

KOICA YOUTH LEADERS PROGRAM

(2026-2027) Admission Guidelines

Program Organizing Institute: Institute for Global Social Responsibility (IGSR), Hallym University, Republic of Korea

Application Deadline: June 17th, 16:00 (Local Time)

Submission: Official Email of the respective regional KOICA Office

1. PROGRAM OVERVIEW & COMMON REGULATIONS

The KOICA Youth Leaders Program (2026-2027) is a comprehensive multi-stage capacity-building program designed for promising young professionals, officials, and startup leaders across West Africa (Ghana, Nigeria, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, and Senegal). The program aims to nurture leadership, innovation, and digital transformation capabilities to solve regional socio-economic challenges.

Multi-Stage Program Structure

- **Stage 1: Online Training (Common Course):** July 20th - July 31st, 2026 (Total 200 participants: 100 Public Sector + 100 Private Sector) A total of 40 participants will be selected from each of the above five countries, comprising 20 participants from the public sector and 20 participants from the private sector. Focuses on foundational African leadership, SDGs, and Generative AI tools.
- **Stage 2: Local Training (Ghana):** Divided into two distinct tracks based on sector (Public Sector: Aug 2nd-Aug 15th | Private Sector: Aug 16th-Aug 29th) at GIMPA, Accra, Ghana.
- **Stage 3: Invitational Training in Korea:** 14 days during June 2027 at Hallym University, Chuncheon, Republic of Korea. Restricted to the Top 60 outstanding trainees (30 from Public Sector + 30 from Private Sector) based on overall performance metrics.
 - ※ To ensure balanced representation across participating countries and sectors, a total of 60 outstanding participants will be selected for the invitational training program. Participants will be equally distributed among the five target countries and the two sectors (public and private).

General Eligibility Criteria (Both Tracks):

Required

- ☐ Youth aged 19-34
- ☐ Applicants working in the public sector, private sector, or academia
- ☐ Applicants with an interest in leadership and digital innovation
- ☐ Applicants with English communication skills

- ☐ Applicants available to participate local training in Ghana
- ☐ Applicants eligible for Ghana and Republic of Korea Visa issuance

Priority Consideration

- ☐ Associate degree or higher, or at least 2 years of relevant work experience
- ☐ Applicants with an interest in leadership and digital innovation
- ☐ Female applicants and applicants from rural areas are encouraged to apply
- ☐ **(Public Sector)** Policy planning practitioners
- ☐ **(Private Sector)** Early-stage startup entrepreneurs focused on solving and issues

Preferred

- ☐ Applicants with experience working in the AI or ICT sectors
- ☐ Applicants with a strong willingness to participate in team projects
- ☐ Applicants with experience in public policy or entrepreneurship
- ☐ Applicants committed to sharing knowledge with colleagues after returning to their home country

Common Application Documents Required

1. **KOICA Application Form:** Filled and submitted in PDF format with the applicant's handwritten/digital signature.
2. **A Letter of Recommendation:** Signed PDF from a government body, workplace, school, NGO, or professional community leader.
3. **A Copy of Passport:** Scanned valid passport page in PDF format.

***Note:** Final successful applicants are required to submit a health examination certificate issued in 2026 within three(3) days of the announcement of the final results.

TRACK A: PUBLIC SECTOR PROGRAM (Government Officials & Public Policy)

Target Audience & Ideal Profile

This track is exclusively tailored for policy planning practitioners, public administrators, and academic researchers working within public organizations who are committed to governance modernization, digital public services, and data-driven public policy implementation.

Track Specific Training Dates & Venue

- **Online Component:** July 20th July 31st, 2026 (via Hallym LMS 'Smart Lead')
- **Local In-Country Component:** August 2nd - August 15th, 2026 (14 Days)

- **Venue & Accommodation:** Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Accra, Ghana

※ The above schedule is subject to change depending on circumstances.

Core Learning Modules & Schedule (Public Sector)

Phase & Module	Core Lecture Topics	Field Visits & Workshops
Online Phase (Joint Sessions)	- African Youth Leadership & Accountability - Problem Framing & SWOT Analysis - SDGs & Development Cooperation Issues - Generative AI Tools for Public Workspaces	- Draft proposal submission on regional administrative public issues - Virtual consulting & peer feedback
Local Phase: Module III Public Policy & Governance	- Public Policy Design & Policy Cycle (Agenda setting to evaluation) - Civic Leadership, Advocacy, & Accountability - E-Government & Public Data-Driven Service Innovations	- AITI-KACE (Kofi Annan Centre of Excellence in ICT) Field Visit - Dialogue with Ghanaian national ICT policy officials
Local Phase: Module V Action Plan Development	- AI- and ICT-Based Public Sector Workflow Automation - Developing Project Concept Papers (PCP) - Pitching and Public Sector Proposal Design	- National Youth Authority (NYA) Ghana Field Visit - 3-Stage Action Plan Workshop & Policy Pitching Evaluation

Public Sector Action Plan Thematic Focus

Public track participants must draft a Policy Proposal / Project Concept Paper (PCP) within one of the following domains:

- **AI-Based Youth Employment Systems:** E.g., "AI-Powered Integrated Youth Employment and Vocational Training Matching System"
- **Digital Public Service & E-Government:** E.g., "Mobile-Based Digital Public Service

Transformation with AI Chatbot-Enabled E-Government System"

• **Youth Policy Data Governance:** E.g., "Youth Participation-Driven Civic-Tech Data Governance Platform"

TRACK B: PRIVATE SECTOR PROGRAM (Youth Leaders & AI/ICT Entrepreneurs)

Target Audience & Ideal Profile

This track is specifically designed for early-stage startup founders, corporate tech developers, and private innovators focused on building scalable, market-driven, AI- and ICT-enabled business models that solve critical social problems across West Africa.

