



Korea's Knowledge Partnership with World Bank Group: *Environment Program*

Sameer Akbar

Senior Environmental Specialist

World Bank Group

WHAT does the Environment Program do?

- Since inception, the environment program has been working on **green (forestry), blue (marine), and brown (pollution)** agendas
- The **current work program** is primarily focused on blue and brown agendas leveraging the experience and expertise of Korean public and private sector to support countries in the region
 - **Blue (marine)**: sustainable fisheries and industrial growth management, marine pollution management, promoting blue economy development, and unlocking blue carbon finance
 - **Brown (pollution)**: introducing advanced monitoring, strengthen policies and regulatory frameworks, and leverage financing to support investments in addressing air pollution (and Greenhouse Gas) emissions from small and medium enterprises
- The overall objective is on **linking knowledge to country operations**, currently in Mongolia, Indonesia, Philippines, and Vietnam

HOW does the Environment Program work?

- **Working with K-partners to distill applied knowledge**
 - Example: Analytical report on innovations in addressing plastics pollution through circular economy approaches in Korea with lessons for ASEAN countries (2023-24)
 - Partner: Korea Environment Corporation (**K-eco**)
- **Undertake knowledge exchange with client countries**
 - Example: Knowledge Exchange on fishing port decarbonization and blue carbon opportunities with six countries to facilitate sharing of experience with Korean public and private sector counterparts (2025)
 - Partner: Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (**KOEM**)
- **Connect K-partners to client counterparts**
 - Example: Technical Assistance support to greater Jakarta on Integrated Jakarta Air Quality Management facilitated by the World Bank (2025-26)
 - Partner: Korea Environmental Industry and Technology Institute (**KEITI**)

Example of IMPACT: from Knowledge to Policy Development

- **Challenges:** Extended Produced Responsibility (EPR) in **waste management** faced fragmented governance, limited technical capacity and data systems, and political economy and private sector resistance in the **Philippines**.
- **Activities:** The World Bank produced an **analytical review** of Korea's EPR experience and delivered hands-on **capacity building** through a knowledge exchange (April 2024) in partnership with K-eco.
- **Outcomes:** The knowledge exchange (KGGTF supported) and publication of a EPR report resulted in **capacity building** and further **strengthened Korea–Philippines partnership**.
- **Impact:** The initiative strengthened institutional capacity and regulatory clarity in the Philippines while positioning **Korea's EPR model as the reference for plastics circularity legislation** in the Philippines.

Example of IMPACT: from Knowledge to Investment Project

- **Challenges:** Lack of knowledge and financing for the development of Integrated Ocean Monitoring System (IOMS) to improve **marine conservation** outcomes and spur the blue economy in **Indonesia**.
- **Activities:** The World Bank has engaged with Korean private-sector and Government (MoF) partners to provide **technical analysis** and **benchmarking** to support decision making.
- **Outcomes:** Critical lessons from Korea's advanced IOMS deployment and operational experience led to **capacity building** and further **strengthened Korea-Indonesia partnerships** and **unlocked IBRD-financing** for IOMS acquisition by Gol.
- **Impact:** Technical capacity developed and preparation of operation informed, while positioning **Korea's IOMS model as the reference for blue economy development** in Indonesia.

Thank you !



Milen Dyoulgerov
Senior Environmental Specialist



Sameer Akbar
Senior Environmental Specialist



**Click to edit
Master title style**