



FAO Korea Partnership Newsletter

1st Quarter 2022 - Issue #2



Director's Message

Dear readers,

Warm greetings!

Welcome to the second issue of the Newsletter of FAO Partnership and Liaison Office (PLO) in the Republic of Korea (ROK).

Since the operational launch in April 2021, PLO has been striving to build a strong partnership with ROK. I would like to take this opportunity to highlight some of our works done in 2021; PLO played a key role in over 30 events in the past year. We supported the P4G (Partnering for Green Growth and the Global Goals 2030) Seoul Summit and as a result of our active efforts, FAO DG, Mr QU Dongyu gave the opening address to the Summit, and the Deputy Director-General Thomas addressed congratulatory remarks at the P4G Seoul Summit side-event. We also participated in the 2021 International Symposium on Smart Farming, and the international seminar on the 30th anniversary of ROK's membership in the United Nations and presented the history and experiences of FAO's cooperation with ROK. Furthermore, PLO also signed cooperation agreements with organizations such as the Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation (KAIDEC) to develop more partnerships in ROK.

And this year, the year of Black Tiger has also started with a fruitful beginning as well. The first quarter of this year focused on strengthening partnerships with ROK government agencies and other stakeholders. Firstly, we actively supported ROK's delegation's participation in the 36th Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference (APRC) and organized the National Consultation for the APRC Conference providing an opportunity for ROK stakeholders to learn about the APRC in advance. Secondly, we strengthened our connection with HQ, particularly the Chief Economist, FAO RAP and South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) office, Fisheries, and Aquaculture Division (NFI), and expanded the influence of PLO. Finally, we have strengthened our relationship with Korean partners such as Ulsan City, Korea Foundation, and CLAS of SNU.

This May, we will be supporting the XV World Forestry Congress (WFC) in collaboration with WFC Secretariat and the Korea Forest Service (KFS) to build green, healthy and resilient future with forests. The XV WFC will be held from 2-6 May, 2022. For more information on the visit of the FAO DG to ROK, please follow our next newsletter.

We wish you good health and a happy reading.

Shengyao Tang

FAO Representative and Head of FAO PLO in ROK

HIGHLIGHTS

- **36th Session of the FAO Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference (APRC)**

- Director General Qu's remarks
- ROK's engagement at APRC
- National Consultation by PLO in ROK

- **Strengthen all around connections**

- Youth Engagement with Chief Economist
- Engagement with South-South and Triangular Cooperation
- Engagement with Fisheries and Aquaculture Division

- **Develop partnerships with the Republic of Korea's organizations**

- With Ulsan Metropolitan City
- With Korea Foundation
- With College of Agriculture and Life Sciences of Seoul National University
- With Korea Forestry Promotion Institute

- **Promote FAO and ROK's visibility**

- Twitter
- Brochure

FAO's response to Ukraine crisis

The situation in Ukraine led to extremely complex global situation. To address the impacts, FAO responded swiftly to the Ukraine crisis.

- All of FAO's information on the crisis¹
- 7 policy proposals on the Ukraine crisis²
- Op-Ed of Mr Rein Paulsen published on KoreaTimes and KoreaJoongAng Daily³

36th Session of the FAO Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference (APRC)

Director-General Qu's remarks

The 36th Session of the FAO Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference, hosted by the Government of Bangladesh from 8-11 March, was attended by over 1,100 participants from 42 member countries.

The conference focused on ways to improve nutrition, the lives, and livelihoods in the wake of global pandemics. At the conference, FAO Director-General Qu Dongyu said in his statement to conference that "the epidemic has forced us to rethink our priorities and approaches, and the urgency of achieving the Sustainable Development Goals".

ROK's engagement at APRC

The Vice Minister of Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of Korea (MAFRA), Mr Jong-hoon Kim also made a statement and noted that with the prolonged COVID-19 pandemic and natural disasters due to climate change, the vulnerable groups are faced with an even more difficult situation. In his statement, he mentioned the work and efforts the Republic of Korea is pouring into recovering from COVID-19, and in making sustainable agriculture and farming villages. MAFRA will prepare for the post COVID-19 AOera, by securing food security to provide for low-income family, students and pregnant women. It will also expand use of smart farming in the field and online market of agricultural products. Mr Kim also mentioned that MAFRA will aim for net-zero carbon emission in agriculture sector and to promote empowerment of female farmers and local direct food markets. MAFRA also will strengthen cooperation with PLO through seeking ways to share ROK's agriculture know-hows with other nations. In addition, will keep cooperating with Asia and the Pacific region to strengthen the partnership with FAO and invited stakeholders at the XV WFC.



Vice Minister of MAFRA making a statement for the 36th Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference

National Consultation by PLO in ROK

FAO PLO in ROK held a national consultation on 24 February 2022 to provide an informal forum for stakeholders to improve stakeholder understanding of the APRC. 13 organizations and 39 attendees from government, public agencies, civil society organizations, private sector, and research institutes attended the conference. The meeting successfully achieved the goals and objectives of the on presenting technical topics of the APRC, which the ROK stakeholders would consider for the future partnership development with FAO. It also became opportunity to raise awareness of FAO's programmes in the region. PLO will follow up and work with ROK stakeholders to continue this positive momentum.

