

Education and Economic Growth - Korean Experience -

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Toward Better Education : Future Tasks

■ South Korea

- Located in the eastern part of the Asian Continent
- A five-thousand year history
- A democratic state and a constitutional republic



▪ South Korea

- Since 1998, the Korean society has been characterized by the development of ICT-oriented industries, increased public welfare, openness, and globalization.
- The current educational reforms have been directed towards enhancing public education, increasing accountability and autonomy of the schools, meeting the global standard, reducing private tutoring expenses, as well as building infrastructures for lifelong learning.

▪ Education System in Korea

- Korea has maintained **a single-track 6-3-3-4 system**, which requires 6 years of elementary school and 3 years of middle school as mandatory curriculum, and 3 years of high school as optional.
- **The enrollment rates** in elementary, middle, and high schools have reached about **100 percent since 1994**.
- **The percentage of high school students** advancing onto **a higher stage of education** has reached **83.5 percent by 2008**, which is **one of the highest ratios in the world** (KEDI, 2009).

2 Korea: Yesterday and Today

<Korean War : 1950~1953>



<2002~2013>



SEOUL SUMMIT 2010

Shared Growth Beyond Crisis



- Once being one of the poorest countries, Korea is now a major trading and economic power in Asia as well as in the world.

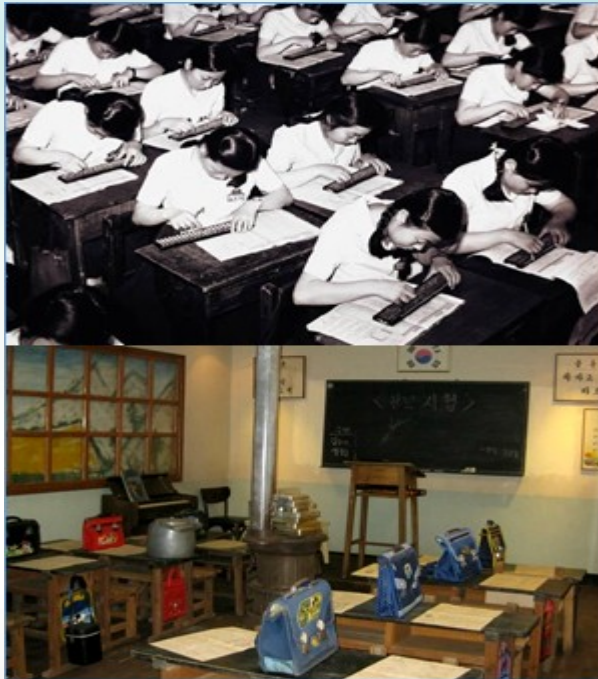
2 Korea: Yesterday and Today

- Korea ranked **8th** in terms of the volume of **international trade** in 2012
- **The 7th country in the world to join the 2050 club**, which is for countries that have 20,000 dollars per capita and a population of 50 million



2 Korea: Yesterday and Today

▪ Classrooms & School Facilities



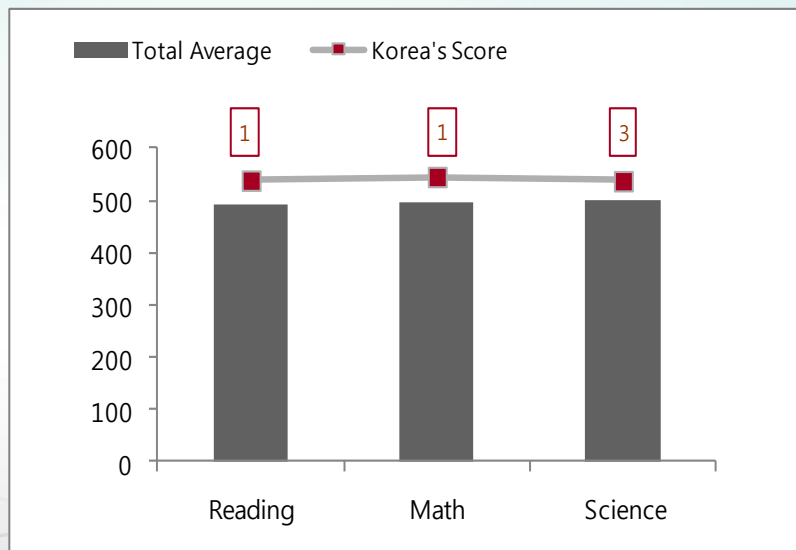
- The **South Korea economy** is currently **the 15th largest economy in the world** and **the 3rd largest in Asia**.
- **Korea's development** is described as a '**miracle,**' '**unique,**' or sometimes '**unusual.**'⁹

