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### **Ministry of SMEs and Startups Hosts Korea-Vietnam Global Technology Transfer Partners Day**

SEJONG – The Ministry of SMEs and Startups (MSS) held the Korea-Vietnam Global Technology Transfer Partners Day on November 26 at COEX in Seoul. This event is part of the ongoing Korea-Vietnam Global Technology Transfer initiative, which was launched under the government's Support Measures for the Internationalization of SMEs and Startups announced in May 2024. The initiative leverages the Global Smart Tech Bridge platform to facilitate the export of cutting-edge technologies from South Korean SMEs and startups to demand-driven companies in Vietnam.

KIM Woo-soon, Director General for Technology Innovation Policy at MSS, emphasized that the initiative would act as a catalyst for accelerating the technology exports of South Korean SMEs, with plans to gradually expand the program to include more target countries for global technology transactions. He also mentioned that follow-up measures are being developed to further support global technology transfers, helping domestic SMEs expand their reach to international markets.

The Smart Tech Bridge is a platform established in December 2022 to stimulate technology transactions among SMEs. It connects domestic companies with public technologies from universities and research institutions (with over 950,000 technology entries) and facilitates technology matching through an AI-powered search and recommendation system. The recently launched Global Smart Tech Bridge in September 2024 now includes international technology demand data, complementing the existing domestic database. This enhanced platform provides valuable information to South Korean companies looking to export their technologies and helps them identify potential partners.

Since the second half of 2024, MSS has been working closely with the Korea Technology Finance Corporation and private organizations with networks in Vietnam to assess technology needs in both countries and facilitate technology matching. As a result, 19 Vietnamese companies with technology needs and 53 South Korean SMEs seeking to export their technologies have been identified, with eight successful technology matches completed to date.

The matched technology sectors include organic fertilizers, environmental wastewater treatment, eco-friendly energy solutions, and ICT technologies, demonstrating the potential for sustainable technological collaboration between Korea and Vietnam. In addition to the six Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) signed during the event, MSS plans to actively manage the eight successful matches to ensure that they lead to final technology export agreements in the near future.