

KT Corp. unveils Global Epidemic Prevention Platform outside Korea

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Ghana Will Upgrade Capacity to Handle Infectious Diseases



KT Corp. said its Global Epidemic Prevention Platform (GEPP) started service in Ghana on 14th, the first such endeavour outside of Korea.

KT, the leading Korean telecommunication provider, announced that the landmark platform, GEPP Ghana, was officially launched after a ceremony held at Accra City Hotel in the Ghanaian capital. The project, in conjunction with the Ghana Health Service (GHS), is the first public-private partnership between Korea and the West African country. KT Technologies Address Global Human Welfare Issues.

KT said GEPP would enable the GHS to improve its ability to fight diseases in a more systematic manner. The platform is the result of a joint effort by KT and the Ghanaian government to advance Ghana's health information system using information and communications technology (ICT). They signed an agreement last November to start the endeavour.

GEPP Ghana has three functions: GEPP Public warns Ghanaians who are visiting epidemic-prone areas; GEPP Clinic enables the public to make real-time reports to health offices if an epidemic erupts, and GEPP Gov. enables the government to gauge and monitor a public health crisis based on data collected from GEPP Public and GEPP Clinic. Data is also collected from newly digitized airport immigration information, which until now has been manually compiled.

The platform will help the Ghanaian public quickly respond to the current Ebola virus disease outbreak in Africa. As it will be much easier to report to health authorities during an outbreak, there will be a drastic improvement in early detection of the disease and response.

At the GEPP Ghana launch ceremony, KT gave a briefing on the platform produced by the Korean-Ghanaian public-private partnership, the big data-based quality health information service to benefit Ghanaians and the Ghanaian government's enhanced capacity for epidemic preparedness.

Ghanaian attendees at the ceremony included Okoe Boye Bernard, the Parliamentary Select Committee on Health; Dr. Ebenezer Odame, Director of Policy Planning and Evaluation, Minister of Health; Dr. Anthony Nsiah-Asare, director-

general of the Ghana Health Service; and other representatives of the country's health community and the ministries of information, interior, national security, and communications.

Among other participants were Korean Ambassador to Ghana Kim Sung-Soo, and officials from international agencies such as the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, World Health Organization (WHO), and the World Bank Group.

"We are pleased that the Ghanaian people will receive high-quality health services provided by big data on health and communications technologies," said Lee Dong-Myun, the president of KT's Future Platform Business Group.

Lee also said that KT would continue to explore new ways to use its varied technologies and capabilities in international collaborative projects that address global human welfare.