UNIDO ITPO Korea
Annual Report 2023

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Foreword by the Head

Maengho SHIN
Head of UNIDO ITPO Korea

The year 2023 was a landmark in the progress towards meeting the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. It represented the midpoint in the SDG timeline, prompting countries around the globe to evaluate their achievements thus far and outline the steps necessary for future advancements. However, global challenges such as geopolitical tensions, inflation, and climate crises made it a difficult period for many. Fortunately, with the easing of the COVID-19 pandemic, UNIDO ITPO Korea was able to pursue support initiatives for sustainable development and economic self-reliance in developing countries, in line with the values of the UN Charter and SDGs.

In the Advisory Programme Phase 2, despite COVID-19 disruptions, key advisory positions in priority partner countries (Ethiopia, Uzbekistan, Peru) were filled anew, enabling more proactive support for investment and technology transfer. Significantly, strengthened cooperation in the agricultural, ICT and green technology marked notable achievements. Additionally, practical investment information was provided through local advisors, facilitating overseas expansion for domestic enterprises.

As part of the Delegate Programme, an online seminar on Malaysia’s business environment and market entry strategies was organized, along with tailored consulting to meet business demands. Moreover, as a key component of investment promotion strategies, there was active involvement in international exhibitions across various sectors such as security, ICT, environment, energy, and pharmaceuticals. The initiative involved government officials from developing countries providing consultancy services to domestic companies, aiming to generate overseas opportunities. Various capacity-building activities, including COMFAR promotion workshop for domestic corporate personnel, industrial policy training co-hosted with KOICA, and digital skills enhancement workshops with UNITAR, were also supported. Particularly noteworthy was the series of workshops on industrial development based on intellectual property (IP), co-organized with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO) since 2022, aimed at bolstering IP capabilities and facilitating technology transfer in developing countries.

Furthermore, in support of Korea’s IT industry development, a delegation from Korea was invited to explore technology exchange and collaboration opportunities with Korean companies in e-commerce, fintech, and agricultural technology sectors, resulting in the signing of MoUs between Korean and Laotian companies. Additionally, multiple investment seminars and company introduction events were organized in collaboration with foreign embassies in Korea, facilitating Korean startups’ entry into regions such as Southeast Asia, Africa, and Latin America. Furthermore, an industrial study tour program was conducted to introduce domestic eco-friendly facilities and advanced agricultural facilities to officials from partner countries.

In 2024, UNIDO ITPO Korea remains committed to facilitating overseas expansion and technology transfer for Korean companies and promoting sustainable industrial development in partner countries under the mission and vision of UNIDO. To this end, our office will continue to support capacity building in partner countries and strengthen networks with domestic enterprises, striving for sustainable industrial development.
What is UNIDO?
UNIDO is a specialized agency of the United Nations with a unique mandate to promote, dynamite, and accelerate industrial development.

UNIDO’s mandate
is reflected in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 9: “Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and foster innovation;” but UNIDO’s activities contribute to all the SDGs.

UNIDO’s vision
is a world without poverty and hunger, where industry drives low-emission economies, improves living standards, and preserves the livable environment for present and future generations, leaving no one behind.

UNIDO provides support to its 172 Member States through four mandated functions: technical cooperation, action-oriented research, and policy advisory services; normative standards; related activities; and fostering partnerships for knowledge and technology transfer.

UNIDO’s priority
UNIDO supports the development and deployment of new technologies, and the application of new ways of thinking. It is a platform for innovation, knowledge and technology transfer, business sector cooperation and investment promotion.

Director General Gerd Müller has set three major priorities for action:
1. Supporting sustainable supply chains so that developing country producers get a fair deal and scarce resources are preserved.
2. Limiting climate breakdown by using renewable energy and energy efficiency to reduce industrial greenhouse gas emissions.
3. Ending hunger by cutting post-harvest losses and developing agribusiness value chains.

All three involve activities that contribute to job creation.

Cutting across these priorities are the following themes: technology and knowledge transfer, digitalization, investment promotion, training and skills, the circular economy, and women’s economic empowerment.

UNIDO’s partnership
UNIDO has 172 Member States, which provide assessed contributions to fund a regular budget for the Organization’s administration, research, and other regular expenses. Member State representatives approve the budget and work programme, and guide the principles and policies of the Organization.

UNIDO implements projects and programmes in around 120 of its Member States. In 2023, UNIDO is implementing a portfolio of 636 projects with a total value of US$1.350m.
UNIDO & ITPO Korea

UNIDO ITPOs

UNIDO’s Investment and Technology Promotion Offices (ITPOs) contribute to the reduction of development imbalances by bridging investment and technology transfer between developed and developing countries.

The ITPOs aim to bridge global investment and technology gaps by:

- opening up opportunities for investors and technology suppliers;
- finding potential partners for businesses in developed and developing countries;
- offering unique services to both entrepreneurs and business institutions.

Ten ITPOs have been established, together constituting the ITP Network. The Network provides support through partnerships,

- promotes capacity-building activities,
- offers advisory services,
- organizes global forums/events,
- carries out investment and technology project assessments,
- and promotes matchmaking activities.
UNIDO & ITPO Korea

ITPO Korea

In 1985, the Republic of Korea joined UNIDO, leading to the establishment of UNIDO ITPO Korea in Seoul in 1987 at the request of the Korean government. Originally, ITPO Korea was created to aid the global expansion of Korean companies by sharing the nation’s economic development experience and knowledge.

Since Korea’s accession to the OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in 2008, ITPO Korea has been actively engaged in supporting poverty reduction and sustainable industrial development in developing countries through UNIDO’s global network of regional offices. The primary focus involves implementing various programs aimed at facilitating investment and technology transfer from Korean firms to developing nations.

Facilitating Collaboration Between Korea and Partner Countries

Our focus lies in understanding the investment and technology transfer needs of partner countries and establishing connections with local businesses and organizations to address these requirements. We offer educational and training initiatives to help our partner nations identify and cultivate areas of interest. Furthermore, we play a pivotal role in enhancing communication between Korea and partner nations, streamlining the process for mutual cooperation.

