Space for Women: Korea’s Activities and Contributions

UNCOPUOS - 58th Scientific and Technical Subcommittee Meeting

February 8, 2022
I. Why promote ‘Space for Women’ in Korea?
Women’s participation in the space sector in Republic of Korea is comparatively low.

* Source: “Space Economy in Figures” (OECD, 2019)
Not many female scientists and engineers in space research organization

Share of Female Researchers in Space Research Organizations

Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI): 7.9%
Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute (KASI): 14%

* Share of female researchers in Korea’s public research organizations: 24.4%
Not many female students and professors in space-focused academic fields

Share of Female Professors in Space Science and Engineering

- 5%

Share of female graduate students in Space Science and Engineering

- 19.4%

* Share of female professors in STEM field: 18.2%

* Share of female graduate students in STEM field: 30%
II. ‘Space for Women’ Activities in Korea
Coming Together for a Local Initiative

KARI Women’s Association

KASI Women’s Association

Empowering Women in Space

- Visibility
- Education
- capacity building & leadership
- Networking
- Policy recommendations

* KARI Women’s Association Inaugural Meeting (January 2019)
First event organized under the local S4W initiative

40th Asian Conference in Remote Sensing (ACRS) – Oct 2019

- Special session organized and supported by KARI
- Introduction to ‘Space for Women’ Initiative (video message from UNOOSA director)
- Panel discussions by female professionals working in the remote sensing field
- Attended by around 100 conference participants
Raising Awareness within the Local Space Community

‘Special Session on Women’ during KSAS – July 2020

- Held at the largest domestic space conference
- Presentations about the status of ‘women in aerospace’ in Korea
- Professional panel & Student and YP panel
- More than 50% of attendees were male
- Led to establishment of KSAS Committee on Women
KWSE Space Sector Workshop – Oct 2020

- Two-day event organized by KARI & KASI’s Women’s Association
- Support from Association of Korean Woman Scientists & Engineers (KWSE)
- Working group discussions on topics related to ‘Space for Women’
- Action items and recommendations for future activities
Mentoring Girls to Pursue Careers in Space

**WISET Career Mentoring Program – May-Oct 2021**

- 6 month online program (6 mentors, 19 mentees – undergraduate engineering students)
- Supported by WISET (Korea Advanced Institute of Women in Science, Engineering, and Technology)
- Introduced industry trends, careers options and job opportunities in the space sector
Making Us Visible to the Broader Public

World Space Week (Women in Space) – Oct 2021

- Lecture series on ‘women in space’ during WSW
- In collaboration with KARI Academy & Young Astronaut Korea
- In-person event at four national science museums livestreamed
- Joined by Korean astronaut Yi So-Yeon
- Introduced UN’s role in space and emerging space issues and topics
Government to Provide Official Funding and Support

Female Space Workforce Development Program

- Government to fund 750 million KRW (~700,000 USD) in the next 5 years (2022-2026)
- Support female students and professionals for space education and capacity building
- Program will be further defined in the coming months
III. Korea’s (upcoming) Contributions to UN Space4Women Project
UN/Republic of Korea
‘Space for Women’ Expert Meeting

Date
16 – 19 August 2022

Venue
Daejeon, Republic of Korea, KARI Campus

Organization
United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (UNOOSA);
Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT), Republic of Korea;
Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI);
Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute (KASI)

Target Audience
Decision-makers and experts from international organizations, governments, non-governmental organizations, as well as senior officials and representatives of the private sector, research institutions and universities.
Thank you for your attention

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