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# **The Moon Jae-in Administration's**

## **Policy Tasks** Performance over the Past **Four Years**

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May, 2021

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## Overview of Policy Tasks

# 1 Framework of Policy Tasks

## “National Vision - Five Policy Goals - 20 Policy Strategies - 100 Policy Tasks - 528 Action Plans”

The Moon Jae-in administration has set five policy goals and 20 policy strategies and has selected key policies for each policy strategy as 100 policy tasks, under the national vision of “A Nation of the People, a Just Republic of Korea.” These 100 tasks originally entailed 487 action plans, which were later revised and supplemented, and the policy tasks encompass a total of 528 action plans as of May 2021.

### ▣ National Vision - Five Policy Goals - 20 Policy Strategies

National Vision	<b>A Nation of the People, a Just Republic of Korea</b>				
Five Policy Goals	A Government of the People	An Economy Pursuing Co-prosperity	A Nation Taking Responsibility for Each Individual	Balanced Development across Every Region	A Peaceful and Prosperous Korean Peninsula
20 Policy Strategies	1. Realizing the Democratic Spirit of Candlelight Vigils through Popular Sovereignty	1. Fostering a Job-creating Economy for Income-driven Growth	1. Building an Inclusive Welfare State that Benefits All	1. Promoting Autonomous Decentralization to Achieve Grassroots Democracy	1. Ensuring Strong National Security and Accountable Defense

20 Policy Strategies	2. Promoting Unity via Communication through the Gwanghwamun Presidential Office	2. Pursuing a Vibrant and Fair Economy	2. Providing Full Government Support for Childcare and Education	2. Ensuring Balanced National Development for Co-prosperity	2. Working toward Inter-Korean Reconciliation and Cooperation as well as the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula
	3. Creating a Transparent and Competent Government	3. Creating an Economy for the Working and Middle Classes	3. Creating a Safe Society to Protect Public Safety and Lives	3. Developing Rural Communities to Attract New Residents	3. Practicing Dignified Diplomacy to Lead International Cooperation
	4. Implementing Democratic Reforms of Power Institutions	4. Pioneering the Fourth Industrial Revolution through the Advancement of Science and Technology	4. Fostering a Fair Society that Respects Labor and Promotes Gender Equality		
		5. Promoting Entrepreneurship and Innovation-driven Growth Led by Small and Medium-sized Business Ventures	5. Building a Nation of Free and Creative Culture		
100 Policy Tasks (528 Action Plans)	15 Tasks (74 Action Plans)	26 Tasks (151 Action Plans)	32 Tasks (170 Action Plans)	11 Tasks (57 Action Plans)	16 Tasks (76 Action Plans)

## 2 | National Vision and Five Policy Goals

### 1. National Vision : A Nation of the People, a Just Republic of Korea

#### ● A Nation of the People

“A Nation of the People” represents the realization of a new administration that adopts the constitutional principle of popular sovereignty as the basis for state administration. The vision of “A Nation of the People” pursues the aims of reflecting the will of the people in running state affairs, thereby enabling the people to participate in all aspects of state administration and moving toward establishing a government of all the people as opposed to a government in which one person has all the power, and the politics of cooperation and unity as opposed to elitism.

#### ● A Just Republic of Korea

Creating “A Just Republic of Korea” is an historic task of utmost priority in order to respond to the public anger toward the deep-rooted evils of Korean society and the public demand for livelihood reforms. The vision of “A Just Republic of Korea” aims to eradicate privileges and foul play, uphold principles and common sense, ensure equal opportunities for everyone, and build a country in which there are no unfair discrimination or gaps.

### 2. Five Policy Goals

#### 1 A Government of the People

The Moon Jae-in administration has been working toward a new government system to achieve popular sovereignty in systemic and everyday aspects. Creating “A Government of the People” is to build a government for all the people by relinquishing excessive presidential authority and carrying out democratic reforms of power institutions.

#### 2 An Economy Pursuing Co-prosperity

“An Economy Pursuing Co-prosperity” is aimed at shifting the center of the economy from the state and companies to individual people and households, creating an economy where the fruits of growth are evenly distributed among all the people. The Moon Jae-in administration has been striving to create an economy where large companies can compete

with each other in the global markets, small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) can grow into middle-standing companies, and microenterprise owners and self-employed people are able to demonstrate their creativity in commercial alleys. In addition, the administration is also focused on providing full support for the development of science, technology, and future growth industries and creating a dynamic startup ecosystem in order to lead the Fourth Industrial Revolution. In particular, as the best form of welfare that facilitates growth, job creation comprises the core of “An Economy Pursuing Co-prosperity.”