¹ FAO's response to crisis in Ukraine found at <https://www.fao.org/in-focus/en/>

² FAO's 7 policy proposals on Ukraine crisis can be found at <https://www.fao.org/in-focus/policy-proposals/en>

³ Op-Ed of Mr Rein Paulsen can be found at https://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/opinion/2022/04/197_327511.html as well as <https://koreajoongangdaily.joins.com/2022/04/13/opinion/columns/hungry-people-less-money-FAO/20220413195237061.html>



FAO PLO in ROK holds National Consultation for the 36th Asia and the Pacific Regional Conference

Strengthen all around connections

Youth Engagement with Chief Economist

FAO PLO in ROK and Chief Economist discussed the ways to promote youth engagement in ROK with support from local governments on 21 January. As chairman of FAO's Youth Committee and Chief Economist, Mr Máximo Torero Cullen gave some guidance and advice, especially in relation to how to make synergies with this year's World Food Forum, a youth-led movement and network facilitated by FAO to transform our agrifood systems. We will continue the discussion to produce tangible outcomes through the active engagement of youth in ROK.

Engagement with South-South and Triangular Cooperation

The FAO-RAP Management convened a virtual workshop "Leveraging South-South and Triangular Cooperation to foster Four Betters in the Asia and Pacific Region" on March 22. The seminar aimed to present and discuss FAO SSTC Guidelines and FAO RAP SSTC Action Plan, and to provide information on funding priorities and opportunities in ROK, and China. It also aimed to foster discussion and exchange on the challenges and opportunities of promoting SSTC in Asia and Pacific region countries. PLO was invited to present the case of SSTC in ROK and the main opportunities to promote SSTC in ROK, its plan to mobilize resources for SSTC with the support from the ROK stakeholders.

Engagement with Fisheries and Aquaculture Division

PLO held a meeting with Director General of Fisheries and Aquaculture Division (NFI) on 21 February to discuss future cooperation in the field of marine fisheries. Both sides have designated focal points and have initiated further communication and cooperation at the working level so that the marine and fisheries related activities planned by FAO PLO in ROK can achieve tangible results this year.

Develop partnerships with the Republic of Korea's organizations

With Ulsan Metropolitan City

FAO PLO in ROK attended an event on 31 March to celebrate the internship agreement signed between FAO and Ulsan Metropolitan City of the Republic of Korea with the strong support from FAO's Human Resources Division (CSH). It was announced that starting April, Ulsan Metropolitan City and FAO will join forces to train young professionals through an internship programme and provide opportunities for youth to join the global efforts on achieving SDGs through FAO's 4Bettters and train them to be prepared to work for international organizations in the future. FAO PLO in ROK will continue cooperating with the city and Ulsan International Development Cooperation Center as the implementing entity of the programme, for successful implementation of the programme.



FAO PLO in ROK and Ulsan Metropolitan City is holding a signing ceremony

With Korea Foundation

PLO and the Korea Foundation (KF) agreed to deepen the partnership in showcasing the ROK's experiences with global community, particularly in the areas of SDGs, food security, economic development, humanitarian assistance and democratization on 03 March. Both also agreed to strengthen the global society's 'Public Diplomacy with Soft Power'.

With College of Agriculture and Life Sciences of Seoul National University

PLO and the Dean of College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALs) of Seoul National University (SNU) agreed to explore the partnership opportunities on 03 March. From providing an internship opportunity, supporting disseminating of call for application for the World Food Forum (WFF) Young Scientist Groups (YSG), building up the engagement with CALs's private sectors in order to exchange knowledge and technologies and co-facilitates R&D, and so on.

⁴ Press article on the internship agreement between PLO and Ulsan Metropolitan City can be found at https://newsis.com/view/?id=NISX20220331_0001815139&cid=10814&pID=10800

With Korea Forestry Promotion Institute

PLO and Korea Forestry Promotion Institute (KOFPI) had meeting on 22 February to discuss future forestry areas that can be tackled together to cooperate and better organize and promote mountain villages in the Republic of Korea.

Promote FAO and ROK's visibility

Twitter

FAO PLO in ROK created a twitter account and have been putting most updated information on its engagement with diverse partner. The account currently has over 300 followers. Please follow us and get the latest news on Twitter. [@FAOSouthKorea](https://twitter.com/FAOSouthKorea)

Brochure

FAO PLO in ROK issued its first brochure to be shared with its partners both in Korean and English.



⁵ English brochure can be found here at <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8018en/cb8018en.pdf>
Korean brochure can be found here at <https://www.fao.org/3/cb8018ko/cb8018ko.pdf>



Contact information:

FAO Partnership and Liaison Office in the Republic of Korea
fao-kr@fao.org
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Seoul, Republic of Korea