

August 2022

# KOICA-KU GISIS SP Alumni News



**KOICA**  
Korea International  
Cooperation Agency



**Korea University**  
Graduate School of  
International Studies

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# Letter from the Dean

Welcome to the Alumni Newsletter!

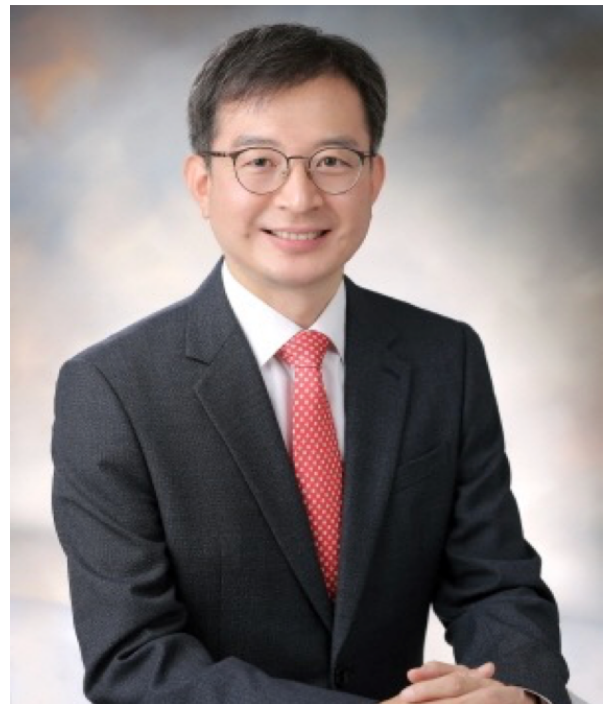
Greetings from Korea University, Graduate School of International Studies.

This *KOICA-KU GSIS Alumni News* helps us get news out to the KU GSIS SP graduates. In this year's annual issue, you will be able to hear stories from alumni, current enrolling class of KOICA 2021, and the new class that have newly arrived - KOICA Class of 2022.

KOICA-KU GSIS Scholarship Program (SP) has been providing quality education and training for future specialists in the field of finance and tax policy since 2017. We have been and will continue to invest our efforts to provide diverse lectures and various events including field trips, buddy programs, special lectures, and roundtables.

With the COVID-19 pandemic, over the past two years, many events were conducted online, but now in KU GSIS, courses are converted back to offline. Courses, field trips, and activities are being hosted in-person! We were able to overcome the difficult times, thanks to the faculty, staff, and partners of KU GSIS such as Korean Institute of Public Finance (KIPF) who have committed to overcoming those challenges and successfully implementing our program.

Korea University as a globally renowned institution for its excellence in research and education is ranked the 74th worldwide and the 13th among Asian universities according to the QS Global University Rankings 2022. Recently, in March 2022, Division of International Studies (DIS) was promoted to College of International Studies, having two divisions, DIS and Division of Global Korean Studies (GKS). The CIS and GSIS now stand out as being the major programs of the university with nearly 700 students and 40 faculty members, including adjunct professors. KU GSIS will continue to keep on conducting innovative research and training future leaders to be capable of contributing to sustainable development of the global community.