#### 3 A Nation Taking Responsibility for Each Individual

The active role of the state is becoming increasingly highlighted as part of the effort to address social and economic inequalities and ensure a decent life for the people. The Moon Jae-in administration aims to achieve high-quality social cohesion, where all the people coexist and prosper together, by reinforcing the state responsibility for welfare, childcare, education, safety, and the environment, thus enhancing the quality of life of the people, ensuring the dignity of workers, and accomplishing gender equality.

#### 4 Balanced Development across Every Region

In order to ensure even development across the country, it is necessary to first promote autonomous decentralization and balanced development. The Moon Jae-in administration aims to push ahead with decentralization through the transfer of authority from the central government to local levels and the expansion of fiscal resources for local governments, while achieving grassroots democracy by enhancing citizen autonomy and bridging the gap between central and local governments and between local municipalities by laying the foundation for independent regional growth.

#### 5 A Peaceful and Prosperous Korean Peninsula

Peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula represent the most important values that Korea must seek in both international and inter-Korean relations. One of the policy goals set by the Moon Jae-in administration is to make a major breakthrough in inter-Korean relations by steadily promoting inter-Korean dialogues, exchanges, and cooperation, while assigning top priority toward ensuring strong and competent national security and accountable national defense to denuclearize the Korean Peninsula and promoting dignified diplomacy in leading international cooperation efforts to achieve a peaceful Korean Peninsula.

### 3 | Achievements and Future Tasks

The four years after the launch of the Moon Jae-in administration was a challenging journey to make Korea into a better country. Despite many difficulties, the Moon administration has made significant inroads into age-old societal tasks such as establishing an inclusive welfare state, reforming power institutions, and strengthening substantive autonomous decentralization. However, despite these efforts, there were some areas where the promotion of policy tasks was somewhat slow due to issues such as conflicts of interest, while there were other areas where performance was not enough to satisfy public expectations. In particular, as the worldwide spread of COVID-19 since the end of 2019 continues to pose a major threat to state administration, the Moon administration is placing the top priority of state administration toward efforts to overcome the pandemic.

#### Ensuring a Resilient Government against COVID-19 and the Resultant Crisis

- Preventing the large-scale spread of COVID-19 by adopting rapid infection prevention measures including the Korean quarantine (“K-Quarantine”) model
- Minimizing economic repercussions by implementing active crisis management measures including preemptive fiscal policies

#### ● Success of the K-Quarantine Model

The Moon Jae-in administration immediately set up an emergency response system amid the unprecedented crisis of the COVID-19 pandemic and focused national capabilities on responding to the coronavirus. First, the Central Disaster Management Headquarters headed by the Minister of Health and Welfare was expanded and reorganized into the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters headed by the Prime Minister, and the Moon administration prepared to mount an all-out national response to the virus. Moreover, the Moon administration is handling the pandemic by swiftly establishing a governance system for infectious disease prevention and control, such as the introduction of a new vice-ministerial post responsible for public health at the Ministry of Health and Welfare as the competent authority, as well as the elevation of the Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention into the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency. In addition, the incumbent administration adopted the 3T (testing,

tracing, and treatment) strategy to stop the spread of the infectious disease and is slowing down the spread of the coronavirus by implementing social distancing with robust public cooperation. On top of this, the Korean government promptly took creative steps to prevent the spread of COVID-19, including the operation of community treatment centers and the installation of drive-thru testing sites and screening stations. As a result, Korea has positioned itself as a model country for dealing with the coronavirus and attracted global applause by fully curbing the spread of the infectious disease without imposing a complete lockdown and successfully managing large-scale nationwide events such as the general elections and the annual College Scholastic Ability Test amidst the pandemic. This success of the K-Quarantine model was possible thanks to public solidarity and cooperation such as the dedication of the nation's medical personnel toward patients and the voluntary participation of the entire population. The world is paying attention to the achievements of the “K-Quarantine” model, and the Korean-style infectious disease response model has spread to various countries around the world, contributing greatly to protecting humankind from the coronavirus. Along with thorough quarantine efforts, the Korean government is exerting its best efforts to protect public health by swiftly securing enough vaccines to inoculate 99 million people. COVID-19 vaccinations began in Korea on February 26, 2021, and the original target of vaccinating 3 million people was exceeded as of April. The Korean government will endeavor to the best of its ability to ensure that the entire population can be freed from masks and quickly return to normal life, by offering vaccine shots to all without any disruptions in the future.