Assisting Korean Companies in Investment and Technology Transfer to Developing Countries

Our mission involves assisting Korean businesses keen on investing and transferring technology to developing nations. This support includes offering insights into target countries and helping identify potential partners. We actively engage in facilitating collaboration by inviting investment executives from those countries to visit Korea. Through initiatives such as one-on-one consultations, we create opportunities for meaningful partnerships and foster networking with delegations from developing countries in Korea.

Target Countries in 2023:
- Asia: Cambodia (19-21), Uzbekistan (22-25)
- Africa: Ethiopia (19-25)
- Latin America: Peru (19-25)

Launched in 2019, the Advisory Programme stands as a cornerstone initiative of ITPO Korea, offering top-tier advisory services to Korean entities in both the private and public sectors gearing up for investment entry and technology transfer. This program is instrumental in providing Korean partners with services encompassing market research, government and private networking, and the formulation of new market entry strategies through the identification of technology transfer requirements and local partners. Notably, ITPO Korea employs advisors directly from the host nation to deliver consulting services. These advisors equip potential investors and technology transfer companies in Korea with the latest market entry information. The program includes guidance on local investment laws, policy trends, recommendations for private and government partnerships, facilitation of business meetings, coordination of company delegation visits, and extending invitations for partner country delegations to visit Korea.

Additionally, it’s noteworthy that PHASE 1 of this programme concluded from 2019 to 2022, and PHASE 2 commenced in 2023, marking a new chapter in its ongoing success.
ADVISORY PROGRAMME

Uzbekistan

Doniyor Usmanov

- Bachelor’s degree in economics (Uzbekistan)
- Master’s degree in international development (University of Korea, ROK)
- Experience in working in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Uzbekistan

Uzbekistan stands as a pivotal partner for Korea, hosting the largest number of Korean companies in Central Asia. With the region’s largest population and abundant natural resources, Uzbekistan presents substantial growth potential. The country boasts a high economic growth rate, driven by modest wages and a skilled workforce, creating an optimal environment for Korean companies to integrate their technology and expertise. "ITPO Korea extends free consulting support and services through local advisory services to assist businesses exploring and entering the Uzbekistan market."
Head of ITPO Korea, Mr. Maengho Shin, met with a 15-member delegation from Uzbekistan, including Uzbekistan IT Park's management team and Ministry of Information and Communication officials. Discussions focused on boosting bilateral exchanges and expanding business opportunities in the IT industry between Korea and Uzbekistan.

Uzbekistan IT Park supports the IT startup ecosystem by offering accounting, legal, marketing, and educational assistance.

During their visit, the delegation toured d-camp, the country’s largest startup incubator, gaining insights into startup operations and facilities. The goal was to immerse themselves in the startup culture and understand the elements crucial for startup success.

The Uzbekistan delegation aimed to enhance their understanding of Korea’s economic growth, IT policies, and strategies. The visit also provided opportunities for benchmarking advanced industries through visits to Korean IT institutions and companies.

03

Smart Beekeeping Partnership

September 14, 2023

Daesung Co., a South Korean company, and the Uzbekistan Beekeepers’ Association formalized a partnership through a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) in Tashkent, Uzbekistan. Facilitated by ITPO Korea, this collaboration aims to enhance cooperation in the beekeeping sector.

Advisory Programme in Uzbekistan played a key role in bringing the two entities together, addressing challenges in investment and technology transfer. The MOU encourages the exchange of experience, technologies, and joint projects, focusing on smart beekeeping, partnership development, and cooperation networks.

The collaboration anticipates the implementation of high-tech solutions, knowledge sharing, and mutual exchange of specialists. The Chairman of the Uzbekistan Beekeepers’ Association expressed optimism about the positive impact on entrepreneurship, job creation, and honey exports in Uzbekistan.

Daesung Co. plans to transfer technology and knowledge, with ITPO Korea committed to fostering inclusive and sustainable industrial development in Uzbekistan through its Advisory Programme. The collaboration signifies a commitment to advancing beekeeping practices and honey production in Uzbekistan.
Advisory Programme

04
Collaboration with the Uzbekistan Ministry of Innovation
October 24, 2023

ITPO Korea held discussions with Olimjon Tochiev, Director of the Agency for Innovative Development, exploring avenues for collaboration and partnership opportunities.

During the meeting, both sides explored the potential for mutual collaboration. They discussed strengthening cooperation with ITPO Korea, organizing joint seminars and training sessions, supporting the entry of Korean businesses and startups into Uzbekistan, and hosting various cooperative events such as B2B meetings and business forums.

Furthermore, they reached an agreement to pursue innovative projects within the framework of Korean government’s ODA (Official Development Assistance) programs.

05
Participation in Uzbekistan ICT Week 2023
October 26, 2023

As part of Uzbekistan ICT WEEK 2023, the “Uzbekistan Outsourcing Forum” took place on October 26th, bringing together foreign experts and representatives from domestic and international IT companies. The Forum aimed to boost the development of Uzbekistan’s IT outsourcing industry. Uzbekistan side provided a comprehensive view of current IT industry landscape and its future prospects.

Mr. Maengho Shin, Head of ITPO Korea delivered a presentation on the Korea’s experience in ICT industry development, emphasizing government policies, human resources, and educational infrastructure.

The Forum contributed to knowledge sharing and experiences in the domestic and international IT sectors, supporting the growth and advancement of Uzbekistan’s IT industry. ITPO Korea remains dedicated to ongoing efforts in supporting the development of Uzbekistan’s IT outsourcing sector.
The "Uzbekistan-Korea ICT Business Cooperation Forum", held during ICT WEEK Uzbekistan 2023, brought together 20 Korean companies, 21 Uzbekistan companies, IT-Park Uzbekistan, INHA University in Tashkent, and Kyungpoek Technopark. Facilitated by ITPO Korea, the event aimed to enhance cooperation in the IT sector between the two countries. The Forum, attended by over 40 IT companies, included 61 B2B meetings, discussions on collaboration between ITPO Korea and Uzbekistan government agencies, and an invitation from the Ministry of Digital Technologies of Uzbekistan for Korean companies to an event in Seoul on November 10, 2023.

