



3 Jung-dong, Jung-gu, Seoul, 100-120, Republic of Korea / Tel.82-2-738-8952 Fax.82-2-737-4210 / [www.topik2007.org](http://www.topik2007.org) / nanuse@hotmail.com

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## **Report on TOPIK's Humanitarian Aids Program for North Korean Children and Pregnant Women.**

1. As the relationship between South and North Korea has become iced due to President Lee's tough policy toward North in general and a shooting incident of a South Korean tourist by North Korean soldier in particular, the formal dialogue channel has been closed for the time being. As a result, the humanitarian aids programs by South Korean government have been also stopped.
2. WFP (World Food Program) sent a letter to South Korean Government on Aug. 20, 2008 saying that they were planning to send emergency food and basic items, which worth 60 million dollars for 6.2 million starving North Korean people, asking that South Korean Government should participate in this program. According to WFP's observation, the food shortage in North seems to be very catastrophic. However, South Korean Government replied that she would decide according to the public opinion.
3. While the exchange in a government level becomes stringent, the one in a civilian sector continues. It is estimated that the civilian exchange mainly done by Gungang Mountain will have difficulty. However, the exchange, which has been done through Gaesung and Pyongyang, has been doing relatively well.
4. TOPIK sent 28 tons of rice for North Koreans near Gungang Mountain area on July 9, 2008. TOPIK proposed children's nutritional items to North Korean authorities but they modified our proposal that they urgently needed rice than children's items. After the rice aid, TOPIK tried to propose the children's nutritional program but the unfortunate shooting accident occurred. Since the shooting incident, almost all communication channels has been shut so it is extremely difficult for us to continue existing aid programs, let alone new programs. However the authorities presiding Gungang Mountain area keeps asking us to send coal briquettes for heating and cooking. So 5000 coal briquettes have been shipped to the area once a month.
5. TOPIK thought that the aids program for children in Gungang Mountain area could be very difficult. So TOPIK with Korean Sharing Movement is trying to help a facility which accommodates pregnant women and new born babies at Nampo City which is located 2 hour away from Pyongyang. Korean Sharing

Movement has a relationship and is help the facility to be modernized. A group of Korean Sharing Movement staff visited North Korea from Aug. 16 to 20 and they explained TOPIK's proposal to them.

6. TOPIK plans to visit North Korea with Korean Sharing Movement on Sept. 20, 2008 and visit Nampo facility. A group of TOPIK staff and its supporters will participate, meet North Korean officials and discuss children and pregnant women's nutritional project.
7. According to the staff of Korean Sharing Movement who visited Nampo on Aug. 16, the North Korean staff of Nampo facility responded to TOPIK's proposal with great positivity. If things are going well on Sept. 20 with North Korean counterparts, TOPIK will visit Nampo City either in the end of Sept. or at the first week of Oct. and make a contract for helping children and pregnant ladies who are suffering from malnutrition.
8. In addition to the new proposal, TOPIK is going to continue helping Gumgang Mountain area. Despite many limitations and restrictions, we will send 5,000 coal briquettes with some existing funds and others from being gathered now.
9. The time schedule for future aid program as follows.
  - In Sept., visit Pyongyang and discuss Nampo facility support.
  - In Oct., visit Nampo facility and make a contract. Send the first aid.
  - In Nov., send 5,000 coal briquettes to Gumgang Mountain area.
  - In Dec., send the second Nampo facility support.

**The Rev. Joachim H. Kim**

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The Anglican Church of Korea

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