

EFFECTIVE RESETTLEMENT OF OFFENDERS BY STRENGTHENING ‘COMMUNITY REINTEGRATION FACTORS’: COUNTRY REPORT – KOREA

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I. OVERVIEW

A. The Goal of Corrections

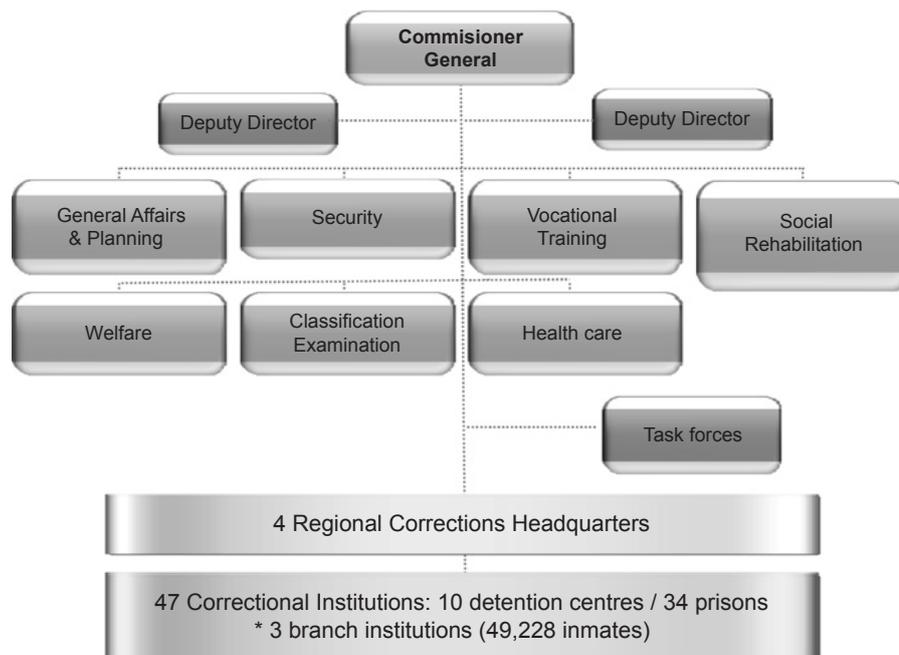
1. The Goal of Corrections

Article 1 of the Act on Execution of the Sentence and Treatment of Inmates specifies that the goal of the Korea Correctional Service (KCS) is the prevention of recidivism and the successful reintegration into society of offenders.

2. Policy Objectives

For this goal, the KCS operates various rehabilitative programmes. The assistance given to achieving the inmate’s secure resettlement into society can be considered a yardstick by which to measure the success of the correctional service. Thus, the Ministry of Justice provides vocational training, academic education, humanity education, religious activities and supports employment, etc. These programmes contribute to strengthening the rehabilitation of offenders. The inmate’s human rights are also sufficiently respected and protected during their stay in correctional institutions by the Constitution and relevant laws. If an inmate believes that his or her rights have been infringed, he or she can recover his or her rights through an interview with the Warden, a petition, or an appeal to the National Human Rights Commission, etc. Because the community’s role in the correctional service helps the inmate’s resettlement into society, the correctional administration does its utmost to expand public involvement in corrections.

B. Organizational Structure



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The Korea Correctional Service, under Ministry of Justice, directs and supervises the administration and operation of correctional facilities. The Commissioner of the Korea Correctional Service is assisted by the Director-General for Correctional Policy and the Director-General for Security Policy. The Director-General for Correctional Policy assists the Commissioner with issues related to the General Affairs and Planning Division, Vocational Training Division, Social Rehabilitation Division and the Welfare Division. The Director-General for Security Policy assists the Commissioner with matters concerning the Security Division, Classification and Examination Division and the Health Care Division. The duties of each Division are as follows:

1. General Affairs and Planning Division

The Division makes overall plans on correctional administration, personnel management and inspections. The Division also drafts laws and regulations regarding correctional administration, public relations and international co-operation.

2. Vocational Training Division

The Division draws up and implements plans on prison industry and vocational training. The Division also handles matters related to remuneration and reparation for accidental deaths or injuries during work hours.

3. Social Rehabilitation Division

The Division creates and executes policies regarding education, protection and overall support for inmates scheduled to be released; deals with matters related to the appointment or discharge of correctional volunteers; and issues authorizations and permissions to the corporation that provides rehabilitation programmes and support for social reintegration. The Division also makes plans for field trips and furloughs for inmates and operates employment service centres.