The Forum highlighted ITPO Korea's role in promoting international cooperation and fostering innovation in the technology sector, reflecting a commitment to enduring partnership between Korea and Uzbekistan in the field of Information Technologies.

In Tashkent, Uzbekistan, the 2nd K-Water Society event attracted approximately 120 attendees, including key figures from the government, private sector, academia, and international organizations who were united by the K-Water Alliance. Distinguished guests, such as leaders from K-Water, the Ministry of Water Resources of Uzbekistan, the "Uzavtomobil" Joint Stock Company, and other relevant organizations, actively participated in the event.

A key highlight was the presentation of ITPO Korea's Advisory Programme on Investment and Technology Promotion in Uzbekistan. Local advisor Mr. Donyor Usmanov provided an overview of the project and interim results, aiming to contribute to Uzbekistan's inclusive and sustainable industrial development. Participants recognized the Advisory Programme's potential, acknowledging its role in bridging the gap between Uzbekistan and Korean investors. Government officials expressed confidence that the program would enhance the capacity of investment promotion agencies and key figures in the public and private sectors, contributing to Uzbekistan's economic development.
08

Investment
Information Sharing

MAY & JUNE 2023

Uzbekistan news updates:
Economic Policy and Trends of Development

AUGUST 2

Published
‘Uzbekistan Baseline Assessment Report’

ADVISORY PROGRAMME

Ethiopia

Mintesnot Disa Gemechu

- Bachelor’s degree in economics (Ethiopia)
- Master’s degree in business administration (University of Cardiff Metropolitan, UK)
- Experience in working in marketing and consulting firms

Ethiopia and Korea share enduring ties, rooted in Ethiopia’s historical contribution to the Korean War. As the host country of African Union’s headquarters, Ethiopia holds significant political influence on the continent. The country is increasingly seen as a market ripe with investment opportunities across sectors like agriculture, the environment, and manufacturing, fostering a growing potential for collaboration with Korea. ITPO Korea is committed to offering information and services, leveraging its locally stationed advisor to support Korean companies with advanced technology in their entry into the Ethiopian market.
01

Smart Farming and Ethio-Korea Coffee Trade Conference in Ethiopia
August 15, 2023

ITPO Korea, in collaboration with the Ethiopian Investment Commission, organized a Smart Farming and Ethio-Korea Coffee Trade Conference in Ethiopia. The hybrid meeting included virtual participation from Korean businesses and physical presence in Addis Ababa by Ethiopian stakeholders, including government representatives and private sector participants.

The conference aimed to facilitate investment and business information exchanges between Ethiopian and Korean private sectors, encouraging exploration of market and investment potentials. Keynote speeches were delivered by Mr. Maengho Shin, Head of ITPO Korea, and Mr. Temesgen Tilahun, Deputy Commissioner of the Ethiopian Investment Commission. Korean companies presented their business activities and potential investment ideas.

The Ethiopian Investment Commission highlighted investment potentials in Ethiopia, inviting Korean businesses to explore opportunities. Presentations covered topics such as smart biohives, investment opportunities in Ethiopia, coffee upcycling, lessons from Latin America, Ethiopian Airlines’ role in coffee tourism and logistics. Participants emphasized the importance of strengthening business-to-business relationships for mutual benefits. The UNIDO Ethiopia Regional Office presented its coffee project, supporting private sector growth in Ethiopia. The conference concluded with discussions on accessing finance opportunities and collaboration with Korean businesses for technology exchanges in the Ethiopian coffee sector. The conclusions of the conference wrapped up with a mini-panel discussion between representatives from UNIDO Coffee Project and Ethiopia coffee farmers.

02

Participation in the 8th African Livestock Exhibition and Congress (ALEC)
October 26-28, 2023

ITPO Korea participated in the 8th African Livestock Exhibition and Congress (ALEC), and the 3rd Aquaculture and Aquaculture Ethiopia, promoting technologies of five Korean companies. The technologies showcased included AI Platform for poultry farms, AidKorea’s sustainable livestock solution such as egg inspection system, smart farm and container farm concepts, hives control systems. ITPO Korea facilitated technology exchanges between Ethiopian livestock businesses and Korean suppliers, aiming to boost production in dairy, eggs, chicken meat, and honey. The program sought to stimulate discussions between Ethiopian and Korean stakeholders and continued engagement with Ethiopian companies for further collaboration.
Advisory Programme

03
List of events participated in by ITPO Korea

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<tr>
<th>APRIL 2023</th>
<th>MAY 2023</th>
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<tr>
<td>Invest Ethiopia (“Time to Invest and Grow in Ethiopia”)</td>
<td>National Agricultural Science Exhibition</td>
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<th>JUNE 2023</th>
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<td>National Health Exhibition</td>
<td>Africa Job Creation Summit (AJCS)</td>
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<th>SEPTEMBER 2023</th>
<th>OCTOBER 2023</th>
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<td>4th All Africa Postharvest Congress and Exhibition</td>
<td>8th Africa Livestock Exhibition and Conference</td>
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<th>NOVEMBER 2023</th>
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<td>Africa Investment Forum</td>
<td>Africa Sourcing and Fashion Week (ASFW)</td>
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<th>NOVEMBER 2023</th>
<th>NOVEMBER 2023</th>
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<tr>
<td>MINTEX (Mining &amp; Technology Expo)</td>
<td>Africa Economic Conference 2023</td>
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Advisory Programme

