

ENHANCING PEOPLE-CENTRED ACCESS TO JUSTICE THROUGH INNOVATION

LESSONS FROM
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



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Enhancing People-centred Access to Justice through Innovation



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Acronyms and abbreviations

Acronym/Abbreviation	Definition
AI	Artificial intelligence
ALES	Asian Legislative Experts Symposium
API	Application Programming Interface
CALI	Council of Asian Legislative Institutions
FAQ	Frequently asked questions
MOLEG	Ministry of Government Legislation
ODA	Official development assistance
ROK	Republic of Korea
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SME	Small and medium-sized enterprise
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USPC	UNDP Seoul Policy Centre

Foreword

Access to justice is a cornerstone of sustainable development and a fundamental principle of the rule of law. It ensures that individuals can claim their rights, resolve disputes fairly, and participate meaningfully in society. This principle is enshrined in Sustainable Development Goal 16, which calls for promoting just, peaceful, and inclusive societies. Yet, despite global commitments, structural barriers, lack of legal awareness, and growing inequalities continue to pose significant challenges across societies. A people-centred approach to justice that prioritizes the needs and rights of individuals and communities is essential to closing this justice gap and building trust in institutions.

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has long championed this vision through its global programmes on the rule of law and access to justice, helping countries make their justice systems more inclusive, responsive, and accountable. Under the UNDP Strategic Plan, these efforts have harnessed the power of digital and AI solutions as accelerators for sustainable development. As part of this global work, the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre (USPC) collaborates with institutions in the Republic of Korea (ROK) to share ROK’s policy innovations with partner countries, advancing transparency, accountability, and inclusive governance. This publication marks the beginning of a new partnership between USPC and the Ministry of Government Legislation (MOLEG) of ROK.



Cho Won-cheol

Minister of Government Legislation, Republic of Korea

By combining MOLEG’s expertise on citizen-centred approaches and pioneering digital solutions with USPC’s global network, we will strive to accelerate progress toward inclusive access to justice worldwide.

ROK’s experience offers valuable lessons for countries seeking to strengthen access to justice. From post-war reconstruction to becoming a global model of democracy, innovation, and governance, ROK’s progress has been driven by citizen-led reforms, legislative innovation, and the conviction that laws are a public good. Guided by this vision, the Ministry of Government Legislation (MOLEG) of ROK has introduced people-centred reforms and digital solutions that make legal information accessible, transparent, and responsive to people’s needs. The initiatives featured in this publication demonstrate how technology and participatory governance can work together to empower citizens and build trust in institutions.

This publication provides not only an overview of ROK’s policy tools and good practices but also the principles behind these initiatives, their impacts, and lessons learned. We hope this will inspire policymakers and practitioners worldwide to adopt and localize innovative approaches that place people at the centre of governance systems.

Last but not least, we extend our sincere gratitude to those who contributed to the development of this publication.



Anne Juepner

Director of the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre

Message from the UNDP Rule of Law, Security and Human Rights Team Governance, Rule of Law and Peacebuilding Hub

Rising injustices, inequalities and insecurities are destabilizing communities, countries and the global order and placing the social contract under strain. The global justice gap is widening and the rule of law is backsliding. Across diverse contexts, too many people still experience justice systems as distant, difficult to navigate and uneven especially for those facing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and marginalisation. UNDP's people-centred approach to justice calls for a shift in how justice is conceived, delivered and experienced, starting from people's lived realities, rights and needs, and working to transform systems so that they deliver outcomes that people trust and value.

The UNDP Strategic Plan 2026–2029 places effective governance at the centre of progress toward human development, underpinned by a strong commitment to rule of law, people-centred justice, human rights and leaving no one behind. Within this agenda, people-centred justice is both a guiding approach and a measurable priority on how people experience justice.

The UNDP people-centred approach to justice is underpinned by interconnected and mutually reinforcing elements, ensuring justice interventions are holistic, adopt an ecosystem and systems approach, and grounded in human rights, inclusion, participation, empowerment, local ownership, and accountability.

The Korean experience documented in this publication illustrates how these priorities can be advanced through reforms that treat law as a public good, strengthen coordination across government, and invest in accessible, multi-channel services and platforms.

At the heart of a people-centred approach is the commitment to leave no one behind through innovations. As this report highlights, effective innovation is not only about new digital platforms, it is also about inclusive design, alternative offline channels, accessibility features, and continuous user feedback.

UNDP remains committed to working with partners to advance people-centred, rights-based and accountable justice systems that contribute to sustainable development and lasting peace.

Sarah Rattray

Governance, Rule of Law and Peacebuilding (GRP) Hub Co-Director, a.i.
and Senior Adviser on Human Rights
UNDP

Executive summary

Access to justice is a cornerstone of sustainable development and a central component of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16. Yet many people continue to face barriers that limit their ability to understand and use the law in their daily lives. Strengthening access to laws and legal information is therefore an essential entry point for advancing people-centred justice, enhancing legal empowerment, and building trust in public institutions.

This publication contributes to UNDP's global knowledge on people-centred justice by documenting the experience of the Republic of Korea (ROK), with a particular focus on the Ministry of Government Legislation (MOLEG). Developed under SDG Partnerships programme of the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre (USPC), it aims to provide practical insights for policymakers and practitioners seeking to improve access to justice through institutional reform and digital innovation.

Ch.1

Chapter 1 introduces the publication's central theme: advancing access to justice through people-centred and innovative approaches, with a focus on improving access to laws and legal information. It highlights that people-centred justice requires institutions to respond to individuals' concrete legal needs in context-specific and demand-driven ways. The chapter situates this approach within the current global landscape, underscoring the importance of accessible, inclusive, fair, transparent, and accountable justice services for public trust and sustainable development. It emphasizes that enabling individuals, especially non-experts, to understand laws is a foundational step, and presents both digital and non-digital innovations, illustrated through the ROK's experience, as effective tools to advance this goal.

Ch.2

Chapter 2 introduces MOLEG and its evolution toward a people-centred approach to enhancing public access to laws and legal information. In addition to its core mandate of steering legislative drafting across government, MOLEG has advanced the principle that "law is a public good." Originating from democratization reforms of the 1980s, this shift broadened MOLEG's role from primarily supporting government agencies to actively informing and empowering citizens. The chapter describes how this change has driven the development of user-friendly digital platforms and complementary policy initiatives that provide free and transparent access to laws and legislative processes.

Ch.3

Chapter 3 presents a detailed overview of MOLEG’s innovative policies and tools grouped under four thematic areas:

- i. **accessibility of laws and legal information,**
- ii. **people-centred laws,**
- iii. **citizen participation in legislation, and**
- iv. **administrative efficiency and legislative quality assurance.**

Each initiative is described in terms of its objectives, functions, results, challenges, and lessons for adaptation. The chapter also highlights MOLEG’s future directions, including the integration of artificial intelligence into its digital platforms, and showcases selected official development assistance (ODA) initiatives through which MOLEG has supported partner countries in strengthening their own legal information systems.

Ch.4

Chapter 4 builds on these experiences to outline how countries can adapt the ROK’s approaches to enhance access to laws and legal information through people-centred and digitally enabled reforms. Drawing on UNDP’s global experience in the rule of law and justice, the chapter identifies key considerations for introducing digital solutions, such as contextualized design, strong institutional leadership, sustainability, and iterative implementation. It then proposes sequenced implementation pathways inspired by MOLEG’s experience, beginning with establishing legal databases and digitizing laws, followed by legislative standardization and digital drafting tools, and eventually expanding to advanced, people-centred and AI-enabled services.

This publication positions MOLEG’s experience as a practical reference for countries pursuing their own reform strategies and underscores the importance of treating “law as a public good” as the foundation for inclusive and sustainable access-to-justice efforts. By presenting practical insights and lessons learned, this paper supports countries in advancing people-centred justice. Expanding access to laws is not merely a technical task—it is a broader governance reform that strengthens transparency, accountability, and public trust.

Introduction and background

This publication is anchored in the new partnership between the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre (USPC) and the Ministry of Government Legislation (MOLEG) of the Republic of Korea (ROK), established under USPC’s SDG Partnerships programme. As USPC’s flagship mechanism for South–South and Triangular cooperation, the SDG Partnerships programme supports partner countries in identifying and adapting relevant Korean policy experiences to their national contexts.

In 2025, USPC launched a new collaboration with MOLEG to advance access to justice, drawing on MOLEG’s long-standing institutional reforms and digital innovations that have expanded public access to laws and legal information. This partnership contributes to UNDP’s broader efforts to strengthen the rule of law and promote people-centred approaches to justice.

Within this framework, this publication was developed to highlight and share MOLEG’s extensive experience in improving access to laws and legal information. It presents key lessons and insights from MOLEG’s people-centred and innovative approaches as a practical reference for countries seeking to undertake similar reforms.

Strengthening accountable governance and equitable access to justice—both essential foundations for sustainable peace and development—requires laws, legal information, and legislative processes to be transparent and accessible to all. Aimed at policymakers, practitioners, government institutions, civil society, and the international development community, including UNDP Country Offices, this publication illustrates how MOLEG’s institutional reforms and related initiatives have promoted transparency, accountability, and public trust by ensuring that legal systems and processes serve the public good.

Chapter 1.

Advancing access to justice through people-centred approaches and innovation



Chapter 1.