#### ● Korean-style Economic Response Strategies

The Moon Jae-in administration dedicated its best endeavors toward minimizing the economic fallout resulting from COVID-19 and overcoming this unprecedented crisis by formulating crisis response and economic recovery measures worth KRW 570 trillion and drawing up supplementary budgets (totaling KRW 82 trillion) five times in 2020. The incumbent administration convened meetings with the newly-formed Emergency Economy Central Countermeasure Headquarters in order to overcome the crisis at a government-wide level and devised more than 150 measures for crisis management and economic recovery, including measures to alleviate the rent burden on microenterprise owners and to vitalize a contact-free economy. On top of this, the Moon administration is not only striving to surmount the immediate crisis, but also aiming to facilitate Korea's status as a leading country in the post-COVID-19 era by formulating a stimulus package named the Korean

New Deal, which is designed to foster future growth engines. The Korean government has been providing livelihood support through direct disaster relief measures including four rounds of coronavirus relief funds, employment retention subsidies, and emergency employment stability subsidies since 2020. In addition, the Korean government is providing aid programs including the New Hope Fund for Microenterprises and the Microenterprise Support Fund, and the Support Fund Plus to stabilize the livelihoods of microenterprise owners impacted by COVID-19. The incumbent administration is focused on maintaining job security and providing damage compensation by setting a KRW 30.5 trillion employment budget and a KRW 14.9 trillion fiscal policy in 2021. Due to these active Korean-style economic response strategies, Korea ranked third place in terms of economic growth rate among G20 members, posting minus one percent growth in 2020 even amid the COVID-19 crisis, and strengthened its global position by demonstrating the crisis resilience of the Korean economy as demonstrated by the fact that the scale of its economy ranked 10th in the world, moving up two notches from 2019

### The Korean New Deal and Carbon Neutrality

- Promoting Korean-style New Deal projects including the Digital New Deal, the Green New Deal, and the Regionally Balanced New Deal
- Making Korea's commitment as a responsible global leader such as the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Declaration

#### ● Korean New Deal

The Moon Jae-in administration rolled out a development and relief package, dubbed the "Korean New Deal," in order to prepare for the post-coronavirus era. In order to provide impetus to the Korean version of the New Deal, the Moon administration is smoothly implementing follow-up measures including the operation of the Government-Ruling Party Joint Headquarters for the Promotion of the Korean New Deal, the assembly of Korean New Deal strategy meetings, and the formulation of methods to provide budget and tax relief. Moreover, the incumbent administration has laid the groundwork for the expansion of the Korean New Deal into the private sector and local areas by operating a task force on legal and institutional reforms with the participation of the financial sector, the ruling party, and the central government, as well as making field-oriented legal and institutional improvements and carrying out deregulation. The administration is systematically pushing

for the Korean New Deal package by mapping out strategies for the Digital New Deal, the Green New Deal, and the Regionally Balanced New Deal. With regard to the Digital New Deal, the Korean government is overcoming immediate challenges and proactively anticipating future changes by further advancing the data, network, and artificial intelligence (AI) ecosystem as a vital pillar of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, as well as promoting the digital transformation of education infrastructure, fostering contact-free industries, and digitalizing social overhead capital (SOC). As Korea has made unremitting efforts to expand its 5G network since launching the world's first 5G service, Korea's 5G service quality is rated at the top level across the world, as demonstrated in the fact that the country ranked first out of 15 major countries in terms of 5G service quality in 2020 and that convergence projects to apply digital technologies to industrial settings are currently underway as illustrated in the creation of the government-wide integrated "National AI Strategy" and the development of Korea's first AI semiconductor for data centers. The administration is also endeavoring to raise the competitive edge of the Korean renewable energy ecosystem by devising a plan for offshore wind power generation, introducing the minimum requirement for solar module efficiency and the photovoltaic (PV) module carbon certification system, and working out a PV R&D innovation strategy as part of the Green New Deal. Meanwhile, as for the Regionally Balanced New Deal, the Korean government has declared 2021 as the "First Year of the Regionally Balanced New Deal" and is concentrating administrative and financial assistance on local governments' New Deal projects. In particular, the incumbent administration is conducting a study to formulate a strategy to initiate supra-regional cooperation projects led by local governments, and will select key Regionally Balanced New Deal projects in the first half of 2021. The Moon administration will dedicate utmost efforts toward producing results that will directly benefit the people in the arenas of the Digital New Deal, the Green New Deal, and the Regionally Balanced New Deal.

#### ● Carbon Neutrality

The Moon Jae-in administration unveiled a national vision and objective of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 with the launch of the Low-carbon Society Vision Forum in March 2019. Subsequently, the incumbent administration devised a strategy to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050 in conjunction with competent ministries and affirmed its commitments to simultaneously accomplish carbon neutrality, economic growth, and improved quality of life through the "2050 Carbon Neutrality Declaration." Furthermore, the administration submitted its 2050 Long-term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development

Strategy (LEDS) and 2030 Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) to the United Nations (UN), thereby demonstrating its commitment toward climate change response to the international community. The Korean government formed the “Carbon Neutrality Committee” under direct presidential supervision in May 2021, and plans to build the foundation for achieving a carbon-neutral society by 2050 by enacting a basic act on carbon neutrality. In addition, the government is promoting sales of eco-friendly vehicles (electric, hydrogen, and hybrid vehicles) so as to attain carbon neutrality in the transportation sector in accordance with the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Declaration. Accordingly, Korea made outstanding achievements such as becoming number one in terms of global sales of hydrogen cars and ranking fourth in electric vehicle (EV) exports in 2020; in particular, Korea proved its global competitiveness by exporting more than 100,000 EVs and producing the world's fifth-largest company in the EV sector.