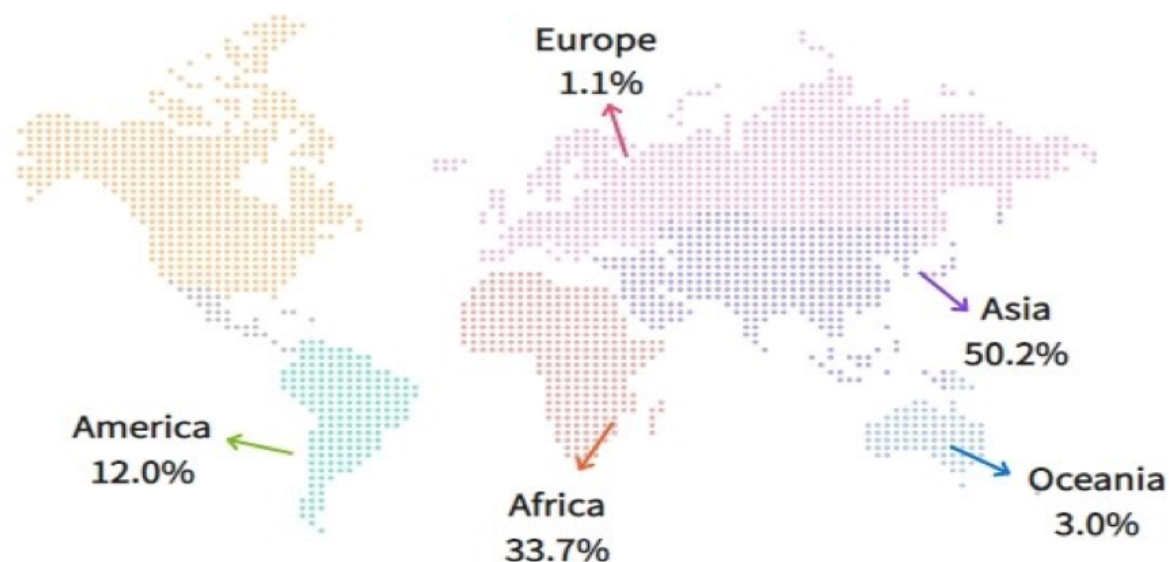
With best wishes,

Moonsung Kang, Ph.D.

Dean, Graduate School of International Studies, Korea University

# Current State of Alumni (2007 ~ 2020)

Region (sub-total)	Country	# of Students	Region (sub-total)	Country	# of Students
Western Asia (12)	Azerbaijan	3	Latin America (32)	Colombia	4
	Iraq	1		Dominican Republic	1
	Palestine	3		Ecuador	12
	Yemen	5		El Salvador	2
Eastern Asia (9)	Mongolia	9		Guatemala	7
Central Asia (21)	Kazakhstan	6		Honduras	1
	Kyrgyzstan	5		Nicaragua	2
	Uzbekistan	10		Paraguay	2
Southeast Asia (59)	Cambodia	14		Peru	1
	East Timor	7		Algeria	3
	Indonesia	15		Egypt	11
	Laos	7		Tunisia	2
	Myanmar	4	Cameroon	2	
	Philippines	4	DR Congo	2	
	Vietnam	8	Ghana	16	
South Asia (33)	Afghanistan	1	Nigeria	4	
	Bangladesh	3	Ethiopia	7	
	Nepal	11	Kenya	7	
	Pakistan	7	Mozambique	1	
	Sri Lanka	11	Rwanda	8	
Eastern Europe (3)	Belarus	2	Tanzania	16	
	Ukraine	1	Uganda	4	
Oceania (8)	Fiji	6	Zimbabwe	7	
	Papua New Guinea	2	<b>Total</b>	<b>267</b>	





# Written Interview with Alumni

## Contribution of KU-KOICA SP to Strengthening Capacity

By Philip Kariuki Kangethe

### Q. Please introduce yourself

My name is Philip Kariuki Kangethe, born and raised in the central region of Kenya. I am currently working with the Kenya Permanent Mission to United Nations Environment Programme - Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kenya. I have been working with the Ministry since 2007 and attached to various directorates. I served in one overseas Kenyan Mission-Riyadh (Kingdom of Saudi Arabia).

My job encompass articulating and promoting Kenya's foreign policy. Specifically, at the Kenyan Mission to UN Environment Programme, promoting environmental governance in tackling the planetary crises of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste.

### Q. The most memorable moment in KU-GSIS?

In my honest assessment, the memorable moment was made possible by the combination of all the three; field trips gave me the much needed first-hand experience, special lecture series gave exposure to professional and learning from their experiences while class discussions brought out the various dimensions on various aspects and subjects under discussion.

Moreover, my most memorable moment in KU-GSIS is when I successfully completed my postgraduate degree in M.A in International Development and Cooperation. Attaining higher education at a foreign university and country for that matter had all along seemed a mirage. Having finally achieved it finally, I will always cherish the memory since it had been a long and sometimes seemed impossible dream but finally KU-KOICA SP made it possible.

Am.. forever grateful and indebted for the opportunity!

**Philip Kariuki Kangethe** (Class of 2010)  
First Counsellor,  
Kenya Permanent Mission to UNEP  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs/Kenya



## Q. The reason you came to Korea and KU GSIS

The Republic of Korea was among the Asian tigers that I had learned and heard of as having had astronomical economic growth and development. I wished to have a first-hand experience of the country had done within such a short period of time. KU GSIS being globally renowned university offering a Master's degree in International Development and Cooperation was a sure bet for me. This was the opportunity to learn practical experiences on Korea's growth and development.



## Q. Did knowledge you learned in KU GSIS contribute to your promotion?

The Master's degree was instrumental as it is an added advantage and consideration in promotion to higher grades in the scheme of service. The knowledge and skills I acquired from KU GSIS are very important in my field of work effective in communication, international/regional economics, development theory and colloquium. The skills and knowledge have been very helpful in effective execution of my daily assignments.

## Q. Did the KU-KOICA SP develop your inner capability ?

KU was my first international exposure to colleagues from across the globe with varied languages and cultural backgrounds. This gave me an opportunity to socialize, interact and learn from colleagues through participation in lectures, colloquium and other fora. I gained confidence and communication skills through presentations and other multiple social events organized by KU GSIS.

