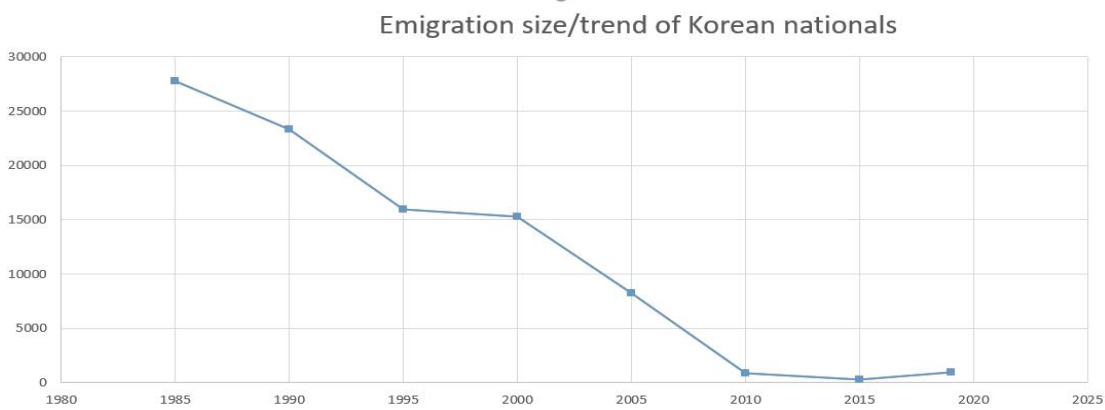


Voluntary GCM Review by The Republic of Korea

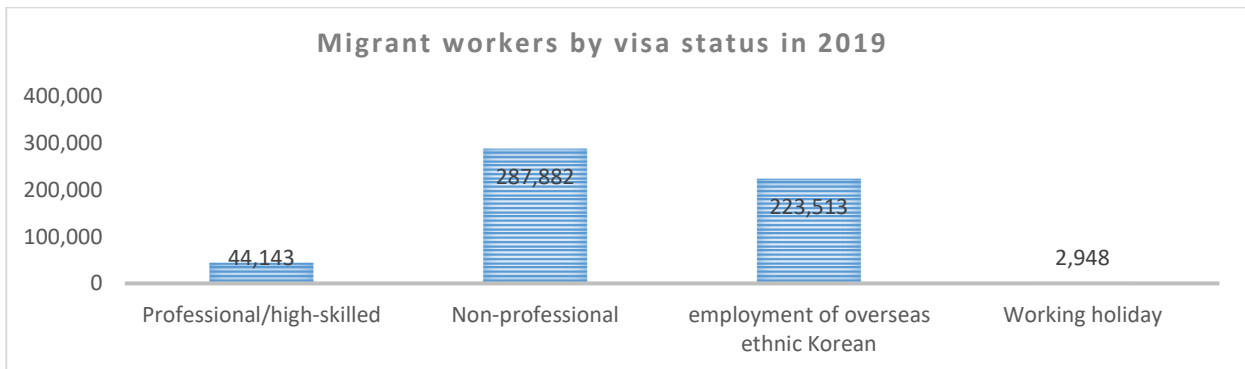
Question 1. Ensuring that migration is voluntary, orderly and regular.
(GCM Objectives: 2, 5, 6, 12, 18)

Q1A. Please highlight the migration levels and trends, including drivers (if possible), and migrant experiences relevant to this cluster of objectives.

In 1985, a total of 27,793 of Korean nationals emigrated but this figure dwindled to 980 in 2019. Emigration declarations have dramatically plummeted into three digit figures especially since 2010, which is a reflection of economic development and political/social stability in the country.



As of 2019, non-nationals who are residing in ROK for employment totalled 565,616, which is a 1.4% increase from 557,229 registered in 2010. As of 2019, non-nationals staying in ROK for long-term employment exceeding 91 days vary depending on their purpose – professional/high-skilled employment, non-professional employment, employment of overseas ethnic Koreans and employment relating to working holiday programme.



Note:

- 1) Professional/high-skilled status: Applicable to E1 (Professor), E2 (Foreign language instructor), E-3 (Research), E4 (Technology transfer), E5 (Professional employment), E6 (Artistic performer), E7 (Designated activities) visas
- 2) Non-professional status: Applicable to E9 (Non-professional employment), E10 (Crew employee) visas
- 3) Status of employment of overseas ethnic Koreans: Applicable to those who return to ROK for employment in non-professional sector
- 4) Working holiday-related status

As for international students, this group of people in ROK has steadily increased from 87,480 in 2010 to 180,131 in 2019 and top nationalities are People's Republic of China, Vietnam, Uzbekistan, Mongolia and Japan in order of total size of student population.

Natural disaster is becoming a notable factor propelling migration aside from economic and political factors, such as conflicts, civil wars and poverty. Roughly 40% of global natural disasters between 2005 and 2014 took place in the Asia-Pacific region and it affected 80% of global disaster victims and resulted in 45% of global loss arising from such disasters*.

* Source: Disasters without borders, Asia-Pacific Disaster Report 2015 (UNESCAP)

Q1B. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018)?

[Efforts to provide humanitarian aid for developing countries and supporting their disaster-responsiveness]

The ROK government has introduced a Framework Act on International Development Cooperation after becoming a member of DAC under OECD in 2010 and we have continuously increased the size of ODA to take part in an effort to support developing countries. The ODA budget allocated for this year is KRW 3 trillion 427 billion (approx. USD 3 billion) and it is a 2.5-times increase compared to 2010 (KRW 1 trillion 341 billion (approx. USD 1.1 billion), which is a testament that the ROK government is fulfilling its pledge to the international community to increase ODA size. As of 2018, the ODA/GNI ratio stood at 0.14%, which equals to KRW 2 trillion 400 billion (approx. USD 2 billion) and this places ROK on the 15th out of 29 DAC nations in terms of ODA size.

The ROK government and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) have also finalised and implemented Country Plan (CP) and Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. The government is working with international organisations, civil societies and local governments and helping refugees and the marginalised population living in conflict-ridden countries or at-risk countries or vulnerable migrants exposed to the risk of disasters and climate change. It also does not spare efforts to contribute more to Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) and Country-based Pooled Funds (CBPF).

In an effort to take concerted action against natural disasters in the Asia-Pacific region, the ROK government has implemented a project named "Providing new technologies to tackle natural disasters" and worked with the Philippines from 2013 to 2015 and with Vietnam and Laos from 2017 to 2019 to set up a flooding warning system and automated rainfall alert system. Other follow-up activities include holding seminars for government officials and experts in these countries to share our knowhow on preventing disasters and transferring related technologies to provide them with the best opportunities to upgrade their disaster responsiveness capacity.

[Efforts to introduce migrant worker-friendly policies]

The Korean government has categorised foreign workers into three groups - professional, quasi-professional/semi-skilled and low-skilled workers, depending on their level of skills and is implementing policies tailored to each group. Korean employers are allowed to directly hire foreign workers if they fall under one of the two groups - professional, quasi-professional /semi-skilled. However, this is not allowed if they wish to hire low-skilled or seasonal labourers as these group of people are highly exposed to the risk of

being exploited by illegal brokerage and crime during the process of seeking a chance to enter ROK. This is the reason the ROK government requires signing an MOU with central governments or local governments wishing to send low-skilled and seasonal labourers. Such a scheme enables both governments to act as middleman between potential employers and workers and create a labour pool in a transparent manner to invite labourers to ROK. Our government has been simplifying employment procedures to attract talented workers and creating a friendlier environment for them to settle in ROK. Once we discover sectors requiring quasi-professional or skilled workers, hiring foreign workers are being allowed once their credentials (e.g. level of education, demonstration of required skills by presenting relevant certificates, sufficient work experience etc.) are verified through various verification procedures. It has also laid out a pathway for low-skilled labourers to stay in ROK long-term and switch their visa if they are successful in acquiring skills to be categorised as professional or skilled.

[Efforts to protect human rights of migrant workers and equivalent group of migrants]

The domestic labour laws mandate both Korean nationals and migrant workers to be treated equally with the same rights. Migrant workers can be assisted by Counselling Centre for Foreign Workers, which provides services in 18 different languages should they need legal advice and support to resolve employment-related issues. They can also turn to Immigration Contact Centre (1345 Call Centre) and get support in 20 different languages if they report crimes and cases of human rights infringements to investigation organisations.

