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KEN
Korea-EU CSO Network

NEWSLETTER
January 2024

CLIMATE ACTION
HUMAN RIGHTS

Establishing effective partnerships and networks among CSOs

Dear Community Members,

We are thrilled to present the latest edition of our newsletter, where we bring you a comprehensive overview of the dynamic and impactful activities undertaken by the Korea-EU Civil Society Network (KEN). As we navigate the complex landscape of civil society engagement, this volume serves as a testament to our commitment to fostering collaboration and dialogue between the EU and Korea.

In this edition, we shine a spotlight on KEN's diverse range of activities and initiatives that continue to contribute to the advancement of shared values and goals. From collaborative projects to insightful discussions, our network remains steadfast in its dedication to promoting human rights, addressing the urgent challenges posed by climate change, and advocating for gender equality on both regional and global scales.

Furthermore, we persist in our efforts to bring you updates from the civil society realms of the EU and Korea. As the issues and challenges we address shape the discourse at the intersection of policy and activism, KEN remains at the forefront, facilitating meaningful conversations and driving positive change.

We invite you to immerse yourselves in the wealth of information presented within these pages, as we endeavor to encapsulate the dedication, passion, and resilience of the CSO communities both in Korea and the EU. Together, through collaboration and shared insights, we aspire to drive positive change and create a more equitable and sustainable future for all.

As we strive to create a more inclusive, just, and sustainable future, KEN remains a vital platform for dialogue and collaboration. We extend our gratitude to all our partners, supporters, and contributors who make our collective endeavors possible.

Visit the website and Facebook of the European Union Delegation to the Republic of Korea for more.

Best regards,

Your KEN team

KEN ACTIONS AND INITIATIVES 2022-2023

>> WORKSHOPS

Encouraging Participation of Women in Science and Technology: challenges for the young generations, 29 November 2022

"Encouraging Participation of Women in Science and Technology: challenges for the young generations" was a dynamic event hosted by The Korean Institute for Gender Equality Promotion and Education (KIGEPE) in collaboration with KEN. The event included inspiring stories shared by panelists, a projection of a sidewalk interview video featuring Korean students, and a panel discussion with student representatives. Additionally, Dr. Hyong-Ha Kim delivered a presentation on ERASMUS+ and Marie Sklodowska-Curie Actions, providing valuable insights into opportunities for young generations in the field of science and technology.

Celebrating the International Human Rights Day, 12-13 December 2022

"Celebrating the International Human Rights Day" was a two-day event that brought together various expressions of solidarity and advocacy. The event featured powerful exhibitions, including striking photos by the Virtual Museum of War Memory from the Kiev Region, a poignant display of the map of journalists and media people killed in 2022 by the International Federation of Journalists, thought-provoking cartoons and webtoons by Fidel Che, and evocative photos by Solidarity Against Disability Discrimination. The program also included a soul-stirring concert by the Ehwa Ensemble, providing a musical tribute to human rights. A highlight of the event was the panel discussions with human rights defenders and artists deeply engaged in human rights, providing a platform for meaningful conversations and reflections on the crucial issues surrounding human rights globally.

The Role of Men for a Gender Equal Society: 'Connecting' European and Korean Challenges, 16 May 2023

"The Role of Men for a Gender Equal Society: 'Connecting' European and Korean Challenges" was a significant event co-hosted by the Seoul Acceleration Center for Gender Equity Gender Equality Training Platform (GET-P). The event aimed to explore and foster discussions on the crucial role of men in advancing gender equality within both European and Korean contexts. It served as a platform for connecting challenges, experiences, and strategies for promoting a more inclusive and equitable society. By addressing the specific roles and responsibilities of men in the pursuit of gender equality, the event contributed to the ongoing dialogue on fostering collaborative efforts for a more balanced and just future.

Korea-EU Youth Climate Action Festival, 23 September 2023

SAVE
EARTH
기후행동 축제
너무 더워요
love earth
THERE IS NO PLANET B

The "Korea-EU Youth Climate Action Festival" hosted by KEN in collaboration with SDSN Korea, SDSN Youth Korea, and GEYK, provided a vibrant platform for discussions and concrete initiatives in the realm of climate action. The panel discussion, moderated by Julian Quintart, explored the theme of "Youth engagement in climate action in the EU and Korea and how it can impact policy making," featuring diverse perspectives from panelists representing various fields. The Rooftop Garden Fair showcased climate endeavors from different countries and organizations, highlighting green economy businesses and startups. The event also recognized outstanding contributions, with Fanny Billault's "Paris to Seoul without Planes" winning the video contest "SHOW ME YOUR CLIMATE ACTION." The festival fostered a dynamic exchange of ideas and initiatives in the pursuit of a sustainable and climate-resilient future.