Advancing access to justice through people-centred approaches and innovation

1. The rule of law in the changing world

People around the world have observed how fragile democracy can be and how challenging it is to establish and sustain democratic values, especially in the context of widening inequality, rising populism and authoritarianism, conflicts and recurrent emergencies. The emergence of artificial intelligence signals the beginning of a new era following the fourth industrial revolution, powerfully penetrating every aspect of people's lives and holding the promise of immense opportunities and equally immense challenges. In this time of tumultuous change and global crisis, upholding the rule of law becomes even more essential at both national and global levels to prevent arbitrary use of power and to support equitable and sustainable development, as well as peaceful societies.

The rule of law establishes a governance framework in which all persons, institutions and entities, public and private, including the State itself, are accountable to laws that are consistent with democratic values and international human rights norms and standards.¹ It encompasses core principles such as accountability, equality before the law, fair application of laws, protection of fundamental rights, separation of powers, legal certainty and transparency, and access to justice for all. Under these principles, people are protected from arbitrary state action while also being required to comply with established laws and regulations.

2. A new vision for the rule of law and people-centred access to justice

Amid global challenges, including the COVID-19 pandemic, the United Nations (UN) Secretary-General's *Our Common Agenda* (2021) called for a renewed vision of the rule of law as part of a revitalised social contract anchored in human rights.² Central to this vision is people-centred governance, which prioritizes the needs and rights of the people. The call highlights, among others, promoting the rule of law and access to justice for all, and argues that rule of law institutions must listen to public concerns and that justice services must align with the needs of the people, thereby reinforcing the trust between the state and its citizens.

¹ United Nations, "What is the Rule of Law," <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/what-is-the-rule-of-law/> (last accessed October 7, 2025)

² United Nations, *Our Common Agenda: Report of the Secretary-General*, https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/assets/pdf/Common_Agenda_Report_English.pdf (last accessed October 10, 2025)

In a democratic society, laws articulate the shared aspirations of society. They enshrine core values, protect human rights, and establish mechanisms to realize them. Laws are thus the embodiment of widely accepted norms, common sense, and morality at a given time at a given society. Grounded in constitutional and social contract principles, laws also shape how societies practically function through defining the policies and procedures that bind everyone.

However, laws and principles do not automatically and reliably safeguard the vulnerable.³ Fair and inclusive application must be adhered to by legal professionals and through institutional guidance and wider society's support. Strongly advocated by the UN, therefore, the people-centred approach in the rule of law intends to transform institutions to better meet the needs of people in a context-specific and demand-driven manner. In the prevailing uncertainty, it will be even more important to build people's trust in institutions by providing people-centred fair, equitable, and accountable services, thereby promoting stability and development.

The rule of law and access to justice have long been core themes for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and its unwavering commitment to improving people's lives is envisioned in the UNDP Strategic Plan. In close collaboration with ministries, national justice and security systems and actors, and human-rights institutions, as well as communities, civil-society groups, youth networks, and the media, UNDP delivers a versatile portfolio of programmes tailored to each country context.⁴ In its rule of law and access to justice programmes, UNDP adopts a people-centred approach, emphasizing the need to reach vulnerable groups and to ensure that no one is left behind. The programmes strategically employ a holistic process to establish systems where national institutions engage with citizens, to become more inclusive and responsive to their justice needs, while also empowering people and communities to participate in decision-making and claim their rights.⁵

³ Huq, Aziz Z., *The Rule of Law: A Very Short Introduction*.

⁴ Examples include:

- Advance people-centred and inclusive access to Justice, including through legal aid, mobile courts, and digital justice platforms for remote proceedings;
- Justice and security sector reform, including community policing;
- Environmental-justice dialogues and community mediation;
- Initiatives to advance women's leadership in the justice sector;
- Technical assistance to National Human Rights Institutions for human rights monitoring; and
- Promotion of human-rights due diligence in business.

(2024 Annual Report, UNDP Global Programme for Strengthening the Rule of Law, Human Rights, Justice and Security for Sustainable Peace and Development, <https://rolhr.undp.org/annualreport/2024/>)

⁵ UNDP (2025), *The UNDP people-centred approach to justice and security: A policy framework for justice and security programming*

Equal access to justice for all is one of the keystones of the rule of law. It guarantees that every individual should be able to seek and receive justice, with fairness in the application of laws and human rights principles.⁶ In this sense, access to justice is a broader concept, encompassing legal protection (enactment of policies and laws upon the recognition of the needs), legal awareness (distribution of the laws and procedures for remedies), legal aid and counsel (enabling the people to initiate and be supported by (semi-)professionals throughout the process), adjudication (fair and equitable outcomes and remedies), enforcement (implementation of the decisions), and civil society and parliament oversight (watchdog and monitoring functions, and accountability).⁷

3. Access to laws and legal information

People-centred access to justice begins with access to laws and legal information.⁸ Once enacted, laws must be communicated clearly and made accessible to the public, as they shape individuals' rights and obligations. Access to legal information enables people to better understand legal systems, make informed decisions, and engage effectively with institutions.

Access to laws and legal information is therefore a core prerequisite for accessing justice and of fundamental importance for the rule of law, democracy, and human rights. As an access-to-information measure, access to laws and legal information ensures transparency: published laws keep citizens informed, enabling their participation in decision-making and effective use of public services. As an access-to-justice measure, it underpins legal empowerment: individuals leverage legal information to claim their rights, navigate justice systems and procedures, and participate meaningfully in dispute resolution.

In the information age, digital legal databases are recognized as an enabler of inclusiveness and accessibility to laws and legal information,⁹ provided that alternative means to access them are also ensured for the population unfamiliar with or left behind in accessing the technology. A recent study on assessing the nationally-owned legal database in 204 countries and jurisdictions around the world shows that 97 jurisdictions (48%) offer a 'minimum viable legal database,' meeting the five standards illustrated below, 82 (40%) offer quality below minimum viability, and 25 (12%) do not seem to provide any online access to their laws.¹⁰ The assessment was conducted based on five minimum viability standards, which are:¹¹

- Free availability (not requiring any registration, login or payment)
- Searchability of titles (based on matching keywords in acts' titles)
- Searchability of full texts (providing the laws' full texts)
- Reusability (allowing users to select and copy text for further processing)
- Plausible comprehensiveness (providing the coverage of law not limited in time or topic)

Limited access to legal resources can place individuals, particularly those in vulnerable situations, at risk of legal marginalization. Without adequate access, people may struggle to understand their rights or rely on costly professional assistance, which can exacerbate inequalities and lead to unfavourable outcomes. Addressing these gaps is therefore essential for promoting fairness, inclusion, and trust in legal systems.

⁶ United Nations General Assembly (2012), Declaration of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the rule of law at the national and international levels, A/RES/67/

⁷ United Nations Development Programme (2004), Access to Justice: Practice Note

⁸ Some scholars argue that access to laws should be promoted as a human right (Leesi Ebenezer Mitee, 2017) and that the database management shall be guaranteed at the national level, the reasons being (i) The ancient maxim *ignorantia legis neminem excusat* ('none shall be excused by their ignorance of law') in turn obliges the state to publish the law in a manner enabling effective dissemination (Thomas R Bruce, 2000) and (ii) Statutes are drafted, discussed, and decreed based on taxpayers' money, and therefore 'Law belongs to the people.' (Ginevra Peruginelli, 2016).

⁹ Oxford statement on importance of access to information and digital connectivity, Global Conference for the International Day for Universal Access to Information (IDUAI) 2023,

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/global-conference-marking-the-international-day-for-universal-access-to-information-iduai-2023>

¹⁰ Andreas Nishikawa-Pacher and Hanjo Hamann (2023), Is Every Law for Everyone? Assessing Access to National Legislation through Official Legal Databases around the World, *Oxford Journal of Legal Studies*, Volume 43, Issue 2, Summer 2023, pp. 298–321, <https://academic.oup.com/ojls/article/43/2/298/7026165>

¹¹ The research clarifies that the standards are bare minimum for publishing legal texts, insufficient to ensure adequate understanding and navigation of social systems. It highlights South Korea's legal database as a positive exemplar for its nuanced and sophisticated metrics and metadata aiming to improve user's comprehension of legal texts and systems.

Box 1

Sustainable Development Goal 16

The rule of law and access to justice are key components of the 2030 Agenda, particularly through Sustainable Development Goal 16, which links inclusive governance and strong institutions to peace and justice.¹² SDG 16 targets the reduction of armed conflict and all forms of violence; the reinforcement of the rule of law; and the guarantee of equal access to justice. It also calls for combating corruption and organized crime through accountable institutions, transparent processes, public participation, unfettered access to information, and international cooperation.

Progress in achieving SDG 16 has been significantly hindered by rising conflicts. Compliance with the rule of law at the international level is under serious threat, leaving countless people's lives in grave danger and without protection. Global advancements in accessing justice are also slow, as evidenced by issues such as unsentenced detainees, prison overcrowding, and low reporting rates for violent crimes.¹³ This situation underscores the urgent need to improve public trust in the rule of law and justice systems and to achieve more effective and equitable access to justice for all.

4. People-centred and innovative approaches for advancing access to laws in the Republic of Korea

The research assessing the viability of nationally owned legal databases, as seen above, highlights the governments' challenge in effectively making laws and legal information accessible to everyone. Many countries struggle with this issue and may lack the necessary systems and infrastructure. However, facilitating access to laws and legal information is a crucial step toward building trust in institutions, empowering citizens legally, enhancing civic participation, and ultimately strengthening democracy, stability, and development.