Korean employers with a history of sexual abuse are not allowed to hire migrant workers for five years and those who were punished for wage delinquencies are not allowed to hire migrant workers for three years. Punishment is imposed upon employers who take passports or Alien Registration Cards of workers into their custody. Our government has gone as far as protecting even irregular migrant workers if they became a victim of crimes. Government bodies responsible for collecting incidents of such crimes should never relay the victim's personal details to law enforcement authorities. This opened a pathway for victimised irregular migrant workers to seek legal assistance without fear of their identity being exposed.

Our government also acts to ensure special care for children under 8 years of age by allowing speedier immigration clearance at (air)ports for family members with children under this age and strengthening international cooperation to repatriate children abducted to ROK and Korean children abducted elsewhere in line with Act on the Implementation of the Hague Child Abduction Convention.

[Efforts to provide better access to information on migration]

The Korean government transparently opens information on immigration clearance procedures, visa requirements, resident requirements, naturalisation requirements, refugee requirements, procedures of handling immigration offenders through various channels – Korea Immigration Service homepage (www.immigration.go.kr), Facebook account, e-government for foreign residents (www.hikorea.go.kr) etc. It has also handed out social integration support programme leaflets, social integration programme video guides and booklets on employment in ROK at overseas Korean diplomatic missions and Korean language institutes. Migrant workers whose employment expires in the near future are supported with preparation for relocation back to his/her home country.

[Efforts to enhance capabilities of migrant workers and recognise certificates issued outside ROK]

The Korean government runs a scholarship programme for overseas talents and also supports international students in ROK to seek employment in the country by opening job fairs. This fair was held 8 times from

2011 to 2017, which attracted 792 Korean companies resulting in 518 international students landing a job in ROK. Some colleges are being designated as institutions dedicated to training non-nationals with techniques in the fields of casting, moulding and welding etc. Those who successfully completed their training and demonstrated their abilities are encouraged to seek a position in the field of their expertise in ROK. Similar job training projects, tailored to the demand of each community in developing countries, are being supported by ROK and our government is supporting successful individuals who completed their training to land a job in their community.

Marriage migrants and female migrant workers experience greater challenges in getting re-employed and this led the government to set up 158 Employment Resumption Support Centre for Women dedicated to supporting women who are taking a job break. Our government is also providing tailored job training to nurture them as medical tourism coordinators and language facilitators, to name a few.

With an aim to attract promising global start-ups, ROK government is running K-Startup Grand Challenge project and in 2018 alone, after going through rigorous selection process including auditions and pitching, a total of 40 teams were selected to start and settle their business in ROK.

Q1C. What are the main gaps identified and challenges faced in addressing these objectives?

[Providing humanitarian aid to the international community and disaster responsiveness]

As demand for humanitarian aid from developing countries is increasing, securing sufficient budget is a challenge. Also developing countries that received assistance from our government in setting up their natural disaster responsive system are not being properly maintained due to a lack of funds and commitment. This year has proven to be an extremely challenging year as COVID-19 closed borders of virtually all countries, halting all projects that were ongoing and preventing us to survey on how the situation is on the ground.

[Challenges experienced with migrant worker policies]

Every nation has its own standards and requirements to recognise qualifications or certifications and this becomes a hurdle when we verify the abilities of migrant workers. This leads to a conclusion of the necessity to sign agreements for bilateral recognition of qualifications/certifications or create an Asia-Pacific regional or universal system, which can be used to verify qualifications or certifications.

Q1D. Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives.

[Best practices]

ROK government has injected USD 3.73 million to support a project in Haiti from 2013 to 2016 to build an institution for training textile techniques. Specialised training on sewing and using relevant software have been provided, resulting in 91 trainees to find a job in the textile sector in Haiti.

In regards to ensure better disaster responsiveness, ROK, as the chair state of Disaster Risk Reduction Component at the UNESCAP/WMO Typhoon Committee, is working with 14 member states by participating in general assemblies, annual meetings and workshops to set up global networks with international organisations to minimise typhoon risks. Our government strives to devising better ways with other member states by collecting surveys from member countries and conducting self-evaluations.

Our government also has been taking action to select and invite low-skilled migrant labourers in a transparent manner by introducing Employment Permit System (EPS) on August 2004. ROK signed an MOU with 16 countries and this scheme has been used to connect selected migrant workers with Korean employers, provides them with a wide range of immigration-related support and serves as a safeguard against human rights violations. On December 2015, Seasonal Worker Programme was introduced by signing MOUs with 28 local governments from nine countries to add flexibility to migrant labour supply chain. Korean local governments sign an MOU with the sending local governments to select seasonal workers, who is allowed to work in farms and fishing villages during busy seasons. These two mechanisms prevent potential corruption and human rights violations, especially during the process of seeking a chance to work in ROK, contribute to the economy of migrant workers' home country by being a recipient of remittances sent from ROK and address chronic labour shortages in ROK experienced by SMEs and agriculture/fishing villages.

[Lessons learnt]

Greater efficiency of humanitarian aid and disaster response support projects requires commitment from governments of beneficiary countries, training for relevant officials and cooperation with international organisations and civil societies.

In order to prevent migrant workers from descending into irregular status after their visa expires, it is critical to sign an MOU with countries to include solutions on this matter. This requires greater collaboration with the sending countries.

Question 2. Protecting migrants through rights-based border governance measures. (GCM Objectives: 4, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13, 21)

Q2A. Please highlight migration levels and trends, including drivers (if possible), and migrant experiences relevant to this cluster of objectives.

Outbound and inbound passengers combined in 2019 totalled 93,548,093 – the highest figure ever. Korean nationals accounted for 61.8% of this figure and the remaining 38.2% turned out to be the share taken up by non-nationals. ROK has seen a 118% increase in two-way passenger traffic by air/sea compared to the figure in 2010 – 42,988,101 – with growing demand of people and freight transport with ROK’s growing economic prominence in the world stage and greater political stability.

■ Total size of two-way passenger traffic by year

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total	42,988,101	45,422,910	50,322,102	54,966,229	61,652,158	66,372,908	79,987,974	80,407,702	88,908,420	93,548,093
Korean nationals	25,585,627	26,064,463	28,136,628	30,352,303	32,722,368	39,111,816	45,313,898	53,445,030	57,859,670	57,795,389
Non-nationals	17,402,474	19,358,447	22,185,474	24,613,926	28,929,790	27,261,092	34,674,076	26,962,672	31,048,750	35,752,704

Statistics revealed that as of 2019, a total of 2,524,656 non-nationals are living in ROK and that accounts for 4.87% of the total population. This is a 100% increase compared to the figure posted on 2010 – 1,261,415 – and we have been seeing an increasing trend ever since.

■ Number/share of non-national in ROK by year

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Non-nationals	1,261,415	1,395,077	1,445,103	1,576,034	1,797,618	1,899,519	2,049,441	2,180,498	2,367,607	2,524,656
Total pop. of ROK	50,515,666	50,734,284	50,948,272	50,219,669	50,423,955	51,529,338	51,696,216	51,779,892	51,826,059	51,849,861
Share of non-nationals	2.50%	2.75%	2.84%	3.14%	3.57%	3.69%	3.96%	4.21%	4.57%	4.87%

Economic development, greater demand of migrant workers triggered by low-birth and aging in ROK, global recognition of being an advanced democracy and a high standard of living and social stability were main driving factors of attracting non-nationals into the country.

This has resulted in a surge of irregular migrants with a total of 390,281 such people as of 2019. They account for 15.5% of non-nationals living in ROK and is a 132% increase compared to the figure posted in 2010 – 168,515.

■ Number/share of irregular migrants in ROK by year

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Irregular migrants	168,515	167,780	177,854	183,106	208,778	214,168	208,971	251,041	355,126	390,281
Non-nationals	1,261,415	1,395,077	1,445,103	1,576,034	1,797,618	1,899,519	2,049,441	2,180,498	2,367,607	2,524,656
Share of irregular migrants	13.4%	12.0%	12.3%	11.6%	11.6%	11.3%	10.2%	11.5%	15.0%	15.5%

This brings to a conclusion of the importance of not only providing services to facilitate travel and a favourable living environment for non-nationals but also a need to introduce well-managed policies to secure borders and minimise irregular migration.

