

# GIST, World Friends Korea (WFK) IT Volunteer Group Dispatched to Laos for 3-Week ICT and Korean Culture Education Service

- 16 GIST volunteers dispatched to 2 Laos institutions from July 15 (Mon) to August 2 (Fri)... ICT, Korean language, and Korean culture education for 100 Laos middle and high school students and civil servants
- GIST Development Foundation donated 100 portable fans and 1.5 million won worth of school supplies... "We will continue to support the spread of a culture of sharing so that we can fulfill our responsibilities as global citizens."



▲ The 2024 World Friends Korea (WFK) IT Volunteer Group is taking a group photo at the airport before departure.

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) announced that the GIST World Friends Korea (WFK) IT volunteer group was dispatched to Laos for three weeks from Monday, July 15 to Friday, August 2 to perform social contribution activities and returned home on the morning of Saturday, August 3.

The volunteer group consisting of 16 GIST students formed four teams and provided volunteer services in the areas of ▲ ICT (drones, Python, AI), ▲ Korean culture (K-POP, cooking, traditional games, etc.), and ▲ Korean language education to about 100 Laotian high school students and civil servants.

The volunteer group was divided into two teams and dispatched to the 'Vientiane Capital Skill Development Center' located in Vientiane, the capital of Laos, and the 'Vangvieng Ethnic School' located two hours away by car from Vientiane.

The 'KLOUD Team (Team Leader Jun-ho Kim)' and the 'G-Sang Choi Go Team (Team Leader Yeo-gyu Lee)' provided education on Python, drone AI, Korean language, and Korean culture at the 'Vientiane Capital Skill Development Center', while the 'LED Team (Team Leader Jeong-woo Lee)' and the 'Laap Team (Team Leader Dong-woo Kang)' provided education on PowerPoint, Excel, Python/AI, Korean language, and Korean

culture to Laotian middle and high school students at the 'Vangvieng Ethnic School'.

The 'KLOUD Team' and the 'G-Sang Choi Go Team' said, "Every moment of our experience in Laos was meaningful and filled with warmth," and "The traditional Laotian ritual Baci prepared by the center was particularly impressive, and it was an opportunity to feel the warmth of the local people."

The 'LED Team' and the 'Laap Team' said, "We were flustered by the poor facilities with frequent power outages and no internet connection, and we also had communication problems, but seeing friends who don't speak English well try to communicate in English made us study Laotian so that we could effectively convey the class content." They added, "It was very rewarding to see students trying to read Korean letter by letter, diligently taking notes, and studying programming even though it was their first time using a computer."

One of the students said, "It was a valuable experience that allowed me to learn more about my areas of interest, drones, and Korean culture."



▲ The World Friends Korea (WFK) IT volunteer group is conducting classes at the 'Vangvieng Ethnic School' in Laos.

In connection with the dispatch of the volunteer group, the GIST Development Foundation donated 100 portable fans and school supplies worth 1.5 million won to students at the Vientiane Capital Skill Development Center and Vangvieng Ethnic School who have a strong passion for their studies even in poor conditions.

Hae-myeong Kim, the director of the GIST Development Foundation, said, "We hope that this will help Laotian students in need of a helping hand grow into healthy members of society, and we will continue to seek ways to provide support in the future."





▲ The GIST Development Foundation is donating learning support supplies to organizations supported by the 2024 World Friends Korea (WFK) IT Volunteer Group and took a commemorative photo.

President Kichul Lim said, "GIST aims to contribute to creating a better world by promoting respect and mutual understanding for different cultures and values. We will continue to support the spread of a culture of sharing by providing various overseas volunteer opportunities so that GIST students can fulfill their responsibilities as global citizens beyond simple volunteer activities."

Meanwhile, the GIST-NIA joint World Friends IT Volunteer Group dispatched a total of 144 student volunteers to Vietnam in 2014, Moldova from 2015 to 2019, Panama (online education) in 2020, Bhutan and Vietnam (online education) in 2021, and Laos in 2023 and 2024.