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K-MOOC in pursuit of lifelong learning for all

– 2023 Basic Plan for K-MOOC announced –

Key Points

- ☐ 24.4 billion Korean won invested in Korean Massive Open Online Course (K-MOOC) offered for lifelong learning of all citizens
 - ☐ 15 K-MOOC leading universities newly selected, creating 500 new courses in 2023, totaling about 2,380 courses available
 - ☐ For personalized learning and improved usability, credential options and all-the-time learning are introduced and expanded
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- ☐ The Ministry of Education (Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, Lee Ju-Ho) and the National Institute for Lifelong Education (President, Kang Dae-Jung) announced the “2023 Basic Plan for Korean Massive Open Online Course (K-MOOC)” on January 31 (Tuesday).
 - K-MOOC was first launched in 2015 with an aim to contribute to the knowledge-sharing of all citizens, offering free online higher education courses. It continued to expand, in which, as of January 2023, approximately 1,879 courses are available online.
 - In line with the growth of K-MOOC contents, the number of accessed users has also risen. As of January 2023, over 1,160,000 K-MOOC registered users and 28,100,000 visitors have been enrolled in courses, and the number of foreigners accessed the courses has reached about 330,000 visits.

- In this regard, the Ministry of Education will develop and open quality courses that embeds new technologies and new industries to come with the social demands in the future, and improve the accessibility and usability of K-MOOC to offer learner-friendly services.
- The main pillars for the “2023 Basic Plan for K-MOOC” are as follows:

1 Offering diverse opportunities to serve the needs of learners

- 15 higher education institutions will be newly chosen as “K-MOOC leading universities and colleges,” where they will be required to open at least four new courses per year in accordance with their strengths and leading fields, in which at least two of those courses must be in the areas of new technologies and new industries.
- The Ministry will increase high-quality contents broadcasted in the field of liberal arts, and open “Korean Masters” courses participated by domestic and international scholars. In addition, courses that entail thematic units about Korea, the so-called “K-knowledge”, will be developed and offered, addressing various topics about Korea including its history, culture, economics, education, and future.
- New courses will be further added including 60 courses in a wide range of fields, 40 combined curriculum courses in professional fields in modules, as well as contents using new technologies, and interactive courses (K-MOOC+, 5 courses).
- Besides, the Ministry of Education plans to develop more than 8 courses in close coordination with NILE through an open-call in social and high-demand areas, and at least 3 courses in integrated university courses.

2 Supporting Learner-friendly services

- In order to facilitate learner-friendly services that offer reliable and

adoptable learning experiences, the K-MOOC learning data system will be provided under the higher education management system, and the K-MOOC credit management system will be integrated to the K-MOOC platform.

- In addition, the operating system (OS) will be leveraged to meet the needs of individual learners and to improve the learning environment, resolving issues such as changing the speed and repeat controllers of video-based K-MOOCs, sending and receiving real-time chats, as well as submitting projects.
- The course classification system will be improved, employed with standard course information (i.e., meta-data) to support the access to search engines. In order to aid learners' personalized learning and course planning, credentialing options will be developed and made available.

3 Expanding the base and use of K-MOOC

- Exemplary cases of K-MOOC certificate and credentialing options will be presented to higher education institutions, and arrangements will be entered into between universities and colleges so that K-MOOC users can easily earn higher education credits upon completion.
- The Ministry of Education will expand the base for K-MOOC, and offer support including the K-MOOC online educational program on the basis of coordinated and integrated efforts among corporations, provincial offices of education, local government, higher education institutions, as well as relevant organizations.
- In addition, the Ministry of Education will provide full support in serving the needs of global demands, working with various agencies such as overseas Korean education centers, higher education institutions, and National Institute for International Education. This will help attract more international students including leveraging the

Global Korea Scholarship program, offering diverse courses such as pre-requisite courses for international students and courses on enhancing overseas Korean national's level of understanding about Korea, making the learning experience more personalized to the needs of learners .

- For individuals, agencies, or consortiums that may wish to participate in K-MOOC will need to submit relevant documents to National Institute for Lifelong Education by 6 p.m., March 10 (Friday), 2023.
- The selection committee consists of various experts will conduct a selection evaluation in March, and finalists will be announced by the end of March.
- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho said, “Amid a series of challenges in today’s society such as the rapid change in the population structure and digital technology innovations, the Ministry of Education will raise the bar in advancing K-MOOC to a platform accessibly used by all citizens, and from the aspect of lifelong learning, we will continue to work to advance our society.”