

OVERVIEW PAPER: INTRODUCING THE KOREAN CORRECTIONAL SYSTEM

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I. ORGANIZATION

A. Central Headquarters

The Correctional Service of the Ministry of Justice, which is the central organization of correctional administration, has 7 divisions (the head is the Commissioner of Korea Correctional Service) including Correctional Policy and Security Policy.

1. Correctional Policy

(i) General Affairs & Planning Division

- making overall plans on correctional administration, personnel management, staff training, inspections, public relations, and international cooperation.

(ii) Vocational Training Division

- making and implementing plans on vocational training, employment, support for starting a business, vocational training management of supplies.

(iii) Social Reintegration Division

- providing rehabilitation programmes, inmate education, inmate treatment

(iv) Welfare Division

- administering budget, management, administering facilities, general accounting, making budget plans, taking care of supplies.

2. Security Policy

(i) Security Division

- protection, consultation, transportation, custody, emergency training, electronic security, managing security apparatuses.

(ii) Classification & Examination Division

- parole preparation, classification treatment, maintaining and developing policies.

(iii) Health Care Division

- taking care of inmates' health, telemedicine, handling inmate petitions, human rights and transportation.

B. Local Correctional Institutions

1. Regional Correction Headquarters

Four Regional Correction Headquarters were established on 1 November 1999 for the reason that the Correction Bureau could not manage and supervise efficiently all correctional institutions throughout the nation. Regional Correction Headquarters are situated in Seoul (Central Region), Taegu (Youngnam Region), Taejon (Chungchung Region) and Kwangju (Honam Region) and are performing mid-level supervision by directly overseeing local correctional institutions within their own jurisdictions. There are five divisions under the Commissioner of Regional Correction Headquarters: the General Affairs Division, the Security

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Division, the Industry Division, the Medical Care & Classification Division and the Educational Reformation Division.

2. Correctional Institutions

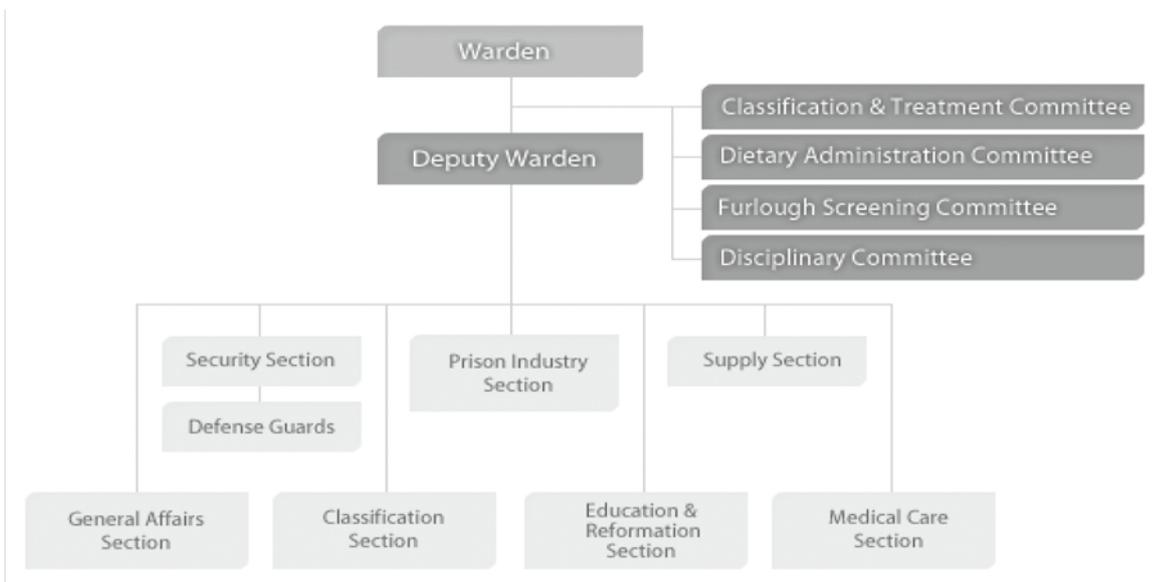
There had been total of 20 correctional institutions and one branch when the organization of correctional institutions was established in March 1950 right after the foundation of the Korean Government. Because of increasing crimes and demands for more correctional institutions for better inmates' housing and treatment, the number of correctional facilities has increased to 50. Accordingly, there are 4 Regional Correction Headquarters, 36 Correctional Institutions, 11 Detention Centers, and 3 branches as of 30 June 2010.