2 Korea: Yesterday and Today

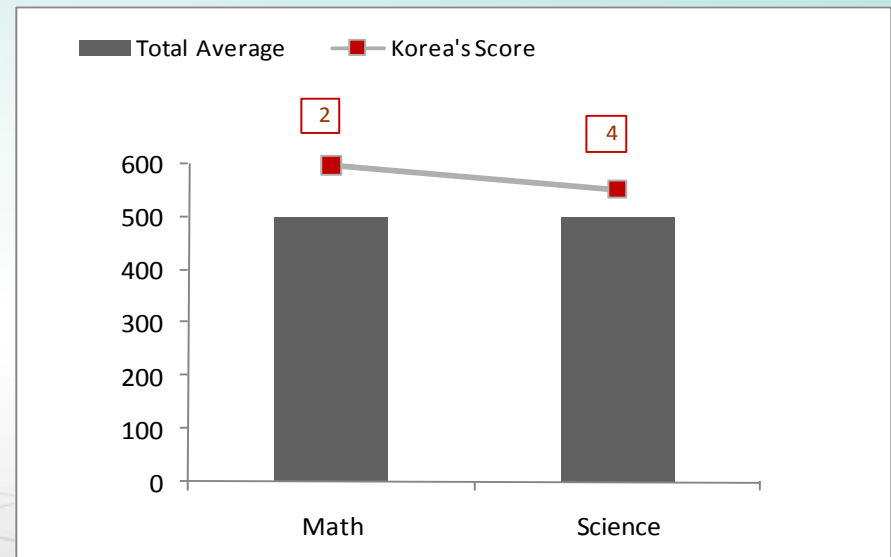
▪ Achievements of Korean Education : Excellent Student Performance

- Thanks to our nation's investment in education, Korea students have reached high levels of academic achievement in recent years.

PISA 2009



TIMSS 2007



*PISA(Program for International student Assessment) 2009

**TIMSS(Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study) 2007

* Since 2006 PISA, National Ranks has been announced with 95 % of significance level.

▪ Achievements of Korean Education : Excellent Student Performance & Skilled Manpower

Excellent Student Performance

- ICCS (Institute for Citizen-Centered Service)
: Civic knowledge assessment among lower-secondary school students
(International average score: 500 points)
 - No.1 Finland 576 points
 - No.2 Denmark 576 points
 - No.3
- * Korea's goal: true holistic education

Skilled Manpower

- IVTC (International Vocational Training Competition)
 - **Champion for 9 consecutive years**
 - 2009, Calgary, Canada Competition No. 1
 - **Won 16 times in total**

▪ Development phases of Korea (1945 ~ Present)

1st Phase (1945-1960)	2nd Phase (1961-1979)	3rd Phase (1980-1997)	4st Phase (1998-Present)
<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Independence•Korean War•Reconstruction	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Industrialization•Urbanization	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Democratization•Stabilized Economic Growth	<ul style="list-style-type: none">•Globalization•Knowledge-Based Society•ICT Society

■ 1st Phase : Independence, Korean War, Reconstruction (1945-1960)

Development Phase(Period)	1 st phase (1945-1960)
<i>Phase of Manpower Supply</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Literate and manually skilled workforce
<i>Important Social Movement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Adult Literacy Campaign •Establishment of Schools •Universities by private donors
<i>Phase of Education Development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Setting Basic Educational System •Universal Primary Education
<i>Policy Choices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Compulsory Education •Reconstructing educational facilities

■ 1st Phase : Independence, Korean War, Reconstruction (1945-1960)

- The 6 year compulsory education policy (1954-1959)