The Republic of Korea's (ROK) approach serves as a valuable example in this context. The Ministry of Government Legislation (MOLEG) of the ROK offers a standout example of a sustained, multi-channel strategy that treats legislation as a public good. Rather than a one-time digital launch, MOLEG has spent decades developing, testing, and refining both offline and online initiatives to ensure laws are accessible, comprehensible, and actionable.

Through continuous user feedback and iterative improvements, MOLEG has sought to ensure that its systems respond to people's needs. This approach highlights that improving access to laws requires sustained institutional commitment, coordination across government, and a focus on user experience. The following chapters further examine MOLEG's initiatives and the lessons that can be drawn from this experience.

¹² United Nations, Sustainable Development Goal 16: Promote just, peaceful, and inclusive societies, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/peace-justice/>

¹³ UNDP, UNODC, and OHCHR (2024). Global Progress Report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 Indicators: At the Crossroads: Breakdown or Breakthrough for Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions.

Chapter 2.

Overview of the Ministry of Government Legislation - Republic of Korea



Chapter 2.

Overview of the Ministry of Government Legislation - Republic of Korea

1. Organizational status of MOLEG

MOLEG is distinctive in being established as a separate ministry, unlike in many jurisdictions where similar functions fall under the Ministry of Justice. Its independent status reflects its mandate to coordinate and oversee government-led legislative processes in a comprehensive and advisory manner, thereby promoting coherent administration. Positioned under the Prime Minister's Office rather than the President's Office, MOLEG's structure clarifies that it does not stand above other ministries.

Box 2

Institutional history of MOLEG

MOLEG traces its history to the founding of the ROK in 1948. Under the First ROK Government, it was established as a central body within the Prime Minister's Office, as is the current structure, to oversee government laws and regulations (Art. 25, Government Organization Act).¹⁴ As one of the nation's foundational ministries, MOLEG worked alongside other newly created institutions to build Korea's legal and administrative framework.

Its roots can be traced back to the Joseon dynasty (1392–1897), where high-ranking officials known as *'Geom-sangjo-ryesa'* reviewed the decrees of the king before they were submitted to the *'Euijeongbu'* (Council of Ministers). This function closely resembles MOLEG's modern role of coordinating among agencies and reviewing draft laws to ensure consistency and coherence in legislation.

¹⁴ The law was amended in October 2025, relocating the article on MOLEG from Article 23 to Article 25 without altering its substance.

2. Key institutional functions of MOLEG

Under the principle of the rule of law enshrined in the Constitution of the ROK, MOLEG is mandated to oversee, coordinate, and provide technical support for all government-initiated legislation. While each ministry remains responsible for drafting its own laws, MOLEG serves as the central authority on government-initiated legislative affairs. It ensures that those laws comply with the Constitution, maintain coherence across the hierarchy of laws, translate policy objectives into clear and precise legal text, and facilitate effective implementation.

In this capacity, MOLEG provides internal oversight and advisory services within the executive branch on every stage of the government-initiated legislative process. Its core functions include:

A. Oversight and coordination of legislative planning

Under the ROK's civil law system, government policies shall be institutionalized through statutory enactment for implementation. Legislative proposals can be initiated by the National Assembly or the executive, with executive-originated laws subject to assembly approval. Executive agencies are also authorized to promulgate decrees within the scope delegated by statute. MOLEG oversees and monitors each ministry's legislative programme and facilitates inter-ministerial coordination. Additionally, MOLEG liaises with relevant administrative bodies to resolve issues arising from assembly-introduced draft legislation.

B. Review of government-initiated draft laws

Maintaining strict neutrality with respect to policy content, MOLEG provides technical assistance in drafting and reviewing the government-initiated draft laws, with particular emphasis on constitutionality, elimination of legal inconsistencies, conformity with existing statutes and legal principles, coherence and structural integrity, and clarity and precision of language. Beyond draft review, MOLEG also offers assistance to the executive agencies, as needed, to ensure policy measures are effectively translated into laws. Furthermore, MOLEG collaborates with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to review international treaties, verifying their consistency with the Republic of Korea's legal framework and accuracy of their translations.

C. Issuance of authoritative legal interpretation

MOLEG issues authoritative legal interpretations when differing views arise among ministries or agencies when interpreting a specific law for implementation.¹⁵ Although not legally binding, this guidance operates as soft law and carries de facto authority across all executive-branch entities, serving as a directive for policy implementation. Judicial bodies generally accord respect to MOLEG's analyses in recognition of its comprehensive legislative expertise in administrative affairs; however, in the event of divergence, judicial decisions prevail and supersede MOLEG's interpretations.

Traditionally, MOLEG's functions were confined to the aforementioned inter-ministerial oversight, coordination, and technical support for legislative review and interpretation. In the wake of the citizen-led democratization movement reaching its momentum in the mid-1980s, the restoration of local autonomy and decentralization in the early 1990s, and the advent of the information age, MOLEG's role was broadened to respond to emerging public expectations and technical advances.

Accordingly, MOLEG repositioned itself from a purely internal advisor to a proactive facilitator of citizen engagement and empowerment by adopting a dual strategy as follows:

- Enhancing the quality and accessibility of legislation through systematically updating the content of laws, eliminating the language barriers within laws (i.e., obsolete statutes and archaic terminologies), and codifying once dispersed administrative principles; and
- Strengthening communication with citizens on legislation through digitizing laws and digitalizing legislative processes.

These shifts, expanding institutional focus areas and embracing a people-centred justice culture, stemmed from, along with the democratisation tide, the institution's growing conviction that 'law is a public good.'

¹⁵ Individual citizens may request such legal interpretations directly from the relevant ministries and local governments and, if dissatisfied, may seek a review of the interpretation by MOLEG (Art. 40, General Act on Public Administration).

Box 3

Law as a public good

Article 1 of the Constitution of the ROK proclaims that "Korea is a democratic republic, with sovereignty residing in the people. All state authority is derived from the people." Upholding this fundamental principle, MOLEG emphasizes that legislation is a public good that belongs to the people and is drafted and enforced solely in the people's interest. As a result, laws and legal information should be accessible to everyone, not just experts or civil servants, in terms of its clarity and comprehensiveness as well as physical/digital accessibility.

This vision has inspired initiatives like the Easy-To-Understand Legislation Project. As stated in the introduction of the project's 10th edition manual:

*"Through clear, accessible, and exemplary law-making,
We will cultivate a legal culture where
People take centre stage."*

Treating law as a public good, MOLEG has strived to internalize and systematize the principle of people-centred access to laws and legal information within the institution. Over the past three decades, alongside the development of digital and non-digital initiatives, MOLEG has reshuffled the organization, strengthened the capacity of its civil servants, undertaken extensive research and participatory consultations with citizens to ensure that public opinions are reflected in policy formulation and decision-making processes.

D. Revision and improvement of existing legislation

MOLEG's mandate for legislative revision and improvement has been a core function from its establishment. This role has been further strengthened since the mid-1990s, with an increased focus on ensuring that existing laws remain relevant and practical in response to evolving societal and people's needs. MOLEG takes action when legislation is found to:

- Impose undue burdens on citizens or the business environment
- Prioritize administrative convenience at the expense of substantive fairness
- Contain ambiguous or umbrella provisions that may facilitate abuse of power
- Require updating to reflect important domestic or global policy shifts

MOLEG offers impartial guidance to relevant ministries, overseeing or directing the amendment or repeal of statutes. This proactive engagement helps overcome institutional inertia and vested interests, ensuring that the legal framework is updated in a timely manner and continuously improved. To support this mandate, MOLEG employs a range of strategic policies and tools, including:

- Proposing and coordinating with relevant ministries to revise specific laws identified with the issues above
- Updating criteria, standards, and terminology for drafting, reviewing, and revising laws
- Developing internal capacity on topics and legal issues in emerging fields that require new legislation
- Providing technical assistance to local governments in drafting and amending ordinances
- Conducting regular surveys and public consultations to assess legal needs and perceptions
- Undertaking dedicated, long-term research projects focused on legislative reform

Efforts under this function have given rise to the initiatives in line with people-centred laws and legislative quality assurance. These include the *amendment/revision of laws that cause inconvenience to the public*, the *'Easy-to-Understand Legislation' Project*, *public administration reform through legislation*, and the *provision of technical support to local governments in drafting ordinances*.

E. Digitalization of legislative processes and enhancement of public access to laws and legal information

In the mid-1980s and 1990s, MOLEG gradually implemented digital solutions to improve the government-led legislative processes and enhance public access to laws and legal information. The demand for such reforms was evident in the pursuit of both administrative efficiency and the view of law as a public good. The volume and complexity of legislation have rapidly increased, driven by societal diversification and cross-sectoral policy challenges, and this growth has made traditional paper-based workflows inadequate. Moreover, using digital technologies has created strong public expectations for real-time online access to laws and legal materials, as well as opportunities for meaningful participation in legislative consultations.

In response to these challenges, MOLEG has advanced its digitization and digitalization efforts, alongside complementary non-digital measures, to enhance accessibility and usability of legal texts. These initiatives encompassed the areas of legislative drafting, integrated workflow management for legislative processes, public participation with feedback integration, as well as digital access to laws and legal information. Overall, these measures aim to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of law-making and the dissemination of legal information.