04
Investment information provided by the Advisor

- Ethiopian Baseline Assessment Report
- Macro-annual report (National Bank of Ethiopia)
- Ethiopia Monetary Policy Statement Report
- Ethiopia’s Digital Strategy: Digital Strategy for Inclusive Prosperity
- Three Project Profiles Information (Promotion of Sustainable Ethiopian Agro-Industrial Development, Global Market Access (GMA), and GEFCO projects)
- Agricultural Investment Opportunities (nine separate analysis documents per sub-sector)
- Ethiopia National Park (detailed descriptions and information regarding each national park in Ethiopia, incentives, procedures, and regulations)
- Ethiopia Transport Master Plan 2022-2052
- Country Focus Report Ethiopia – 2023
- Ethiopia Agri-Finance Navigator, a Snapshot of the Ethiopian Agri-SME Financing Ecosystem
- Ethiopia’s National Digital Payment Strategy 2021-2024
- What is New in Ethiopia’s New Industrial Policy: Policy Direction and Sectoral Priorities Report
- Baseline Survey Report on Environmental, Social and Governance Performance of Textile and Apparel Enterprises in Ethiopia
- Ethiopia’s Drive to Advance Digital Transformation Report
- Ethiopia: Strengthening the Quality Compliance Capacity of the Honey Value Chain for Greater Market Access
Peru and Korea collaborate extensively in trade, investment, and cultural spheres. Notably, Korea strategically imports Peru’s top export, copper, establishing a robust economic connection through the ratified Free Trade Agreement (FTA). With its wealth of natural resources and a stable economic and investment climate, Peru is increasingly emerging as an attractive investment destination for Korean companies. In response to the high growth potential in the Peruvian market, ITPO Korea is going to enlist an advisor to provide specialized advisory services, supporting Korean firms in navigating and entering Peru.
DELEGATE PROGRAMME

ITPO Korea facilitates the growth of domestic businesses by promoting overseas ventures, supporting investments, and strengthening partnerships with target countries. To realize this goal, ITPO Korea extends invitations to delegates from partner countries, typically comprising high-ranking officials from Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) or other industry leaders and experts. The program encompasses country profile presentations, bilateral business meetings with potential Korean investors, study tours, and site visits to prominent industrial facilities in Korea. These collaborative activities serve as a gateway to initiate substantial cooperation between the Korean private sector and partner countries.

Delegate Programme

ITPO Korea organized an online Delegate Programme for three days, inviting two delegates from the Malaysian government entity responsible for promoting Malaysian investment. Mr. Derrick Tanggapan, Assistant Director of the Malaysian Investment Development Authority (MIDA) and Mr. Raymond Siva V Paramasivam, Vice President of the Malaysia Digital Economy Corporation (MDEC).

ITPO Korea designed the Delegate Programme to cover both SMEs and startups. The Programme consisted of promotional activities including webinar and individual meetings between Malaysian delegates and Korean companies interested in entering in Malaysia.

On 16th January 2023, ITPO Korea hosted the online seminar on Malaysian business environment and market entry strategy, and over 50 Korean entrepreneurs from various industries including manufacturing, ICT, digital agriculture and the public institutions attended this event.

On 17th and 18th January 2023, a total of 12 B2G meetings were held. Two delegates provided consultation tailored to the need of each participating company. Strategies for entering the Malaysian market, and available benefits or supports such as tax benefits, finding potential partners in Malaysia, etc. were provided through the individual meeting session.
02

Follow-up Activities of Delegate Programme with Malaysia

14 March 2023

ITPO Korea participated in the “Seminar on Business Opportunities in Malaysia” co-hosted by MIDA (Malaysian Investment Development Authority) and MATRADE (Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation) as an extension of the “Delegate Programme with Malaysia” held online by ITPO Korea in January 2023.

The seminar took place in Seoul with an aim to promote trade and investment between Korea and Malaysia. Malaysian trade and investment delegations of high-ranking officials from MITI (Ministry of International Trade and Industry of Malaysia), MATRADE and Malaysian state government agencies met Korean entrepreneurs to provide the latest information on the Malaysian market.

Mr. Tengku Zara’ul Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, delivered the keynote speech and successful business cases were introduced. B2B and B2G meetings were also held between the Malaysian delegations and Korean entrepreneurs. In particular, the four companies that participated in ITPO Korea’s “Delegate Programme with Malaysia” in January had several meetings with the Malaysian delegations and follow-up meetings were confirmed for further discussions on their entry into Malaysia.
01

[SECON 2023]
Consultancy Service for Overseas Operations
29-31 March 2023

ITPO Korea participated in the “World Security Expo (SECON 2023)” to organize consultation meetings aimed at supporting overseas expansion of Korean companies.

SECON, marking its 22nd anniversary in 2023, is the largest integrated security exhibition in Asia, with over 350 domestic and foreign security companies participating in the event, featuring 1,200 booths.

During SECON 2023, ITPO Korea invited eight government officials and investment experts from five countries including Indonesia, Mongolia, Tanzania, Tunisia and Uzbekistan and Indonesia, to provide a consultation platform for potential business opportunities with Korean companies.

At the three-day event, Korean IT companies involved in physical and cybersecurity solutions discussed and consulted with government officials from developing countries about their potential as emerging markets. The consultations focused on local investment policies, tax regulations, government regulations, and other relevant topics, while also exchanging information on potential partners and institutions in the country.

Government officials from developing countries had the opportunity to witness the latest security technologies and trends in one place and explore ways to strengthen their security infrastructure.

"It was a valuable time to expand our perspective by seeing Korea’s latest security technologies in one place. We also saw the possibility of technology transfer and investment attraction to our country through meetings with Korean security companies, and we will continue to stay in touch with them."

Nasir Boulah, an advisor of Public Services of Presidency of the Government in Tunisia

02

[ENVEX 2023]
Overseas Environmental Market Investment Seminar
7-9 July 2023

ITPO Korea hosted the “Developing Country Market Entry Strategy Seminar” at the 44th International Exhibition on Environmental Technology & Green Energy (ENVEX 2023).

ENVEX, which first took place in 1979 and boasts a 40-year history, is a leading domestic B2B exhibition specializing in environmental technology. In 2019, it obtained international exhibition certification (UFI) and covers the fields of environment and green energy.

As part of the cooperation with the Korean Association for the Conservation of Nature, ITPO Korea participated in this event and provided an opportunity for promising domestic environmental companies to enter developing countries with new business opportunities.

ITPO Korea organized a market entry strategy seminar for developing countries (Bangladesh and Pakistan) as a side event of ENVEX 2023. Participants showed a positive response to the explanations about the economies and environmental industrial systems of Bangladesh and Pakistan, among emerging economies.

Furthermore, ITPO Korea set up a dedicated UNIDO promotion booth within the exhibition hall and successfully executed the event, with the attendance of more than 30 companies.
ITPO Korea participated in the CPHI Korea 2023, a global pharmaceutical, bio, and nutraceutical industry exhibition. CPHI Korea 2023, jointly organized by global exhibition organizer Informa Markets and the Korea Biopharmaceuticals Association, attracted over 8,000 attendees from 60 countries and 369 companies, fostering active networking and meetings.

