

Digitalization & Education:

Right of Access to Information and Lifelong Education of Older Persons in Korea

12-13 November 2018, Vienna

IM, Hong Jae
Executive Director, ASEM Global Ageing Center(AGAC)

CURRENT STATUS OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION FOR OLDER PERSONS

Access to Digital Information

- The ownership rate of desktop (laptop) computers among older persons aged 50 years or older in Korea was 56.4%, 26.2%p lower than 82.6% for younger people.
 - The Mobile device ownership rate for younger persons was 89.5%, while the rate among older persons aged 50 years or older was 65.2%.
 - Among older persons aged 50 years or older, as the age increased, the levels of information access were drastically decreased.
- ❖ Desktop ownership(56.4%) : 50+(82.4%) → 60+(57%) → 70+(32.7%)
- ❖ Mobile ownership(65.2%) : 50+(94.1%) → 60+(76%) → 70+(28.8%)

*Source : Ministry of Science and ICT and Korea Information Society Agency (2017), *The Report on the Digital Divide 2017*

Digital Information Capability Level

- According to a survey on how many of the seven tasks can be done by older persons aged 50 years or older using a computer, **Internet connection and use** was the highest at 24.4%, while malicious code detection and removal was the lowest at 15.8%.
 - ✂ Computer literacy indicators: ① Software installation and deletion, ② Internet connection and use, ③ Web browser configuration, ④ Connection and use of various external devices, ⑤ File transfer via Internet, ⑥ Malicious code detection and removal, ⑦ Document and material preparation

*Source : Ministry of Science and ICT and Korea Information Society Agency (2017), *The Report on the Digital Divide 2017*

Digital Information Usage Level

- While the rate of the Internet use for younger persons was 90.3%, the rate for older persons aged 50 years or older was 66.5%.
 - ✂ Rate of Internet Use(66.5%) : 50+(95.5%) → 60+(76.7%) → 70+(29.4%)
- When 100% is the assumed rate of social media use (messengers, social network services) among younger persons, the rate of use among older persons aged 50 years or older was 70.5%.

*Source : Ministry of Science and ICT and Korea Information Society Agency (2017), *The Report on the Digital Divide 2017*

CURRENT STATUS OF EDUCATION FOR OLDER PERSONS

- Education for older persons in Korea is provided by both welfare facilities (leisure welfare facilities) for older persons and lifelong education system.
- Leisure welfare facilities including welfare leisure centers for older persons and classes for older persons lack expertise as their programs are more focused on leisure purpose not on human resource development.

- Given that there is no specific provision for older persons in the Lifelong Education Act, Lifelong education which is regarded for all people hasn't taken education for older persons as a serious issue.
- In 2018, the Korean government **established the 4th Basic Plan for the Promotion of Lifelong Education('18-'22)** and rolled out **plans to provide tailored education for older persons.**

Classification	Leisure Welfare Facilities	Lifelong education facilities
Relevant laws	Act on Welfare of Older Persons	Lifelong Education Act
Ministry concerned	The Ministry of Health	The Ministry of Education
Education providers	Welfare centers for older persons, classrooms for older persons	Lifelong learning centers, lifelong learning education centers, religious institutions
Characteristics and limitations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - It is handled at the leisure welfare level for utilizing leisure time rather than developing human resources - Lack of expertise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Absence of explicit legal provisions for elderly education - The government's 4th Basic Plan for the Promotion of Lifelong Education ('18~'22) : Introduced provisions including diversifying elderly programs, providing support for academic courses, nurturing specialists for lifelong education for older persons

CURRENT STATUS OF INFORMATION EDUCATION FOR OLDER PERSONS

- **Status**

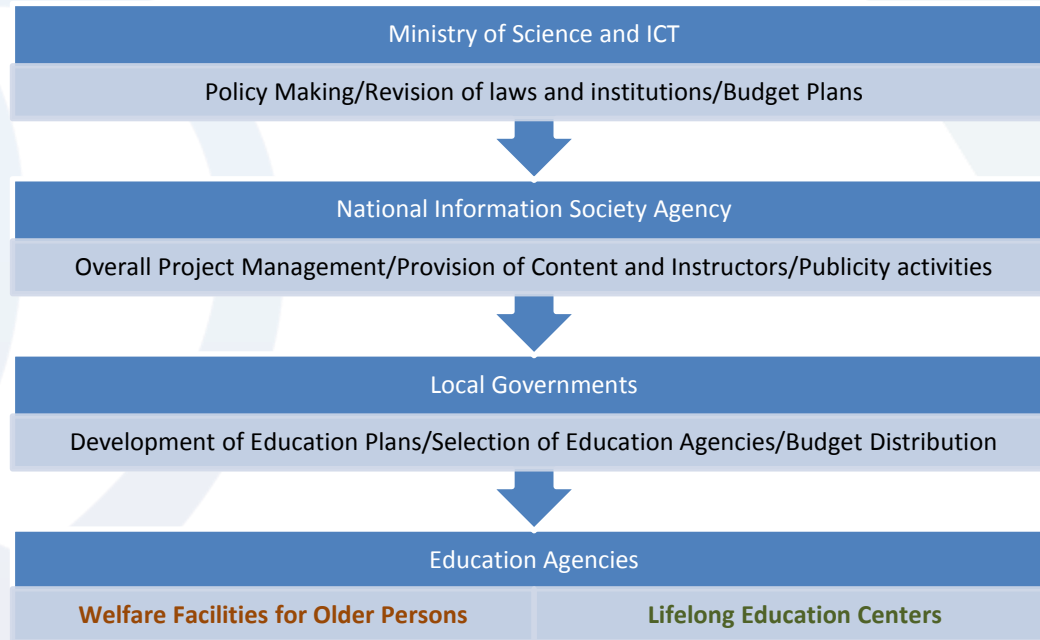
- Only about 624,000 older persons received information education between 2000 and 2017.
- The information education is conducted by National Information Society Agency under the Ministry of Science and ICT.

*Source : Ministry of Science and ICT and Korea Information Society Agency (2017),
The Report on the Digital Divide 2017

- **Challenges & Tasks**

- The education system for older persons is fragmented.
- Unified or reorganized system for information education for older persons is required.
- Recognition of older persons as human resources is needed.

➤ Proposed System for Information Education for Older Persons



*Source : Above table is remade with Bok-Ja Lee(2015), A Study on the Effective Direction of Information Policies to Enhance the Information Level for the Elderly, Korean Journal of Gerontological Social Welfare vol.68, pp. 107-132

PROGRESS ON OLDER PERSONS' RIGHT OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND FUTURE CHALLENGES

National Human Rights Commission of ROK

- **Recommendation for System Improvement to Guarantee the Older Persons' Right to Information Access (2014. 12. 18.)**
 - To come up with ways to apply universal design to ICT devices and screen design for older users.
 - To establish plans and policies to develop content suitable for older persons.
 - To establish a system for public-private partnership for efficient information education for older persons.

ASEM Global Ageing Center

- Plans to monitor policy implementation regarding older persons' right to information access and raise awareness on human rights of older persons.
- ASEM Global Ageing Center is currently working to be designated as an institution to provide education on human rights of older persons.
 - * The revision of the Welfare of Older Persons Act (Article 6, paragraph 3) in 2017 makes it mandatory for founders and workers at welfare facilities for older persons to receive education on human rights of older persons.
- ASEM Global Ageing Center intends to share experience and cases in Korea such as nurturing human rights instructors for older persons with ASEM Partners.

THANK YOU