



# NATIONAL DAY of the REPUBLIC OF KOREA

## Harmony in Progress: the Friendship of Korea - Bangladesh

Korean National Foundation Day reflects on the nation's journey and its contributions to the international community, standing as a testament to how its vibrant partnership with Bangladesh has evolved from a donor-recipient relationship into a strategic, forward-looking alliance.

The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) serves as a fundamental pillar of the bilateral relationship between Bangladesh and the Republic of Korea. Its development programs, funded through Official Development Assistance (ODA), are strategically designed to support Bangladesh's national development goals.

**Major Projects:** KOICA has been contributing significantly in different sector of Bangladesh for the last nine months. Major contribution includes commitment of \$55 million to key sectors: health insurance (\$15M), ICT education (\$12M), climate-resilient infrastructure in Dhaka (\$20M), and local governance (\$8M).

**Economic Impact:** The agency's work indirectly bolsters trade and commerce by upgrading crucial infrastructure and enhancing workforce skills through vocational training. Furthermore, its efforts to improve the investment climate through regulatory reforms and Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) are vital for attracting Foreign Direct Investment (FDI). Despite political turbulence in Bangladesh, Korean FDI is expected to grow as stability returns.

**Social & Cultural Bonds:** Beyond economic development, KOICA fosters strong people-to-people ties. Its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives include deploying volunteers and partnering with Korean corporations on community projects. Culturally, it strengthens bilateral relations through exchange programs and by sponsoring training in Korea for over 1,500 Bangladeshi officials annually.

In essence, through its strategic financial contributions and diverse projects, KOICA plays an instrumental role in fostering sustainable development in Bangladesh, thereby deepening economic cooperation and cultural bonds between the two nations.



A delegation of KOIPA visited the office of KBCCI on January 2025



Chief Advisor Professor Mohammad Yunus presenting the Honorary Citizenship of Bangladesh to Mr. Kihak Sung

In a landmark event in April 2025, the Bangladesh Investment Summit honored Youngone Corporation Chairman Mr. Kihak Sung with the prestigious Honorary Citizenship of Bangladesh. The award was formally presented by Chief Advisor Professor Mohammad Yunus at the Hotel Intercontinental, Dhaka, in recognition of Mr. Sung's decades of dedication to Bangladesh's industrial growth and economic progress.

Mr. Sung's pioneering vision in establishing the Korean Export Processing Zone (KEPZ), the first privately owned EPZ in the country, has been a catalyst for attracting large-scale foreign investment, generating employment, and promoting sustainable industrial practices. Beyond economic impact, his initiatives have also contributed to advancing environmental stewardship and community development in Bangladesh. The recognition also highlights Mr. Sung's enduring efforts in strengthening Bangladesh-South Korea economic relations, creating new avenues of bilateral cooperation, and setting a model for long-term partnership between the two nations.

From pioneering investments to knowledge sharing and technology transfer, Korea has consistently stood as a trusted partner in advancing Bangladesh's industrial and social progress. This honor reflects not only Mr. Sung's personal legacy but also the strength of the Bangladesh-Korea friendship, setting a shining example of how collaboration between the two nations can drive sustainable growth and prosperity for generations to come. KBCCI (Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce & Industry) is proud to have Mr. Kihak Sung, Chairman of Youngone, as a valued member since its inception.

The Korea-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KBCCI), in collaboration with LG, hosted a highly anticipated event dedicated to K-Pop and Korean cuisine at the prestigious Gulshan Club on December 14, 2024. The event successfully brought a vibrant slice of modern Korean culture to Dhaka, drawing a large and enthusiastic audience from diverse backgrounds. Attendees were treated to an immersive experience, featuring electrifying K-Pop dance performances by talented local groups, interactive sessions celebrating Korean entertainment, and the opportunity to savor a wide variety of authentic Korean dishes prepared with care.

This cultural evening was more than just an entertainment showcase; it created a festive atmosphere that encouraged cross-cultural appreciation, dialogue, and connection. Distinguished guests, including representatives from both Bangladeshi and Korean communities, graced the occasion, further underlining the spirit of friendship and cooperation. The initiative not only highlighted the universal appeal of the Korean wave (Hallyu) but also positioned KBCCI as an active facilitator of cultural diplomacy, bridging communities through shared experiences. By blending music, food, and cultural expression, the event marked another milestone in strengthening people-to-people ties and fostering deeper understanding between Bangladesh and South Korea.



K Pop Event & Korean Food Festival by KBCCI in Collaboration with LG

As we celebrate Gaecheonjeol (National Foundation Day of Korea), the story of Korea in Bangladesh is one of tangible impact. From the life-saving medical equipment donated by KOICA to public hospitals to the policy frameworks shaped by KDI, the Korean flag flies not just as a symbol of a nation, but as a symbol of partnership, innovation, and shared future.

It is proven that the Korea-Bangladesh relationship is built on a solid foundation of mutual respect and common ambition. As both nations look ahead, this partnership stands as a proud achievement on Korea's foundation day—a bridge of friendship and prosperity spanning across Asia.



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