Throughout the exhibition, a total of 21 conferences, 32 seminars, and consultations were held across five sessions. Additionally, an online platform was operated to cater to international buyers who couldn’t attend in person.

During the exhibition, ITPO Korea hosted an international B2G consultation event, inviting 14 government officials from 11 countries, including Cameroon, Congo, Ecuador, Ghana, Kenya, Mongolia, Nigeria, Paraguay, Peru, Timor-Leste, and Vietnam. This event facilitated over 80 advisory consultations with more than 30 companies in the pharmaceutical, bio, and nutraceutical industries, covering topics such as product and technology introductions, and investment strategies.

Additionally, a seminar highlighting the business and investment environments in Ghana, Timor-Leste, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo attracted significant attention and provided attendees with valuable insights into legal frameworks, policies, and relevant government departments.

ITPO Korea participated in the "2023 Korea Environment & Energy Trade Fair (KEET 2023)" which was jointly hosted by Gwangju Metropolitan City and Jeollanam-do Province, serving as a prominent exhibition in the field of climate, environment, and energy, with participation from 265 companies representing 20 countries, occupying 500 booths.

ITPO Korea organized B2G consultation meetings during the event, inviting 11 government officials from 9 countries, including Cambodia, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Nigeria, Peru, and Uzbekistan.

This initiative facilitated a total of 22 advisory meetings in the climate, environment, and energy sectors, covering topics ranging from product and technology introductions to investment and market entry strategies. Additionally, seminars were held for the business and investment environments in Cambodia and Indonesia, providing in-depth insights into legal frameworks, policies, and relevant government departments.

A visit was also arranged to the Gwangju Environmental Facilities, where participants toured the Sewage Treatment Plant and the Food Resource Recycling Facility. At the Sewage Treatment Plant, they observed the entire sewage treatment process, including screening, primary sedimentation, aeration tanks, final sedimentation, and discharge, gaining a first-hand understanding of how household sewage was processed. The tour then descended underground to the Food Resource Recycling Facility, witnessing the transformation of food waste into animal feed and gaining practical experience in environmental facility management.

"It was a valuable experience to introduce the local situation to Korean companies considering expansion into Uzbekistan and engage in meaningful conversations. Moreover, it provided an essential opportunity to witness Korea’s high-level technology in addressing the current issue of solar panel cleaning in Uzbekistan."

Fatih Abubakirov, Leading engineer-technologist from Ministry of Energy of Uzbekistan
Capacity Building

In its mission to foster sustainable industrial development in developing countries through technology, ITPO Korea conducts capacity-building initiatives. These include training programs like UNIDO’s COMFAR III for feasibility analysis, technical assistance, and policy guidance. The primary goal is to drive industrial development, facilitate technology transfer, and encourage the sharing of knowledge. Additionally, ITPO Korea collaborates with UNITAR and KOICA, organizing workshops to further enhance capacity building. These efforts collectively support diverse stakeholders, such as government bodies, private sectors, academic institutions, and civil society, in their endeavors to boost the productivity and competitiveness of industries.

2023 COMFAR III Promotion Workshop
24 May 2023

ITPO Korea conducted the 2023 COMFAR III Promotion Workshop for 16 project managers of Samsung C&T who represented in 14 different business sectors, including hydro, energy, metro, and earth sectors.

The workshop commenced with a lecture on feasibility analysis theory and then focused on practical training exercises, such as case studies utilizing finance models and hands-on experience with the COMFAR Demo Version for business feasibility analysis.

During the workshop, participants engaged by posing various in-depth questions on topics such as reinvestment rates, turnover coefficients, short-term gains, financial flows, and break-even points. They highly appreciated the workshop as an opportunity to enhance their overall understanding of the new financial model enabled by COMFAR. Samsung C&T expressed its commitment to utilizing COMFAR III by procuring it through ITPO Korea and planning internal training sessions on COMFAR.
Capacity Building

02
UNIDO-KOICA Joint Programme
Policies for Digitalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution: Workshop for Tamil Nadu
2–4 May 2023

UNIDO and KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) jointly hosted a three-day training program for Tamil Nadu government officials and policy experts in Chennai, India from May 2nd to 4th, 2023. The program was conducted in person as part of the UNIDO-KOICA Industrial Policy Training Program for Digitalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Southeast Asia for 2022–2024. The program aimed to enhance the digitalization and Fourth Industrial Revolution-related policy capabilities of the 40 Tamil Nadu government officials.

The participants expressed their gratitude for being able to learn about various Korean cases and understanding the opportunities and challenges related to digitalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Tamil Nadu.

03
UNIDO-UNITAR Joint International Workshop on Advancing the Digital Capabilities of SMEs and Startups through Leveraging Public-Private Partnership
19–21 July 2023

ITPO Korea and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) CIFAL Jeju co-hosted the international workshop titled “Enhancing Digital Capabilities of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs) and Startups through Public-Private Cooperation: Focusing on Innovative Solutions” in Jeju.

This workshop marked the second collaboration between the two organizations after the inaugural event held in 2022. The event was conducted in a hybrid format, combining both online and offline elements, with a total of 210 attendees, including economic counselors from 9 Asian countries (Bangladesh, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Sri Lanka, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Vietnam) based in Korea, 11 Korean SMEs and startup companies, and over 100 online participants.

The goal of this workshop was to address the challenges and opportunities of digitalization for SMEs and startups, especially in the post-COVID-19 era. The workshop aimed to identify barriers and opportunities for digital transformation in light of issues such as lack of information, digital technology disparities, capital shortages for financial needs, volatile regulatory environments, and accessible digital infrastructure. Additionally, the workshop sought to facilitate inter-sectoral cooperation to support SMEs and startups in overcoming these challenges and embracing digitalization effectively.
04

UNIDO-KOICA Study Trip to Korea: Industrial Policies for Digitalization and the Fourth Industrial Revolution in Southeast Asia
10–16 September 2023

UNIDO, in collaboration with the KOICA, facilitated a study tour workshop to Korea aimed at enhancing awareness and understanding of the necessary preparations and policies required to support the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). This workshop was tailored for high-level policymakers, intended to deepen their comprehension and raise awareness of issues pertinent to digitalization and the 4IR. Nineteen policymakers from India and the Philippines participated in the workshop, which offered them an opportunity to apply and build upon the knowledge gained from previous workshops conducted in May and July.