MOLEG's digital transformation began in the 1990s with the establishment of the *Korean Law Information Center*, an online repository of existing statutes, decrees, administrative regulations, local ordinances, judicial decisions and official interpretations. In the early 2000s, MOLEG took further steps to digitalize and integrate the entire government-initiated legislative cycle by creating the *Legislation Support Center*. This comprehensive platform manages various stages, including planning, inter-ministerial coordination, stakeholder consultation, drafting, review, Council of Ministers' deliberation, submission to the National Assembly and presidential promulgation. To further enhance efficiency, MOLEG developed the *Legislative Draft Editor*, an in-house digital authoring tool designed to automate tasks, such as numbering, cross-referencing and formatting. This innovation significantly reduces repetitive workloads in drafting and amending laws.

Through ongoing engagement with users of the Korean Law Information Center, particularly the public, MOLEG identified two key needs: more intuitive, easy-to-understand legal contents for everyday use and easier access to foreign legislation for commercial and comparative purposes. In response, MOLEG launched the *Easy-To-Find & Day-To-Day Law Information Service and World Laws Information Center*. To promote civic engagement in law-making, MOLEG also established the *Legislation Center for Civic Participation*. This platform, seamlessly integrated with the Legislation Support Center used by civil servants, enables citizens to review draft laws, submit comments, and track the progress of proposed legislation throughout the decision-making process. Most recently, MOLEG has developed the *AI-assisted legal search service ('LAWBOT')*, a legislative search engine integrated with artificial intelligence. With the emergence of artificial intelligence, MOLEG is currently preparing a comprehensive revamp of its digital platforms in the coming years.

Legal awareness is essential in the fight against injustice, as individuals cannot seek redress if they are unaware of their rights and entitlements under the law.¹⁶ Guided by the belief that law is a public good, MOLEG has strengthened its public communication strategies and mechanisms by dismantling institutional barriers, adopting a demand-driven approach, and utilizing state-of-the-art technologies.

¹⁶ UNDP (2004), Access to Justice: Practice Note

Chapter 3.

MOLEG's initiatives for people-centred access to justice and lessons learned



Chapter 3.

MOLEG's initiatives for people-centred access to justice and lessons learned

This chapter elaborates on MOLEG's various initiatives, especially those undertaken under its fourth and fifth functions as outlined in Chapter 2. These initiatives are presented as a reference for countries in considering replication and in making appropriate adjustments tailored for their national contexts.

Table 1

Summary: MOLEG's initiatives on access to laws and legal information

Theme	Initiative ¹⁷	Description	Key features and components
Accessibility of laws and legal information	Korean Law Information Center*	A database of the entire Korean legal framework	Korean and English service with an array of user interface elements; mobile application available
	Easy-To-Find & Day-To-Day Law Information Center*	Issue-based legal information with clear, step-by-step guidance	Available in Korean and 12 other languages; user-friendly formats; mobile application available; social media pages
	Artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted legal search service ('LAWBOT')*	An AI-enabled search engine for laws and legal information	Searching legal information without typing legal terms
	World Laws Information Center*	A web platform providing foreign laws, regulations, policy materials, market trends in selected fields	Most frequently requested laws from countries with close economic ties to Korea to support international business activities

¹⁷ Initiatives with dedicated digital platforms/tools are marked with an asterisk (*).

People-centred laws	Amendment of laws that cause inconvenience to the public	Substantive legislative improvement for 'good legislation' that is easy to comply with, reflecting social needs, and redressing systemic inequities	MOLEG-led, proactive, and topic-specific improvements of all relevant legislation; various public complaints and feedback mechanisms
	Easy-to-Understand Legislation project	Replacing complicated legal jargon and expressions with clear and plain Korean daily terms	Standard setting and dissemination; Preemptive review of draft laws; post-enactment review of existing laws; various public complaints and feedback mechanisms
	Public administration reform through legislation	MOLEG-led enactment and implementation of the General Act on Public Administration	Establishment of clearer and more coherent principles and standards governing administrative action
Citizen participation in legislation ¹⁸	Legislation Center for Civic Participation*	Citizens' inputs submitted, reviewed, and reflected during the legislative notice period	Notification and engagement mechanisms for citizen feedback on draft laws; citizens' monitoring of legislation progress; grievances reporting
Administrative efficiency & legislative quality assurance	Legislation Support Center*	Digitalization of the legislative processes	Digitalized workflow across government institutions and agencies involved in legislation; civil servants' use only
	Legislative Draft Editor*	Digital legal drafting software	A tool for drafting legislation for civil servants; publicly accessible for drafting bylaws
	Legislative support for local governments	Supporting legislation of delegated ordinances	Request-based advisory services; training and capacity-building programmes; secondment

The series of initiatives outlined above are the outcomes of a people-centred approach that extend beyond simply providing information on applicable laws. They offer specific and practical guidance, including step-by-step explanations, to assist citizens in addressing their everyday concerns.

¹⁸ MOLEG previously implemented a non digital initiative, the Public Advisory Committee, to strengthen citizen input in the legislative process. Comprising approximately 200 citizens with experience across various fields, the committee reviewed draft laws, provided comments, and proposed amendments or new provisions within their areas of expertise. The initiative was recently discontinued, as its functions were deemed redundant with the internal review processes of the responsible ministries.

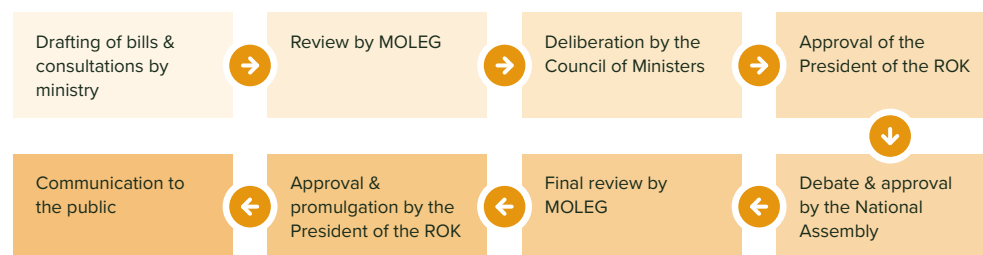
It is also worth noting that the initiatives that were originally designed to improve administrative efficiency are now also being applied to, and enabling, greater citizen engagement. They are not competing goals but mutually reinforcing. For example, the Legislative Draft Editor, initially designed for internal use, is now available for the public to draft legal-format documents such as bylaws in universities or private companies. The Legislation Support Center is seamlessly linked with the Legislation Center for Civic Participation, which allows feedback submitted by the public at the latter center to be automatically forwarded to the former, enabling relevant ministries to respond swiftly and adjust draft laws as needed.

Each initiative is elaborated in detail below in the order of the reference in the above table with the structure of (i) background and objective, (ii) key functionalities and features of digital solutions and other key activities, (iii) results, (iv) challenges, (v) insights for replication and adaptation, and (vi) resources (personnel and budget) under four thematic categories: accessibility of laws and legal information, people-centred laws, citizen participation in legislation, and administrative efficiency and legislative quality assurance.

Box 4

Government-initiated legislation processes with relevant platforms and tools

The figure below shows MOLEG's innovative tools applied to specific legislative processes of the ROK.



The following digital platforms have been developed to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of MOLEG's support in this process.

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>• Drafting and MOLEG review:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Legislative Draft Editor - Legislation Support Center - Legislation Center for Civic Participation | <p>• Promulgation and communication with citizens:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Korean Law Information Center - Easy-To-Find & Day-To-Day Law Information Center - AI-assisted legal search service |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

1. Initiatives of MOLEG: approaches, key features, and insights

1.1 Accessibility of laws and legal information

A. Korean Law Information Center¹⁹

The Korean Law Information Center is the database of the entirety of the Korean legal framework and an all-in-one portal and mobile application where users can find up-to-date laws and other supplementary legal information quickly and easily, anytime and anywhere.

i Background and objective

The Korean Law Information Center, MOLEG's flagship digital portal, was initially built in collaboration with the Supreme Court (Court Administration Office) for administrative efficiency as a legal database. However, the current version of the portal, newly launched in 2009, reflects the policy shift around 2003, where MOLEG decided to transform the portal by strengthening its role for people's access to laws and legal information.²⁰ Hence, the vision for the portal reads, "Every citizen is empowered to search for and leverage legal information independently, without needing expert assistance." The goals include:

- Providing an easy-to-use integrated search service
- Enabling the practical application of laws through enriching supplementary information and materials
- Creating a comprehensible repository of legal knowledge.

ii Key functionalities and features

MOLEG ensures the following key operating principles to maximize the use of the portal's resources and develops the portal's functionalities and features accordingly:

- **Accuracy:** Deliver precise, reliable content
- **Promptness:** Publish new or amended laws immediately or concurrently upon promulgation
- **Accessibility:** Ensure free, anytime, anywhere access

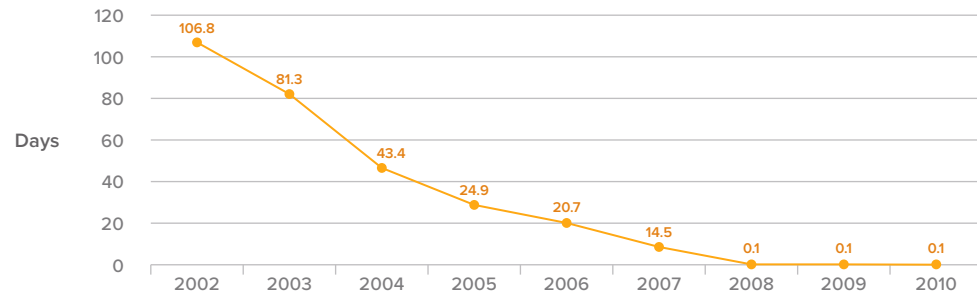
Newly enacted laws and amendments become available at the moment of official promulgation (midnight), synchronized with the digital official gazette. The upload of new statutes used to take up to 100 days; however, streamlined workflows, full digitization of drafts, and the use of the Legislative Draft Editor now allow for real-time updates. The online platform also guarantees no-cost and unrestricted access to users.