## Q. Any projects improving your country's relations with Korea?

As I have been working with the Kenya Mission to UN Environment Program, I followed up on Korea's engagements in environment matters towards sustainable recovery during COVID-19 pandemic in the 2021 P4G Seoul Summit (Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030).

**"I gained confidence and communication skills through presentations and other multiple social events organized by KU GSIS."**

**Philip Kariuki Kangethe  
(Class of 2010)**





# Written Interview with Alumni

## Behind the Scene of Cambodia-Korea FTA

By Kong Sokheng

### Q. Please introduce yourself

My name is Kong Sokheng from the Kingdom of Cambodia. I successfully graduated from Korea University in 2016. Currently, I am designated as a Commercial Attache assisting Cambodian Permanent Mission in Geneva on a wide range of bilaterally to multilaterally areas of WTO affairs and other renowned international organizations related to Economy and Trade including WIPO, UNCTAD and UNIDO.

### Q. The most memorable moment in KU-GSIS?

The most memorable moment during the 16-month educational investment at the KU GSIS is the quality educational infrastructure and professional lecturers. Aligned with the academic commitment, I was excited to utilize various university facilities such as the 24-hour library, high-speed internet and a huge multi-cultural campus. Seeing this prestigious opportunity, I am keen to witness such standardized infrastructures available for other Cambodian students. In addition, I do really appreciate the professional and promising lectures.

### Q. Did knowledge you learned in KU GSIS contribute to your promotion?

My career promotion perfectly linked to my best lessons learned from Korea. For example, I was assigned to join trade negotiation task forces and trade projects. Primarily, I engaged with diverse trade negotiators, secretariat and domestic stakeholders of participating countries of ASEAN, FTAs and Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership. Most importantly, I utilized international trade policy and its assessment from the lecture of preliminary study and negotiating FTA. In addition, I joined the inter-ministry task force to establish and review the National Committee on Trade Facilitation, Trade Remedy Committee, Law on Commercial Court, and the amendment Law on Bar Association.



#### **Kong Sokheng (Class of 2016)**

Permanent Mission of Cambodia to the WTO and other  
International Organizations (Economy and Trade)/  
Commercial Attache  
Cambodia

## Q. Did the KU-KOICA SP develop your inner capability ?

The cross-cultural communication skills is an incredibly huge contribution led by KU-KOICA SP which unlimitedly benefited my career path in the field of international trade and relations. It is great to meet Korean negotiators and KOICA's alumni at the negotiating tables who share common understanding about Korea and friendship is hugely compromised and addressed the negotiating issues.

## Q. Any projects improving your country's relations with Korea?

I utilized best practices of Korea's development such as Korean Trade Remedy System, Korean trade promotional strategy by involving in Cambodia-Korea Free Trade Agreement. As a trade negotiator, it is a remarkable and historical milestone between Cambodia and Korea to successfully negotiate and implement Cambodia-Korea FTA amidst the pandemic pressure. This bilateral FTA marks a solid ground for building greater economic and political relations between Cambodia and Korea Republic.

In 2019, as one of the focal points, I participated in the Trade Remedy Course in Korea where I learned the best practices from experts on the Korean Trade Remedy System which was beneficial to contributing to enacting Cambodia's Law on Trade Remedy.

In the mid of 2020, I was appointed as Commercial Representative in BENELUX, Austria and the European Union. Based on Korean Trade Promotion, I and the entire Cambodia's commercial promotion team utilized and customized action plans to implement Cambodia's Economic Diplomacy Strategy (2021-2023) aiming to internationally promote Cambodia's products and attract FDI to Cambodia.

**"I learned the best practices of Korean Trade Remedy System which contributed to devising new Cambodia's law of trade remedy."**

**Kong Sokheng  
(Class of 2016)**





# Class of 2020

## *Golden Opportunity in the Middle of Turmoil*

By Said, Mambiu Kassim

If one would ask me on the whole experience in Korea, I would describe it a golden opportunity at the time of most uncertainties. On the year 2020, my plan was to take further step in my career and pursue Master's degree, at the time I was still searching for the right university and course that relates to my field of work. Finally, I came across the announcement on the KOICA scholarship program announced by the DHRA office at my organization and right there I found the course that I really wanted to study which was a Master's degree in International development and Cooperation in Finance and Tax policy. This course was offered by one among the sky universities in South Korea which was Korea University this had added more to my interest. I was very excited and immediately I applied for the scholarship program.

