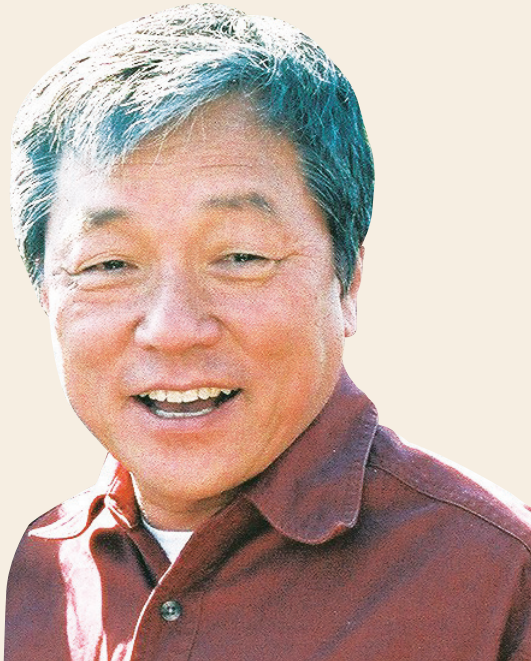
Man of action

Dr. Lee Jong-wook,
The 6th Director General of WHO
— the first South Korean to head a U.N. agency.



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Dr. Lee Jong-wook's life was a series of uncharted roads.
Let us introduce Dr. Lee Jong-wook, ' Doctor for humanity',
who devoted his entire life to helping the marginalized.

The journey of Dr.Lee Jong-wook

1945.4.12.
Lee was born in Bukahyeon-dong of Seoul city as a 4th child to a family with 4 sons and 2 daughters

1950.6.
The outbreak of the Korean War.
He fled to Daegu and became a refugee

1960.4.
He enrolled Kyungbock high school. He was the president of his class for all three of the years

1970.1.
He finally got accepted in Seoul National University's College of Medicine on his 5th try

1976.2.
He worked as a volunteer doctor to help patients with leprosy at 'the St Lazarus Village', located in Uiwang city, Gyeonggi-do province. There, he met Reiko Kaburaki who later became his wife

1976.8.
He worked as a doctor of emergency room at Gangwon Provincial Medical Center

1979.8.
He began his master's degree in public health at the University of Hawaii

1981.6.
He started his career as a clinician at the Lyndon B. Johnson Tropical Medicine Center in the American Samoan Islands

1983.6.
Advanced career as a leprosy consultant to WHO in Suva, Fiji

1986.12.
Then he moved to the Western Pacific Regional Office in Manila to serve as a regional adviser on chronic diseases

1990.6.
And later he became the director for communicable diseases in the Western Pacific Region. He took the lead in eradicating poliomyelitis

1994.5.
He was selected to serve as head of WHO's Global Program on Vaccines and Immunizations and as executive secretary of the Children's Vaccine Initiative

2000.12.
He became the director of the Stop Tuberculosis(TB) Department at WHO

2003.1.
He was elected as the 6th Director-General of the World Health Organization

2003.5.
He announced to achieve "3 by 5" – to ensure 3 million people with HIV/AIDS would have access to the medicines by the end of 2005

2004.12.
He completed the construction of Strategic Health and Operation Center (SHOC) at WHO

2005.2.
Framework Convention on Tobacco Control came into force

2006.5.20.
He had a stroke while preparing for the annual World Health Assembly

2006.5.22.
Lee died on the opening day of the annual World Health Assembly

Dr. Lee Jong-wook,
The 6th Director General of WHO
— the first South Korean to head a U.N. agency.

Leprosy
‘To keep it under 1 case per 10,000 people’

In 1983, when working at WHO Fiji Office, Lee traveled from one Pacific island to another to find leprosy cases and get the patients onto treatment. At that time, he spread multidrug administration which combined dapsone and clofazimine. He continued to work hard to eliminate leprosy in Manila where WHO Western Pacific Regional Office was located.