Track Specific Training Dates & Venue

- **Online Component:** July 20th July 31st, 2026 (via Hallym LMS 'Smart Lead')
10 Days, excluding weekends
- **Local In-Country Component:**
(Public Sector) Aug.02nd-Aug.15th (14 Days)
(Private Sector) Aug.16th-Aug. 29th (14 Days)
- **Venue & Accommodation:** Ghana Institute of Management and Public Administration (GIMPA), Accra, Ghana

✂ The above schedule is subject to change depending on circumstances.

Core Learning Modules & Schedule (Private Sector)

Phase & Module	Core Lecture Topics	Field Visits & Workshops
Online Phase (Joint Sessions)	- Entrepreneurship & Social Innovation Concepts - Design Thinking & Lean Startup Methodologies - Digital Economy & AI Transformation (AX) Trends - Practical Generative AI Applications for Business	Submission of country startup ecosystem reports Mini-project: Community-focused AI solution framing
Local Phase: Module IV AI & Digital Entrepreneurship	- Customer Discovery & Market Analysis (CJM, Problem-Solution Fit) - Business Model Canvas	MEST Africa & UNICEF Startup Lab Engagement Hands-on No-Code App

	(BMC) Design & Revenue Strategy - Market Sizing, Competitive Analysis & Scalability Analysis	Development Workshop (Glide, Bubble, etc.)
Local Phase: Module V Action Plan Business Plan	- Applied AI Startup Case Benchmarking - AI API Integration Practice - Pitch Deck Creation utilizing AI Tools (Canva, ChatGPT, Gemini) - Fundraising & Pitching Strategy for West African Ventures	Demo Day Exhibition: Final MVP Design Presentation & Mock Pitching

Private Sector Action Plan (MVP Business Plan) Thematic Focus

Private track participants will build an MVP Business Plan based on social impact ventures inside these verticals:

- **AgriTech (Agricultural Development):** E.g., "AI-Powered Crop Yield Prediction and Mobile Agricultural Information Service for Smallholder Farmers"
- **FinTech (Financial Inclusion):** E.g., "AI-Driven Microfinance and Credit Scoring Platform for Unbanked Youth Populations"
- **Health / Education Platforms:** E.g., "Generative AI-Based Community Information Platform for Education and Public Health Services"

2. ACADEMIC REGULATIONS & SELECTION MATRIX FOR KOREA TRAINING

Progression through the stages is strictly performance-based. Only the highest-performing individuals will move forward from the online courses to the physical sessions and eventually to the Republic of Korea invitation program.

Progression Rule (Online to Local Ghana Training):

Participants must secure a minimum of 60% attendance (attending at least 6 out of 10 online sessions), complete all assigned quizzes, actively engage in discussions, and submit a compliant Country Report before July 17th.

Korea Invitational Selection Matrix (Top 60 Selection - 30% of Cohort):

Evaluation is carried out via a rigid composite scoring matrix at the conclusion of Stage 2:

Evaluation Dimension	Weight (%)	Assessment Elements
Attendance & Engagement	20%	Active participation across live online lectures and offline GIMPA classes.
Assignment & Task Performance	20%	Quality, punctuality, and depth of online tasks and early action plan submittals.
Action Plan (AP) Quality	25%	Problem logical framework, technical feasibility, local contextualization, and innovation.
Pitching & Presentation Skills	15%	Clarity, public delivery, visual structure of pitch deck, and persuasiveness under Q&A.
Collaboration & Leadership	10%	Peer-reviewed team contribution, collaborative problem solving, and group management.
Practical Applicability & Impact	10%	Alignment with national West African priorities, scalability, and target SDG goals.

3. CONTACT AND SUPPORT INFORMATION

Institute for Global Social Responsibility (IGSR), Hallym University

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- Official Website: <https://soc.hallym.ac.kr/sites/igsr/index.do>

2) KOICA Offices

• E-mail:

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2. KOICA Cameroon Office: ✉ cameroon@koica.go.kr
3. KOICA Côte d'Ivoire Office: ✉ abidjan@koica.go.kr

4. KOICA Nigeria Office: ✉ ngkoica@gmail.com
5. KOICA Senegal Office: ✉ Koica.sn@gmail.com

• **Website:**

1. KOICA Ghana Office: https://www.koica.go.kr/sites/gha_kr/index.do
2. KOICA Cameroon Office: https://www.koica.go.kr/sites/cmr_kr/index.do
3. KOICA Côte d'Ivoire Office: https://www.koica.go.kr/sites/civ_kr/index.do
4. KOICA Nigeria Office: https://www.koica.go.kr/sites/nga_kr/index.do
5. KOICA Senegal Office: https://www.koica.go.kr/sites/sen_kr/index.do