Q2B. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).

[Issuing identification documents]

All Korean nationals who have their birth declared in ROK are given a unique Resident Registration Number. This Number is used as a code by all government organisations should they need to verify individual identity and provide public services. It is also used to record their marriage, death and family relationship information up to date. To prevent forgeries and alterations to National ID Cards, Korean nationals aged 17 and more are required to provide their biometric information like fingerprints and facial image and this information is being shared with immigration authorities, allowing our nationals to take advantage of Smart Entry Service (e-gates) without any other registration process.

Korean nationals born outside of ROK can have their birth registered at overseas Korean diplomatic missions and have their passport issued there as well. ROK passports are fully equipped with all the security features recommended by ICAO.

[Rescue of migrants and search of missing migrants]

Migrants in distress and missing migrants are treated equally in terms of search activities and investigation as Korean nationals. Once (s)he is properly located, efforts to reach his/her legal guardian will commence, to whom (s)he will be handed over and be taken relevant measures after his/her identity clearance is complete. However, if his/her legal guardian turns out to have a record of abuse, domestic violence, mental illness or addiction to alcohol/drugs, this information will be relayed to relevant organisations for further investigation and actions to protect him/her will immediately begin.

Our government has also joined the International Convention on Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) on September 1995 and has introduced the Act on the Search and Rescue, etc. in Waters to secure legal grounds to implement SAR. Joint training operations with neighbouring nations (e.g. Japan, Russia, People's Republic of China) are also taking place, which means international collaboration in this field is up and running.

If a migrant is dead in the ROK, his/her death will be dealt in pair with procedures applied to Korean nationals by respecting the dignity of the deceased and immediately notifying the consular office of his/her nationality to guarantee consular support and fully support the entry of family members to ROK. However, in cases the deceased cannot be identified, we keep his/her fingerprint record for 10 years, leaving a sufficient window period for the deceased to be identified later on.

[Efforts to prevent smuggling and human trafficking]

ROK joined the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its two Protocols – Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children and Protocol against the Smuggling of Migrants by Land, Sea and Air – on November 2015. During the preparation stage of joining this Convention, our government amended the existing section of the Criminal Act on Organisation of Criminal Groups, etc. to meet UNTOC standards and introduced a new law to criminalise human trafficking. It is also actively taking part in international forums that invite immigration authorities, such as the Bali Process and ANDEX to forge closer ties with Asia-Pacific nations. We share information on crime trends and effective countermeasures and have signed MOUs with Australia, Indonesia and Thailand to establish collaborative relations to respond to crimes related to smuggling and human trafficking.

Our government takes special measures for migrants working in the entertainment sector, who are prone to the risk of sexual trafficking. They are required to take mandatory courses right after entering ROK, which provides them with useful information to seek help in times of their human right violation.

[Ensuring border security]

Our government is running our own IPC system (Pre-screening of passengers ahead of departure) to prevent irregular migration from the beginning and save costs arising from removals of ineligible individuals arriving in the country. On the other hand, it has installed e-gates, which are in use allowing passengers themselves to provide required information, such as passport, fingerprints and facial image, and from 2021 it plans to fully implement ETA for people from visa-waivered countries.

Our immigration officers are being trained and educated to respect cultural diversity and different languages and completely eliminate religion and gender bias during immigration clearance process. Our officers are

also required to take education programmes to protect human rights of passengers to secure the integrity of passengers' dignity and interests. We do not spare special care for children and the physically challenged by allowing tailored immigration clearance for their convenience.

[Detention policies and alternate schemes to detention]

The ROK government implements a three-tier measure against immigration offenders (departure recommendation, departure order and forced removal). It also plans to implement a new policy from 21 January 2021 to receive deposit money from immigration offenders who received a departure order instead of forced removal. Those who successfully depart ROK as pledged will have the deposit returned, thereby encouraging them to leave on their will. Our government also has a policy to temporarily lift detention orders if their detention status results in a substantial threat to their life, physical well-being or financial security, thereby minimising detention.

Detention is only conducted strictly in accordance with due procedures and the Ministry of Justice conducts self-evaluation for any potential cases of human rights infringements and the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, an independent organisation dedicated to human rights protection, pays visits to detention facilities to ensure these facilities are free from arbitrary detention and human rights infringements. Children under 14 years of age are, in principle, not detained. However, if a detainee is the only legal guardian to (a) child(ren) under 14, (s)he/they are offered a special room in facilities and is/are allowed not to be parted with his/her/their legal guardian.

If a non-national needs to be detained in a correctional or an immigration detention facility for his/her criminal or immigration offence, his/her rights to receive consular assistance and meet his/her relatives are guaranteed. Our government also supports them to keep in touch with their family via telephone and the Internet and runs special programmes, to name a few, concerts, hobby activities and various education sessions, to safeguard their emotional stability.

[Return, re-admission and re-integration of non-nationals to his/her home country]

Detained non-nationals are checked prior to executing forced removal whether they have any unpaid wages and make sure their remaining unpaid wages are fully paid. Our government has coordinated these unpaid wage cases and resolved a total of 3,897 cases, 6,015 cases and 4,431 cases in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively and the total amount corresponding to each year amounts to approx. KRW 5.595 billion (approx. USD 4.8 million), KRW 15.88 billion (approx. USD 13.63 million) and KRW 23.78 billion (approx. USD 20 million) in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively. If there are detained non-nationals who have ongoing lawsuits, it fully supports their rights to get compensated by delaying forced removal until the dispute is settled.

Migrant workers whose employment contract will expire soon are supported by the ROK government to prepare for their return to home country. In 2019 the government has provided specified consulting services for 56,269 migrant workers and opened 52 rounds of lectures to help them be prepared for return. And it organises a network of returned migrant workers to help successful re-integration to their home community. In 2019 our government supported 28 rounds of meetings between them and their countrymen seeking employment opportunities and 25 rounds of open discussions to find ways for successful re-settlement.

Q2C. What are the main gaps identified and challenges faced in addressing these objectives?

[Preventing smuggling and trafficking in persons]

Transnational human trafficking and smuggling requires undisturbed information sharing of authorities of multiple countries. However, this is far from being true due to differences in border management methods, criminal justice systems and the capacity (e.g. manpower, budget size) of relevant organisations among countries, which are all detrimental to urgently needed round-the-clock collaboration.

A mechanism allowing collaboration among states needs to be strengthened and international organisation-level support is needed to realise this goal, thereby upgrading our capability to deal with transnational crimes.

[Challenges experienced with detainees and their repatriation]

The Coronavirus Pandemic has led to an unprecedented event of some countries refusing to allow entry of their own nationals. This resulted in a delay in the procedures of repatriating non-national detainees. As they had to be stranded in detention facilities for a longer period of time, this turned out to be detrimental to their psychological stability, physical well-being and speedy re-integration to their community of origin.

Preventing entry of their own nationals directly runs counter to Article 12.4 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), which clearly states the rights of returning to his/her home country cannot be arbitrary deprived of at any case. The international community should take more attention to addressing this challenge.

Q2D. Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives.

[Best practices]

Korean nationals' Resident Registration Number is shared with immigration authorities, allowing our nationals to take advantage of e-gates without additional registration. Non-nationals are also allowed to experience e-gates by using their entry/exit history and alien registration information. A total of 24,620,574 people, 30,466,946 people and 37,697,784 people took advantage of e-gates in 2017, 2018 and 2019 respectively. Our government has signed a bilateral agreement with the Germany, Hong Kong, Macau, Republic of China and the U.S. to allow bilateral use of automated immigration system, allowing speedier and tighter border management for Koreans and nationals of the counterparts.

Our government also shares passenger manifesto with carriers to block blacklisted individuals from boarding Korea-bound flights at their departure location, who will be barred from entering ROK upon arrival. This policy allows us to save on repatriation cost to send these individuals back and minimise complaints arising from this matter. It also allows speedier immigration clearance of low-risk travellers. Such a policy became a tool to keep our borders open and ensure effective response to disease without any lockdowns in the midst of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

Our government have forged active international co-operation by signing a bilateral agreement with neighbouring countries such as Japan, People's Republic of China and Russia on search and rescue operations at sea and conducted 69 rounds of field drills and 97 rounds of remote drills via telecommunication systems until August 2020. Ever since 2004, our relevant officials have visited 19

countries in the Asia-Pacific region over seven occasions and conducted joint drills with countries in this region.