4. Welfare Division

The Division makes Budget plans, administers facilities and handles the provision of food and clothing.

5. Security Division

The Security Division is in charge of the admission, accommodation, daily living care and the release of inmates. It also conducts inspections of facilities; handles classification and parole preparation; and manages auxiliary correctional officers and security apparatuses.

6. Classification and Examination Division

This Division develops treatment programmes for inmates; creates and operates scientific classification methods; supervises the Classification and Treatment Board and the Parole Board; and reviews inmates to be paroled.

7. Health Care Division

This Division takes care of inmates' health and hygiene, and provides medical treatment, including prescription and dispensation. The Division also formulates and implements policies for health screening, disease prevention and rights protection of inmates.

8. Regional Correctional Headquarters

Regional Correctional headquarters are situated in Seoul (Central region), Taegu (YOUNGnam region), Taejon (Chung region) and Kwangju (Honam region), and provide mid-level supervision by directly overseeing local correctional institutions within their own respective jurisdictions. There are five divisions under the Commissioner of Regional Correctional Headquarters: the General Affairs Division, Security Division, Industry Division, Medical Care and Classification Division and Educational Reformation Division.

There are 47 correctional facilities including ten detention centres, 34 prisons and three branch institutions. These Correctional institutions house 49,228 inmates.

C. Correctional Staff

Correctional staff are generally divided into non-uniformed officers and uniformed officers. Uniformed

officers have charge of security in general. But they also take charge of administration including Education, Medical Care, Food and Hygiene, etc. Non-uniformed officers work in Education, Classification, Administration, Medical Care, Food and Hygiene, Facility Management, etc. The KCS has a total staff of 14,295.

II. HALFWAY HOUSE

A. House of Hope

The Correctional Service operates a halfway house called the 'House of Hope'. The 'House of Hope' is a training centre for inmates who are eligible for parole. The goal of this house is to improve the parolees' capacity to reintegrate into the community and to prevent reoffending through programmes run in three stages.

1. First stage: adaptation to the facility (two weeks)
 - Adaptation to unfamiliar open environment.
 - Education for treatment plan.
2. Second stage: adaptation to society
 - Work at workplaces outside the facility.
3. Third stage: settlement in society
 - Strengthen the parolee's relationship with family members through furlough.
 - Volunteer activity.

1. Facilities

The 'House of Hope' was established on 21 January 2009. Five rooms accommodate ten inmates who have three to six months to release. They have the advantage of advanced services during their stay. The facility is comfortably equipped: rooms have beds and desks, and computers and a community area are provided.

On weekdays the parolees work at the 'Beautiful Auto-care Shop'. In their free time they plan for their lives after release, can go out on furlough, take part in volunteer activities and receive humanity education during the weekend.

2. Employment Placement

As of April 2009, 15 inmates have been released from the House of Hope and all of them have secured work, three in auto-care related work. The Korea Correction Service will establish more Houses of Hope.

III. SOCIAL ADAPTATION TRAINING CENTER

The Korea Correctional Service operates a "Social Adaptation Training Center" to help inmates successfully resettle into society. This Center was established on 1 July 2009 and accommodates inmates eligible for parole within six months and who were sentenced to five or more years' imprisonment, and are serving their first or second term of imprisonment. Training sessions run for six months and comprise three stages.

The first stage takes place during the first two weeks. This starts with Orientation. This stage is designed to prepare inmates to approach rapidly changing daily life. This opportunity helps inmates to be smoothly resettled into society. This stage focuses on recovery of family and personal relationships. The inmate has free use of the telephone. They experience the opening of an account and credit card through a mock daily life programme.

The second stage is implemented for almost four months and two weeks. The inmates commute to outside work. This stage is designed to help inmates solve difficulties for social re-entry. The inmates strengthen their relationships with their families through furlough, family visits, etc. Inmates in this facility are given more of these opportunities compared to prison inmates. They get a chance to rebuild social relationships through various volunteer activities and cultural performances.

The third stage lasts two weeks and is composed of group education, social experience, and education for job finding or opening an own business. Advice is provided by the Small and Medium Business Administration. The inmates don't work in this time.

IV. SUPPORT FOR JOB FINDING AND OPENING OWN BUSINESS

A. Support Committee for Job Finding and Opening Own Business

In April 2008 the Korea Correctional Service established a "Support Committee for Job Finding and Business Start-ups" in every correctional institution. The Committee members comprise the respective wardens and directors, and professors, business owners and other community leaders.