¹⁹ Accessible at: <https://www.law.go.kr/LSW/eng/engMain.do?eventGubun=060124> (English); <https://www.law.go.kr/LSW/main.html> (Korean)

²⁰ MOLEG (2018), MOLEG's 70 Years of Institutional History: 1948-2018

Figure 1

Average time taken to update new statutes per year



The portal fundamentally functions as a legal repository that allows anyone to access the Korean legal framework and that serves as a shared database for MOLEG's other affiliated digital solutions. MOLEG has steadily expanded its coverage, integrating a total of 7,450,000 pieces of laws and legal information as of January 2026, comprising:

- Current statutes, decree-laws, directorates, local ordinances, and regulations
- Historical statutes and preceding laws
- Judicial decisions
- Official interpretations

Figure 2

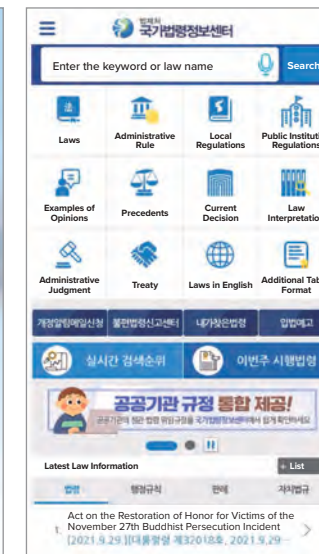
Web portal and mobile application of the Korean Law Information Center



Article 18 (Terms and Conditions of Employment of Part-Time Employees)

Article 18 (Working Hours of Full-time Employees)

Precedents	Current decisions	Law Interpretation	Administrative Judgment Cases	Examples of opinions
Total 49 precedents(1/5)				



The portal is, however, more than just a tool for viewing laws online. Accessibility involves users understanding laws and being able to access social services to their needs. Thus, the portal has continued to improve its user experiences with a range of enriching and interlinking supplementary materials (metadata) and assistive and interface features to guide them.

Laws can be searched by title, keyword, sector/topic, ministry, or local government. Each statute page includes:²¹

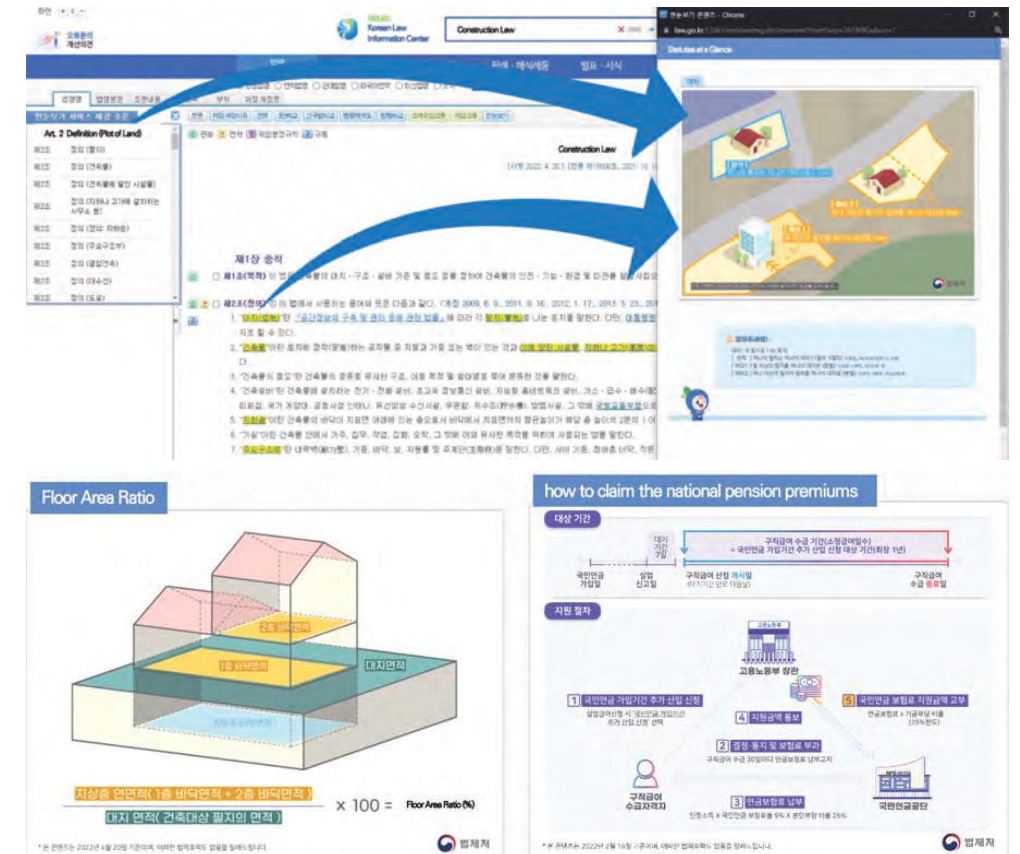
- Intent and purpose of the law
- Amendment history
- Full texts of preceding statutes, pre-Republic laws (1897–1945), and international treaties
- Tree diagram showing the hierarchical structure of statutes and regulations directly applicable
- Three-tier comparison table of statute, law-decree, and directorate per delegation
- Voice-read functionality and downloadable Braille files
- Hyperlinked citations for every quoted article or law, opening in a pop-up to prevent scrolling back and forth
- Official English translations²²
- Per-article icons for one-click access to:
 - Judicial decisions and official legal interpretations
 - Side-by-side comparison table of preceding vs. current text, with highlights on amended words, phrases, and sentences
 - Infographics explaining key points
 - Related lower-level regulations
 - Link to Easy-To-Find & Day-To-Day Law Information Center
- Per word/phrase for one-click access to:
 - Infographics, tables, and images for easier understanding (Statutes at a Glance Project)

²¹ All features, except for the direct links per article, are available in the mobile application.

²² In close collaboration with the Korea Legislation Research Institute, MOLEG provides the English versions of the ROK Statutes as part of the Korean Law Information Center. As of May 2025, 88.9% of statutes and 54.8% of subordinate legislation are available in English, with the rest being progressively translated.

Figure 3

Examples of the ‘Statutes at a Glance’



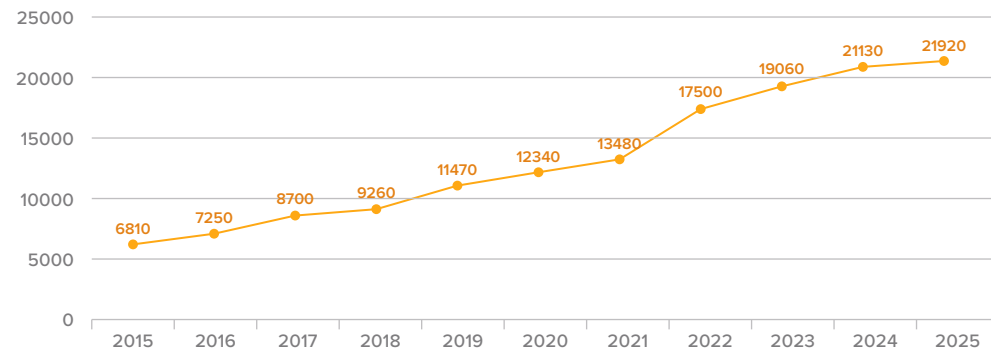
iii Results

Over the decades of its operation, portal traffic and utilization by citizens, civil servants, legal professionals, and institutions has grown steadily.

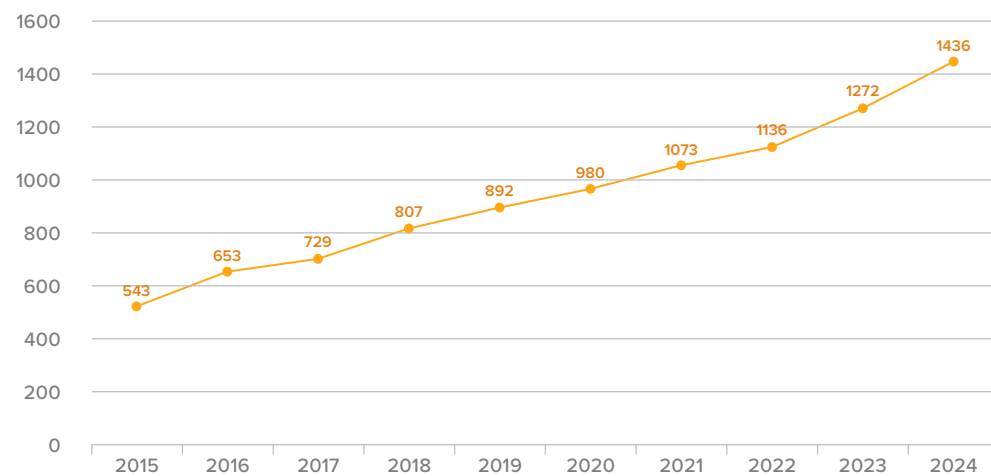
Figure 4

Utilization of the Korean Law Information Center

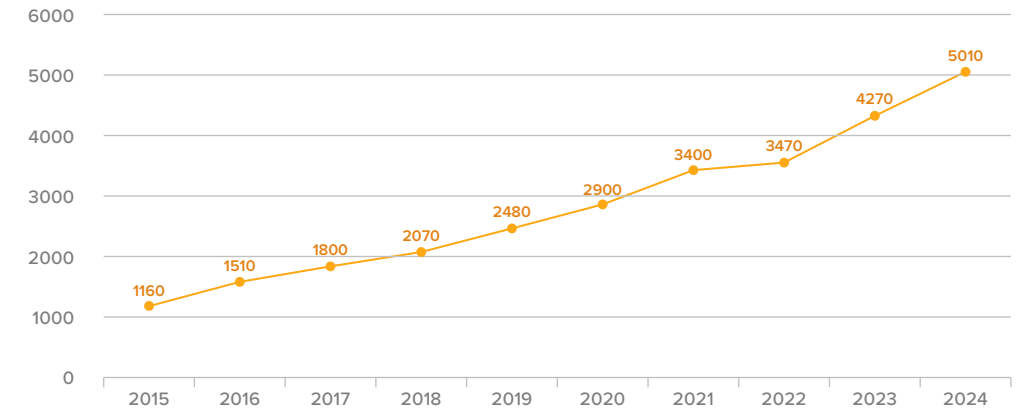
• Number of annual visitors (in thousands)



