

**Answer to Questionnaire**  
**- Basic Old Age Pension in Korea -**

1.

(a) 65 years of age and older

(b) To be a beneficiary of basic old age pension, his asset/income level should be lower than criteria of Old Age Pension Law and regulation.

(c) It is a non-contributory programme.

2.

(a) This programme is established by law.

3.

(a) The structure is as follows ;

- The Central government (the Ministry for Health, Welfare and Family Affairs) is in charge of enacting and amending law (including regulation) and monitoring the implementation of the programme.

- Local governments are in charge of implementation. They receive and screen application and decide benefits.

(b) No, civil society organizations are not involved in this programme.

4. This programme was launched in 2008.

- (2008) 2,897,649 persons → (2009) 3,609,794 persons received benefits.

5. This programme covers entire areas in Korea.

6. The amount of annual budget changes every year. In 2009, it is about 3,434 billion won

7.

- The funding of basic old age pension consists only of central and local

government budgets.

- The main cost occurs from running the information system of Basic Old Age Pension System that manages information of recipients.

8. By law, this programme is designed to cover about 70% of all people over 65 years of age.

9. The average amount of pensions is 88,000 won per month in 2009. (Minimum salary is 4,000 won per hour). The pension is calculated at 5% of A (A is the average of price-indexed average monthly income for 3 years prior to National Pension Payment).

10. Application (persons over 65 years) → Screening (local government) → Decision and Payment (local government) → Monitoring (Central government)

11. As this program is available only to Koreans residing in Korea, we use only the Korean language to promote the pension. The beneficiaries can access relevant information from web sites, leaflets and advertisement (on TV, subway etc.) They can also ask for information from our Ministry or local governments through visit or phone calls.

12. Some local governments provide financial support for beneficiaries to partially cover the registration fees of social welfare facilities.

13. No, this program only gives certain amount of pension per month to beneficiaries.

14. The central government usually monitors local governments through the electronic system (Basic old age pension information system), receives the implementation results from local governments regularly and inspects the local areas.

15. No, there are no special complaints.

16. No, there have not been.

17. 18. There is a report titled “Socio-economic Impact of the Basic Old-Age Pension System” but it is only available in Korean.

19. In Korea, there are many social protection programmes for older persons. For example, there is the Long-term Care Insurance for the Elderly which provides the elderly with public services including nursing, bathing and house work etc.