After a long wait, followed with interviews I was selected among the students which got the opportunity to study at Korea University with the KOICA scholarship program. With much happiness about the news, there comes the uncertainty. The world facing the COVID 19 pandemic, cases increasing everywhere in the world and restriction on the travels are increasing. Immediately my thoughts were, will it be possible to attend this program? Is it going to be an online program? Will it be possible to travel? And how about our safety and how are we going to cope with the changing procedures that are announced every day? Everything seemed impossible.

Beginning the journey of our studies was not easy, due to these uncertainties caused by the pandemic we had to study the whole fall semester of 2020 online. It was a bit difficult due to a lot of challenges, but KOICA scholarship program team and Korea University made it possible for us to be able to complete the semester. On January 2021 finally I got my flight ticket to Korea, we had to follow a lot of guidelines and procedure for our safety and attended mandatory quarantine for 14 days upon arrival. During all these procedures KOICA and KU staff worked diligently on providing all the information and all the help needed for our safety and comfortable arrival.



**Mambiu Kassim Said**  
Tax Management Officer II,  
Tanzania Revenue Authority  
Tanzania

Life in Korea was a bit difficult at the start, due to different weather, food and language. However, slowly I got adopted to the environment, it was all possible due to well-arranged program that enhanced our comfortable stay in Korea. The language program though it was for a short period of time it was much helpful to get on day-by-day life, also the buddy program which help us in learning about Korean culture and visiting different places in Korea such as the famous **Gyeongbokgung palace** and we had a chance to see the beautiful scenery of the palace and actually wear the Korean traditional clothes (**Hanbok**), **Everland themed park**, **Coex mall and aquarium** and many different amazing places. During this program we also had a chance to try different Korean cuisine. Much appreciation to Miss Yunji Tak and Miss Eunji Kim who took their time during our buddy program to show as around Korea.

The most fascinating part about my studies at Korea University was the courses and the comfortable learning environment and facilities. Korea University has good and well-advanced facilities from the dormitories, libraries and classes, easy access to transport facilities to and from the University. On the part of the courses, I got to learn from the Professors who are experienced and well-endowed with knowledge in their field of expertise. They were not selfish of their knowledge they shared their experiences and knowledge and constantly offering the clear advice on their best knowledge.

The lectures were truly designed to build up more our skills and showed area of opportunity and improvement in our own countries. To add on, I had the opportunity to participate on the GKEDC 2021 summer program, internship opportunity and seminars with UNDP and field trip to Korea Institute of Public Finance(KIPF). In all this program we got to learn on how Korea was able to archive their development, policies they implemented and measure they took to move forward which was really informative on looking on the perspective of our countries too. Mostly we got to learn on the tax policies and finance in Korea and future plans. Support from the KOICA and KU staff, during the whole program, we had an amazing team who made sure our stay in Korea was comfortable, thanks to our beloved KOICA 2020 TA Miss Jiyeon Kim, Mr. Jiwook Jang, Professor Jihye Oh and Professor Kyuwon Kang for their effort and working tireless making sure that we had smooth stay in Korea University.



**“I am so grateful to the people who made the amazing team and made my life in Korea comfortable.”**

**Mambiu Kassim Said**



# Class of 2020

## Unforgettable Experience in Korea

By Febrianingsih, Tri

Greetings from Indonesia. I'm Febri, alumni of KOICA-KU GSIS 2020. Through this KOICA-KU GSIS Alumni News, I want to share my story as a student at one of the best universities in Korea. The news that I passed the KOICA-KU GSIS scholarship selection I received around the middle of 2020. This news made me happy and worried at the same time. I am glad because it is a dream come true and worried since the COVID-19 pandemic is not over yet.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we took the first semester online from our respective countries. The lecture is conducted through the online live session and also recorded. It was tough for us for several reasons. First, the time difference, all classes follow Korean time. Some students have to attend classes in the early hours of the morning. Second, network constraints. It often happens that we lose our network during lectures. Therefore, we lose some of the material delivered by the Professors. Third, electricity problems. This situation forced some of us to be absent from class. Despite many obstacles we faced during the first semester, I appreciate the help of the Professor and teacher assistants to support our study. The Professor patiently and happily answered our questions and concern via email.

The COVID-19 pandemic is stressful for all of us. With the obstacles we faced in the first semester, the evaluation results decided us to study directly in Korea. Finally, we will come to Korea. We thank KOICA and Korea University for their excellent preparation to welcome us and ensure our daily life in Korea goes well.

Even though our activities are limited due to the COVID-19 pandemic, KOICA and Korea University still allow us to involve in the internship program. In collaboration with UNIDO (United Nations Industrial Development Organization) through SECON (Security Exhibition & Conference) 2021, I had the opportunity to interact directly with a Korean company.

This program is a new experience for me. Aside from getting the information about the products and developments in information technology straight from the company, I can share market conditions in Indonesia. I was surprised by the enthusiasm of Korean companies towards the Indonesian market. I hope that my contribution to this program can provide good feedback for Korean and Indonesian businesses.