<School Attendance Rate Among Elementary School-Age Children>

Year	Number of School Age Children	Number of Schooled Children	Ratio (%)
1953	3,096,293	2,259,313	72.9
1954	3,246,364	2,678,978	82.5
1955	3,289,865	2,947,436	89.5
1956	3,333,949	2,997,813	89.9
1957	3,480,225	3,170,981	91.1
1958	3,583,427	3,315,898	92.5
1959	3,689,690	3,558,142	96.4
1960	3,799,105	3,622,685	95.3

Source: Cheon-Seok OH 1974, 66 (Byeong-Seon Gwak. 2008. 15, Reused)

- Adult Literacy Campaign:

Adult illiteracy rate (78.0% in 1945->41.3% in 1948 -> 4.1% in 1958)

■ 2nd Phase : Industrialization, Urbanization (1961-1979)

Development Phase(Period)	2 nd phase (1961-1979)
<i>Phase of Manpower Supply</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Semi skilled & Skilled workforce
<i>Important Social Movement</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Saemaul Undong (New Community Development Movement)
<i>Phase of Education Development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Universal Secondary Education •Amplification of Vocational Education and Training
<i>Policy Choices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Abolishment of the Middle School Entrance Exam •High School Equalization Policy

▪ 2nd Phase : Industrialization, Urbanization (1961-1979)

- 5-Year Economic Development Plan implemented in 1962

Linking educational process to economic development plans

- New Community Development Movement (Saemaul Undong)

- School-age population increases -> excessive competition and private tutoring was sought to enter the nation's best secondary schools

• Abolishment of the Middle School Entrance Exam(1969)

• High School Equalization Policy(1974)

- Vocational Training

• Vocational Training Law in 1967

• Central Vocational Training Institute was established in 1968

• Special Measure Law for Vocational Training enacted in 1974

■ 3rd Phase : Democratization, Stabilized Economic Growth (1980-1997)

Development Phase(Period)	3 rd phase (1980-1997)
<i>Phase of Manpower Supply</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Highly skilled & Educated workforce • Mass Higher Education • Pursuit of Education Substantiality • July 30 Education Reform in 1980 • Decentralized local autonomy of education
<i>Phase of Education Development</i>	
<i>Policy Choices</i>	

▪ 3rd Phase: Democratization, Stabilized Economic Growth (1980-1997)

- July 30 Education Reform in 1980 / Expansion of Higher Education
 - Lifted the control of university enrollment (Execution of the graduation quota system)

<Growth of University Enrollment, 1970-2010>

(The number of students)

1970	1975	1980	1985	1990	1995	2000	2005	2010
146,414	208,986	402,979	931,884	1,040,166	1,187,735	1,665,398	1,886,639	2,028,841

KEDI (2011). National Development through Education: Lessons from Korea. Brief Understanding of Korean Educational Policy, p.13.

- Decentralized local autonomy of education
- Operation Presidential Committee for Educational Reform (PCER)

■ 4th Phase : Globalization, Knowledge-Based Society, ICT Society (1998-present)