• Number of institutions using the portal via OpenAPI



• Number of mobile application downloads (in thousands)



iv Challenges

The initial task of building the database required immense human resources, as the entire existing legal framework of the country had to be transferred from hard copy to a digital corpus. Updating laws in line with amendments and revisions of statutes is likewise labour intensive and demands meticulous attention to detail to ensure accuracy. The development of the Legislative Draft Editor has significantly reduced this workload.

Coordination and collaboration with the responsible ministries remain pivotal success factors for MOLEG, both in ensuring the accuracy of information contained in the portal and in responding to citizens' queries on substantive legal matters.

From a people-centred perspective, providing such a service poses a constant challenge, particularly in helping citizens understand the meaning of legal terminology and the associated social systems. For example, citizens unfamiliar with the titles of laws often face difficulties in locating specific statutes. MOLEG has continued to expand subsidiary services to address these challenges, including the AI assisted portal. Through this portal, citizens can enter prompts using everyday language, and the AI system will help identify and locate the relevant laws in question.

v Insights for adaptation

There are both advantages and disadvantages to providing a government-owned legal database and associated services. A key advantage of such services in the era of artificial intelligence is the reliability of the information. The sustained commitment of the government, together with effective interministerial and institutional coordination, is essential for building and ensuring the success of a government-led legal database and services.

Box 5 Advantages and disadvantages of government-owned legal databases

What sets MOLEG apart from similar services in other countries is that it is driven by the government. Based on the principle that law is a public good, MOLEG has spearheaded a coordinated effort across government agencies to provide people-centred legal information and access to justice through a comprehensive, government-managed legal information service. The advantages and disadvantages of such a service are as follows:

Advantages

- **Ubiquitous, cost-free access:** The centrally maintained portal offers all users free and unrestricted access to up-to-date legislation, promoting inclusivity and lowering financial barriers.
- **Guaranteed accuracy and trust:** As the official source, the portal ensures the reliability of legal texts and interpretations, enhancing public confidence in both the information provided and the government institutions.
- **Integrated, interoperable solution:** A unified platform prevents system duplication, reduces redundant expenditures, and streamlines coordination among various agencies. Achieving this framework required strong leadership and significant consensus-building among line ministries, local governments, the National Assembly, and the judiciary.

Disadvantages

- **Sustained workload for civil servants:** Ensuring timely updates across multiple formats and platforms places a considerable burden on civil servants.
- **Resource intensive for consensus and governance:** Building and maintaining a government-wide system requires ongoing commitment to governance structures and interagency collaboration.

vi Resources (personnel and budget)

The initial database was established in collaboration with the Court Administration Office from 1998 to 2000, with a total budget of approximately KRW 7 billion. It generated employment opportunities for about 140,000 people annually.²³

Nowadays, MOLEG collaborates with its affiliated institutions, the Korea Legislation Research Institute²⁴ and the Korea Law Information Service²⁵ in the operation of the Korean Law Information Center and other web portals. The tasks for portal management consist of two main pillars: substantive legal contents and IT system management. These responsibilities are entrusted to these institutions. Overall coordination and oversight are carried out by designated staff within the MOLEG's Korean Law Information Center.

The personnel and budget specifically allocated for legislative updates & management of the Korean Law Information Center for 2025 are shown below.

- Designated personnel in MOLEG: 1.5 officers
- Overview of the relevant resources:

Items	Number of personnel	Budget (in thousands of KRW)
Substantive task		
• Legislative info overall management	1 (Principal researcher)	2,044,000
• Legislative system & linkage info management	16 (Researchers), 11 (Research assistants)	
• Legislative DB management		
• Updating laws, treaties, rules, ordinances		
• Linking precedents, Constitutional Court decisions, interpretations, judgments		
• Public institution regulation DB management		
• Legislative info knowledge base update and management		

²³ MOLEG's 70 Years of Institutional History: 1948-2018 (MOLEG, 2018). Investment in upgrading the database and portal has continued, following their initial development.

²⁴ The Korea Legislation Research Institute was established in 1990 as an affiliated institute directly under MOLEG. In 1999, it was reshuffled to be under the Prime Minister's Office. Its mandates include (i) supporting national legislative policies, (ii) promoting the timely and accurate dissemination of legislative information, (iii) systematically collecting and managing national and international legislative information, and (iv) conducting survey or research on juristic and legislative issues. In the 1990s, prior to the launch of the Korean Law Information Center, one of the Institute's tasks, commissioned by the MOLEG, was to manage amendments and disseminate laws. The Institute used to provide the legislation-related information to citizens on a fee basis. Today, the institute operates the web portal for English-translated Korean laws, which is embedded within the Korean Law Information Center.

²⁵ The Korea Law Information Service was established in 2011 with specific mandates delegated by MOLEG to support the tasks related to the Korean Law Information Center, the Easy-To-Find & Day-To-Day Law Information Center, and the World Law Information Center.

Items	Number of personnel	Budget (in thousands of KRW)
IT system maintenance		
Overall service management	1	1,703,966
Project / quality assurance	1	
Database Administrator (DBA)	1	
Design / publishing	2	
Platform / Portal maintenance	7	
Mobile application / function improvement	5	

B. Easy-to-Find & Day-to-Day Law Information Center ²⁶

The Easy-to-Find & Day-to-Day Law Information Center is a people-centred digital portal designed to help citizens tackle everyday legal issues through an intuitive, demand-driven interface. Available in Korean and 12 other languages, it simplifies complex legal materials into clear, step-by-step guidance that empowers both ROK citizens and foreign residents to understand their rights and obligations and resolve their issues.

i Background and objective

As society grows more complex and dynamic, citizens are increasingly faced with legal questions in daily life, such as driving regulations, starting a small business, or handling consumer disputes. Traditional, administration-centred publication of laws and supplementary legal materials often left non-experts struggling to locate and apply the right information. Acknowledging the gap between public access to laws and citizens' actual utilization of them, this web portal was developed and launched in 2008 to bridge that divide and to realize the right of access to laws and legal information in practical terms, thereby fostering a people-centred legal culture. The goals include:

- Provide comprehensive, structured, and all-in-one legal information from a demand-driven perspective
- Help the public minimize the time and financial resources spent on searching for legal information
- Serve as a useful resource for civil servants and other ministries.

²⁶ Accessible at: <https://www.easylaw.go.kr/CSP/Main.laf> (Korean); <https://www.easylaw.go.kr/CSM/Main.laf> (Foreign languages)

ii Key functionalities and features

To deliver complete, practical, and up-to-date information tailored to citizens' needs, the platform consolidated and reorganized all relevant statutes, enforcement decrees, and regulations and related resources, such as guidelines and manuals from relevant ministries and local governments, into an integrated, topic-based framework: ²⁷

- Step-by-step walkthroughs covering everyday issues by 18 key themes with 280 text-based content items and 259 visual-based content items (as of December 2025)
- Additionally categorizing local ordinances of each local government into another 19 key themes with 3,268 content items (as of December 2025)
- All relevant statutes and subordinate regulations, guidelines and manuals, judicial decisions, official interpretations, policy papers, and practical examples accompany each topic
- Plain-language summaries alongside original legal text to aid understanding
- Templates, sample forms, and links to external services guide users through administrative procedures
- Cartoon storytelling series, real-life case examples, short video clips, Q&A, interactive and participatory quizzes and games for children and students
- Infographics, flowcharts, images, and glossary entries clarify complex concepts at a glance.