Leprosy prevalence rate



12 cases in Fiji

—

about 0.056 per 10,000 people



38 cases in the Solomon Islands

—

about 0.63 per 10,000 people



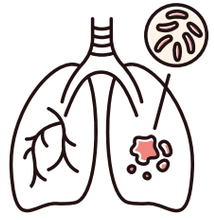
2,122 cases in the Philippines

—

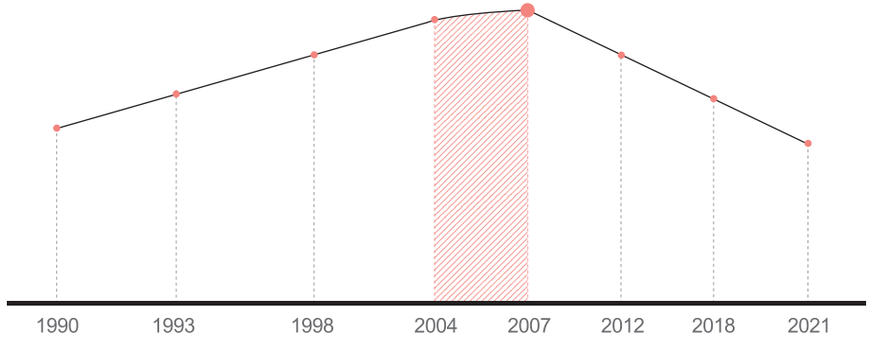
about 0.19 per 10,000 people

Hoping to end tuberculosis

In 2000, Lee became the director of the Stop Tuberculosis (TB) Department at WHO. He enhanced accessibility to TB medicine in developing countries by building global drug procurement organization, and contributed to Stop TB program.
He supplied 60,000 doses of tuberculosis treatment and promised to provide about 4 million dollars over 3 years by mobilizing Global Fund for North Korea when he visited there in 2001.
TB infection rates, which have gradually declined since 2004, stopped rising and began to decline in 2007.



Tuberculosis incidence rate



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Near to declare 'the end of polio'

When serving as the director for communicable diseases in the Western Pacific Region, Lee promoted a polio eradication program. By mobilizing external funds, he supplied polio vaccines to countries in the region.



Polio cases in the Western Pacific region

6000
cases in 1900

74
cases in 1994

'the Vaccine Czar' Lee Jong-wook

In 1994, Lee was selected to serve as head of WHO's Global Program on Vaccines and Immunizations and as executive secretary of the Children's Vaccine Initiative. And he launched a global polio eradication project.
In 1995, Director General Lee Jong-wook was dubbed 'Vaccine Czar' by Scientific American.



Current polio status by type

Polio virus type 1
—
Polio outbreaks only in Afghanistan and Pakistan (Lack of vaccine supply and inoculation in the areas due to prolonged armed conflicts)

Polio virus type 2
—
eradicated in 1999

Polio virus type 3
—
eradicated in 2019

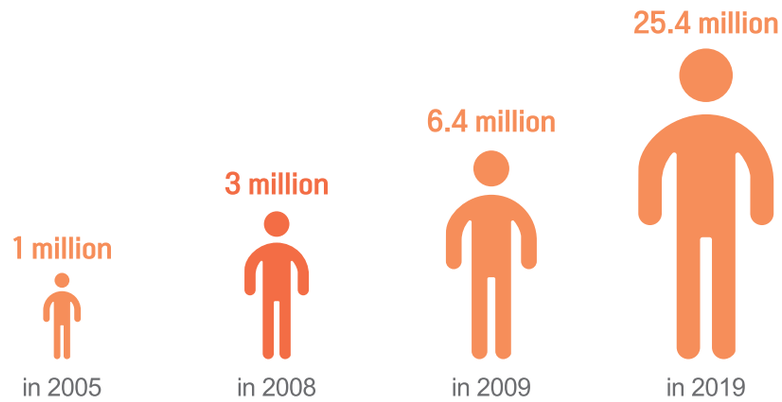
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3 by 5 campaign

At the 2003 World Health Assembly, he announced that 3 million people living with HIV/AIDS would be on antiretroviral treatment by 2005, which was known thereafter as the ‘3 by 5’ campaign. Although the goal was not achieved by 2005, 3 million people actually received the treatment by 2008.
Thanks to the campaign, people with HIV/AIDS in developing countries had greater access to the antiretroviral treatment, which is recognized as "one of the greatest achievements in the history of public health".

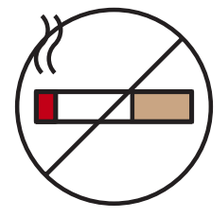


Number of provided anti-retroviral treatments

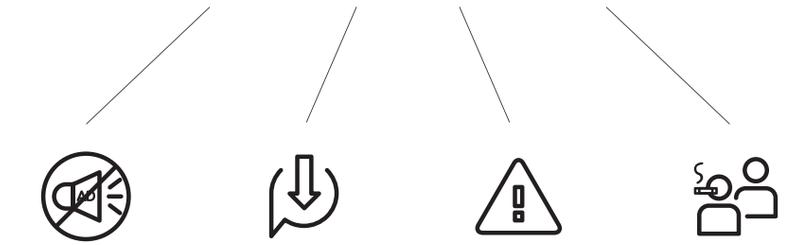


The first and the most widely embraced treaty, ‘Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC)’

The Convention entered into force in 2005 in response to the globalization of the tobacco epidemic. The number of member states has continued to rise to 182 which makes it one of the most widely embraced treaties in UN history.