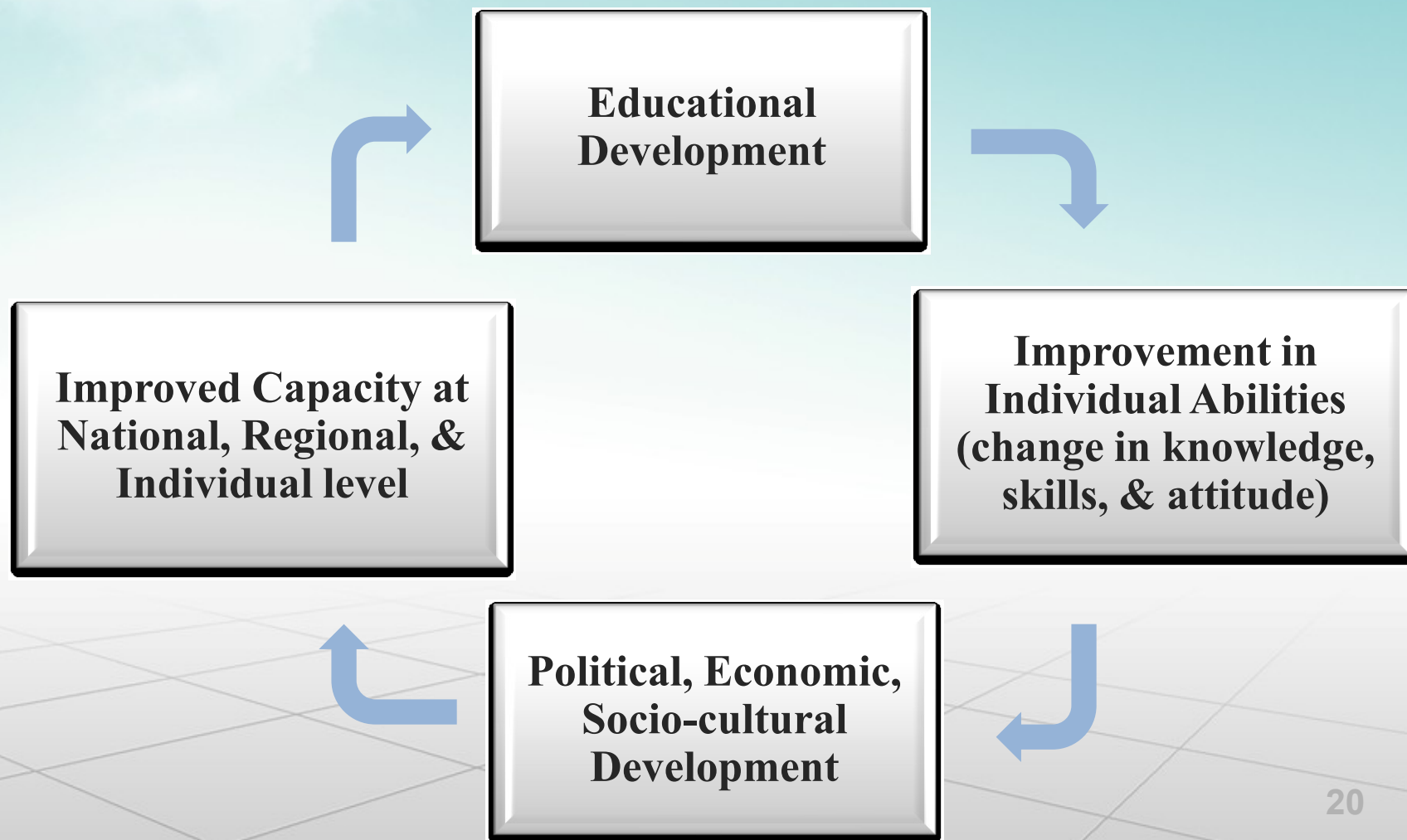
Development Phase(Period)	4 th phase (1998-present)
<i>Phase of Manpower Supply</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge/ICT workforce
<i>Phase of Education Development</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Globalization • Enforcement of Educational Reformation and Competitive Power
<i>Policy Choices</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National HRD Policy • Restructuring Higher Education (BK 21) • Lifelong Education • ICT

■ 4th Phase : Globalization, Knowledge-Based Society, ICT Society (1998-present)

- National Human Resource Development Network Policy
 - Ministry of Education -> Ministry of Education and HRD
- Higher Education Reform
 - **The Brain Korea 21 Project**
 - : To foster research-oriented graduate programs
 - **New University for Regional Innovation [NURI]**
 - : To create specialization in regional universities
 - building regional community development
 - rise of the employment rate of local students
- Promoting Lifelong Learning (academic credit bank system)
 - **Aiming Open Education and Lifelong Learning**
 - Recognize Various Qualification and Forms of Learning



- A Framework of Educational & National Development



4 Driving Forces of Educational Development

▪ Interest and Passion for Education

- In Korea, education represents an investment in the future.