The ROK government is offering a tailored correctional programme for non-national inmates. Ever since 2018, it has conducted Good Morning Korea programme four times a year at a correctional facility exclusively for non-nationals (Cheonan Correctional Institution), which teaches them about Korean culture, traditions, language and expose them to various chances to experience our culture in general.

Our government operates two Immigration Detention Centres in Hwaseong City and Cheongju City and these facilities have been offering Dong-gam Programme (translated into Empathy Programme) without hiatus since 2006 to ensure detainees’ psychological stability. They can experience our traditional culture, learn our language, watch concerts, practice musical instruments and signing, gain health information, take beauty classes, learn yoga, Taekwondo, tea ceremony and how to make Kim-chi. Approximately 13,000 detainees take this programme annually and they are greatly satisfied with this programme with their ratings for this programme reaching 93 points out of a 100.

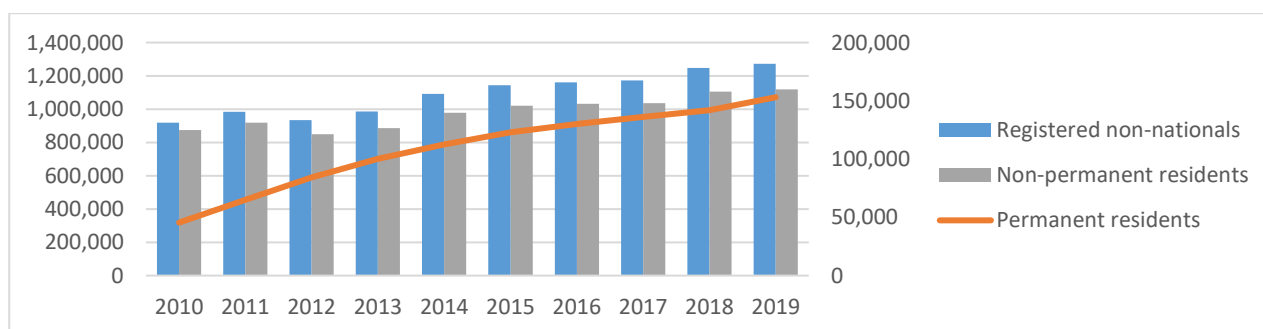
Question 3. Supporting the integration of migrants and their contribution to development. (GCM Objectives: 14, 15, 16, 19, 20, 22)

Q3A. Please highlight migration levels and trends, including drivers (if possible), and migrant experiences relevant to this cluster of objectives.

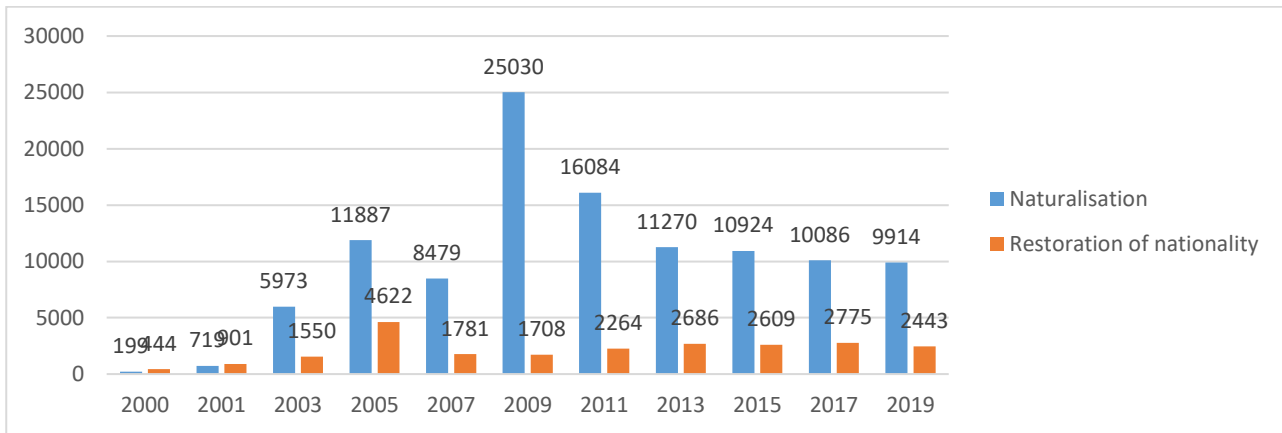
Registered non-nationals, who are our target for social integration, have increased from 918,917 in 2010 to 1,271,807 as of 2019, which is a 38.4% increase. Among them, non-permanent residents have increase from 873,442 to 1,118,769 or a 28.1% increase during the same period and permanent residents have also increased from 45,475 to 153,038 during the same period, which is a three-fold increase. Of all registered non-nationals, minors of age under 19 has also increased three-fold from 26,826 to 83,335 during the same period.

■ Figures on registered non-nationals, (non) permanent residents

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Registered non-nationals	918,917	982,983	932,983	985,923	1,091,531	1,143,087	1,161,677	1,171,762	1,246,626	1,271,807
Permanent residents	45,475	64,979	84,140	100,169	112,519	123,033	130,011	136,118	141,973	153,038
Non-permanent residents	873,442	918,004	848,843	885,754	979,012	1,020,054	1,031,666	1,035,644	1,104,653	1,118,769



In 2000, 643 people obtained Korean nationality through naturalisation and restoration of nationality and this figure rose 42-fold in 2009 to peak 26,738. This figure started to decrease ever since and as of 2019, 12,357 people obtained Korean nationality that year.



The main target groups for social integration in ROK are marriage migrants and migrant workers and as of 2019, there are 166,025 marriage migrants and 565,616 migrant workers (E1 to E10 visas and H2 Working Visit visa holders).

Q3B. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).

[Providing consular protection and forging stronger ties with our counterparts]

A Consular Call Centre, which is run 24/7, is installed at the HQ of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, keeps emergency contact information to provide consular assistance and language assistance to Korean nationals residing or travelling overseas in emergency situations. Our government also runs a total of 116 Korean diplomatic missions to protect overseas Koreans and provide services they need, and dispatch an Honorary Consul to states and regions, which are not yet equipped with our diplomatic mission.

Our government regularly opens bilateral consular conferences with Japan, People’s Republic of China, Thailand and other countries to discuss urgent relevant issues and forge closer ties.

[Strengthening capabilities of migrants]

In accordance with Framework Act on Treatment of Foreigners Residing in the Republic of Korea, we design and implement a whole-of-government level 5-year Basic Plan for Policies on Foreigners and Annual Implementation Plans. Currently the third Basic Plan for Policies on Foreigners, effective from 2018 to 2022, is being implemented and one of five major objectives is “An integrated society supported by the engagement and self-reliance of migrants”, which gave birth to a slew of policies relevant to social integration of migrants. Our government has also introduced a separate policy and annual targets on supporting international marriage-related families in order to support marriage migrants and their child(ren) to maximise their potential and bolster their successful settlement in ROK.

Our government is offering a programme for speedy adaptation to the Korean society for new migrants, which is provided in 13 different languages and the programme includes lectures on basic laws and how to receive basic public services. A separate programme is provided for long-term migrants, which is called KIIP (Korea Immigration & Integration Programme) and offers lessons on Korean language, culture and society they need for long-term stay. This programme is provided at no cost and from 2021, education programmes on everyday laws, consumers' rights, finance, preventing crimes, especially sexual violence against migrant women and disaster response will be added.

Our government operates 228 Support Centres for Multicultural Families to offer Korean language lessons for marriage migrants and 196 centres among them offer "Self-reliance Programme" that focuses on planning for the future, strengthening capabilities and seeking employment.

Once migrants successfully become members of our society, we encourage them to join as KIIP Mentoring Volunteers and become helpful advisors for new migrants and hold lectures for Korean nationals to increase their awareness of cultural diversity. 146 local governments in ROK are equipped with a committee to support non-national residents and appoint some of non-nationals as committee members and receive feedback from them, which become the foundation of designing policies for non-nationals. As of 2019, out of 1,803 committee members nationwide, 1,579 are Korean nationals and 224 are non-nationals.