**Tri Febrianingsih**  
Finance Analyst,  
Cabinet Secretariat of  
The Republic of Indonesia  
Indonesia

My life in Korea become easier and almost like I had the second family this is because of my wonderful colleagues from different countries. I got to meet 19 government official from different countries, all of our stay in Korea we lived like family sharing both our happiest times and challenging times together and figuring our way around in Korea. I got the opportunity to learn a lot from my colleagues too, about their countries policies, culture and lifestyle. We had a chance to explore different parts of Korea during our vacation and weekends together celebrated birthdays together and most important we help each other through out our studies and made us successfully complete our studies together. I gained wonderful friends and amazing colleagues from KOICA 2020 batch.



**“This opportunity gave me a different level of growth in my career. I am looking forward to share all that I learned during the program.”**

**Tri Febrianingsih**

I am truly grateful for this opportunity, I did not only graduate with a Master’s degree in International development and Cooperation in Finance and Tax policy but also this opportunity gave me a different level of growth in my career. As a Tax Management officer in the Domestic Revenue Department (DRD) this program was so enlightening, from the program with all that I learned I think Tanzania is taking the right steps toward improving our tax systems but at the same time there is a lot of areas of improvement to be done. Now that am back to my country, I am looking forward to share all that I learned during the program with my colleagues and looking for opportunities to strengthening and implement the tax policies that will betterment and enhance the performance of Tanzania Revenue Authority in tax collection and hopefully lead to our country economic growth.

Although my time in Korea was short lived, with all the challenges and in the middle of the COVID 19 Pandemic am glad that I had an amazing experience in Korea which will always last for a lifetime and on top of that I have earned a further step in my career earned a Master degree from among the top University in Korea and got to build a network of friend in different part of the world. To me, this was the Golden opportunity that I will always be grateful for.





In addition, KOICA-KU GSIS also organizes a snack and potluck party to provide opportunities for participants of this scholarship program to get to know each other between the 2020 and 2021 batches. Through this event, we can get to know each other personally. Moreover, we can introduce traditional foods from our home country.

A balanced life is something we must live. After undergoing a hectic class schedule and working on a stack of papers, weekends are the most awaited time. Seoul offers a variety of places that we can enjoy on weekends, from cafes, shopping centers, parks, theme parks to mountains. Mountains? Yes, mountains are things we can find in Seoul. It is common for residents to spend the weekend hiking. The location of the mountain is not far from the city center, making hiking a usual activity done from children to the elderly. This activity caught my attention, not only making the body fit but also can reduce fatigue during class.

*Overall, the KOICA-KU GSIS scholarship program gave me the knowledge I needed, as well as an invaluable experience. Some of the lessons support my work as a Finance Analyst at the Cabinet Secretariat. Lastly, I would like to thank KOICA, Korea University, and all the Professors who have supported us during our time in this program.*

감사합니다

***Thank you to everyone who worked hard for us !!!***



# Class of 2021

## Learned from the best: KOICA-Korea University

By Cristelle Nikoh Mefeugeng

When the KOICA-Korea University Master's Degree Scholarship Program in Finance and Tax Policy came knocking, it was like a dream come true. It was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity because I had always wanted to study at a more advanced academic institution like Korea University. What an honor to be a graduate student at one of South Korea's most prestigious universities.

My 15-hour flight from Nsimalen International Airport to Incheon International Airport was my longest flight to date. The flight was exhausting but exciting because I was eager to see the Miracle on the Han River that I had always heard about. The hospitality and warm welcome of the KOICA staff who guided us through the immigration process up to the quarantine facility upon our arrival was truly remarkable. The quarantine was not as boring as expected because we were occupied with Korean Language classes, which were really interesting. I was able to introduce myself in Hangul and read and write a few words after 14 days of quarantine.

Finally, quarantine was over, and as I made my way to An-am Global House (Dormitory), I couldn't help but admire Seoul's beautiful streets and infrastructure. It was thrilling to finally meet my international classmates, as well as Jenny, our wonderful Technical Assistant at that time, who showed us around the lovely facilities in the An-am dormitory. It was also a pleasure to meet the KOICA-KU GSIS 2020 students, who greeted us warmly and shared their experiences in the An-am dormitory, in class, and in Korea in general. The student council-organized campus tour was the most exciting part. When I stood in front of the Korea University Main Hall during this tour, I realized my dream had come true. To name a few, I visited the University Main Library and the KU GSIS International Studies Hall. The Korea University Campus is incredibly large and enthralling, particularly in terms of infrastructure!