Main contents of ‘Framework Convention on Tobacco Control’



* Framework Convention on Tobacco Control, FCTC

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In response to the pandemic at the forefront, ‘Strategic Health Operations Centre (SHOC)’ was established

Despite strong opposition inside WHO, Strategic Health Operations Centre was established in 2004. The center is where all relevant information is shared in real time, related to infection, disease control, treatment, supply of vaccine, etc across the world. Since then, the center has been serving as an excellent control tower in emergent public health crises such as H1N1 pandemic, Ebola virus, MERS, COVID-19, etc.



In honor of value and sprit of the late Director General Lee Jong-wook who built the center, later it was renamed ‘JW Lee Strategic Health Operations Centre (JW Lee SHOC)’.

* Strategic Health Operations Centre, SHOC

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August 1986

—

When Dr. Lee saw patients with leprosy, while working with other health professionals at the healthcare center in the South Pacific Solomon Islands, he carefully informed patients of various therapies and treatment storage methods.



September 2003

—

He paid first visit to Mpumalanga province in South Africa after taking office, dancing with native people to local music. He was on the way to local health centers which take care of health of the residents in the nearest area.

Dr. Lee Jong-wook,
The 6th Director General of WHO
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December 2005

—

Dr. Lee visited Balakot in Pakistan, where earthquake flattened the town. Lee was listening to the people at site. He opened local offices and sent 140 people in the stricken areas and Islamahad to help the victims find hope as soon as possible.



April 2006

—

Dr. Jong-Wook Lee, carrying his baggage at the Zambia Airport in Africa to attend the ‘World Health Day’ event. He traveled 150 days a year. The photo shows his frugal nature as he always insisted on having minimum attendance and economy class seats on a plane.

Dr. Lee Jong-wook's speech

Candidate speech for the position of 6th Director General of WHO

January 27th, 2003 in Switzerland.

Millions of people are still suffering from nonfatal diseases while hundreds of millions don't even have access to basic conditions for maintaining health, which is essential to escape from miserable poverty.
But we must not be let down. **We must never give up the noble goals we have set ourselves.** Thanks to the seemingly impossible goals, we eradicated smallpox and approached near polio eradication. This is more than a model case that the global public health sector should pay attention to for greater achievement.

Speech at the 56th World Health Assembly

May 21st, 2003 in Switzerland.

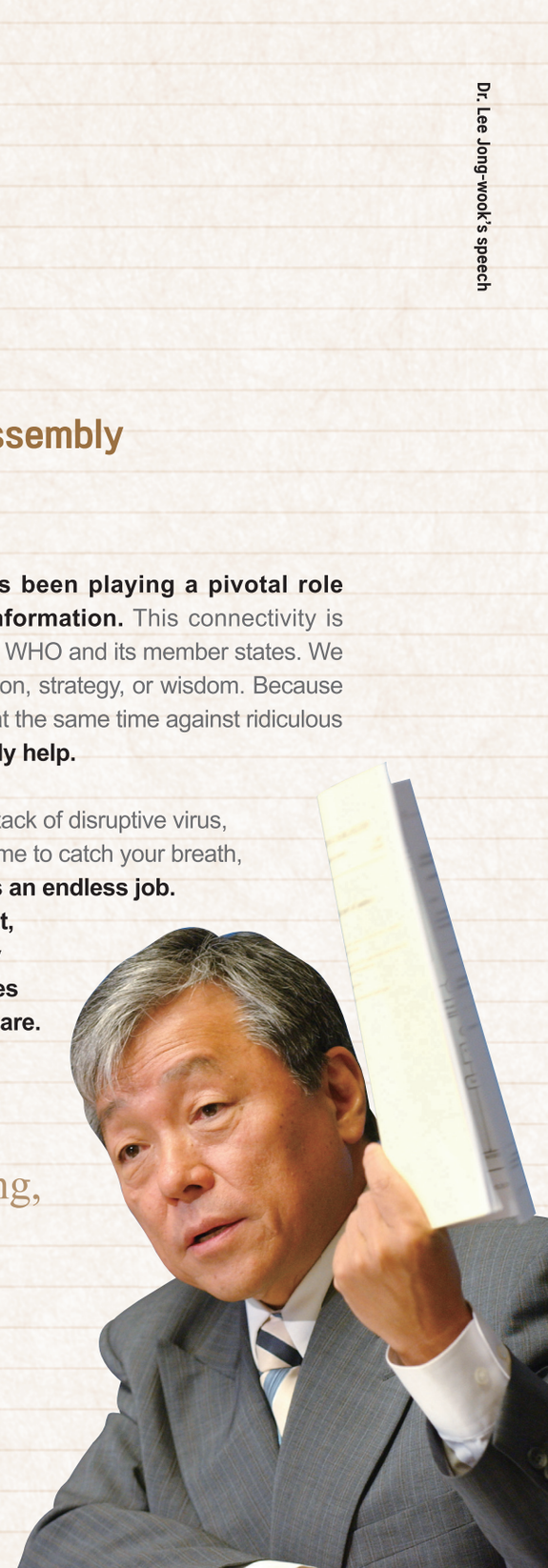
WHO has overarching missions. Our mission is **to achieve the highest level of health 'for all mankind regardless of race, religion, political beliefs, economic or social conditions'.** The field demands our solidarity. Also the field sends a warning call that **'unequal progress in health improvement and disease control' may pose a 'common danger'.** Our mission isn't naive. It came after the worst war humanity has ever witnessed.