### Expansion of Inclusive Welfare

- Bolstering welfare programs, tailored to different life cycle stages, such as the introduction of child benefits and the National Dementia Initiative
- Making efforts to realize a labor-respecting society and eliminate blind spots in the employment insurance system

### ● Bolstering Welfare Programs, Tailored to Different Life Cycle Stages, and Public Health Care

In concert with its COVID-19 response, the Moon administration has endeavored to alleviate public concern over medical and living costs by adopting policies for an inclusive welfare state where the government is responsible for the individual and social welfare of its citizens throughout their lives. The incumbent administration ensured income security for the public by extending health insurance coverage, increasing the basic old-age and disability pension benefits, and phasing out the family support obligation criteria to determine eligibility for Basic Livelihood Security Program benefits. The administration also created a secure childcare environment by introducing child allowances and an all-day care system and further strengthened national responsibility for education by making high school education free in a timely manner and abolishing tuition fees for national and public universities across the board. However, the issues of low birth rates and an aging population as well as the wealth gap between different income groups still remain unsolved, and life

satisfaction levels among the people call for further improvements. Although these issues are difficult to address in the short term, the government will continuously implement efforts to realize the goal of “A Nation Taking Responsibility for Each Individual” by working even more diligently in the future.

### ● Strengthening the Employment Safety Net for All the People

The Moon administration made high-quality job creation a top priority in its economic and social policies, and made government-wide efforts to increase jobs in the public and social services sectors and implement youth employment policies, while also carrying out various policies to realize a labor-respecting society. The Korean government improved the quality of life among workers by gradually raising the minimum wage and adopting the 52-hour workweek system, and sought to create a non-discriminatory work environment by pursuing policies to promote the conversion of non-regular employees into regular ones. The incumbent government also introduced safeguards for the hard-to-employ and workers in non-standard forms of employment by implementing the National Employment Support System and expanding the coverage of industrial accident compensation insurance. Although there is still a long way to go for the government to create jobs and enhance the quality of employment in a situation where the employment conditions have rapidly deteriorated due to COVID-19, the government nevertheless plans to keep up its efforts to improve employment indicators by mobilizing all of its policy capabilities in the future.

### Taking a Leap as a Global Leader

- Maintaining steady economic development and Promoting innovation-driven growth such as fostering the three key new industries
- Boosting inter-Korean exchanges and cooperative diplomacy in the international community as demonstrated in the first tripartite summit among the two Koreas and the U.S. and sharing the K-Quarantine model for disease prevention and control

### ● Continuous Economic Development

To date, the Korean economy has grown steadily and allowed Korea to approach and remain around the ranks of the global top 10 economies since 2017. For example, Korea became the seventh country to join the “30-50 Club,” referring to countries with a per-capita GNI of more than \$30,000 and a population of more than 50 million, as the first to



do so among formerly colonized countries. Last year, Korea achieved the highest economic growth rate among OECD countries despite the COVID-19 situation, and cemented its status as the world's seventh largest exporter amid a severe contraction in global trade.

### ● Promoting Innovation-driven Growth

The Moon Jae-in administration is actively working on innovation-driven growth. The administration has not only sought to build the infrastructure of the Fourth Industrial Revolution by successfully commercializing the world's first 5G network, but also focused on nurturing three key new industries (consisting of system semiconductors, bio-health, and future vehicles). As a result, Korea's exports in the system semiconductor and bio-health sectors have recently reached record highs, thereby showing that Korea's growth momentum remains in full swing. In addition, the second venture boom is accelerating in Korea as the amount of new venture funds and the value of venture capital investments exceeded all-time highs, and Korea is expected to invest more than KRW 100 trillion in research and development (R&D) in the near future, becoming the fifth country in the world to reach such a scale of R&D expenditure. Although improvements in external conditions such as the recovery of the global economy are expected in 2021, risk factors such as the repeated spread of COVID-19 and the proliferation of protectionism continue to linger. In response, the Korean government will put all efforts into enhancing economic vitality by promptly boosting domestic demand and revitalizing investment and exports, placing the top priority on achieving a fast and robust economic recovery. In addition, the administration will provide full support to increase Korea's growth potential through industrial innovation and structural reforms and to vitalize the aforementioned new industries in their early stages to become future growth engines.

