

Benchmarking Mission of the National Planning Commission (NPC) of Namibia in the Republic of Korea

2-5 April, 2024, Seoul – Sejong, Republic of Korea

Concept Note

I. Background

The National Planning Commission (NPC) of Namibia is undertaking its new development planning process for the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP6). Having concluded the Fifth National Development Plan (NDP 5) spanning the period from 2016 to 2022, the NPC is currently engaged in formulating its NDP 6 to cover the forthcoming years from 2025 to 2031. The NDP 6 is envisioned to be the last medium-term development plan aligning with Namibia's Vision 2030 and UN 2030 Agenda and will serve as the foundation for implementing the regional Agenda 2063.

According to its mid-term review of Vision 2030, many strides have been made in socio-economic development aspect of the try, especially in areas of governance, macroeconomic, and environmental management. However, persistent challenges, such as subdued economic growth, high levels of unemployment, poverty, inequality, underscore the need for targeted interventions. Recognizing the existing gaps in capacity and knowledge, the Namibian government has requested through its Permanent Mission to the United Nations, a benchmarking mission to the Republic of Korea to better formulate the NDP6.

Having successfully navigated a transformative journey from a low-income to a high-income economy, Korea is viewed as a well-known case study for substantial poverty reduction in development. Korea's emergence as a global leader in innovation and technology has been coupled with its recent policy emphasis on green growth and the Green New Deal. It is the first OECD country to have created a national green growth strategy with a focus on low-carbon and climate-neutral pathways. Leveraging Korea's experiences in socio-economic development, digital government, and sustainability holds a significant opportunity to exchange lessons learned for Namibia's context.

In response to Namibia's request for a benchmarking mission, the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) has followed up through its United Nations Office for Sustainable Development (UNOSD) to support the formulation of the Sixth National Development Plan (NDP 6) and the planning process. UNOSD under UNDESA, is facilitating the organization of the benchmarking mission for twenty nominated public officials from Namibia. This program is scheduled to take place in person from April 2-5, 2024, in the Republic of Korea. This program aims to enhance

Namibia's knowledge and capacity for evidence-based and results-oriented planning, addressing Namibia's expressed challenges and priorities.

II. Objectives

The study tour has the following overarching learning objectives:

- 1) Explore Korea's development history in transforming from a low-income to a high-income economy, emphasizing green growth strategies towards carbon neutrality in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
- 2) Learn how Korea has effectively coordinated the national-to-local governance and decentralization policy with a focus on the experiences of Seoul Metropolitan City;
- 3) Provide a dialogue platform to share knowledge, good practices, and lessons learned between both national governments, in addressing nation-wide challenges through development planning approaches;
- 4) Enhance knowledge in applying digital government as a way to improve governance and M&E process in line with the SDGs;
- 5) Analyze the takeaways from Korea's development journey and national planning process to compare and contrast lessons learned for Namibia's unique context

III. Methodology

The benchmarking mission is designed as a capacity-building activity through a mix of seminar-style learning, study meetings, and interactive discussion. Korean and international experts will be engaged from key institutions and ministries involved according to expressed learning priorities from Namibia.

Participants will also have the opportunity to travel to Sejong city, where the Korean government complex is located, and interact with government officials within the allowed schedule. The following national institutions are confirmed to be engaged in Sejong.

- Ministry
 - Ministry of Agriculture Food and Rural Affairs (MAFRA)
 - Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT)
 - Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT)
- National Agency
 - Korea Institute for Industrial Economics & Trade (KIET)

The overall tour program will ensure participants gain a comprehensive understanding of Korea's development journey and their advanced policy design know-how through an intensive four-day mission.

IV. Agenda

Day 1 (Tuesday, 2 April)	
Time	Session
8:00–8:30	Registration and off to GKEDC
8:30–9:30	Travel / Briefing
9:45–10:30	<p>Guided exhibition at <Global Knowledge Exchange & Development Center> in Seoul</p> <p><i>The GKEDC is an open space for learning and exchanging knowledge on Korea’s socio-economic development experience. (Link)</i></p>
10:30–12:00	<p>An Overview of the Economic Development of South Korea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presenter(s): Mr. Choong Lyol Lee, Professor of Division of Economics and Statistics, Korea University <p>This session aims to explore South Korea’s economic journey, from being a low-income to a high-income economy. It’ll provide a comprehensive understanding of how it overcame poverty after the Korean War and the main drivers behind its rapid economic growth.</p>
12:00–13:00	Travel back to venue/Registration
13:00–14:00	Lunch
14:00–15:00	<p>From Green Growth to Carbon Neutrality: Learning from the Experience of the Republic of Korea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presenter(s): Mr. Minhyuk Hong, Policy Analyst on Green Development, UNDP Seoul Policy Centre (USPC) <p>This session aims to present South Korea’s experience and best practices in green development transitions under the framework of the Green New Deal and climate-neutral strategies. The research report “From Green Growth to Carbon Neutrality” produced by USPC will provide background knowledge for the presentation.</p>
15:00–15:30	Coffee and Networking Break
15:30–17:00	<p>Direction and Major Policies for Municipal Administration Operation in Seoul Metropolitan City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presenter(s), Mr. Jong Soo Kim, Director-General of Policy Planning, Seoul Metropolitan City Government <p>This session will feature a presentation on the overarching direction and key policies of the Seoul Metropolitan City, the capital region of Korea, regarding municipal administration operations. Presentation and Q&A time will be facilitated with Korean-English interpretation</p>
17:00–	Day 1 Wrap-up & Day 2 Notice

