



1. Project Data :			
OEDID:	L3468		
Project ID:	P004165		
Project Name :	Science Education and Libraries Computerization Project		
Country:	Korea		
Sector:	Other Education		
L/C Number:	L3468		
Partners involved :			
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Reviewed by :	Helen Abadzi		
Group Manager :	Roger Slade		
Date Posted :	07/20/1998		

2. Project Objectives, Financing, Costs and Components :

The project objective was to improve the quality of basic science education and to improve the communications network and information exchange process of selected university libraries which service teaching and research.

The total project costs were US\$80.5 million of which the Bank financed US\$50 million. The project was approved in FY92 and was closed on schedule in FY97 . US\$0.8 million was canceled. Components were: (a) The provision of science equipment and consumable materials to support the improvement of undergraduate science programs in selected national universities; and (b) The establishment of an interlibrary network linking 37 institutions to enhance the access to information by students, faculty and research.

3. Achievement of Relevant Objectives :

Achievement of the project objective was highly satisfactory . The project successfully modernized the experimental and laboratory equipment for the 15 science education centers and completed the establishment of joint science centers in 18 national universities with colleges of natural science . The national library network was completed and became operational in 44 universities, and all procurement activities were successfully completed .

4. Significant Achievements :

The project scope actually exceeded the original design of the project . The library network was not only linked to the original 44 national university libraries covered by this project, but was also linked to two public universities and 138 private universities .

5. Significant Shortcomings :

There was implementation delay due to the approval required by the Ministry of Communications for equipment over \$300,000. The library network was under the control of two ministries, Ministry of Culture and Ministry of Education; this shared authority also created delays and deferred decisions .

6. Ratings :	ICR	OED Review	Reason for Disagreement /Comments
Outcome:	Highly Satisfactory	Highly Satisfactory	
Institutional Dev .:	Partial	Substantial	All institutional development objectives appear to have been achieved.
Sustainability :	Likely	Uncertain	Sustainability is likely in the short-term as Government has

			allocated funds for 1998. However, longer term sustainability has to be questioned in view of the economic crisis in the Region.
Bank Performance :	Highly Satisfactory	Satisfactory	The Bank failed to recognise the complexity of computer procurement at appraisal and erroneously excluded two eligible categories under Schedule 6 of the Loan Agreement.
Borrower Perf .:	Highly Satisfactory	Satisfactory	There were implementation delays during the first year of the project due to unresolved management issues.
Quality of ICR :		Satisfactory	

7. Lessons of Broad Applicability :

(a) The lead time required for the procurement of complex computer equipment should not be underestimated, especially in view of the requirement for prior review by the Bank and the need to assess compatibility with existing systems.

(b) Experience gained in one country through other Bank projects can often reduce the time required at preparation and appraisal of new projects. However, adequate attention must still be given to individual project requirements to ensure that unnecessary delays are not encountered at project start-up.

8. Audit Recommended? ☐ Yes ☒ No

9. Comments on Quality of ICR :

The ICR is satisfactory. Presentation is clear and concise. There were some minor inconsistencies within the ICR but these did not affect the substantial findings. The borrower assisted in the collection of data to support the preparation of the ICR and submitted its own evaluation report on the project. There were no comments on the ICR by the borrower.