[Supporting education for children from a family with (a) migrant parent(s)]

All non-national children, including children without residential status are given the same rights as Korean children to have access to regular education in line with our Elementary and Secondary Education Act. Information brochures on application and school transfer are provided in 13 different languages, and notifications encouraging enrolment are sent via text messages and post. As of 2020, a total of 326 classes dedicated to intensive Korean language education for migrant children are up and running and in 2019, a total of 1,322 migrant children have got Korean language lessons at their home.

Our government also encourages creating a bilingual learning environment by providing e-textbooks and bilingual books in nine different languages, which can be used at after-school programmes and other similar programmes. Bilingual ability contests are opened to discover bilingual talents and to develop unique abilities children from an international marriage-related family are most like to demonstrate. A special programme with an emphasis on language and talent discovery, "Rainbow School", is offered for children from migrant family background and in 2019, 1,748 children took part in this programme and this programme is offered in various types – whole-day/weekend/evening/summer vacation/winter vacation programme.

[Providing medical and welfare support]

In accordance with domestic laws on children's rights, registered non-national children are eligible for childcare services. Those who require childcare services can be taken care of at local childcare centres or after-school childcare service centres. If a marriage migrant, refugee or a disaster victim* fall into a crisis by a death or unemployment of family member who is the main source of income, they can receive allowance, rent, medical cost subsidies and the amount provided varies depending on their level of economic difficulty.

* a) a person married to a Korean national, b) a person who provides care for (an) immediate family member(s) with Korean nationality who divorced his/her spouse with a Korean nationality or a person who was widowed from a death of his/her spouse with a Korean nationality, c) a person who was recognised as a refugee in line with Refugee Act, Article 2.2., d) a person victimised by

fire, crime, natural disasters that did not occur by his/her negligence, e) a person recognised by the Minister of Health and Welfare requiring immediate support (e.g. residents on humanitarian grounds in line with Refugee Act, Article 2.3)

Our government has designated 111 medical institutions for non-nationals who are not eligible for national health insurance plan and medical fee support. They can get emergency operations and treatments and get medical cost support up to 90% of total cost for a single treatment that does not exceed KRW 5 million (approx. USD 4,300).

[Promoting cultural diversity in the country]

With an aim to create a better awareness of co-respect and co-existence of Korean nationals and non-nationals, 20 May was designated as Together Day in 2008 as mandated by the Framework Act on Treatment of Foreigners Residing in the Republic of Korea. A week leading from Together Day will serve as a special week celebrated with various cultural events.

We encourage cultural exchanges between Korean nationals and non-nationals by supporting a nationwide festival for migrants – MAMF (Migrants’ Arirang Multicultural Festival) and “Rainbow Bridge Project”, which aims at promoting understanding of different cultures and embracing diversity of expressions from different cultural traits through cultural and artistic activities.

All schools in ROK are recommended to offer two-hours of programmes related to multiculturalism every year to ensure cultural diversity is upheld in our schools. In 2019, 287 schools were designated for educating multiculturalism in connection with existing subjects students learn, and 139 kindergartens with similar objective is up and running as well. Additionally, 17 schools are designated as research institutes to develop and promote education on multiculturalism.

Our government also focuses on teachers’ capabilities to be equipped with sufficient level of knowledge and understanding on cultural diversity. Additional programmes related to multiculturalism are added to a list of subject teacher candidates should take, thereby making them competent in understanding this value from an early stage. A competition was held in July 2020 to collect best practices of multiculturalism education to share good examples of education methods on this field.

[Encouraging forging ties between diasporas and ROK]

Whole-of-governmental level policies are designed and implemented to support diasporas (overseas ethnic Koreans) in various aspects by installing and running a dedicated committee for diaspora policies. Ever since 2000, World Korean Community Leaders Convention has been held every year to promote personal exchanges among diasporas, which serves as a platform to set up Korean international networks. In 2007, 5 October was designated as Korean Day to contribute to harmony and development of overseas ethnic Koreans in the world. Not only that, we hold World Korean Business Convention and let overseas ethnic Korean have access to the business community in ROK. On February 2009, Public Official Election Act was amended to allow overseas Korean citizens to vote in Korean election from the country of their residence.

[Supporting migrants with cheap overseas remittance commissions]

Our government allows migrants to wire money overseas not only by visiting a bank, but also through contact-less measures as well (e.g. ATM, mobile app, online banking service). Wiring commission for remittance service that is requested by visiting a bank representative does not exceeds 3%, which is the cap

recommended by GCM. Commission charged for wiring money through a bank representative varies depending on the amount to be sent. Commission charged for wiring money when sent via online banking service is either free or half the amount of commission charged by a bank representative. Commission charged for wiring money via an ATM is also either free or roughly USD 4.

Q3C. What are the main gaps identified and challenges faced in addressing these objectives?

As demand for KIIP (Korea Immigration & Integration Programme) is dramatically increasing, this is resulting in greater costs for managing and running this programme. This requires us to secure more budget for this programme, which brought us to a conclusion that offering this programme at no cost is not sustainable. This brings to a conclusion to charge a certain amount for taking this programme such as considering migrants' level of income in implementing this planned scheme.

Q3D. Please share some of the results of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives?

[Best practices]

Our government has successfully encouraged migrants to participate more in KIIP by luring them with benefits – lowering the bar for earning a resident permit, exemption of tests required for obtaining permanent residence status and nationality, to name a few. In 2009, only 0.15% of registered non-nationals (1,331 non-nationals) out of 870,636 non-nationals with a purpose of staying in ROK for 91+ days took KIIP, but this figure increased to 4.5% to reach 56,535 non-nationals (a 41-fold increase compared to 2009) out of 1,271,807 registered non-nationals (a 46% increase compared to 2009) in 2019, which is a 30-fold increase in participation rate.

Our government also works not to leave out non-national school-age children, including those who should resume their studies after entering ROK. This group of pupils usually experience difficulties in adapting to the new environment and the Korean school system. We have created special programmes on language acquisition and Korean culture for them and provide more information through collaboration among related government departments to encourage them to receive public education. That resulted in 93.1% of this group of pupils entering Korean public schools in 2018, which is an increase from 84.5% in 2015.

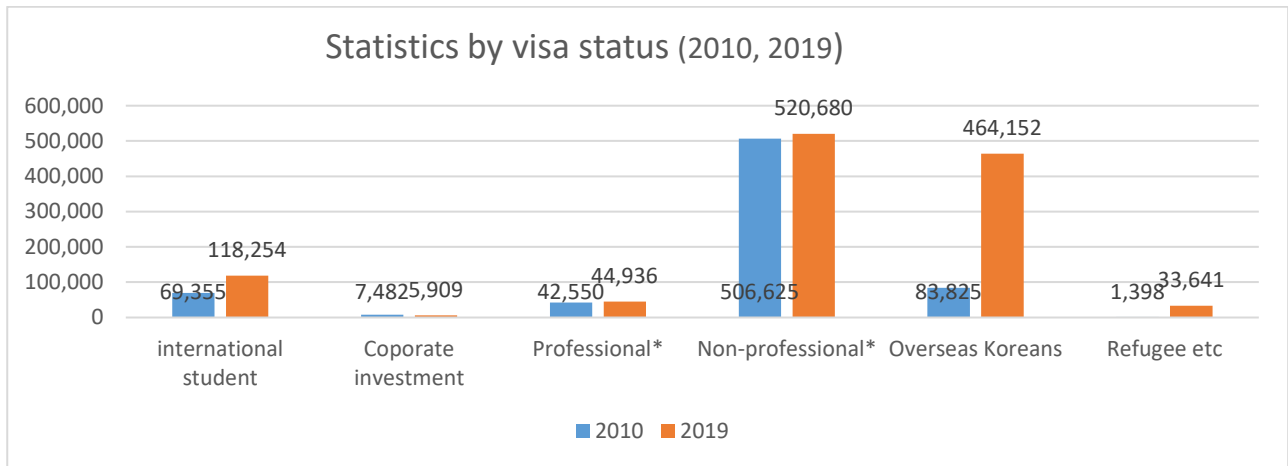
Question 4. Improving value-driven and evidence-based policymaking and public debate, and enhancing cooperation on migration. (GCM Objectives: 1, 3, 7, 17, 23)

Q4A. Please highlight migration levels and trends, including drivers (if possible), and migrant experiences relevant to this cluster of objectives.