MOLEG also provides key legal information for foreign residents and prospective investors in the Republic of Korea in 12 languages, covering approximately 30 core topics translated into 12 languages, resulting in more than 360 foreign-language content items, including translated statutes, plain-language guides, frequently asked questions (FAQ), and procedural checklists. (As of December 2025)

Key topics include:

- Immigration: visas, passports, naturalization, entry/exit procedures
- Health insurance: National Health Insurance enrolment, benefits, contributions
- Driver's license: conversion, testing, traffic rules for foreigners
- Housing and renting: lease types, deposit protection, tenant rights
- Family and marriage migration: spouse visas, family reunification, related procedures
- Living and daily life: utilities, resident registration, local services
- Investment and business: basic legal framework for starting or investing in the ROK

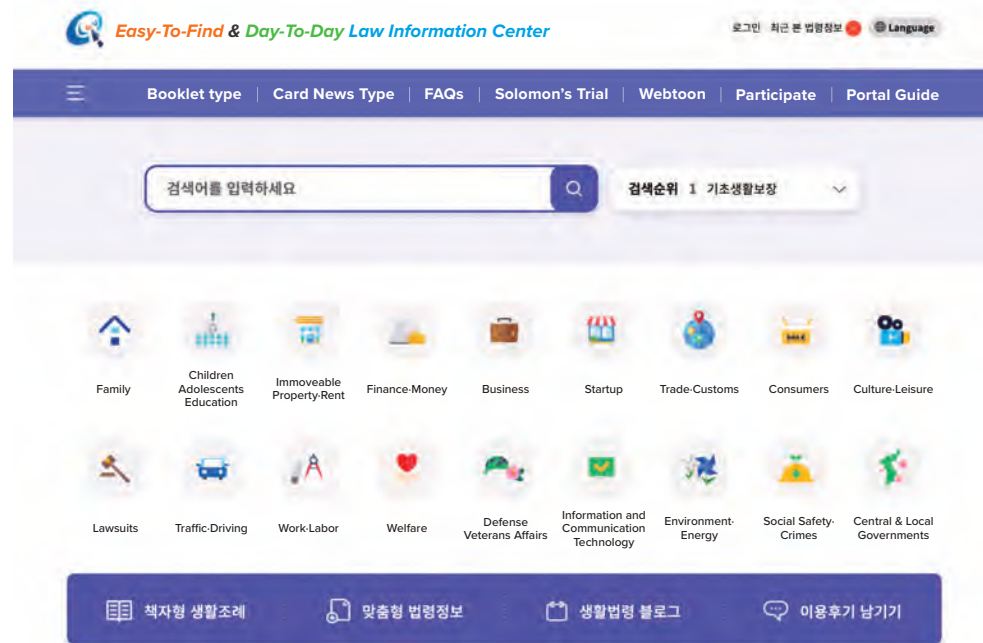
For inclusive access, the service provides voice-read support and connects with users through social media and a mobile application.

²⁷ To shift from this supplier-centric approach to one that truly empowers users, MOLEG conducted public consultations and online surveys to identify the most requested topics before its launch in 2008. These topics were prioritized based on real-world demand to ensure the new platform answers the questions people actually ask.

Figure 5

Day-to-Day & Easy-to-Find Law Information Center in English and foreign languages

Website in English



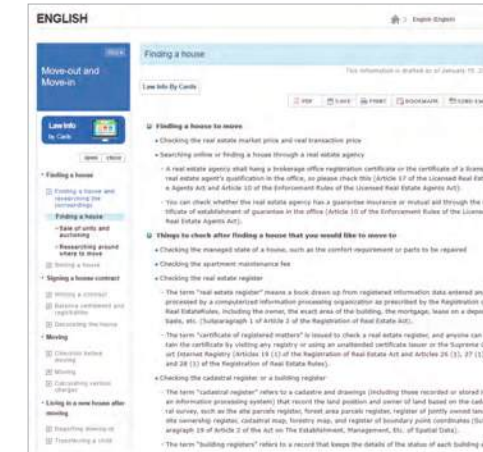
Website in foreign languages



Figure 6

Various formats of legal information on the Day-to-Day & Easy-to-Find Law Information Center

Narrative texts



Infographic cards



Real-life case examples



Cartoon storytelling



Search for the local ordinances



Box 6

Example of legal information integration for step-by-step guidance: renting and leasing

In this topic, the portal consolidates 35 statutes, 9 Presidential Decrees, 4 Prime Minister's Decrees, 2 legal interpretations, 80 judicial decisions, 22 FAQ, and additional resources into a clear, task-oriented entry organized in chronological order of the event sequence.

Areas of interest	Items	Link to relevant article
Renting and leasing a house	Introduction	Renting and leasing a house owned by others
	Relevant legal information: the Housing Lease Protection Act	Eligibility of the implementation of the law
		Key provisions of the Act

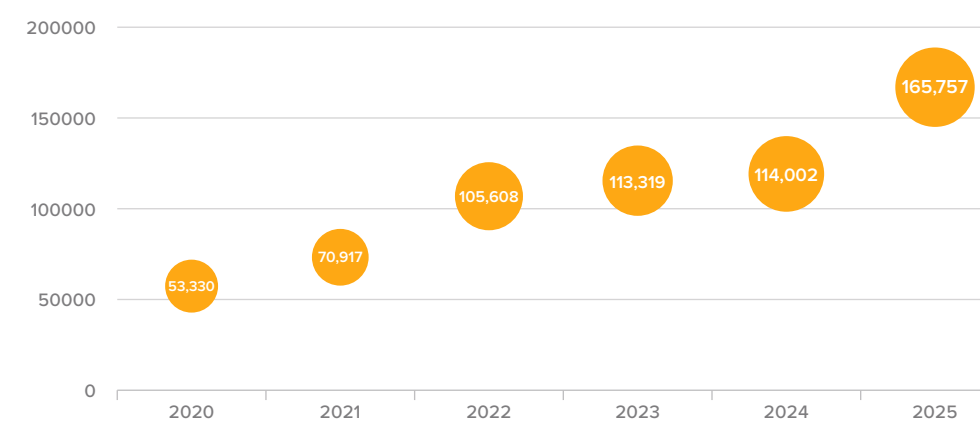
Areas of interest	Items	Link to relevant article
Contracts	Preparation before signing the contract	Checking the register
	Contracts	Parties
		How to draft the contract
		Responsibilities of and fees for the real estate agent
		Loans for renting and leasing
	Protection of the deposit	Perfection and Priority right to compensation
Registration Certificate		
Moving in	Checklist before moving in	Dispute resolution with moving company
	Checklist after moving in	Moving-in registration, etc.
While renting and leasing	Paying the Rent	Payment and overdue
		Request for increase or decrease in rent or deposit
	Rights and obligations of the Parties	Tenant's rights and obligations
		Landlord's rights and obligations
	Lease Succession	Restrictions on transfer of leasehold rights
		Restrictions on sublease rights
		Succession of leasehold rights upon death, etc.
		Succession of landlord's status
	Renewal of the contract	Renewal of the contract
	Termination	Termination of the contract
Reimbursing the deposit		Application for a leasehold registration order
		Preemptive payment of a small deposit
		Securing execution rights
		Application for a compulsory auction
		Request for auction dividend
Reimbursing any costs occurred during the lease		Recovery of investment costs
		Request for purchase of accessories
	Request for return of long-term repair reserve fund	

iii Results

The portal's user base steadily increased, with a significant surge during the COVID 19 pandemic as demand for timely guidance intensified. Emerging social issues, including COVID 19, have prompted the addition of new topics and content updates to ensure the site remains relevant and responsive to the needs of citizens.

Figure 7

Average daily visitors per year to the Day-to-Day & Easy-to-Find Law Information Center website



iv Challenges

The development and management of a web portal is highly labour-intensive for civil servants, requiring them to identify topics, compile and reorganize information and documents from multiple institutions, reproduce the information tailored to citizens' better understanding, and ensure that the portal remains up to date. To manage this workload, MOLEG entrusts the tasks to its affiliated institution, the Korea Law Information Service, which develops new content items and updates existing information under MOLEG's supervision.

To balance accuracy with operational capacity, MOLEG publishes consolidated monthly updates of legal content rather than applying every amendment in real time, as is done by the Korean Law Information Center.

v Insights for adaptation

Given that the web portal is designed to help citizens navigate everyday legal issues, it is essential to ensure that the information provided is accurate and up to date. Integrating guidelines, manuals, and templates from relevant ministries and local governments is equally important as those documents can be difficult for citizens to access on their own and the legal information is incomplete without them for practical use. The content of the portal for foreign residents should be tailored separately from that for national citizens, as the two groups have different information needs.

C. AI-assisted legal search service: LAWBOT ²⁸

The 'LAWBOT' is MOLEG's latest people-centred legal portal powered by artificial intelligence.

i Background and objective

In its ongoing effort to enhance public access to laws and legal information, MOLEG recognized that specialized expertise and complex terminology continue to impede the usability of existing legal database and resources. In 2024, MOLEG launched an AI-powered web portal designed to transform the experience of non-expert users by making the search for laws and legal information more intuitive and accessible. ²⁹

ii Key functionalities and features

The AI-incorporated plain-language search portal allows users to retrieve statutory and regulatory content using everyday expressions and conversational queries without needing to type in formal legal keywords.

For example, when a user types in a query such as "what to do when my pet dies?" the AI links the prompt to the relevant legal terminology, identifies the applicable legal framework, and provides the corresponding information to the user.

²⁸ Accessible at <https://law.go.kr/LSW/ais/main.do> (Korean)

²⁹ MOLEG currently serves users through three dedicated domains in terms of the Korean legal database: a) the Korea Law Information Center, b) the Easy to Find & Day to Day Law Information Center, and c) the AI assisted legal search service. This division aims to meet diverse access needs and enhance navigation within the Korean legal framework.