**Cristelle Nikoh Mefeugeng**  
Chief of Bureau  
Ministry of Water Resources  
and Energy  
Cameroon

My enthusiasm to attend classes on campus was cut short by the COVID19 pandemic, as classes for the fall semester were held online. The online classes delivered via Blackboard, on the other hand, were extremely effective. The professors were always on time and delivered excellent lectures. My fall (first) semester 2021 courses all had very rich course content, and I can't wait to put what I've learned to use when I return to Cameroon. International Economics, Public Finance, and Tax Law in Korea were all courses that were directly related to my job. Academic Communication Skills, Research Methods, and Introduction to Graduate Studies provided me with a solid research foundation. The courses were a perfect fit because there can be no innovation or development without research. The Professors did more than just teach us; they also prepared us for the journey ahead. What more could I want from a prestigious research institute such as Korea University?

Aside from class, I attended the CPhI Korea conference, which was hosted by UNIDO. It provided an opportunity to network and exchange ideas with Korean institutions and businesses. Furthermore, special lectures on policy evaluation and conferences organized by the KU GSIS BK21 Program of Global Studies have been eye-opening thus far. Thanks to buddy programs, we were able to visit the National Museum of Korea and learn how to make the traditional Korean seal. We also went to Gyeongbokgung Han-ok Village, Nam-san Tower, and the Han River Palace, Bukchon Park, among other places. I adore Korean cuisine, and my favorites are Samgyeopsal, Kimchi, and Bulgogi. Korean language buddy programs are immensely helpful. According to the Korean language honorifics, one of the key values of Korean culture is mutual respect, and especially respect for the elderly.

I'm already used to bowing, which is a traditional Korean greeting. Furthermore, the health-care system and public transportation (via subway or bus) are quite incredible. "Effective and efficient time management" is something I really applaud at Korea University and in Korea in general. Indeed, the fall semester 2021 came to a close on a high note, with many fond memories.

Overall, during the winter break, KU GSIS planned a series of very enlightening special lectures, including Tax Administration in Korea, Legal and Political Aspects of Budget Systems, and Protecting Korean Taxpayers' Rights. I am grateful for the efforts of Mr. Jiwook Jang, Manager of the KU-KOICA Master's Degree Program in Finance and Tax Policy, and Mr. Wonho Kim, our fantastic Technical Assistant, in ensuring the smooth operation of the fall semester 2021.

Ms. Yunjung LEE, the Program Coordinator of the KOICA-Korea University Master's Degree Program in Finance and Tax Policy, deserves special recognition for ensuring our well-being since the start of this scholarship program. Thank you to the Korean Government for establishing the KOICA Scholarship Program. So far, we've covered a lot of ground, but I'm looking forward to the second semester with bated breath, hoping to learn more about the Korean Development Model and Culture.





# Class of 2021

## A Dream Come True

By Carlos Andres Palacio Mesa

I still clearly remember the day I was informed that I had won the scholarship to study in South Korea. It was eight in the morning, and I was starting my shift at work. The KOICA official in Colombia sent me a WhatsApp message informing me that I was one of those selected to go to Korea with eight other people. I had never been so happy, and this is because South Korea has always been my biggest dream., although it is difficult to be away from family, I knew what awaited me was an unforgettable experience. So, I packed my bags, said goodbye to my loved ones, and embarked on a journey of more than 30 hours from Bogota to reach Seoul, South Korea.

When I arrived at Incheon International Airport, the thought that I was more than 12,000 kilometers from home overwhelmed me, but once I saw the outside my eyes watered with happiness.

The 15-day quarantine was tough, but the KOICA team always kept an eye on me and the other scholarship recipients. Likewise, KOICA already had everything ready to take us to the dormitory once we left our quarantine hotel, which will become our home for 17 months.

Even though Ji Hyeon is no longer with the KOICA team, I will never forget what a warm and kind person she was to us from the first day we arrived on campus, so I will always be grateful to her for making me feel welcome in this country.

My experience at Korea University has been exceptionally good, I have been presented with many challenges, but I have also improved thanks to them. Unfortunately, due to the current pandemic, the classes during my first semester were virtual, however, my room has an excellent internet connection, which is vital to learn from



**Carlos Andres Palacio Mesa**  
University Professional  
District Secretariat of Finance  
Colombia

virtual. The professors with whom I had the privilege of taking classes during this first semester are truly knowledgeable people in their fields of study, it really shows that I am in one of the best universities in Korea and the world!

During this first semester, I learned many things about taxation in Korea, data analysis, and policy evaluation which will be particularly important for my future career once I return to Colombia. Similarly, how KOICA schedules our classes seemed ideal to me, with a focus on international cooperation and tax policy, which is what I expected. Being able to graduate from such a prestigious university is going to open many doors in my country. Colombia is a beautiful country, but with many economic and social problems.