A total of 2,524,656 non-nationals are living in ROK as of 2019 and 15% of them or 390,281 people are irregular migrants.

As of 2019, we have recently seen an increasing trend of international students, overseas ethnic Koreans, asylum seekers, refugees and humanitarian visa holders compared to 2010. As of December 2019, statistics

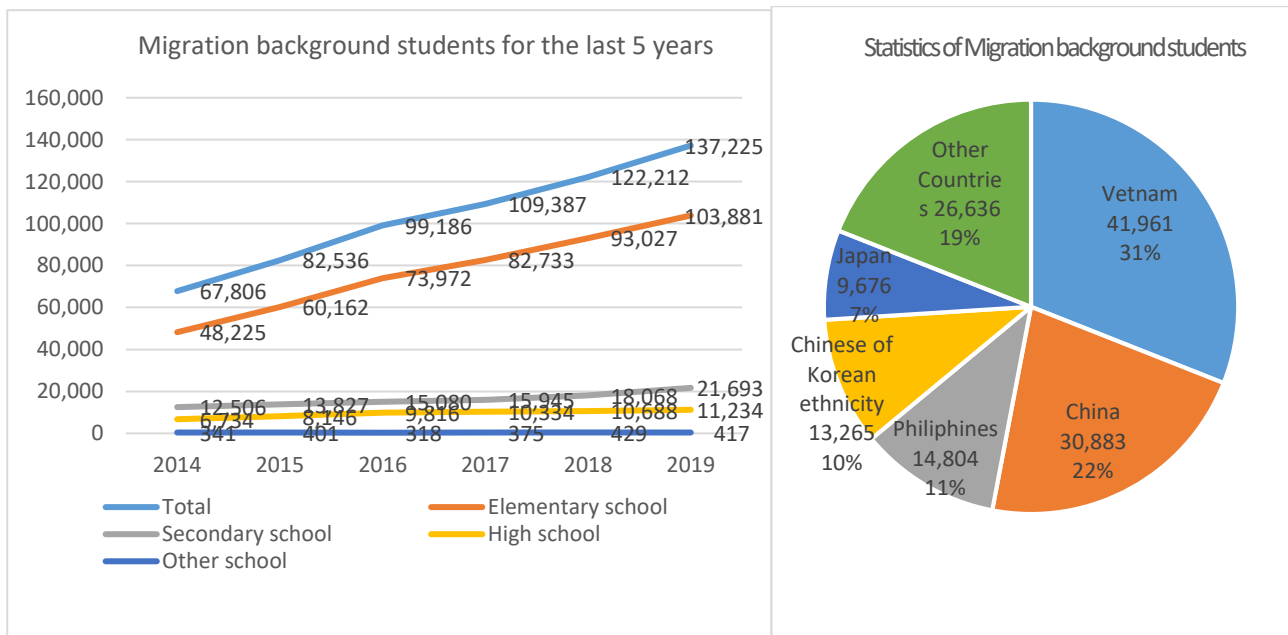
tell that 92% of all migrant workers work in non-professional sectors. The number of migrant workers being employed in professional sectors is very low.



Note:

- a) Professional: E1 (Professor), E2 (Foreign language instructor), E3 (Research), E4 (Technology transfer), E5 (Professional employment), E6 (Artistic performer), E7 (Designated activities) visa holders combined
- b) Non-professional: E9 (Non-professional employment), E10 (Crew employee), H2 (Working visit) visa holders combined
- c) Refugee etc.: G15 (Refugee applicant), G16 (Humanitarian stay), F24 (Recognised refugee) visa holders combined

As of December 2019, we have 166,025 marriage migrants holding a nationality of a country besides ROK, and there are 137,225 school age pupils from 353,803 immigrant families including families with naturalised migrant parents.



The number of pupils from immigrant families are increasing every year. Their parents from Vietnam top the list with 41,961 pupils (30.6%) followed by People’s Republic of China with 30,883 pupils excluding those of Korean ethnicity (22.5%), the Philippines with 14,804 pupils (10.8%), People’s Republic of China with 13,625 pupils of Korean ethnicity (9.7%) and Japan with 9,676 pupils (7.1%). These figures illustrate a great majority of such pupils have parents from the Asian region. One notable fact is that we are seeing a great increase of such pupils among elementary school age children.

Q4B. Please highlight the concrete policy, legal, and programmatic actions taken by your government to advance these objectives in recent years (in particular since the adoption of the GCM on 10 December 2018).

[Collection and enhancement of immigration-related information and its use]

Immigration-related information (e.g. entry/departure record, residence, nationality information etc.) are stored and managed in DW (Data Warehouse) based system and we have introduced big data analysis technique and bio information fast-searching system. We conduct an annual survey to collect data on migrants' residential and employment status and also conduct Population and Housing Census every five years and release information and research findings gathered from quantitative/qualitative statistics. These findings are used for designing and evaluating policies on non-nationals by central government bodies and local governments.

The ROK government signed an agreement with IOM to give birth to MRTC (Migration Research & Training Centre: www.iom-mrtc.org), which is responsible for conducting research and studies on the effects of international migration on economic growth, job creation, national security and human rights. It also provides the government with advice and information required for designing policies.

[Providing information for migrants]

All migrants have access to information on the best type of visa that fits his/her needs and its requirements, ways to apply for a visa, procedures of entering ROK/application for resident registration, which are available by visiting Korea Visa Portal at www.visa.go.kr. They can apply for a visa online and check how their application is being processed. After entering ROK, they can change their visa and gain information on required documents and procedures needed for obtaining employment permission and extending his/her visa by visiting Hi Korea website at www.hikorea.go.kr.

Our government also operates a dedicated website, Danuri Portal at www.liveinkorea.kr, to support migrant women and children, which is serviced in 13 different languages. A separate website is offered for non-nationals seeking permanent residency or obtaining nationality to allow them a soft-landing to their new home. Relevant information can be accessed by visiting www.socinet.go.kr, which aims at providing information on social integration.

Our government also runs an exclusive call centre, Immigration Contact Centre, which can be reached by simply calling 1345. If a migrant has questions on how to gain access to public services, receive answers on their immigration matters, (s)he can reach this Centre, which provides services in 20 different languages. Since March 2019, 3-way language interpretation service (Immigration Contact Centre – migrant – Supreme Prosecutors' Office) is offered to support migrants who were victimised by (a) crime(s) and provide language assistance to be prepared for trials.

All non-nationals in ROK are encouraged to reach Korea Legal Aid Corporation, which has 133 offices nationwide that can provide free legal advice prior to being engaged in (a) civil/criminal trial(s) or (an) administrative litigation(s).

[Protecting the marginalised]

The Ministry of Health and Welfare led a legal amendment to include all non-nationals with a history of 6+ months of stay in ROK to be covered by the National Health Insurance. This is mandatory (formerly, voluntary). This came into effect on 16 July 2019 with objectives to minimise grey zones in medical service provision and to realise universal healthcare. International students will be able to enjoy this benefit from March 2021.

Our government also allows non-nationals, including migrant workers and their child(ren), female marriage migrant and her child(ren) yet to obtain Korean nationality, refugees and their child(ren), who are not covered by national health insurance and medical fee support, to receive up to 90% of medical cost as subsidy for their hospitalisation and surgery, provided that this subsidy does not exceed KRW 5 million for a single treatment.

[Rooting out discrimination against non-nationals and encouraging a positive awareness of migration]

The ROK government prohibits discrimination between Korean nationals and non-nationals on universal and fundamental rights all people are eligible to enjoy in accordance with domestic laws and international law. A whole-of-government level 5-year National Human Rights Plans of Action is implemented to safeguard rights of all people through improvements in our laws and administrative procedures. Currently the 3rd National Human Rights Plans of Action, effective from 2018 to 2022, is being implemented under the main objective of “Fairer society where all people can enjoy equal rights” with an emphasis on “Supporting migrants and their social integration”. We also have an independent organisation dedicated to protecting human rights, the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, which can investigate cases of human rights infringements and provide recommendation to the government for better policies.