### ● International Solidarity and Cooperation

Despite some progress in the peace process on the Korean Peninsula, including the successful hosting of the 2018 PyeongChang Winter Olympics and Paralympics, the first trilateral meeting involving the two Koreas and the U.S. at Panmunjom, and a joint visit to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) by the South Korean and U.S. Presidents, the circumstances subsequently became worse as communication channels between the two Koreas were cut off due to a sudden change in North Korea's outward stance and the policy of border closure adopted by the country in response to COVID-19. Despite these difficult circumstances, the Moon administration is continuing its efforts to reach a point of consensus for inter-

Korean cooperation in various fields by pursuing the restoration of the Donghae Bukbu Line railway and establishing the Center for Inter-Korean Forestry Cooperation. On top of this, in 2020, the administration shared the successful K-Quarantine model and the experience of dealing with the virus and provided disease prevention and control products to other countries, thereby enhancing cooperative diplomacy in the international community. As a result, Korea has been invited to the G7 Summit for two consecutive years. The administration will endeavor to the best of its ability to strengthen solidarity and cooperation in the international community.

### Efforts toward Fairness and Reforms

- Making efforts to realize a fair economy through the enactment and amendment of three fair economy laws
- Completing reforms of power institutions such as the adjustment of investigative authority between the prosecution and the police and the launch of the Corruption Investigation Office for High-ranking Officials (CIO)

### ● Establishing a Fair Economy

The Moon Jae-in administration has also endeavored to create a fair economy in which the benefits of economic growth are evenly distributed in the absence of foul play and power abuses. Through the enactment and amendment of three fair economy laws—the Commercial Act, the Monopoly Regulation and Fair Trade Act, and the Act on Supervision of Financial Groups—the incumbent administration has established the grounds for more transparent and sound corporate management. It has also corrected unfair trade practices in each sector of the economy by rectifying unfair practices in franchising and subcontracting and eradicating the misappropriation of technologies held by SMEs. At the same time, the spread of the cooperative profit-sharing system and the discovery of companies engaging in voluntary win-win cooperation have made it possible to mitigate the polarization between large corporations and SMEs. The government plans to make continued efforts to realize an economy where large corporations, SMEs, and microenterprises all thrive based on principles of win-win cooperation and trust in the future. It will also exert more efforts to ensure the safe landing of the above-described system so that the public can witness more tangible effects of the reforms to achieve a fair economy.

## ● Resolving Past Wrongdoings and Completing Reforms of Power Institutions

The government made a belated but official apology for the victims of the wrongful abuse of power by state institutions during the Jeju April 3 Incident and the May 18 Democratic Movement. In December 2019, the government launched the May 18 Democratization Movement Truth Commission in a bid to strengthen its efforts to resolve past wrongdoings. It has also carried out a thorough investigation into the truth of the recent political scandal involving civilian interference in state affairs, while making utmost efforts to improve relevant systems and practices with the aim to prevent the recurrence of such incidents. Moreover, the scope of government efforts to eradicate deep-rooted social evils has been expanded to encompass those closely related to the public's daily lives, such as corruption in schools and kindergartens, and hiring irregularities in public organizations. The government-wide anti-corruption system has been established through the Anti-Corruption Policy Consultative Council for Fair Society, which is chaired by the President. As a result, the government's efforts to enhance integrity have borne fruit across all sectors of Korean society. For instance, in the Corruption Perceptions Index (CPI) ranking released by Transparency International, Korea's standing rose steadily from 52nd (53 points) in 2016 to 33rd (61 points) in 2020, a record-high level. Significant progress has also been made in reforming power institutions, which was undertaken to build a government of the people. The launch of the CIO has severed the prosecution's monopoly on filing charges, which had lasted for the past 66 years, thereby laying the foundation for checks and balances against power institutions by completing reform bills such as the adjustment of investigative authority between the prosecution and the police and the implementation of the autonomous police system. The government will accelerate its efforts to implement follow-up measures, such as the overhaul of subordinate ordinances and the completion of organizational and personnel systems, to ensure the successful implementation of the completed reform tasks.

## ● Protecting the People's Lives and Safety from Disasters

The Moon administration has also exerted all-out efforts to protect the lives and safety of the public. The Occupational Safety and Health Act has been wholly revised for the first time in 29 years to prevent the externalization of risks and to promote the prevention-oriented intensive management of industrial accidents. Through the government-wide comprehensive measures for traffic safety, the traffic system has been reorganized to

focus on pedestrians and continuous efforts have also been made to designate protected areas and reinforce safety facilities. Thanks to these efforts, the number of fatalities from traffic and industrial accidents in 2020 dropped to the level of about 70 percent of the 5,100 fatalities recorded in 2017. Moreover, the government has solidified an institutional basis for swift and effective responses to sudden disasters by significantly increasing the numbers of firefighters and police officers as a workforce directly responsible for public safety and strengthening its function as a control center in the event of disasters. Even with regard to the issue of fine dust as a threat to public health, the government has achieved a significant result in improving the annual average concentration of fine dust through multifaceted efforts, such as the implementation of the seasonal management system and emergency fine dust reduction measures. The administration will make continuous efforts to protect the people's lives and health from various disasters and safety accidents in the future.