I am sure that obtaining a master's degree thanks to KOICA will allow me to reach a position where I can improve my country in every way. But not everything is studying in Korea. During these 5 months that I have lived in this beautiful country, I have been able to visit incredible places that I never thought I would be able to visit in my life. Seoul is a city that is on another level, the combination of traditional Korean culture with modern and developed Korea can be seen in every corner of this city. Gyeongbokgung Palace, Lotte Tower, and Bukhan Mountain are must-sees for anyone who wants to see the most iconic things Seoul has to offer. I already had the opportunity to visit these places with the help of the KOICA Buddy Program and on my own, and I have to say that these places will stay in my heart forever.

In these months I have been able to meet incredible people from many countries that I previously only knew the name of, cultural exchange is a very enriching and interesting experience. In addition, being able to meet in person a country that I previously only saw in videos and movies is simply unbelievable.

The language barrier for me is one of the biggest challenges I have had to face in Korea because Korean is such a different language from Spanish or English, but thanks to the Korean classes that I have had the privilege of attending thanks to KOICA and other institutions in Korea that offer free classes I have been able to learn a little more about this language that is so difficult but beautiful at the same time.

I am incredibly grateful to KOICA for this opportunity that many would like to have, my life will never be enough to thank them. It only remains for me to say that I will always be indebted to KOICA and that I look forward to the next semester. 감사합니다!



**“Being able to graduate from such a prestigious university is going to open many doors in my country, Colombia.”**

**Carlos Andres Palacio Mesa**

# Class of 2022

## The Excitement to study in Fast Growing and Dream Country

By Keriya Run

### Q. Please introduce yourself

I am Keriya Run from Cambodia. I am an officer at The National Bank of Cambodia. The National Bank of Cambodia is the central bank of the Cambodia. I am also one of the class representatives for KOICA Class of 2022.

### Q. Reasons and motivations to come to Korea?

I have been interested in K-Culture and K-Pop since five years ago. It seems like Korean Culture is not much different from Cambodian Culture in terms of long-lived culture. I guess, desire to explore Korean culture in detail motivated me to come to Korea.

Also, I wanted to find out how and why Korea could grow so fast over the past 70 years. Korea has been my "dream country". I especially thought that this major - finance and tax policy is a good way to find out the answers to my curiosity.

### Q. Resolutions for participating in KOICA SP programme?

This is my first time staying away from my family for such a long time. But I am very excited to be part of this programme! By the end of this program, I believe that I will be able to contribute to my organization and my country.



Thus, as a big dream, contribution to Asia as a whole is what I am deep into.

There's a province called *Preah Sihanouk*, and it's the fastest growing city in Cambodia. With rapid growth, many people find it hard to adapt to the situation, and this makes me more curious about this kind of situation happening around the world. Learning from Korea's example, I want to gain another view of how a country can transition from a low to a high developed country.

# Program News



## [Roundtable]

KOICA 2020 and 2021 students shared current circumstances on tax and finance of their home countries via Zoom live meeting.

**2021.09.24 / 10.01, 08 / 11.05, 12**  
**Via Zoom**

### Topics

1. *The Tax System and Its Challenge in Ethiopia*
2. *AHP Analysis on the Contribution of the Taxpayers Identification Number (TIN) on Tax Revenue Recovery Optimization in Cameroon*
3. *Origin and Development of Banking in Mongolia and Use of Bank Cards*
4. *How protect the rights of taxpayers in Uzbekistan?*
5. *The Niger Delta crisis: The Political, Economic and Environmental conundrum*



## [2020 Completion Ceremony]

For the 2020 KOICA students who have been studying hard and adjusting in Korea for a year and a half, farewell ceremony was held to celebrate their completion of the Scholarship Program and wishing their dreams come true in their home countries.

**2021.12.20**  
**International Studies Hall, Korea University**





## [KOICA Buddy Program]



**2021.08 ~ Now**  
**Anywhere in Korea**

KOICA 2020 and 2021 students formed a group of 1 Korean buddy and 4 KOICA students every semester and enjoyed a monthly tours to attractive landmarks of Korea.

**2021.10.11 ~ 13**  
**COEX, Seoul, Korea**

KOICA 2020 and 2021 students provided individual consultation as overseas government officials in Cphi Korea.

## [2021 UNIDO Internship]



## [Korean Language Buddy Program]



**2021.11 ~ 2022.08**  
**Anywhere in Korea University**

In collaboration with the College and Graduate School of International Studies, 2~3 KOICA Students and 1 Korean Buddy had monthly meetings to learn Korean.

