Factsheet: South Korea

Last update: 24 October 2014

DEFINITION OF YOUTH

The South Korean youth law (2008) defines youth as between 9-24 years.

CANDIDACY AGE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>MARRIAGEABLE AGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SITUATION OF YOUNG PEOPLE

YOUTH DEVELOPMENT INDEX

0.81
3 out of 170 countries.
Year: 2013
Source: Commonwealth Youth Programme

LITERACY RATES

- Male (15-24): 96.37%
- Female (15-24): 95.55%
Year: No data.
Source: UNESCO

NET ENROLMENT RATE

Secondary School
95.98%
Year: 2012
Source: UNESCO

PREVALENCE OF HIV

- Male (15-24): 14.90%
- Female (15-24): 10.60%
Year: 2010
Source: WHO

TOBACCO USE

Consumed any smokeless or smoking tobacco product at least once 30 days prior to the survey.

- Male (15-24): 13.00%
- Female (15-24): 3.50%
Year: 2010
Source: WHO

POLICY & LEGISLATION

The youth law (2008) outlines the legal and social provisions for young people, youth organisations, youth centres, activities and welfare, youth leaders and funding. The vision of the national youth policy, described extensively on the Youth policy pages, is to enable “dreaming youth, family with hope, and a bright future of society.” It’s goal is “to reinforce the competence of the youth and to build health and sound environment for the youth.” It has three specific tasks: 1) Promoting diverse hands-on youth activities; 2) Expanding and improving youth welfare outcomes; 3) Providing sound environment for youth. The policy outlines specific measures to strengthen youth policy, youth participation, youth welfare & safety and protecting youth from violence.
Since 2010, the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family has responsibility for youth affairs and aims at "fostering welfare and protection of youth." According to the 2007 report a National Youth Commission was established in 2005 under the Office of the Prime Minister and "developed a five-year plan for 2008-2012, to be implemented both nationally and by local governments." However, the National Youth Commission could not be located on the government organizational chart.

**YOUTH AND REPRESENTATION**

The National Council of Youth Organizations in Korea (NCYOK) is a membership organisation founded in 1965. The work of NCYOK, covers information exchange, mutual cooperation among youth organizations and joint research on youth, connecting the government, schools, social organizations and international youth organizations in striving to promote organizational activities for youths and youth leaders.

The NCYOK represents Korean youth at the Asian Youth Council and international youth events.

**BUDGET & SPENDING**

No documentation on youth spending in South Korea could be found online. According to the World Bank, South Korea spent 15.77% of its government expenditure on education provision in 2008, and 5.05% of its GDP in 2009.

**TOTAL EXPENDITURE ON EDUCATION AS A PERCENTAGE OF GOVERNMENT SPENDING AND GDP**

Source: World Bank

Gaps indicate missing data from the original data source. (Accessed August 2013).

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