The program featured on-site visits to key 4IR sites in Sejong City, Daegu, and Aisan, facilitating engaging policy discussions with prominent stakeholders from industry, academia, and the private sector. Notably, participants had the chance to explore leading Korean companies such as Hyundai Motors, renowned for their advancements in 4IR technologies. Furthermore, visits to technology clusters and interactions with think tanks provided participants with practical insights and experiences.

05

G-PASS Association Business Conference and Meeting Event
18 October 2023

The “G-PASS Association Business Conference and Meeting” featured discussions on the global business environment and procurement policies, along with one-on-one business meetings with Korean enterprises to expand international business opportunities for G-PASS member companies. ITPO Korea participated as a speaker, providing insights into how to engage in overseas business programs.

At individual business meetings between Korean companies and government officials from Algeria, Cambodia, Cameroon, Iraq, Nigeria, and Uzbekistan, there was deep interest in the products of Korean companies. This interest led to discussions on export strategies and potential cooperation opportunities. In specific, various cooperation plans were explored, including introducing local partners and providing free demos customized to each local market.

In addition, a number of domestic companies have agreed to provide additional data related to their products, which will be used to explore additional follow-up consultations and cooperation opportunities.
ITPO Korea organized the "IP-driven, Inclusive and Sustainable Industrial Development Workshop" in collaboration with WIPO and KIPO. Building upon the success of the online training conducted in 2022, this program took place in Daejeon and Seoul. Participants included industrial policy officials from eight countries (the Philippines, Vietnam, Myanmar, Azerbaijan, Thailand, Nepal, Bangladesh, and Iran), who had completed the previous year's program.

This 5-day workshop was designed to cover fundamental aspects of intellectual property (IP) pertinent to industrial development. Through a combination of comprehensive lectures and on-site visits, participants were able to demonstrate the practical link between IP and national industrial policy. Notably, this workshop offered invaluable insights into leveraging IP as a powerful tool to drive and expedite sustainable industrial development. It is anticipated to play a pivotal role in informing and shaping national industrial development policies, thereby fostering the growth of industries in each participating country.

Korea Fintech Week 2023
Laos IT Delegation B2B Consultation and Industrial Site Visits

ITPO Korea joined Korea Fintech Week 2023 at which focused on global fintech trends, networking, and provided a platform for companies to showcase business models and investment opportunities.

As part of this event, ITPO Korea extended invitations to a high-level representative from the Ministry of Technology and Communications of Laos, five executives from Laotian fintech companies, as well as representatives from the Uzbekistan Fintech Association (UFA) in Tashkent and UFA members conducting business in Seoul. Together, they engaged in business meetings with over 30 Korean fintech companies and collaborated with the Korea Fintech Support Center in Seoul.

Additionally, ITPO Korea participated in the Korea Fintech Tour program, which involved visiting key players in the Korean fintech ecosystem.

During the Laotian delegation's visit, ITPO Korea organized two industrial site visits. They explored the Korea Financial Security Institute, focusing on financial security monitoring, detection, and response capabilities, including DDoS attack emergency response. The delegation also visited KT Futureon, experiencing innovative technologies developed by KT’s Convergence Technology Institute.

The Laotian delegation met with a Korean company to discuss strategies for enhancing fintech in Laos. The Korean company shared success stories of popularizing integrated authentication solutions, targeting major banks and securities firms in the domestic private certificate market.
2023 Korea E-Commerce Fair
B2B Consultations with Laosian Delegation and B2G Meetings with Developing Country Officials


Over two days of booth exhibition participation, promotional activities and B2B business consultations with Laosian e-commerce companies were conducted. A total of 211 visits from six companies and 70 business matching cases were recorded. This included 37 on-site consultations and 33 requests for follow-up online meetings.

During this event, ITPO Korea invited 11 local government officials from 7 countries, including Cameroon, Ghana, Laos, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Uzbekistan, and Vietnam. These officials were engaged in B2G consultations focusing on trade, administration, and investment planning. The event provided a platform for domestic and international e-commerce industry-related companies to explore opportunities for overseas expansion.

"Participating as a consultant representing Uzbekistan was an amazing and valuable opportunity, hope that the information I shared about our country’s e-commerce trends, policies, and legal framework will facilitate Korean companies’ entry into Uzbekistan."

Mr. Abduvali A. Abduvalie, an IT Specialist from the Uzbekistan Center of Hydrometeorological Service

Laos Agri-Tech Delegation B2B Consultations and Site Visits

ITPO Korea invited Laos’ agricultural technology delegation to participate in the “Green and Agritech Asia 2023” with seven Laos delegates, including representatives from four Laos agricultural companies in Laos. Through this exhibition, the Laosian delegation visited 71 booths of Korean companies and institutions, and held 30 business meetings.

ITPO Korea conducted industrial site visits to three domestic agricultural technology companies/institutions. Laosian companies explored avenues to receive technology transfer and establish collaboration through follow-up discussions with certain Korean companies.

Meanwhile, ITPO Korea hosted a conference for global agricultural technology collaboration, facilitating meetings between the Laosian delegation and relevant representatives from both public and private sectors in Korea. This provided an opportunity to discuss the transfer of Korea’s advanced agricultural technologies, as well as to explore ways to activate and collaborate in the global agricultural technology industry.
07

Fostering the IT Industry and Leading Enterprises in Laos

6 December 2023

Inaugural Ceremony for Vientiane Technopark Software Startup Center and Facilitation of MOU Signing Between Korean and Laotian Companies

The Vientiane Technopark Software Startup Center is a key component of the 'Lao-Vietnam Tech Park (LVTIP)' and IT Professional Training Project, conducted under the ODA program by the Korean Ministry of SMEs and Startups.