At the 59th World Health Assembly

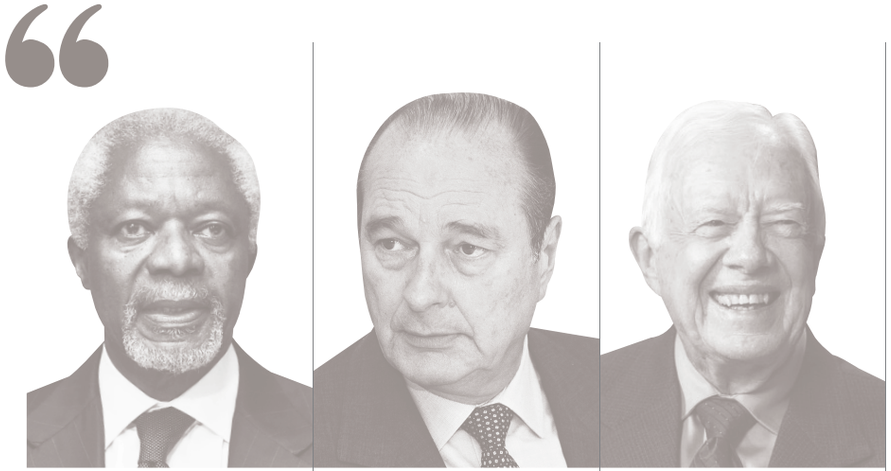
May 22nd, 2006 in Switzerland.

'Strategic Health Operations Centre' has been playing a pivotal role in coordinating actions and gathering information. This connectivity is absolutely necessary for the relations between WHO and its member states. We want WHO to be a source of reliable information, strategy, or wisdom. Because you have to fight against uncontrollable virus, at the same time against ridiculous rumors. **Honesty and proper science will only help.**
....
To all countries that have yet to come under attack of disruptive virus, please think carefully. If you can afford some time to catch your breath, please make the best use of it. **Preparation is an endless job.**
We need to accelerate vaccine development, build production capabilities, improve early warning systems, share protective measures in industries, and help other countries prepare.

"We need to do the right thing, at the right place, in the right way."



Tributes to Dr. Lee Jong-wook



former Secretary General
of the UN

Mr. Kofi Annan

—

He a fighter against public health threats, ranging from AIDS to tuberculosis. We also mainly discussed what he paid special attention to such as HIV/AIDS and malaria eradication. He was a leader of WHO employees throughout the world, but also a really good colleague and friend to me.

Former
French Presiden

Jacques Chirac

—

This great doctor helped others thanks to his vision and tolerance, and when he was the head, France established friendship and reliable relationship with WHO.