A Correctional Institution is the place where sentenced inmates are housed. The aim of these institutions is to return inmates to society as sound citizens after their service by providing various correctional education, reformatory programmes, and vocational training, etc.

A Detention Center is the place where unsentenced inmates are housed for trial. As a detention facility, Seoul Detention Center was built in July 1967 and Suwon Detention Center was built in 1996 as a high-rise style building (9 stories) by considering the city environment and distance to the Prosecutors' Office.

3. Organization of Local Correctional Institutions

Local correctional institutions have different organizations according to their function. The organization of correctional institution is as follows.



II. OFFENDER TREATMENT

A. Vocational Training

Vocational training programmes are provided in order to cultivate the technical skills of prisoners so as to be easily employable upon his/her release. Since 1969, public vocational training centers have been established under the auspices of the Ministry of Labor Affairs in 30 correctional institutions across the nation. At each training center, six months to two year training courses are provided for 66 different types of skills, such as computer graphic design, animation, architecture, mechanics, electrical fields, etc.

B. Acquisition of Technician's Qualifications

Trainees who have completed the training courses are encouraged to participate in technical skills competitions hosted by the Korean Industrial Manpower Management Agency. Also, they can take license tests conducted by municipal or provincial agencies. Young prisoners, at the age of 14 or older and with excellent skills, can be selected as participants in national or local skill contests which are sponsored by the Korea Committee of the International Vocational Skill Contests. They compete with skilled workers from outside.

Many young prisoners win prizes, including gold medals, in various fields every year. For those winners, occupational guidance is provided and priority of release on parole can be given.

C. Education

1. Moral Education for Prisoners

Moral Training has come to play a leading role in correctional education and it has produced extremely good results. The moral training is provided to instill sound spirit in inmates, to cultivate the qualities of a democratic citizen and to improve his/her character through rehabilitation by making them accustomed to law-abiding life styles. Such moral education is provided over a period of two weeks (78 hours) in regards to 16 different subjects, such as patriotic sentiment, national ethics and life skills.

2. Academic Education

i) School Courses

Academic education equivalent to elementary, junior and senior high school courses is provided in order to help prisoners to acquire common knowledge. The education programmes and correspondence-high-school courses are provided at two juvenile correctional institutions to give them a chance to earn their high-school diplomas. From 1 January 1999, several facilities were designated for the academic education-focused facility. Owing to these efforts, 26 prisoners passed the college entrance examination in 2000.

ii) Foreign Language and Computer Education

From 1 October 1999, English and Japanese conversation courses and computer courses were established at Eujungboo Correctional Institution for inmates in preparation for the information era, and to improve the possibility of employment after their release. Sixty well-behaved inmates who are selected from nationwide facilities and native speakers teach the languages to the inmates. This programme will be expanded to other facilities in the near future.

D. Rehabilitative Activities

1. Counselling

Counselling is a rehabilitative activity designed to help resolving problems or troubles of each individual prisoner. It is to help them to change his/her way of thinking and set out behaviour into desirable patterns and to let them recover their self-esteem. In most cases, consultation services are provided in the form of individual consultation between prisoners and consultants. In the case of religious consultation or mental treatment, specialists who have educational and religious committee membership are invited to provide them with help.

2. Religious Guidance

The religious guidance programme aims to cultivate sound morality in prisoners' minds through the purification of their souls and religious devotion. It helps prisoners return to society as a sound persons, setting positive goals for everyone's lives.

As of June 1999, about 1,400 religious clergymen have been commissioned to be members of the Prisoners Religious Guidance Committee. They regularly give lectures on religious doctrines, establish brotherhood relationships and hold various religious events. Approximately 77% of prisoners have become affiliated with religion, leading to healthy religious lives of inmates by the end of 1999.

3. Special Activities

Inmates are apt to become emotionally unstable. In order to encourage inmates to live sound and bright lives in prison, various activities are carried out accordingly: sports games, song and chorus contests, literary work presentations, movie watching, flower gardening, farming, etc.