During the opening ceremony, two Korean companies, having established networks through the LVTIP project, signed cooperative MOUs with Laotian companies. These MOUs include a digital tourism and cultural exchange agreement between the Korean smart tourism company and the Laotian online tourism platform.

Additionally, a Laotian-based integrated solution provider for poultry farms and a Korean livestock data company agreed to collaborate on enhancing smart livestock infrastructure in Laos.

ITPO Korea collaborates closely with startup incubators including d-camp, Korea’s largest startup incubator. Leveraging the expertise and network of their professionals, ITPO Korea organizes embassy sessions (Office-hours), conducts seminars, and offers investment information and advisory services. These efforts are part of ITPO Korea’s initiative to assist entrepreneurs and early-stage startups in expanding to international markets.
ITPO Korea co-hosted the program titled “Global Meetup: Office-hours” with the Banks Foundation for Young Entrepreneurs (hereinafter, “d-camp”) in an effort to explore opportunities to make entry into the Southeast Asian market.

The Southeast Asian market is emerging as an attractive destination for Korean companies due to its geopolitical advantages, abundant labor force and favorable consumer attitudes toward K-content. During the Office-hours program, officials from the Embassies of Laos, the Philippines, and Vietnam took part and provided useful information for the successful business entry of Korean startups into emerging ASEAN markets.

In addition, five Korean startups showcased their companies and presented their plans for international expansion. Starting with the presentation of the incubator startup, individual startups including a marine pollution control robot company, an eco-friendly absorbent material for sanitary pads and diapers startup, a developer portfolio management service startup, and finally, a self-driving security and electric vehicle charging platform startup, engaged in separate presentations to communicate with Embassy officials and explore information on overseas expansion.

ITPO Korea, in collaboration with the Banks Foundation for Young Entrepreneurs (d-camp), successfully organized the “Global Meetup: Office-Hours” to support Korean startups entering the African market.

The Office-Hours featured guests from the Embassies of Ethiopia, Nigeria, and South Africa. These representatives provided information on each country’s economic and geographical advantages, young and talented human resources, startup support policies, and promising industries, all geared towards facilitating Korean startups’ entry into Africa.

Subsequently, these startups presented their business models for overseas expansion: a startup offering sustainable carbon package solutions, a startup developing renewable energy projects utilizing Agri-Voltaics technology, and a startup operating an online AI-based English learning platform employing African native youths. The diverse participation of startups in fields ranging from environment and energy to education re-affirmed Korean companies’ high interest in the African market.

Lastly, one-on-one meetings and networking sessions were held between the Embassies and companies. These individual meetings enabled in-depth discussions on specific questions and requests related to market entry. Companies explained their eco-friendly and renewable infrastructures and job creation potentials, while the participating countries introduced relevant incentives, policy support systems, and commitments to future exhibitions and events, fostering expectations for active exchanges.
Startups and Entrepreneurship

03
Seminar on Türkiye Market Entry Strategies
5 July 2023

ITPO Korea, in collaboration with Invest in Türkiye and Born2Global, hosted the "Türkiye Market Entry Strategy Seminar". The seminar was organized to support the successful market entry of Korean companies into the Turkish market. ITPO Korea initiated a new cooperation with Born2Global, as a deep-tech startup support platform for global expansion, leveraging its abundant experiences in the Turkish market. Over 30 participants from 16 entities participated in the seminar.

This seminar provided information for formulating Turkish market entry strategies and insights for technology exchange, establishing a solid foundation for active business exchange between Korea and Türkiye. Notably, the seminar was attended by Deputy Head of Mission of the Turkish Embassy in Korea, who emphasized the importance of overseas expansion for SMEs and startups, as well as the need to enhance collaboration between companies from both countries.

The seminar featured speakers from 'Invest in Türkiye', who introduced the positive investment environment of Türkiye, provided information on various incentive systems and new investment opportunities, and emphasized the positive economic outlook for the future. In addition, a speaker from Born2Global shared a case of a Korean company that has successfully entered the Turkish market. The last speaker from You&Me Patent & Law Firm analyzed the Turkish market trend from the perspective of patent information, highlighting the technology-based business expansion.

04
Embassy Invitation Program: Peru
13 December 2023

ITPO Korea hosted the 'Embassy Invitation Program: Peru', to support the entry of Korean entrepreneurs into the Peruvian market.

H.E. Excellency Paul Fernando Duclós Parodi, the Peruvian Ambassador to Korea, expressed keen interests in ITPO Korea's programs and pledged active cooperation, particularly in ensuring the successful operation of the Advisory Programme in Peru.

Key investment professionals in the Peruvian market attended at the corporate invitation event, including Mr. Erick Garcia (the representative of PROMPERÚ in Korea), Ms. Haydee Deza Clavo (Second Secretary of the Embassy of Peru in Korea), and Ms. Hyun-jo Kim (Chief Director of the Business Division of Korea K-PASS Company Export Association). Mr. Erick Garcia provided insights into Peru's economic and geographical advantages, offering information for Korean companies seeking to enter the Peruvian market.

The event concluded with networking sessions and one-on-one meetings between the Embassy officials and participating companies. Mr. Erick Garcia acknowledged the excellent technological capabilities of Korean companies and expressed commitment to promptly addressing and supporting their specific requests for the Peruvian market entry.
TECHNOLOGY AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER

ITPO Korea is committed to promoting the transfer of advanced technologies, aiming for inclusive and sustainable industrial development in developing countries. Simultaneously, it seeks to foster collaborative innovation between developed and developing nations. As part of its initiatives, ITPO Korea annually conducts industrial visits to showcase and introduce sustainable technologies suitable for developing nations. Collaborating with governments and public institutions, ITPO Korea identifies promising businesses and technologies, subsequently promoting them globally through the annual publication of a technology database and an online platform.

01
Study Tour on Basic Environmental Facilities for 16 Government Officials from 12 Countries
21 February 2023

ITPO Korea organized a “Study Tour on Basic Environmental Facilities” for 16 government officials from 12 developing countries, including Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Colombia, Congo, Indonesia, Kenya, Laos, Mongolia, Rwanda, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Uzbekistan.

