

7 – NATIONAL MATTERS

Noted by the Republic of Korea

1. Korea's Response to COVID-19

Korea was among the first countries outside of China to face a COVID-19 epidemic. The government's response has centered on a huge but targeted testing effort informed by experience from the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome (MERS) epidemic, which hit the country in 2015. The government learnt from MERS to develop comprehensive response plans for containment and treatment in future epidemics – in particular improving the approach to providing information to the public, the speed of the response, and processes to ensure enough tests can be available rapidly. Korea's subsequent response to COVID-19 is world-leading in its effectiveness. The outbreak has been managed without imposing the severe lockdown restrictions seen in many other countries. The government continues to seamlessly keep the function of aids to navigations without interruption to ensure the safety of navigation during COVID-19 pandemic. All of the governmental workspaces which provide aids to navigation services remain open, and the Korean AtoN Education and Training Center reopened from late May.

Korea relaxed its months-long social distancing campaign and shifted to a more relaxed 'distancing in daily life' from May 6. Under the eased 'distancing in daily life' scheme, the government allows gathering and events under the condition that they follow quarantine guidelines. It also allows public facilities to resume operation, beginning with national parks, galleries and museums including the National Lighthouse Museum and open-air spaces on 34 manned lighthouses in Korea.

The Korean government has released its third report on the COVID-19 response strategy: [COVID-19, Testing Time for Resilience](#), as the G20 and global communities, such as the World Bank, has shown interest in the country's response tools and strategies.

2. National Lighthouse Museum Expansion

In order that more people of all ages and backgrounds can appreciate and enjoy an important role of historical lighthouses and maritime culture, the government began an expansion project of National Lighthouse Museum from the beginning of 2019 with the completion of 2022, based on the total budget of 20 million dollars. The expansion project is now progressing smoothly. Following the successful completion of the expansion by the first half of 2022, the government wishes to host a main event of the 2022 World AtoN Day at this Museum.

3. Advancement of Maritime PNT

In order that the maritime PNT services can be utilized as a core digital infrastructure for a major part of the 4th industrial revolution, including Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS), the government carries forward 2 maritime PNT system development projects from 2020 to 2024, which will meet IMO performance standard, IMO Resolution A.915(22).

- High accuracy (centimeter level) PNT system for an automatic docking, dredging and construction works
- Complementary PNT system (eLoran + R-Mode)

Setting up the eLoran test-bed was completed at the end of last year and the ASF map generation and performance verification tests are now underway. The government has a plan to provide Initial Operation Capability (IOC) trial service for eLoran from 2022 in Korea.