## [KIPF Field Trip]

**2021.11.11**  
**KIPF, Sejong**

KOICA 2020 students visited Korea Institute of Public Finance (KIPF) to learn about Korea's economic development and practice of tax and public finance.

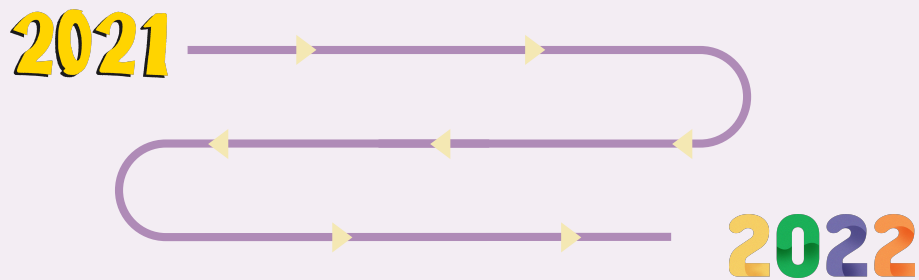


## [KOICA INNO-Globe]



**2021.12.03**  
**KOICA INNOPORT**

KOICA 2021 students participated in the meet-up of KOICA INNO-Globe to share information about actual conditions of developing countries by building network with Korean companies.



## [D.I.Y Stamp]

**2022.01.12**  
**National Museum of Korea, Seoul**

KOICA 2021 students and Korean buddies visited National Museum of Korea to enjoy DIY Stamp Activity.



## [UNIDO SECON Exhibition]



**2022.04.20 ~ 04.22**  
**KINTEX, Korea**

2021 KOICA students were highly represented for 2022 UNIDCO SECON exhibition as business consultants.



## [Roundtable]

2022.05.13 / 06.07

Korea University

KOICA 2021 students presented and shared current circumstances on tax and finance of their home countries.

Topics

1. 'ZIMRA-Electronic Cargo tracking system'.
2. 'African Mineral & Energy Resources Classification and Management System(AMREC)
3. International Development Cooperation in Ghana



## [Workshop with UNDP]



2022.06.07

Korea University

Director of the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre delivered a special lecture on 'The Changing Rationale & Context of International Development Cooperation'.

## [Summer Special Lecture]



2022.06.20 / 07.30 / 08.29

Korea University & Online

Topics

1. How to write academic thesis during statistical inference?
2. International Entrepreneurship: Social Entrepreneurship Experiences
3. Human Rights and International Society



## [Busan Field Trip]

2022.06.30 ~ 07.01

**Busan E&E Power Plant &  
Busan Securities Museum.**

KOICA 2021 students studied Korean environment and securities history through Busan E&E Power Plant and the Busan Securities Museum.



## [Seed Industry Smart Farm Industry]



2022.07.13

**Farm 8 & Nong-woo Bio**

KOICA 2021 students learned about the current status and development potential of Korea's seed industry and gain special knowledge on smart farm industry.

## [Economic and Finance Industry]

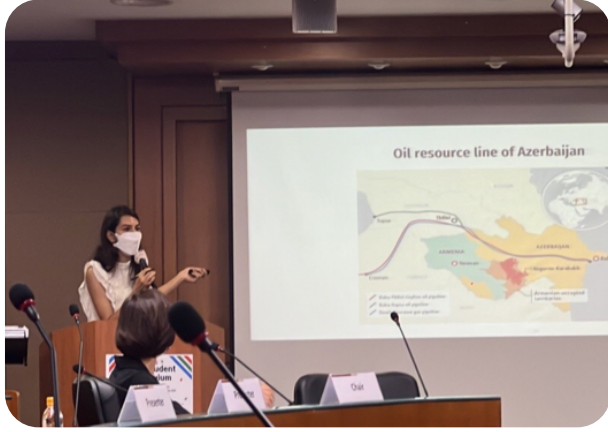
2022.08.04

**Global Knowledge Exchange &  
Development Center (GKEDC) /  
National Tax Service (NTS)**

KOICA 2021 students went on a field trip to CKEDC and NTS and were able to understand the flow of Korea's economic and financial fields by studying the history of Korea's economic development and taxation.



## [BK21 Student Colloquium: GLOCOM Project]



2022.07.26

Korea University

KOICA 2021 students participated in the BK21 Glocom Project to discuss issues in developing countries.

## [2022 Global Forum on Climate Change]

2022.07.28

Korea University & Online

KOICA 2021 students participated in the '2022 2nd Global Forum on Climate Change Law and Institution' and presented the position of developing countries on Green ODA.



## [2022 KOICA Orientation]



2022.08.23

Korea University

KOICA 2022 students arrived and orientation was held to introduce the basic information about KU GSIS and life in Korea.



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# KOICA-KU GSIS SP Alumni News