They visited an exemplary environmental infrastructure which introduced a new environmental concept in Korea, housing waste treatment and sewage treatment facilities located 25 meters underground.
ITPO Korea organized a "Study Tour on Agricultural and Livestock Sectors for Government Officials from Developing Countries" with the aim of fostering technology transfer, encouraging investments, and boosting technological capabilities in the agricultural and livestock sectors of developing nations.

As part of this initiative, ITPO Korea extended invitations to 13 government officials from 9 countries, including Cameroon, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Nigeria, Philippines, Rwanda, Uganda and Uzbekistan.

They visited a company that specializes in domestic poultry and has a modern poultry factory that prioritizes animal welfare. The company is renowned for its high standards of hygiene, safety, and commitment to environmental, social, and governance (ESG) management. The participants had the opportunity to observe the excellent poultry farming processes and stringent quality control measures in the domestic broiler facilities, as well as the hygiene and quality management in the distribution process. They were particularly interested in product management through the animal welfare broiler system and shared various opinions.

The government officials also visited the "Gyeonggi Agricultural Research Institute", a significant institution for agricultural research and technology dissemination in Korea. The participants had the opportunity to see real-time data analysis processes at smart farms and greenhouse facilities. They showed great interest in adopting Korea's smart farming technology for their agricultural industries and shared their opinions on harvest periods, yields, and IoT integration methods.

"It was a great opportunity to see the technologies with my own eyes and broaden my knowledge of Korea's advanced technologies in the agricultural and livestock sector, and I will visit again with government officials in my home country later."

Dormambek Timur, an animal specialist at the Ministry of Natural Resources, Ecology and Technical Supervision of Uzbekistan.
ITPO Korea sponsored an online international symposium hosted by the National Institute of Green Technology (NIGT) and the Asian Society for Innovation and Policy (ASIP).

The key stakeholders and experts on green and climate technology attended this event. In particular, Sunyoung SUH, a clean-tech innovation expert of UNIDO, presented "CleanTech Innovation Ecosystem and energy partnerships." She introduced the cases and implications of UNIDO’s efforts in contributing to climate change mitigation through the adoption of green technologies by SMEs and startups. In the following panel discussion, various ideas were proposed, including greentech and climate technology demonstration commercialization based on sustainability between Korea and ASEAN, strengthening networks among industry-academia-research institute, and planning efficient platforms for green and climate technology cooperation.

A delegation led by Mr. Ma Zhifeng, Vice Mayor of Zhengzhou, the capital city of Henan Province, China, visited ITPO Korea.

Mr. Ma provided insights into the current status of major industries in Zhengzhou, exploring avenues for Korean companies to invest in Zhengzhou and establish a presence in the local market.

Following the discussions, the delegation visited d-camp, Korea’s largest startup incubator, to gain firsthand insights into the current landscape of Korean startup development and the innovative ventures housed there.

Recognizing the significance of fostering collaboration, both parties agreed on the importance of identifying opportunities for cooperation between Korea and China. They emphasized the potential for future exchanges between startups from both countries to drive innovation and strengthen bilateral ties.
ITPO Korea held an appointment ceremony for the Investment and Technology Advisory Platform (ITAP) Country Club-Korea. The ITAP Country Club-Korea would serve as an advisory body for ITPO Korea, comprising nine experts from various sectors, including academia, industry, and government. These experts were appointed to regularly provide advice on ITPO Korea’s projects and activities.

During the event, an overview of the key initiatives of ITPO Korea was presented, leading to a discussion session. Advisory members of the ITAP Country Club-Korea engaged in discussions, contributing insights and professional recommendations. Notably, these discussions covered various topics, ranging from addressing challenges encountered in the execution of ITPO Korea’s projects to proposing ideas for new ventures. The appointment of advisory members from diverse sectors facilitated a comprehensive exchange of opinions.

Mr. Muyeong Shin, Head of ITPO Korea, attended the "1st World Foodtech Conference & Expo" as a speaker. This event, Korea’s premier foodtech exhibition, was hosted by the Korea Foodtech Council, the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry, the President’s Special Committee on Agriculture, Fisheries and Rural Affairs, the Seoul National University Foodtech Center, and COEX. With over 300 booths and nine conference sessions, the event aimed to provide comprehensive insights into the realm of foodtech.

Mr. Shin delivered a presentation on UNIDO’s agri-food programs and outlined the plans for the foodtech sector in 2024. His presentation highlighted key activities and project cases related to foodtech. In addition, ITPO Korea took the opportunity to inform diverse stakeholders about the upcoming Global Call 2024 and AIM-Global 2024, both centered around the theme of foodtech, with the intention of fostering active interest and participation.

The discussion marked a shift in perspectives towards food, transcending the conventional notion of “food” as nutritious substances. It emphasized the pivotal role that the integration of agri-food and technology will play in the future industrial development of developing nations.
Technology Database

CONCEPTS

ITPO Korea plays a pivotal role in advancing inclusive and sustainable industrial development by championing innovative, productive, and environmentally friendly technologies from diverse companies. This proactive approach aligns with the overarching goal of contributing to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

To facilitate technology transfer and investment, ITPO Korea maintains an up-to-date database featuring exemplary technologies and products sourced from the private sector. This resource is easily accessible to the public on ITPO Korea’s website and is also disseminated in the form of a booklet to (potential) development partners in Korea. This brochure, created in 2019, encompasses technologies from 152 companies to date.

REQUIREMENTS FOR REGISTRATION

Technologies will be reviewed and screened by ITPO Korea’s experts based on the following criteria: 1. Acceptance in developing countries. 2. Level of technology. 3. Sustainable competitive advantage. 4. Compatibility with UNIDO’s industrial development project. HOW TO REGISTER. Any company which wishes to register their technology, service, or product on ITPO Korea’s website can contact us by emailing itpo.souls@unido.org.

DISCLAIMER

ITPO Korea endeavors to provide a Technology Database of high quality, carefully selecting the data based on discerning and sound judgment. Nevertheless, ITPO Korea does not provide any warranties regarding the accuracy or reliability of the information, products, or services contained in the database. ITPO Korea shall not be held liable for any consequences resulting from the reliance on the information.
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