Instances of Job Finding Support by the Committee					
Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Number	743	730	670	672	717

Instances of Business Start-up Support by the Committee					
Total	Manufacturing	Distributing	Service	Restaurant	Construction
24	4	8	4	6	2

This committee helps inmates in comprehensive ways such as introducing them to jobs, providing information for starting their own businesses, supporting skills and materials, and consulting services, etc. This committee also gives advice about rehabilitation policy and correctional administration. In order to co-operate and assist the committee, a task force is created. This team is responsible for planning the work, structuring networks with related agencies and building relationships with business owners in the community. This team supplements new rehabilitation assistance content in the correctional information system to build a nationwide network, which can improve the efficiency of the rehabilitation support system. Thus, the committee operates more systematically and scientifically to provide employment for inmates. More than 700 inmates have secured a job after release as a result of these activities. Some of them have opened their own businesses in various fields.

B. Job Fair

The economic difficulties released offenders experience are a factor in their reoffending. To solve this problem, KCS desperately needs the community's co-operation. The Correctional Service develops custom-made vocational training programmes to attract business owners in the community who can employ the inmates. This programme allows the business owner to select trainees and to fix the training content, to some extent. The inmates have opportunity to be introduced to a job in stages after vocational training.

Stages	Contents
First Stage	Selecting an inmate Consultation in advance for inmate to be released Identifying inmates who want to be hired
Second Stage	Introduction to jobs: job fair
Third Stage	Intense management for some period after release Intense management period (one month) Adaptation period (three months) Stability period (two months)

A job fair is prepared to provide employment consultation, information on starting own businesses, job interviews, vocational aptitude tests and lectures by released offenders experiencing success in running their own businesses or finding a job.

As of 27 April 2010, the results of the second job fair are as follows:

(Unit: number)

Total		Seoul Headquarters		Daegu Headquarters		Daejon Headquarters		Kwangju Headquarters	
Enterprise	Job	Enterprise	Job	Enterprise	Job	Enterprise	Job	Enterprise	Job
623	1293	65	313	51	139	40	569	467	272

Job interviews are conducted on the spot and by camera (cam-interview). The inmates applying for cam-interview are as follows:

(Unit: person)

Total	Seoul Headquarters	Daegu Headquarters	Daejon Headquarters	Kwangju Headquarters
317	136	67	55	59

Visual telephones allocated in correctional institution for cam-interview are as follows:

(Unit: number)

Total	Seoul Headquarters	Daegu Headquarters	Daejon Headquarters	Kwangju Headquarters
35	14	7	7	7

One thousand, one hundred and eighty four (1,184) inmates took part in the second job fair which was held at four headquarters nationwide. Four hundred and eighty one (481) inmates were hired by job interview. Some of them were hired twice.

(Unit: person)

	Total	Spot-interview	Cam-interview
Total	481	383	98
Seoul Headquarters	138	117	21
Daegu Headquarters	89	78	8
Daejon Headquarters	167	132	35
Kwangju Headquarters	90	56	34

C. Joy and Hope Bank

Long-term incarceration in correctional institutions can lead to a 'social lag' phenomenon for inmates. To remedy this, inmates should have an economic stepping stone for life after release. The "Joy and Hope Bank" was established in June 2008 by the Catholic Correctional Committee. This bank is designed to support inmates who want to find a job or open their own shops. The bank also helps victims and supports other rehabilitative work. This bank gives loans without mortgages to the amount of US\$20,000 per inmate. Correctional staff assigned to task forces in correctional institutions select inmates with good behaviour records who are less than two years from release, who are considered to have good business ability. The selected inmate needs to complete a two-week orientation course operated by the bank. After finishing this course, the inmate provides a business plan on paper. This business plan is examined and the bank investigates the possibility of the success of the business before granting the loan. Aftercare is also provided. In 2009, four loans were made.

V. CONCLUSION

The goal of correctional service is to rehabilitate offenders and to resettle them in the community as good citizens. Inmates' successful resettlement in society reduces recidivism; this is an imperative, given the high social costs of reoffending. Korea Correctional Service develops and operates various systems to ensure an advanced correction administration and better treatment for offenders. Such systems include the Hope Light Project, opening new specialized vocational training programmes, custom-made correction rehabilitation programmes, the House of Hope, supporting employment and business start-ups, including improvement of the institutional environment and improvement of medical treatment. Finally, Korea Correctional Service will work hard to help inmates start over a new life with hope.