>> WEBINARS

The Future of Care: Addressing the Situation of Young Carers, 28 February 2023

"The Future of Care: Addressing the Situation of Young Carers" was a thought-provoking webinar co-hosted by Young Carers Community N-inbun, Korean Family Studies Association, and YMCA KOREA. The webinar delved into the critical issue of young carers, shedding light on their unique challenges and the need for comprehensive support. The event provided a platform for meaningful discussions among participants and experts, aiming to raise awareness, foster understanding, and explore potential solutions to improve the situation of young carers. By bringing together diverse perspectives, the webinar contributed to the ongoing dialogue on caregiving and underscored the importance of addressing the specific needs of this often-overlooked demographic.

Towards an inclusive society: Role of CSOs in combatting hatred and discrimination, 16 November 2023

The webinar, "Towards an Inclusive Society: Role of CSOs in Combatting Hatred and Discrimination," was a crucial forum co-hosted by Migration to Asia Peace and LGBTQ Youth Support Center DDing Dong. The event focused on the pivotal role that CSOs play in the ongoing efforts to combat hatred and discrimination, with a particular emphasis on fostering inclusivity in society. Through insightful discussions and shared experiences, the webinar aimed to raise awareness, promote dialogue, and explore strategies to build a more inclusive and tolerant community. By addressing issues related to discrimination and advocating for social harmony, the webinar contributed to the broader mission of creating a society that embraces diversity and respects the rights of all individuals.

>> CONFERENCE

2023 Korea-EU CSO Network Human Rights Conference: Live Diversity: Practice Inclusivity, 7 December 2023

2023 KOREA-EU CSO NETWORK
HUMAN RIGHTS CONFERENCE
LIVE DIVERSITY:
PRACTICE INCLUSIVITY
2023 한-EU 시민사회
네트워크 인권 회의
다양성의 실현:
포용성의 실천
KEN
Korea-EU CSO

The "2023 KOREA-EU CSO Network Human Rights Conference: Live Diversity: Practice Inclusivity" emerged as a pivotal platform for engaging discussions on the multifaceted issues of multiple discriminations, diversity, and inclusion. The conference featured three impactful sessions. The first session, "Identifying intersectionality: the challenges of multiple discriminations," delved into the complex challenges posed by intersecting forms of discrimination. The second session, "Diversity and inclusion in education and in the workplace," explored strategies for fostering inclusivity in these critical domains. Finally, the third session, "Embracing diverse families," highlighted the importance of embracing and supporting diverse family structures. The conference served as a catalyst for meaningful dialogue, addressing the role of various stakeholders in shaping a more inclusive and equitable society.

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE EU

>> HUMAN RIGHTS

EU4HEALTH: APPRECIATING NGOS AS KEY PLAYERS IN THE FIELD OF HEALTH AT EU AND LOCAL LEVELS

In the realm of health, non-governmental organisations (NGOs) hold a pivotal role, operating both at the EU and local levels. Beyond direct patient support, these organizations are instrumental in tackling non-communicable diseases such as cancer. Their efforts are focused on crucial health determinants like second-hand smoke exposure, rare diseases, an aging society, and unhealthy lifestyle choices. Recognizing the significance of NGOs in achieving the objectives of the EU4Health program, HaDEA has initiated a call for proposals for operating grants as part of the 2024 EU4Health Annual Work Programme.

Organizations that secure these grants are poised to increase awareness on diverse health aspects; contribute to the enhancement of healthcare activities and practices; foster the exchange of knowledge and collaboration with other civil society organizations and international bodies.

For further information

>> WOMEN & GENDER EQUALITY

“MY NAME IS NOT DOLL”: CITIES AGAINST GENDER-VIOLENCE”

In a recent video, European Parliament Vice President Evelyn Regner endorsed the pivotal role of cities in combating violence against women and urged collective action. Emphasizing the significance of a network of cities, like Eurocities, working in tandem, she highlighted various local initiatives addressing gender-based violence. Her statement preceded the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-based Violence campaign, shedding light on the urgent need to intensify efforts, secure funds, and enhance legal protection for women at the EU level. The article provides examples of city initiatives during the campaign, such as Bonn's "StopSitSpeak," Dortmund's "My name is not a doll," Glasgow's domestic abuse strategy, Brussels’ focus on sexual harassment in public spaces, Malmo's deterrence-based approach, Mannheim's decade-long schemes, and Bologna's comprehensive plan addressing gender-based violence within the context of broader inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis.

