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206 Indian Software Developers Join SMEs and Startups in Korea

SEJONG – The Ministry of SMEs and Startups (MSS) introduced a program in 2024 to connect highly skilled software developers from India with South Korean SMEs and startups struggling to hire specialized software personnel. As a result, 206 developers were successfully hired.

To recruit Indian software developers interested in working for Korean companies, MSS held three recruitment briefings in New Delhi, India, in 2024, attracting around 1,000 participants. Additionally, the project's organizing agency, the Korea Venture Business Association (KOVA), signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Pan-IT Alumni Foundation to ensure smooth project execution. Throughout 2024, 358 SMEs and startups in Korea applied for the program, with 41 companies ultimately hiring 206 Indian software developers.

Of the 206 developers, 201 were quickly connected to companies through remote hiring, enabling them to perform projects from India without the hassle of visa issuance or other procedures. For the five developers who wished to come to Korea, support was provided for visa issuance and initial living expenses.

The Indian developers are software professionals with over three years of experience, covering various fields such as AI development, mobile development, front-end development, and back-end development.

Company G, which participated in this project, stated, "We are very satisfied with the capabilities and performance of the Indian AI developer we hired, who has five years of experience," and expressed interest in making additional hires, noting the advantage of being able to quickly understand local circumstances through overseas talent.

An MSS official stated that the Ministry created a “Collaborative Guidebook for Indian Developers” containing information on hiring Indian personnel, visa issuance guidelines, and other relevant details. This guidebook is being distributed online for easy access by domestic companies.

The 2025 project plans to recruit organizing agencies by January 20, undergo preparation, and officially begin in March. Plans include monitoring participating companies and continuously improving the project based on their needs.

KIM Bong-deok, Director-General for Venture Policy, stated, “We plan to continue the project in 2025 to help alleviate the labor shortage of software personnel faced by SMEs and startups, and to assist in their global expansion. We will also explore additional ways to utilize foreign students studying in Korea.”