▪ Government-led Education in Accordance with Economic Development

- National development strategy and education policies complementary
 - 5-Year Economic Development Plan (1962)
 - Cooperative and complimentary with educational development
- Education and policies managed systematically and strategically by the government
 - Curriculum, Staffing, Budgeting, Educational Environment improvement etc.
- Increased Government education finance and steady Government's education budget
 - 78.47 billion KRW (1970) → 562.43 billion KRW (1990) → 35 trillion KRW (2008) ·
 - Local Education Act(1963), and Local Education Finance Grant Act(1971)

▪ Active Participation of the Private Sector in Education

- Government provided the private sector with financial incentives for the establishment of private schools
 - Tax Exemption : Direct operation of private schools are waived.
 - Public Subsidies : Tuitions for private schools- same level as of those for public schools

<Ratio of Private Schools>

	1965	1970	1975	1980
High School	45.1%	47%	49.2%	51%

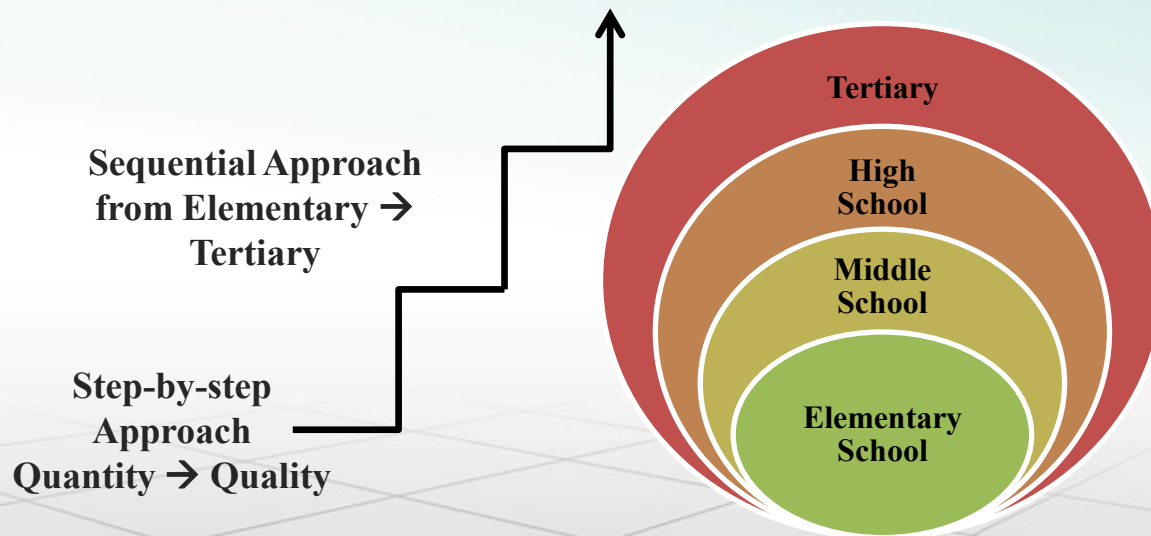
Compiled from KEDI (2009). Universalization of Elementary and Middle School Education. Understanding Korean Educational Policy, Vol. 4, p.66, p.73.

▪ Excellent Teachers

- Attractive teaching job → High qualified students become teachers.
 - Social image: Traditional respect for teacher:
 - Teachers are regarded as professionals
 - Traditional authority identified with that of the king
(✕ Trinity : King = Teacher = Father)
 - Required to have superior morality, integrity, and sincerity as models for the general public
- Job Security
 - Legal status of public school teachers:
national civil servants → high status and job security
 - Private school teachers: employees of each foundation; however,
enjoy same job security based on Private School Act
 - Special Act on Improvement of Teachers' Status: guarantees decent treatment and compensation, employment of teachers
 - Lifetime employment guarantee until retirement age (62) without license renewal

▪ Strategy 1: Sequential Approach

A step-by-step approach (a bottom-up sequential approach) rather than increment increase at all levels at the same time



▪ Strategy 2: Egalitarian Approach & Low-cost Approach

Education for all (✕ School Equalization Policy)

Lowering educational standards

Quantity expansion sacrificed quality (Quantity over quality)



6 Main Tasks For Cultivating Creative and Excellent Human Resources

Nurturing Global and Creative Talent

Advanced Vocational Education

Universities that offer quality education

Global S&T HR Training

Strategic National R&D System

**Globalization of education,
science and technology**

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Thank you!