For further information

>> CLIMATE CHANGE

EU NEGOTIATORS SECURE AGREEMENT AT COP28 TO ACCELERATE THE GLOBAL TRANSITION AWAY FROM FOSSIL FUELS AND TRIPLE RENEWABLES AND DOUBLE ENERGY EFFICIENCY THIS DECADE

At the conclusion of COP28, the UN Climate Conference in Dubai, European Union negotiators, in collaboration with global partners, successfully kept alive the commitment outlined in the Paris Agreement to limit the global average temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. The focus of the talks, particularly on the energy sector, led to an agreement to expedite the transition away from fossil fuels within this decade, reduce emissions by 43% by 2030, and set a trajectory towards achieving net zero emissions by 2050. COP28 marked the culmination of the first Global Stocktake under the Paris Agreement, emphasizing the goals of the Global Renewables and Energy Efficiency Pledge. Additionally, the Global Stocktake focuses on implementation means, finalizing steps towards establishing a new collective quantified goal on climate finance and advancing the Global Goal on Adaptation framework. The EU played a pivotal role, contributing significantly to the operationalization of a new fund addressing loss and damage, with pledges exceeding €400 million from the EU and its Member States.

For further information

HIGHLIGHTS FROM KOREA

>> HUMAN RIGHTS

GOOGLE FAILS TO TACKLE ONLINE SEXUAL ABUSE CONTENT DESPITE COMPLAINTS BY SURVIVORS

Amnesty International reports that Google has not addressed flaws in its system for removing non-consensual sexually explicit content from searches, despite a year-long campaign by South Korean women and girls who are victims of digital sex crimes. Survivors find Google's removal request process difficult to navigate and unresponsive. The company's convoluted reporting system and slow responses mean explicit videos remain online, causing prolonged harm to victims. Despite Google's acknowledgment of the difficulties faced by survivors, Amnesty International urges the company to simplify reporting processes, take practical measures to prevent content redistribution, and adopt a survivor-centered approach to reviewing materials.

For further information

>> WOMEN & GENDER EQUALITY

THE FUTURE OF KOREA, LED BY WOMEN IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Ministry of Science and ICT (MSIT) together with five prominent women's science and technology institutes and organizations successfully organized the "2023 Korea Conference of Women in Science & Technology (KCWST)". The conference celebrated significant anniversaries for organizations like WISET, KOFWST, and KWSE, integrating their separate annual events into a comprehensive platform. Themed "The Future of Korea, Led by Women in Science and Technology," the event drew 300 participants, including scientists, engineers, government officials, and representatives from women's science and technology organizations. Notable attendees included Prime Minister Han Duck-soo and MSIT 1st Vice Minister Cho Seong-Kyung, emphasizing the vital role of women in science and technology for national development. The discussions centered around fostering diversity, nurturing the next generation of women scientists, innovation in the R&D ecosystem, global leadership, and contributing to national competitiveness. The event concluded with a panel discussion gathering opinions on the "5th Master Plan for Fostering and Supporting Women in STEM," which MSIT plans to incorporate into the formulation of the Master Plan.

For further information

>> CLIMATE CHANGE

CIVIL SOCIETY URGES POSCO TO HALT EXTENSION OF COAL-BASED STEELMAKING

A coalition of 24 global civil society organizations sent a letter to POSCO Holdings, Korea's largest steel producer, urging an end to the extension of coal-fired blast furnaces' lifespan and the development of a phased-out plan for the remaining ones. The furnaces significantly contribute to the steel industry's high emission intensity, accounting for 16.7% of South Korea's total greenhouse gas emissions. POSCO's plan to reline blast furnaces in Pohang and Gwangyang, the world's two largest integrated steel mills, extends coal use, contradicting climate targets of emission reduction by 10% by 2030 and 50% by 2050. The letter calls for POSCO to align with its climate goals and adopt greener production methods, such as scrap-based electric arc furnaces and hydrogen direct reduced iron.

For further information

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