

Korea

Regional Hospital Equipment Improvement Project



Newly procured operating table (Songnam Hospital)

Outline of Loan Agreement

Loan Amount / Disbursed Amount	13,000 million yen / 12,441 million yen
Loan Agreement	February 1981
Terms & Conditions	Interest rate 4.0%p.a. Repayment period 25 years (Grace period 7 years)
Final Disbursement Date	February 1987

Project Outline

The project targeted administrative districts with inferior healthcare services, and covered the construction of new private regional hospitals and the provision of medical equipment, with the aim of improving regional healthcare.

Results and Evaluation

This project constituted the first stage of the Medical Facilities Expansion Long-term Plan (1980-2000) developed by the Korean government targeting improvements to regional healthcare. It covered 53 regions that did not have municipal hospitals such as those targeted under the 1978 ODA loan-funded “Medical Facilities Expansion Project”, and where the healthcare environment was comparatively inferior, and involved the construction of new hospitals, and the introduction of basic medical equipment, including X-ray equipment, surgical instruments, anesthetizing equipment (approx. 600 items). This equipment was procured through 1986, and much of it has already been replaced having exceeded its durable life.

In terms of hospital beds, at the 23 hospitals checked under this evaluation alone there were 8,381 beds (average 364 beds), which has widely surpassed the target figure of 5,500 beds (average 86 beds). Moreover, in terms of inpatients and outpatients, at the 33 hospitals where numbers could be confirmed, inpatients account for 8.5% of the national total and outpatients for 7.2%.

The increases in the numbers of beds, consultancy rates, and doctors since the 1980s are indicative of rapid improvements in regional healthcare services in Korea, and this project, in combination with the “Medical Facilities Expansion Project”, is evaluated as having played a role in the early stages of establishing healthcare environment.