Former
U.S. President

Jimmy Carter

—

He was enthusiastic and bold, and made great strides. I was inspired by his humility, dignity, and his vision for a better world

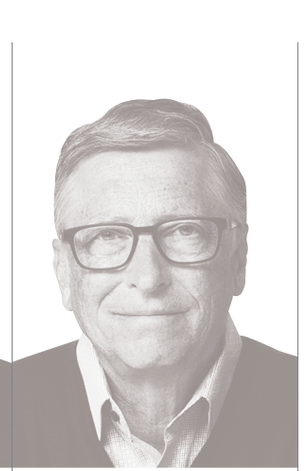


Former President of
World Bank Group

Jim Yong Kim

—

He believed more than in internationalism and globalism. He was open to different cultures and people, and really devoted himself to what he thought necessary. He was a fantastic leader.



Technology advisor at
Microsoft

Bill Gates

—

He was a leader in the health community. He showed that efforts and determination make us overcome seemingly insurmountable and the most challenging global health problems. He changed millions of people's lives across the globe. His contribution will be an eternal legacy of mankind.



Former chairwoman of
World Health Assembly

Elena Salgado

—

He was an exceptional person and an exceptional director-general. WHO became stronger and responded to global health issues effectively under his leadership. He will remain in our hearts forever.

Dr. Lee Jong-wook,
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Bridging value and spirit

Korea Foundation for International Healthcare(KOFIH) is a public agency affiliated with the Ministry of Health and Welfare of Korea. KOFIH was established to provide government-level healthcare assistance to partner countries, North Korea, overseas Koreans, migrant workers residing in Korea, and those affected by natural disasters. KOFIH also conducts commemorative projects for the late Dr. LEE Jong-wook, the 6th Director-General of WHO.



On behalf of Korea, KOFIH provides global health and medical assistance. And KOFIH will continue to work in the right way until all people in the globe receive proper health and medical assistance.

Official development assistance(ODA)

Maternal, Newborn, and Child Healthcare Promotion project; Diagnosis and Quarantine System Building Project for Communicable Disease Control; Tuberculosis Control Capacity Strengthening Project,Dr LEE Jong-wook Fellowship Program; Hospital Operation and Management Consulting Project(loan · grant based ODA project)

Healthcare Assistance for North Korea

Inter-Korean health care cooperative projects and Health assistance network building projects

Healthcare Assistance for overseas Koreans

KOFIH's healthcare support projects for elderly Koryo people living alone in nursing home · First generation of overseas Koreans in Sakhalin · Korean nurses and miners in Germany

Healthcare Assistance for Foreign Workers in Korea

Developing and disseminating health materials in multiple languages, Supporting vaccination, Operating mobile clinic to provide complimentary medical checkups

Overseas Emergency Disaster Relief Project

Educational program for KDRT(Korea Disaster Relief Team) health workers

Healthcare Resources Support

Project to train medical device technicians in partner countries, Medical devices management program in partner countries