Our government is allowing children of irregular migrants to enter our public schools to guarantee their education rights. It also makes sure migrants, especially irregular migrants are not left out from legal protection when they are victimised by (a) crime(s). Government officers responsible for providing medical, education support for migrants and those who handle cases of crime against migrants are required by law to never relay the victim’s personal details, despite being an irregular migrant, to law enforcement authorities. Additional safety net is in place to protect irregular migrant who were victimised by domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse by allowing to stay in ROK until legal protection and compensations are totally completed.

In an effort to protect human rights of international marriage-related families and migrant women, we operate Danuri Call Centre and 228 Support Centres for Multicultural Families which provide services in 13 different languages 7/24, 365 days a year. Services include supporting violence victims, providing interpretation service, emergency support and trainings to have their human rights protected. These centres have experts in the field of protecting human rights of international marriage-related families and migrant women, who are trained to detect early signs of violence and take measures to prevent it from happening. These centres also provide services for migrant children and teenagers by providing psychological counselling to help them adapt well to the Korean society. They can receive counselling through in-person visits, phone calls or via the Internet.

If a non-national becomes a victim of sexual crime, (s)he can simply reach Immigration Contact Centre by calling 1345, which provides services in 20 different language and a representative will support the victim to reach the police and investigation authorities.

Our government does not spare efforts to protect non-nationals who work in sectors where their human rights are likely to be infringed. It is fully aware that migrants working in the entertainment sector are prone to the risk of sexual trafficking and other human trafficking. Therefore, they are required to participate in lectures instructing them not to sign an employment contract against their will until they are fully convinced with all specifics of the contract, providing them with information on what to do once their rights are infringed or they become a victim of a crime. Sea crews are also prone to the risk of their human rights being infringed, so our government engages in special activities to check whether any of them have unpaid wages, suffer from arrogant and authoritarian attitudes from his/her employer or physical threat and infringement of their human rights.

Continuous effort is being invested to detect suspected human trafficking victim at early stage in accordance with “Protection Indicators and Identification of Human Trafficking Victims” recommended by the National Human Rights Commission of Korea, which is based on the UN Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Person for the Protection of Human.

Our government has been devising ways to properly reflect non-nationals’ opinions in our policies. It conducts a survey on migrants’ residential status and their employment every year and appoints two migrant representatives as members of Migration Policy Advice Committee to achieve this goal. Going further, our government try to reach out to non-nationals and also Korean nationals as well via telephone and the Internet and by inviting them to public hearings when it drafts Basic Plans for Policies on Foreigners.

[Forging stronger international co-operation to encourage regular migration]

Our government is well aware that migrant labourers to work in non-professional sectors and seasonal labourers are highly exposed to the risk their human rights being infringed and becoming a victim of corruption and scams during the process of securing a chance to come to ROK. The government, therefore, has signed MOUs with the central governments or local governments from sending, thereby preventing corruption and scams and ensuring transparent procedures. The Ministry of Justice of ROK and the Labour Bureau of Thailand signed an MOU to prevent irregular stay and illegal employment on 27 November 2019. We also signed a MOU involving four parties – Ministry of Justice of ROK, Korea Invention Promotion Association, Korea Productivity Centre and the Department of Information and Communication Technology of Bangladesh – to support Bangladeshi talents to come and reside in ROK and encourage them to start business in ROK by providing them with assistance to have their intellectual property registered in ROK and elsewhere and subsidies for making prototypes.

Q4C. What are the main gaps identified and challenges faced in addressing these objectives?

[Forging stronger international co-operation to encourage regular migration]

It is important that migrants receive proper information and education prior to entering ROK to prevent irregular migration, infringements on migrants’ human rights and crime against this group of people. International co-operation to realise this is deeply needed.

[Encouraging a positive awareness of migration]

It is imperative to provide accurate information to Korean nationals on the effects of migration on the national economy, finance and security, and public safety to create an unbiased social discourse on migration. This brings to a conclusion for the government to establish a whole-of-governmental migration-

related statistics collection and analysis system. It is also critical for the international community to create a) a single standard definition for each migration statistics index, b) universal classification/analysis methods on major statistics and c) exchanging statistics with other nations that are derived by employing these methods.

Q4D. Please share some of the result of these actions, effective solutions, best practices and lessons learned by your Government in implementing these objectives?

[Best practices]

2018 survey on migrants' residential status and their employment clearly indicates an unparalleled level medical service for registered migrants. 92.2% of respondents said they are never afraid to visit a hospital due to financial concerns, which is a testament of affordable medical cost, medical insurance premium and superior medical service quality.

Our efforts to protect human rights of irregular migrants is also worth taking notice of. Government officials responsible for providing medical and education support and those responsible for surveying the damage irregular migrants experienced as a victim of (a) crime(s) should never relay the victim's personal details to law enforcement authorities. Our government also offers Community Lawyer service for non-nationals, which is provided at no cost. Through this service they can have access to legal assistance and advice via three-way telephone interpretation service.

Question 5. What steps has the Government taken to integrate the vision and cross-cutting and interdependent guiding principles of the Global Compact for Migration (see paras 8 to 15 of the Global Compact (see General Assembly resolution 73/195)) into its implementation? How was this accomplished?

One of five major objectives of the third Basic Plan for Policies on Foreigners, effective from 2018 to 2022 is "Future oriented governance based on co-operation". To achieve this objective, we have set "Strengthening international cooperation in the field of immigration", thereby recognising common interest and responsibilities of all nations and strengthening international collaboration to achieve common objectives.

A. People-centred

The Constitution of ROK clearly states guaranteeing rights of individuals as the most important value and stresses the importance of the principle taking people first. Non-nationals living in ROK are encouraged to exert their capabilities in an environment to have their capabilities respected and recognised as specified in our Framework Act on Treatment of Foreigners Residing in the Republic of Korea. Besides this Framework Act, many other domestic laws and National Human Rights Plans of Action reflect our human-centric principle.

B. International cooperation

The third Basic Plan for Policies on Foreigners sets international cooperation as one of core values and buttresses stronger global collaboration on international migration.

C. National sovereignty

Our Constitution, Immigration Act and Nationality Act define specifics of border management and immigration tailored to fit our needs based on national sovereignty.

D. Rule of law and due process

The ROK Constitution stipulates the respect for the rule of law for the exertion of state power and its control and protecting human rights. The Constitution clearly states limiting the rights of individuals, imposing legal duties and making a decision on criminal justice measures should be done strictly in accordance with laws and due process.

E. Sustainable development

International migration will be utilised for our sustainable development by resolving the following issues: a decrease in working age population and labour shortages. Our government is also striving to design policies that contribute to sustainable development of labour-sending countries. Policies are made for these countries to benefit from remittances sent by migrant labourers and knowledge and techniques they bring back to their home country.

F. Human rights

Our Constitution re-affirms the importance of basic human rights everyone is entitled to and holds the government responsible for any unfair treatment and discrimination and human rights infringement. Human right is also upheld as a core value in the third Basic Plan for Policies on Foreigners.

G. Gender-responsive

Our Constitution upholds the spirit of gender responsiveness by stressing the need for special protection of labour provided by women and greater welfare and rights for women. We have also implemented Framework Act on Gender Equality to realise the spirit of gender equality stipulated in our Constitution in all sectors of our society, such as economic participation and childcare to name a few.

H. Child-sensitive

The ROK government strengthened its protection for children by introducing Child Welfare Act, Act on the Protection and Support of Missing Children, Etc., Act on Prevention of Child Poverty, Support of Children, Etc. and Act on Special Cases Concerning the Punishment, Etc. of Child Abuse Crimes.

I. Whole-of-government approach

In accordance with Framework Act on Treatment of Foreigners Residing in the Republic of Korea, we invite all sectors of government in designing five-year Basic Plan for Policies on Foreigners, its Annual Implementation Plans, and evaluation of these targets.

J. Whole-of-society approach

Our government takes the following approaches to realise this goal. We ensure relevant committees are staffed by civilian representatives to a certain level, hold weekly Immigration Policy Forum and reflect civilian experts' and relevant stakeholders' opinions on our policies. Our government also runs Social Integration Volunteer Officers and KIIP Mentoring Volunteers, which are participated by exemplary immigrants, to consolidate close partnership with immigrants and support their settlement.

Question 6. How is the Global Compact for Migration contributing to realizing the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development? What has your Government done to integrate the implementation of the Global Compact objectives into SDG implementation?

