic outlook, poverty eradication, economic development, and aid effectiveness. Other featured events such as seminars, regional briefings, press conferences, and many other events will focus on the global economy, international development, issues of debt, and the world's financial system.

KGGI WBG KOREA OFFICE GREEN GROWTH INNOVATION TEAM



The Energy and Extractives Team, EEX

The EEX team met with the Korea Institute for Advancement of Technology (KIAT) to discuss the CY 2023 plan for WB-KIAT pilot projects on March 21. KIAT also updated EEX on the ongoing WB projects with KIAT in Sri Lanka, and Pacific Island Countries. On March 22, EEX discussed with Korea Energy Agency (KEA) the agenda for the next EAP Energy Transition Conference, which will be funded by the same KGGTF grant and co-funded by KEA. The potential agenda includes industrial decarbonization, energy efficiency, and stranded assets.



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

Under Environment and Climate Change Innovation in East Asia, Virtual Quality Enhancement Review (QER) was conducted from March 10 to 17, 2023. The deliverable, "Scaling Innovations for Plastics Circularity with Investment in ASEAN" aims to enhance knowledge and facilitate collaboration across the ASEAN on policy instruments and innovations relating to climate change mitigation and plastics waste management. For Korea Office's upcoming 10th anniversary in May, ENB seeks to invite a senior government official who is well-versed in Korea's role in the field of development.



The Urban, Resilience, and Land Team, URL

Smart and Green Cities: The team fielded a mission to Jakarta to discuss with the Jakarta city government prospective support for urban revitalization in Kota Tua Jakarta, as well as to conduct a needs assessment and develop an action plan. The team had an inception review of the territorial development and urban regeneration carried out by Korea Land and Housing Corporation (LH). ICT-based Land and Property Valuation in ASEAN: The team has worked on case studies on Property Valuation in Cambodia and Vietnam and is currently working on the design of the Land and Property Valuation Learning Week, which will take place in Seoul, Korea, in May 2023.

KGGTF K-PARTNERS



K-Partner Newsletters

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

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

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 \$19 billion in WBG lending and external co-financing.

For more information about KGGTF activities please visit our website www.wbgkgtf.org.

World Bank Group Korea Green Growth Trust Fund
1818 H Street, NW Washington, DC 20433 USA



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