

The Medical Facilities Expansion Project



Sterilization equipment (Pusan Paik Hospital)

Outline of Loan Agreement

Loan Amount / Disbursed Amount	7,000 million yen / 6,833 million yen
Loan Agreement	December 1978
Terms & Conditions	Interest rate 3.5%p.a. Repayment period 20 years (Grace period 7 years)
Final Disbursement Date	December 1984

Project Outline

In order to meet growing demand for medical services, scarce medical facilities were expanded and obsolete facilities were modernized.

Results and Evaluation

This project formed part of the Medical Facilities Expansion Long-term Plan (1980-2000) developed by the Korean government, and covered construction, extension, or rebuilding of 10 hospitals in industrial zones, 11 hospitals in medically vulnerable regions, and 27 municipal hospitals, together with the procurement of roughly 19,000 items of medical equipment of 772 types for these facilities.

All the hospitals were opened between 1981-83, and in 1984, there were approximately 4,800 beds at the project hospitals, accounting for more than 7% of the national total, whilst inpatients accounted for 6.5% and outpatients for upwards of 9%.

Almost 20 years has subsequently passed, and although it is difficult to confirm comprehensive data on the medical equipment, at Pusan Paik Hospital, one of the hospitals visited for the purposes of this evaluation, of the 66 medical devices provided 12 were still in use, and at Incheon Gil Hospital the x-ray breast-screening equipment was still operational.

Numbers of inpatients/outpatients, examination rates, and doctors have all been posting annual increases at Korean hospitals since the 1980s, and healthcare services have improved rapidly. This project is recognized to have played an important role in the early stages of establishing this medical environment.