## ● Expanding Regional Autonomy and Achieving Balanced Development

Remarkable progress has also been made in terms of the expansion of regional autonomy and balanced development. The Local Autonomy Act was wholly revised for the first time in 32 years to establish the foundation for the substantive decentralization of autonomous authority. At the same time, the Moon administration improved the fiscal soundness of local governments through measures such as the promotion of the first stage of fiscal decentralization, which resulted in a rise of about KRW 8.5 trillion in the annual budgets of local governments, setting an all-time high. For the objective of balanced national development, the incumbent administration has exempted preliminary feasibility studies for 23 projects totaling KRW 24 trillion, while carrying out a variety of projects to revitalize local economies, including the expansion of daily life SOC and the Urban Regeneration New Deal Initiative. It also plans to promote multifaceted policies for autonomous and fiscal decentralization and balanced national development in the future. With a view to ensuring sufficient autonomy for local governments, the Moon administration will continuously seek ways to transfer government functions, while collecting a wide variety of opinions from various fields including central and local governments and experts so that the second stage of its proposed fiscal decentralization plan can be devised in a fruitful manner. Furthermore, the administration will actively promote measures to foster innovative cities as hubs for balanced national development, such as the development of regional clusters.



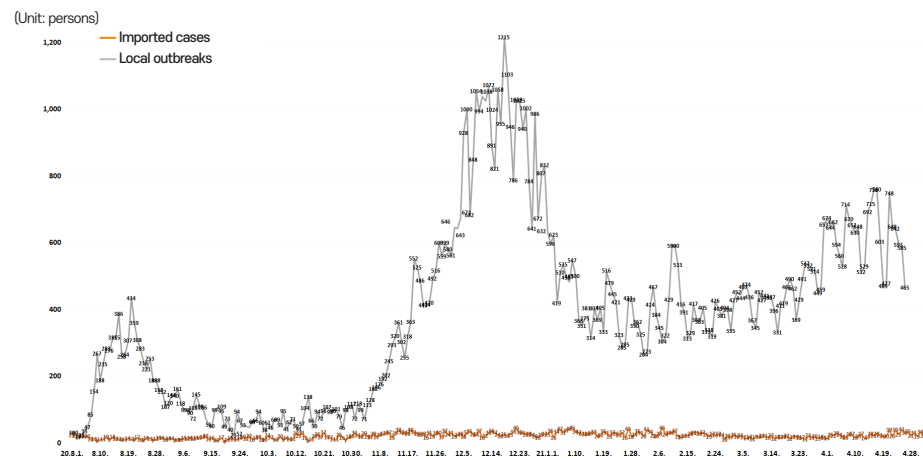
## **Response to COVID-19 and Preparation for the Post-COVID-19 Era**

## Response to COVID-19 and Preparation for the Post-COVID-19 Era

### Stable Suppression of COVID-19 Transmissions without Full Lockdowns

The Moon Jae-in administration has responded promptly and actively to the crisis situation triggered by COVID-19. Firstly, it elevated the Central Disaster Management Headquarters into the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters, to be led by the Prime Minister for the first time, with the aim to establish the command system in response to COVID-19. In addition, under the three principles of openness, transparency, and democracy, the administration has made active efforts to combat the spread of the infectious disease through the 3T strategy of tracing infections relentlessly, testing extensively, and treating infections after prompt isolation. Moreover, various efforts such as “social distancing” with the cooperation of the public, measures to stabilize the supply and demand of face masks, the strict management of persons in self-quarantine, and the first-ever online school opening have contributed to slowing down the spread of new infections and preventing the spread of the virus. In particular, the dedication shown by medical personnel toward patients and the voluntary participation of the public in these efforts have played a pivotal role in the success of Korea’s disease prevention and control campaign.

Status of Daily New Confirmed Cases of COVID-19



Through these efforts, South Korea has curbed the spread of COVID-19 in a stable manner without any full lockdowns, maintaining the third-lowest number of COVID-19 cases per 100,000 people out of the OECD countries. The OECD also gave South Korea high marks for its response to COVID-19 in August 2020, noting that “South Korea has minimized economic damage while controlling the disease without imposing any lockdowns.”

Status of COVID-19 Cases by Country (as of April 2021)

	South Korea	Japan	Canada	Germany	U.K.	U.S.	OECD average
Number of confirmed cases per 100,000 people	205.2	381.5	2,712.7	3,485.9	6,596.0	9,261.6	5,605.3

### Establishment of a Rapid Response System since the Initial Outbreak of COVID-19

#### Establishing the Command System of the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters

Immediately after the confirmation of the first case of COVID-19 in Korea on January 20, 2020, the Moon Jae-in administration held an emergency meeting to review possible responses to the virus, presided over by the Prime Minister, and mobilized a control center for infectious disease control. Thereafter, as the number of confirmed cases surged, the government raised the COVID-19 alert level to “Serious,” while simultaneously making active efforts at the government-wide level, such as assigning the Prime Minister to the head of the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters, the first organization of its kind. The administration laid the foundation for overcoming the national crisis by declaring special disaster zones in Daegu and Gyeongbuk (Cheongdo, Gyeongsan, and Bonghwa) regions, which saw a spike in confirmed cases, then conducting a daily monitoring of infection prevention and control efforts and formulating prompt response strategies.



Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasure Headquarters

### ● Building a Preemptive Testing System and a Treatment System

In 2020, the Moon administration facilitated the development of diagnostic kits for COVID-19 for the first time in the world, and installed screening stations at public health centers and emergency rooms nationwide to establish a preemptive testing system. Moreover, as the number of confirmed cases rose sharply in the early days of the outbreak of COVID-19, the administration reestablished the principle of hospital bed allocation based on the severity of patients, thereby building a patient treatment system to provide intensive inpatient treatment to patients with moderate or severe symptoms and to monitor and manage patients with asymptomatic infections or mild symptoms at community treatment centers. Amid a spike in confirmed cases, the government was able to effectively curb the community transmissions of the infectious disease by designating and operating state-run facilities, private training centers, etc. as community treatment centers.



Community treatment center in Daegu

### ● Improving the Substance of the Infectious Disease Response System

The Korea Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (KCDC) under the umbrella of the Ministry of Health and Welfare was elevated to launch a new independent central administrative body named the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency (KDCA). The KDCA is an agency dedicated to infectious disease control with a total of 1,476 staff, which is affiliated with the Korea National Institute of Health (KNIH), the Regional Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Tuberculosis Hospital, the National Quarantine Station, etc.



Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency

Moreover, the government introduced a new vice-ministerial post in charge of public health at the Ministry of Health and Welfare as the competent ministry, while expanding related organizations and workforce to reinforce its capabilities in health care policies.

## Stable Crisis Management in the Implementation of Response Measures

### ● Stabilizing the Supply and Demand of Face Masks

Due to the rapid spread of COVID-19, the supply of face masks failed to keep up with the surge in demand, resulting in a shortage of face masks. To address this problem, the Moon Jae-in administration endeavored to stabilize the supply and demand of face masks in Korea by implementing emergency supply and demand adjustment measures, which included the expansion of the supply of publicly-distributed face masks and restrictions on face mask exports. In addition, in order to increase the supply of face masks, the Moon administration significantly streamlined relevant customs procedures, such as expediting the approval process of new items and exempting import requirement verification for melt-down (MB) filters, which are components of face masks. Furthermore, to ensure the proper distribution of demand, it carried out a five-day rotation face mask distribution system, thereby ensuring a stable supply system for face masks.



Sale of publicly-distributed face masks

### ● Supporting the Safe Return of Korean Nationals from Overseas

The Moon administration made all-out efforts to support the safe return of Korean nationals who were stranded overseas due to border restrictions and lockdowns amid the global spread of COVID-19. The government promptly formed a task force to support the return of Korean expatriates and mobilized a variety of measures to this end, such as arranging charter flights and military aircraft to transport them, which led to the safe return of approximately 55,000 Koreans from 122 countries.



Return of Korean nationals from overseas

### ● Alleviating Border Entry and Exit Issues for Businesspeople

After introducing the fast-track entry procedure for businesspeople between South Korea and China, the government further expanded the fast-track entry procedure for a total of six countries including Indonesia, Singapore, Japan, and Vietnam. Thanks to this procedure, businesspeople in each country were able to avoid the inconvenience in the entry or exit procedures for business purposes.

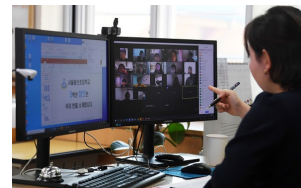


Fast-track entry procedure

Starting from August 2020, the government launched the Business Travel Support Center to provide one-stop support for addressing difficulties facing businesspeople in border entry or exit. The Center allowed businesspeople to easily handle various tasks, such as the issuance of the quarantine exemption document and the Health Condition Report to ensure convenience in border entry or exit procedures for businesspeople.

### ● Opening Schools Online for the First Time Ever

Despite difficulties in providing a safe learning environment due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the government implemented its first-ever online classes to guarantee students' right to education. The government strived to ensure the smooth start of online classes by opening classes in stages for each school level and grade through the EBS, Cyber Learning System, etc. The government also guaranteed disadvantaged students' right to education by loaning digital devices and providing Internet usage fees to students from low-income families, providing books and materials in braille and videos with sign language interpretation and subtitles to students with disabilities, and offering interpretation services and translated subtitles to students from multicultural families.