The ROK government strives to implement the common goal of the international community – “to facilitate orderly, safe, and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies” with an aim “to reduce inequality within and among countries” in accordance with SDG 10.7. In this respect, we take note of “GCM is based on 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” stated in the GCM Preamble.

Our government puts great emphasis on policies relevant to international migration that have great influence on various aspects, such as population composition, national economy, society, national security to name a few. This is the rationale for the government to introduce Framework Act on Treatment of Foreigners Residing in the Republic of Korea and design/implement whole-of-governmental Basic Plan for Policies on Foreigners and Annual Implementation Plans. Basic Plan for Policies on Foreigners puts emphasis on attracting immigrants and providing across-the-board support for them to secure national growth. We also introduced measures to contribute to the development of labour-sending countries by guaranteeing the freedom of remittances of migrants and transferring knowledge and techniques through migrants.

ROK also joined OECD DAC in 2010 and the government is supporting developing countries to achieve SDGs by being actively engaged in various ODA projects ever since. Our government has increased annual ODA contribution by 11.9% on average between 2010 and 2019, which is the highest rate among all DAC member countries. Our ODA budget for this year is earmarked at KRW 3 trillion 237 billion (approx. USD 3 billion) and this is a 2.5 times increase compared to the figure in 2010 (KRW 1 trillion 341 billion, equivalent to approx. USD 1.2 billion).

Question 7. From the Government's perspective, are there any objectives of the Global Compact for Migration that are of particular importance in the national context? Please name the objectives that the Government has prioritized and explain why.

The ROK government has set “Opening borders in an orderly fashion on the basis of the public consensus” as a top priority goal to realise the vision of “The safe Korea respecting human rights and diversity” stipulated in the third Basic Plan for Policies on Foreigners, effective from 2018 to 2022. This goal is in line with GCM Objective 5, Enhance availability and flexibility of pathways for regular migration.

Such goal was set by the government to earn public consensus on the importance of international migration as an indispensable tool to address imminent demographic issues, such as a shift in population composition resulting from low birth rate and aging, labour shortages, and to implement more open immigration policies based on this consensus.

In our third Basic Plan for Policies on Foreigners, we prioritised “An integrated society supported by the engagement and self-reliance of migrants” and this is in line with GCM Objective 16, Empower migrants and societies to realise full inclusion and social cohesion.

The abovementioned goal “An integrated society supported by the engagement and self-reliance of immigrants” was set as an important goal to create an environment where Korean nationals and non-nationals coexist and add a positive spin to the national discourse on international migration by encouraging immigrants’ success and their self-reliance, which leads to not only his/her personal accomplishment but also to maximising his/her contribution to the society.

Question 8. From the Government's perspective, how and to what extent have regional plans and strategies addressed the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration? What are the main achievements, gaps and challenges to existing regional approaches, strategies and implementation plans?

As we introduced the third Basic Plan for Policies on Foreigners, effective from 2018 to 2022, our government is strengthening efforts to increase international co-operation in the field of immigration by setting “Future-oriented governance based on co-operation” as one of five major policy goals.

The Ministry of Justice is actively participating in global efforts to root out immigration-related crimes. First of all, ROK is a member of the Bali Process, a co-operative mechanism to prevent smuggling and human trafficking in the Asia-Pacific region, which we have been engaged in since 2003 by participating in annual high-level meetings and working-level workshops to share our relevant policies and cases of detecting crimes with member nations. Our government is also a member of ANDEX, a co-operative mechanism of Asian countries with an aim to suppress irregular migration by sharing information on travel document alterations and forgeries, which we initially joined as an observer in 2016, but earned unanimous support from existing member states to be a regular member the next year, and we have been sharing information on cases of travel document alterations and forgeries we have experienced. Thirdly, we have signed an MOU with Indonesia (on 10 September 2018), Australia (on 20 November 2019) and Thailand (on 25 November 2019) to set up a mechanism to respond to smuggling and related crimes.

Aside from being engaged in multi-lateral co-operative consultative groups, our government is actively implementing bilateral co-operative programmes. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) are designing programmes aimed at systematic development of human resources in developing countries, and out USD 57 million – the total budget size earmarked for this purpose, 36% was used in the Asia-Pacific region in 2018. Our government has been engaged in a total of 48 programmes related to upgrading basic education level of developing countries, designing better school programmes, supporting the marginalised group (e.g. women, disabled, children not receiving public education), ensuring better accessibility to education in disaster-hit regions or conflict-ridden areas and strengthening technology education capability, thereby contributing to human resource development of developing countries in the Asia-Pacific region, such as Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Philippines and Vietnam, to name a few.

Our government has also taken action to receive low-skilled labourers from other Asian countries. MOUs to receive such type of labourers were signed with 16 Asian states and another type of MOUs to receive seasonal labourers were signed with 28 local governments from nine Asian countries. These provide more chances for nationals from developing countries to secure a job in ROK and contribute to addressing our labour shortage issues, thereby serving as a tool for mutual benefit and co-operation.

The ROK government is also engaged in agreements and signing MOUs with neighbouring nations, Japan, Russia and People's Republic of China, to co-conduct sea SAR activities at sea. This led us to conduct joint drills and have a mechanism and procedures in place should a real situation requiring collaboration is needed, which is a testament that ROK has forged a working international collaboration mechanism in the field of SAR at sea.

Question 9. What methodology was adopted for completing this voluntary GCM review; how was a whole-of-government approach applied through engaging the various relevant ministries and other sectors of government; what mechanisms were used to engage civil society and other relevant stakeholders for a whole-of-society approach?

Answers to this Voluntary GCM Review require opinions from various sectors in our government, leading to the overarching organisation responsible for migration issues and non-national policies – the Ministry of Justice to collect and co-ordinate various opinions and answers.

Other sources of answers include the Basic Plan for Policies on Foreigners and its Annual Implementation Plans. During the process of designing this Plan and targets, public hearings are offered to the public to properly reflect various stakeholders like academia, civil society etc. Such Plan is decided and finalised by the Foreigners' Policy Committee, which is led by the Prime Minister, and civilian members are appointed as members the Committee to reflect their opinions.

This bring to a conclusion that answers to this survey are provided from innovative examples from national policies that invited opinions of both various stakeholders and relevant government organisations.

Question 10. Given the outbreak of COVID-19 which has affected all countries in the region, what challenges has the Government identified in implementation of the Global Compact for Migration as part of the COVID-19 response, and what has the Government done to address the specific situation of migrants and their families?

Relevant government organisations and local governments are responding to the Coronavirus Pandemic in a whole-of-governmental manner with the establishment of the Central Disaster and Safety Countermeasures Headquarters (CDSCHQ), which is headed by the Prime Minister. Policies needed to curb the spread of the Coronavirus and its import from elsewhere are decided in a timely and transparent manner under the following principles – openness, impartiality and transparency. Going further, daily briefings are delivered to the public and provide them with recommendations and instructions, thereby encouraging voluntary engagement of the public in our fight against the Coronavirus.

Our government also devised the following methods to protect migrants and non-nationals from falling ill due to the Coronavirus. Suspected non-national Coronavirus patients are offered free testing in a timely manner, in exactly the same manner offered to Korean nationals. Non-nationals can reach our Immigration Contact Centre (1345 Call Centre) to get advice on how to act in the midst of the Pandemic and the Centre provides interpretation services in 20 different languages for the sake of the convenience of non-nationals. As we have seen some non-nationals not able to return to his/her home country due to border closure, we

have, under our discretion, either extended their visa or lowered requirements to have his/her visa extended. We have improved our IT systems to allow non-nationals gain access to immigration services over the Internet, which previously required in-person visits to an Immigration Office. We also went as far as encouraging irregular migrants to get tested without fear of their status being revealed by prohibiting quarantine authorities to relay their personal information to law enforcement authorities.

GCM does include recommended actions to be taken in emergency situations in its Objective 2, such natural disasters, climate change and environment deterioration. However, this Objective does not cover specific recommended actions against epidemics. In a situation of a pandemic, we understand its evolvement of the situation, its causes, adverse effects and required actions should be completely different from those in a situation of other crisis. Therefore, we believe GCM should include recommendations and actions to address issues migrants have to go through due to a pandemic.