Day 2 (Wednesday, 3 April)	
Time	Session
7:30–8:00	Registration and off to Sejong
8:00–10:30	Travel to Sejong
10:30–10:40	Arrival/Registration
10:40–12:00	<p>Study Meeting: Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs - Agricultural Policies of Korea: Achievement, Challenge and Way Forward</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presenter(s): Mr. Yong Ho Jung, Director/Ph. D, General Division of International Cooperation <p><i>The presentation and Q&A time will be facilitated with Korean-English interpretation.</i></p>
12:00–14:00	Lunch Break
14:00–16:00	<p>Study Meeting: Korea Institute for Industrial Economics & Trade - Industrial Development in Korea and Implication to Namibia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presenter(s): Mr. Dong Soo Kim, Executive Director, Center for International Industry and Trade <p><i>The presentation and Q&A time will be facilitated with Korean-English interpretation.</i></p>
16:00–16:20	Coffee and Networking Break
16:20–18:00	<p>Study Meeting: Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport - National Housing and Urban Fund: For the Promotion of Housing Welfare and Revitalization of Urban Regeneration</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presenter(s): Mr. June Nyeong Choi, Housing Fund Division, Office of Housing and Land Deputy Director <p><i>The presentation and Q&A time will be facilitated with Korean-English interpretation.</i></p>
18:00–	Move to the hotel in Sejong
Day 3 (Thursday, 4 April)	
Time	Session
8:30	Off to Sejong venue
8:30–9:00	Travel / Registration
9:00–11:00	<p>Study Meeting: Ministry of Science and ICT - Digital Policy Vision and Strategy for Leading Digital Korea</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Presenter(s): Mr. Kang Yong Lee, Head of Team, Digital Strategy Team, ICT Policy Bureau <p><i>The presentation and Q&A time will be facilitated with Korean-English interpretation.</i></p>

11:00–12:00	Quick Lunch Break
12:00–14:30	Off and travel to Seoul
14:30–15:00	Arrival/Registration
15:00–16:00	<p>Strengthening Capacities for Digital Government Transformation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Presenter(s): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ms. Hye Young Kim, Head of UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG)/DPIDG, UN DESA o Mr. Samuel Danaa Associate Capacity Development Expert UNPOG <p>The session aims to provide government officials from the Namibian delegation with insights and strategies on how to enhance capacities for digital government transformation. The officials will learn about Korea's journey to become a digital platform government and explore the tools for assessing capacity gaps and opportunities for digital government transformation.</p>
16:00–16:20	Coffee and networking break
16:20–17:20	<p>Human Centric Digitalization in Public Sector</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Presenter(s), Mr. Kiyoung, Ko, Director of Asian and Pacific Training Centre for Information and Communication Technology for Development (APCICT)/UN ESCAP <p>Although digital transformation in the public sector would enhance efficiency, reduce costs, and improve service delivery within the government, achieving successful digital transformation can be challenging. One significant reason for these failures is the lack of understanding of human needs. This session will aim to introduce why human centricity matters in digitalization in the public sector, the concept, strategies, emerging trends in digital government, and ways for human-centric digitalization.</p>
17:20–	Day 3 Wrap-up & Day 4 Notice
Day 4 (Friday, 5 April)	
Time	Session
8:30–9:00	Registration
9:00–10:00	<p>Group session on identifying next steps for effective development planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Facilitator(s): Mr. Samuel Y. Pang, Professor of College of Theology/ United Graduate School of Theology & Director of Institute of African Studies <p>This group session will be facilitated to identify which steps should be followed next after the study tour and design the action plans to enable the participants to ensure concrete directions at ministerial and committee level in planning NDP 6.</p>

10:00–10:20	Coffee and Networking Break
10:20–11:10	<p>Key takeaways for Namibia’s 6th National Development Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Moderator: Mr. Samuel Y. Pang, Professor of College of Theology/ United Graduate School of Theology & Director of Institute of African Studies <p>This moderated session will allow participants to summarize key lessons learned throughout the study tour, takeaways to benchmark for the upcoming national development planning, and future collaboration areas with Korea government.</p>
11:10–11:20	<p>Concluding remarks</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Mr. Chun Kyoo Park, Head of UNOSD
11:20–11:30	Post-event Survey
11:30–	Lunch