

TOPIK Towards Peace in Korea

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1. Situation of humanitarian aid to North Korea in 2008

TOPIK made a project to support infants and pregnant women and proposed it to the North. However, the North rejected its proposal. According to the North's opinion, the project could not provide the majority of people with humanitarian aid. The North appealed to **TOPIK** to support by giving rice instead of the proposed project. Accordingly, after **TOPIK** thoroughly examined the North's request, it sent support of 28 tons of rice to North Koreans living in Mt. Keumgang on July 9, 2008.

After that, **TOPIK** tried continuously to carry out humanitarian assistance to North Korea. However, the relationship between South and North Korea turned extremely bad because a North Korean soldier killed a South Korean tourist at Mt Keumgang on July 11, 2008. South Korea's humanitarian agencies have been challenged by this accident. It was impossible to propose new projects to the North for the Mt. Keumgang area. Accordingly, **TOPIK** contacted the North to carry out humanitarian aid through the Briquettes Sharing Movement, which steadily sends briquettes to Kaesong. The North asked **TOPIK** to provide briquettes for heating and cooking. Recently, **TOPIK** sent 50,000 briquettes last July and November 28th, 2008.



As it is impossible to support infants and pregnant women in Mt. Keumgang, **TOPIK** will support Nampo maternity hospital with the Korean Sharing Movement (KSM). Nampo maternity hospital, which was built in 1998, is located in the center of Nampo city in Pyongyangnam-do. KSM has some connection with Nampo maternity hospital as it has carried out modernization of the hospital. On September 20 – 23, **TOPIK** members visited

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Pyongyang and proposed a project of support for Nampo maternity hospital. According to KSM, the North is considering TOPIK's proposal. However, TOPIK is still waiting for the North's reply.

These days, TOPIK is going to support briquettes to the North this coming January. In particular, it is making a plan to carry out humanitarian assistance to North Korea in 2009.

2. Plan of humanitarian aid to North Korea in 2009.

TOPIK will focus on two projects which are to support Nampo maternity hospital and to send briquettes to areas of Mt. Keumgang.

1) TOPIK Nutrition Program

As mentioned above, TOPIK already proposed a nutrition program to the North. If the North agrees with it, TOPIK will start to carry out humanitarian aid for infants and pregnant women. (budget: 100 million won (Korean currency) for twice supporting)

2) TOPIK Briquette Support

In particular, TOPIK will support briquettes in Mt. Keumgang's Naekang-ri because people in Nakang-ri have not received any kind of humanitarian aid so far. (budget: 50 million won (Korean currency) for twice supporting (100,000 briquettes))

3) Additional project

TOPIK will propose nurturing facilities in mid-2009.