Memorial Project to Honor the Late Dr. Lee Jong-wook

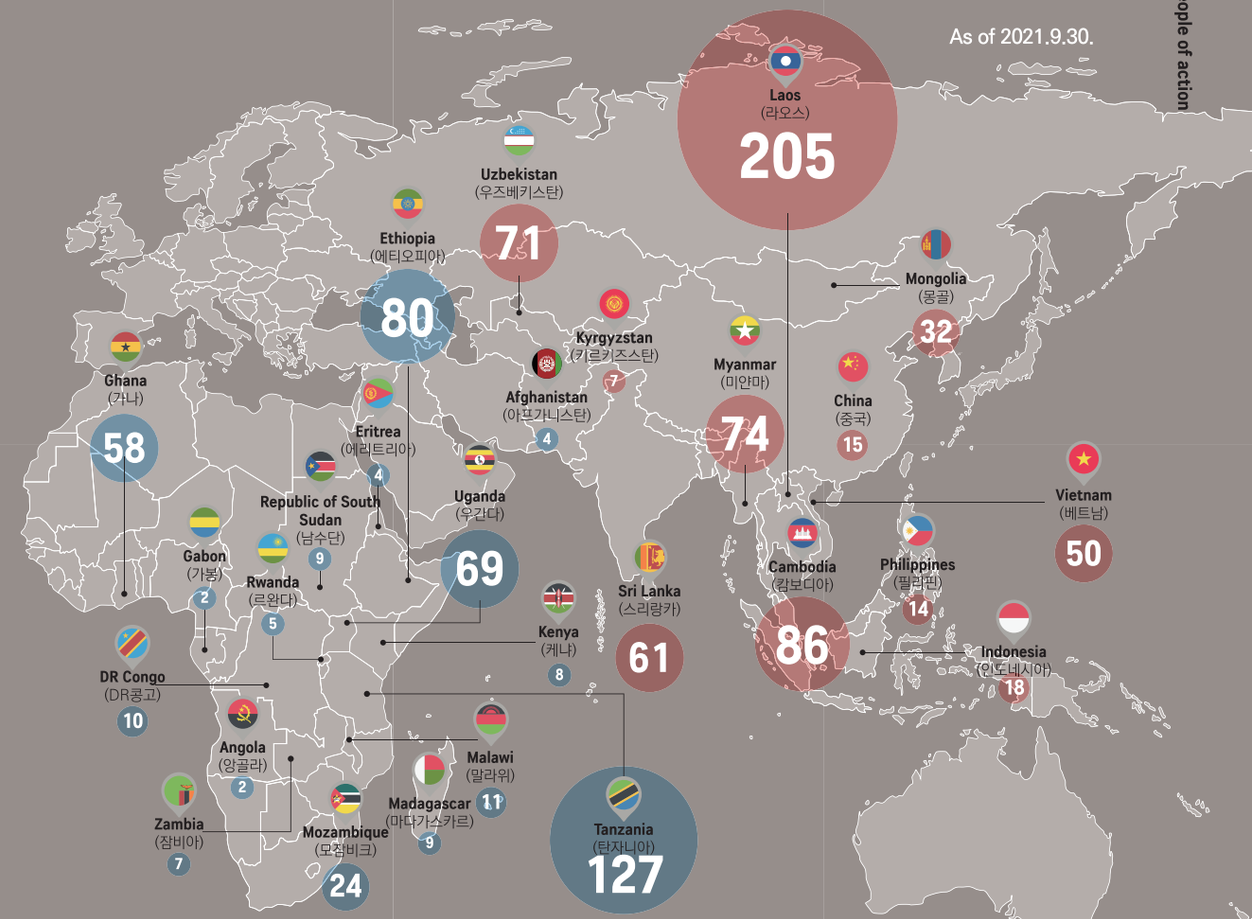
Awarding Dr. LEE Jong-wook Memorial Prize for Public Health at WHO Selecting Dr LEE Jong-wook Global Young Frontier Attendees

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People of action

Dr LEE Jong-wook Fellowship Program is a global training program for health and medical professionals which fosters the next Dr. Lee Jong-wook around the globe. Systematic and practical health care education in the fellowship program enhances capabilities of health workers and improves healthcare in partner countries in order to make healthier world.





Invitational training for different fields of expertise

Enhancing capabilities of health workers

Spreading medical techniques in trainees' home countries

Better health care in partner countries

Up to 1,070 health workers from 30 countries have received training through Dr LEE Jong-wook Fellowship Program since 2007

Training Course for Clinical Experts

Training Course for Health Education Professionals

Training Course For Health Policy Administrators

Training Course for Biomedical Engineers

Training Course for Infectious Disease Specialists
—
Tuberculosis
Policy and Epidemiology
Diagnosis and Clinical Treatment

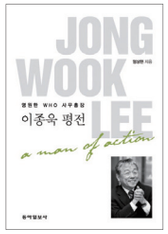
Course for Graduate Degrees
—
Nursing / Medical Education
Healthcare Policy
Biomedical Engineering
Basic Medical Science

Meeting Dr. Lee in books

Introduction to books that explore the life of a man, Lee Jong-wook,
who continued to face challenges throughout his entire life.

The Life of Lee Jong-wook: A Critical Biography

The life of ‘a great doctor’ who was the first South Korean to head a U.N. agency, established WHO disease control tower, and devoted his life to helping the poor and marginalized.



Forever WHO Director General Lee Jong-wook, a Critical Biography

Written by Um Sang-hyun, Dong-A Ilbo, 2021.6.14.

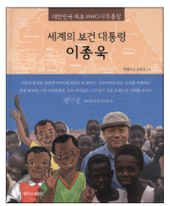
Lee Jong-wook story for children

The late boomer and doctor, who advanced to the world and became a leader in global healthcare... Showing children challenges and precious values to create a beautiful world



Who? Special Lee Jong-wook

Written by Oh Young-seok, painted by Lee Ilho, published by Studio Dasan, 2020.6.1.



President of global public health, Lee Jong-wook

Written by Park Hyun-sook, painted by Ahn Eun-jin, published by Samteo (샘터사), 2010.5.20.

*Gyeonggi Provincial Office of Education approved that health textbooks for 5th and 6th graders introduce Dr. Lee Jong-wook.



We all will be moving towards the goal: health for everyone.

If we learn a lesson from the past, we can shape the future of global public health.

www.kofih.org

Ministry of Health and Welfare

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