Opening of online classes

### ● Holding Nationwide Large-scale Events in a Smooth Manner

Even amid the COVID-19 situation, the government held the nationwide general elections in a smooth manner as the first country to do so around the world. Thanks to the public's cooperative attitude toward wearing face masks and observing social distancing at polling stations and the government's preemptive formulation of quarantine measures at polling stations and counting centers, not a single confirmed case was reported to be linked to the elections.



A voting polling for the April 15 general elections

With respect to the annual College Scholastic Ability Test (CAST), the government raised the social distancing level, while at the same time operating a special quarantine period for the CAST (from November 19 to December 3), which led approximately 420,000 students to take the CAST in a safe environment.

### ● Offering Free COVID-19 Vaccinations to the Entire Population

The government secured vaccines from overseas for 99 million people, enough to fully vaccinate the country's entire population and began administering vaccines to high-risk groups and medical personnel as a priority, including residents at convalescent hospitals, starting from February 2021. As of April 2021, the number of people who have received the vaccination has surpassed the government's target of three million, and the government is exerting all-out efforts to complete the first round of vaccinations for the entire general population by the third quarter with the aim to reach herd immunity by November.



COVID-19 vaccination

## Management of the COVID-19 Crisis and Preparation for the Post-COVID-19 Era

### ● Strengthening the Crisis Management System for the People's Livelihood and the Economy

In a bid to respond to the crisis situation, the Moon Jae-in administration held meetings on an ad-hoc basis, including the Emergency Economic Council meeting chaired by the President and the emergency economy meeting at the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister of the Economy. Through such efforts, the Moon administration devised measures worth KRW 570 trillion for overcoming the crisis and boosting economic recovery in 2020, while allocating KRW 30.5 trillion of the budget toward job creation and formulating measures worth KRW 14.9 trillion to finance relief aid in 2021. In particular, since March 2020, the government has drawn up five rounds of supplementary budgets totaling KRW 82 trillion to actively support measures to overcome the crisis.



Emergency Economic Council meeting

### ● Providing Emergency Relief Funds and Supporting Emergency Employment

As the spread of COVID-19 dealt a serious blow to the public's livelihoods and the economy in general, the government provided four rounds of emergency relief funds totaling KRW 38.6 trillion to help the public overcome the urgent crisis.

With a view to minimizing job instability stemming from the infectious disease, the government aggressively implemented employment measures such as granting employment retention subsidies worth KRW 2.3 trillion.



Providing emergency relief funds

### ● Supporting Microenterprise Owners and SMEs Affected by the Pandemic

In order to minimize the economic damage suffered by microenterprise owners and SMEs due to the pandemic and to revitalize domestic demand, including the stimulation of consumption, the government provided tax benefits such as reduced value-added tax, increased income deduction rates for credit card spending, and tax credits to landlords who voluntarily reduced rents. At the same time, the government offered direct support, including the New Hope Fund for Microenterprises (KRW 3.3 trillion), the Microenterprise Support Fund (KRW 4.1 trillion), and the Support Fund Plus (KRW 6.7 trillion), while creating an atmosphere of win-win cooperation through the "Nationwide Positive Prepayment Campaign."



Providing the Microenterprise Support Fund

### ● Promoting the Korean New Deal

With the aim to overcome the economic crisis driven by the COVID-19 pandemic and further to envision a new future for Korea, the Moon administration announced the Korean New Deal package in July 2020. The Korean version of the New Deal is a strategy that involves two pillars, namely the "Digital New Deal" to foster digital innovation across the entire economy and the "Green New Deal" to drive the transition toward an eco-friendly economy, which are supported by the "Stronger Safety Net" to ensure the solid protection of vulnerable groups. Furthermore, the government is also advancing the Regionally Balanced New Deal for the purpose of spreading the impact of the Korean New Deal to benefit all regions.

Under the Korean New Deal initiative, the government will accelerate its shift from a fast follower to a first-mover economy, from a carbon-dependent to a low-carbon economy, and from a socially-divided to an inclusive society.



Announcing the Korean New Deal to the people

## ● 2050 Carbon Neutrality Declaration

The seriousness of climate change has further come to the fore following the outbreak of COVID-19, as major countries such as the EU, China, and Japan have declared their commitment to carbon neutrality and the recently-inaugurated Biden administration in the United States has been pursuing the goal of carbon neutrality. As such, countries from around the world are implementing changes in line with the new paradigm of carbon neutrality. The Korean government is also actively participating in such trends within the international community by formulating implementation strategies to this end after announcing its 2050 Carbon Neutrality Declaration in December 2020. The government will carry out the implementation strategies to reach carbon neutrality by 2050 without disruptions so that it can achieve both carbon neutrality and economic growth, while simultaneously enhancing the quality of life for the people.



2050 Carbon Neutrality Declaration



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# The Moon Jae-in Administration's

## Policy Tasks Performance over the Past Four Years

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