Figure 8

AI-assisted legal search service: LAWBOT

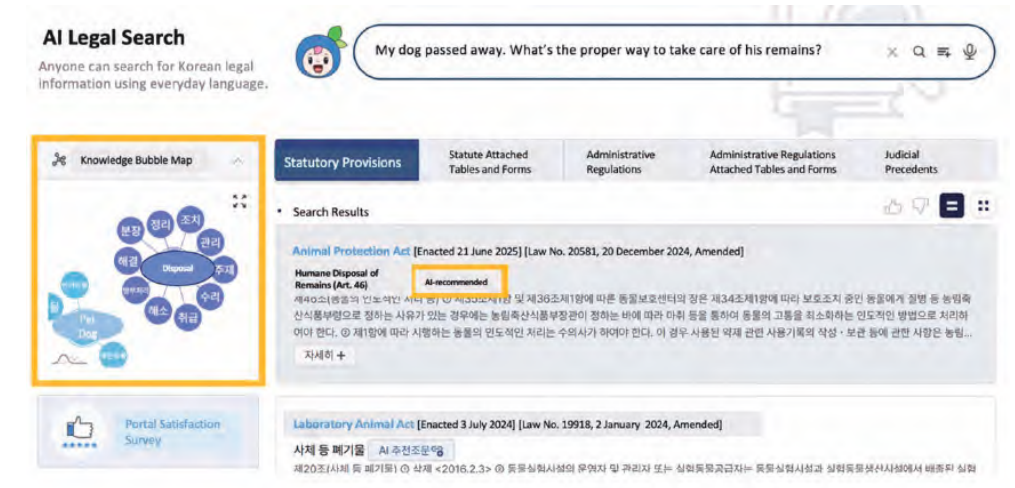
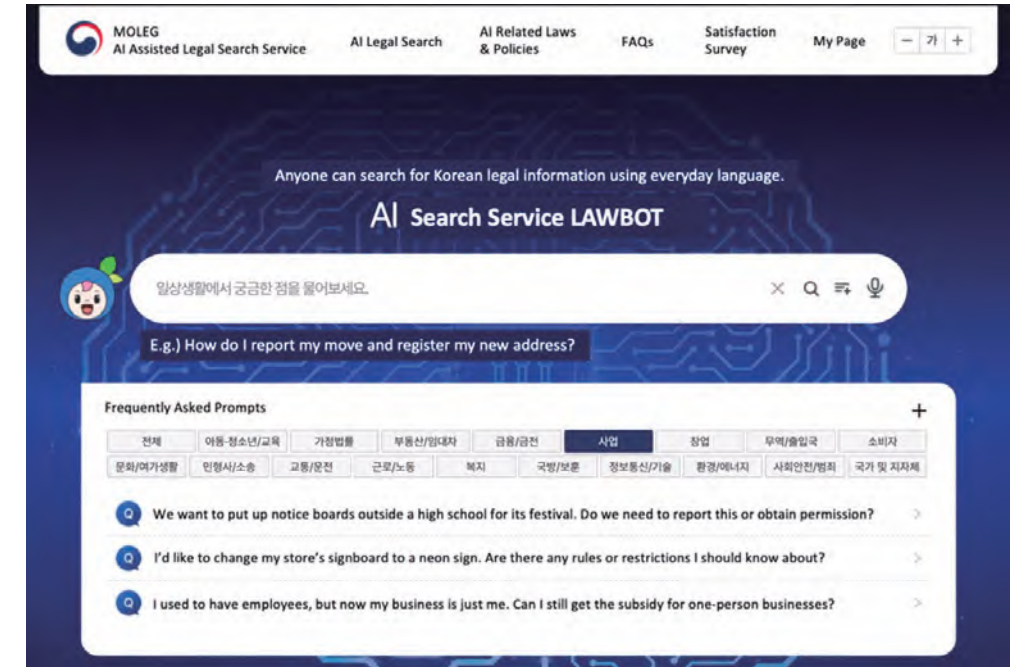
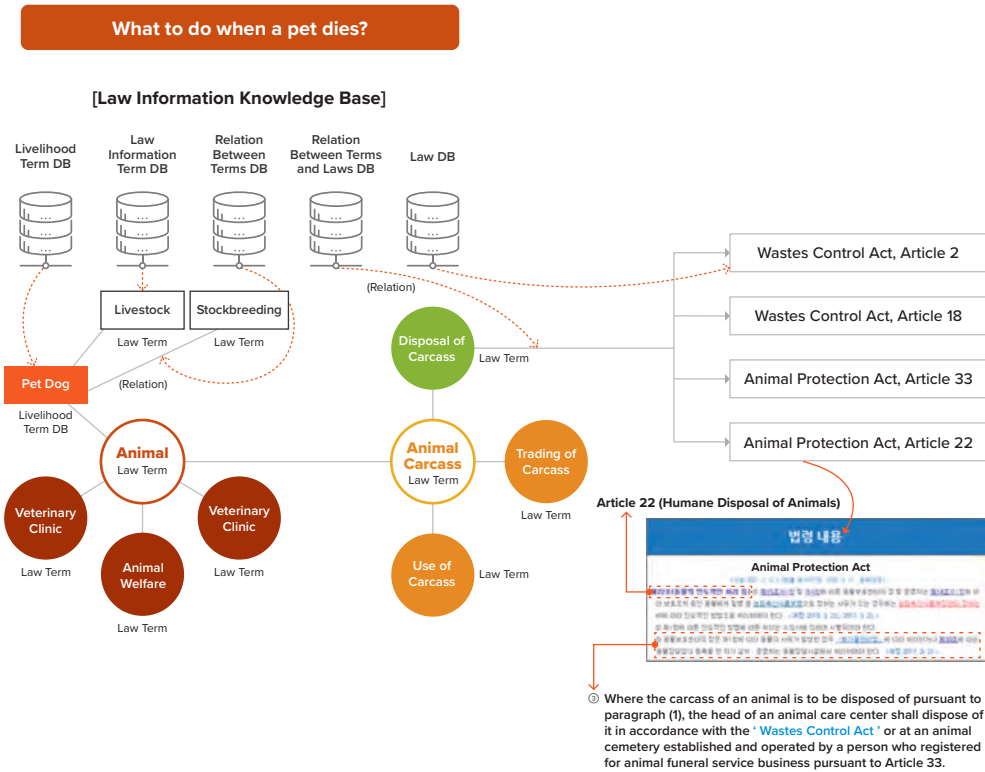


Figure 9

How LAWBOT works



iii Results and challenges

Since its launch in December 2024, the web portal has recorded a total of 751,936 visitors and 3,836,580 total views as of December 2025.

The AI-assisted portal has been delivering more context-aware and detailed search results. However, the service remains under active development to address limitations from its initial design predating the widespread availability of generative AI. MOLEG's Korean Law Information Center is integrating generative AI capabilities (RAG, Retrieval-Augmented Generation) to enhance relevance, context understanding, and result presentation while maintaining rigorous quality controls. As generative AI is phased in, MOLEG expects to provide richer, more intuitive search experiences and clearer, user-friendly outputs over the coming years.

iv Insights for adaptation

Prior to developing AI-assisted search tools, it is essential to first establish a complete legislative database and a fast, reliable system for uploading new and amended laws. AI can only function effectively and reliably when it interprets accurate, well-structured legal metadata; without information such as full legal texts, amendment histories, and precise enactment dates, the risk of hallucination increases. To reduce this risk, MOLEG ensures that all data sources are clearly cited and that the newly adopted RAG system operates directly on the official legislative database.

As AI technologies evolve rapidly, countries must develop strategies contextualized to their specific needs and prepare for potential risks. Governments should begin AI-assisted legal search projects with clear goals, defined targets, and a clear scope of what the portal will provide, for example, whether it will offer only basic information such as article summaries and judicial precedents, or extend to generating suggested solutions for real-life cases.

v Resources (personnel and budget)

The web portal was established and continues to be developed by a contractor specializing in AI, selected through a public procurement process. The personnel and budget specifically allocated for advancing the AI-assisted legal search service from 2025 to 2028 is presented below.

- Designated personnel in MOLEG: 1.5 officers³⁰
- Overview of the relevant budget:

Item	Year	Budget (in thousands of KRW)
Development of LAWBOT by outsourced contractor	2025	513,000
	2026 ~ 2028	9,219,000

³⁰ As the AI assisted portal is closely integrated with the management of the Korean Law Information Center, three MOLEG officers from the Korean Law Information Center jointly oversee and manage both platforms.

D. World Laws Information Center ³¹

Through a digital platform, the World Laws Information Center offers translated laws, regulations, policy materials, and market trends in countries, most frequently requested by the ROK citizens as information sources, primarily to support international business activities.

i Background and objective

As companies in the ROK expand internationally, demand for reliable, country-specific legal information has grown. In particular, individuals and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) face considerable challenges in accessing and understanding such information. To meet these needs, MOLEG has collaborated with other ministries and agencies to fill sector-specific information gaps and help firms prepare for export compliance, market entry, and other business activities through the platform since 2004. The service is demand-driven, offered free-of-charge and consistent with other MOLEG services, with particular attention to the challenges encountered by SMEs operating abroad.

ii Key functionalities and features

The web portal of the World Laws Information Center provides key laws, policies, and market trends of more than 58 countries with close economic ties to Korea, with legal texts updated regularly. Coverage includes the following topics and industries:

- **Topics:** Constitutional law, free trade agreements, environmental regulation, administrative law, taxation, investment, labour law, and data privacy and protection.
- **Industries:** Culture, nuclear energy, cosmetics, medical service, food, construction, and seafood.

The information is provided in both Korean translation and the original language and includes structured links to official foreign government websites and legal resources organized by each country's legal system.

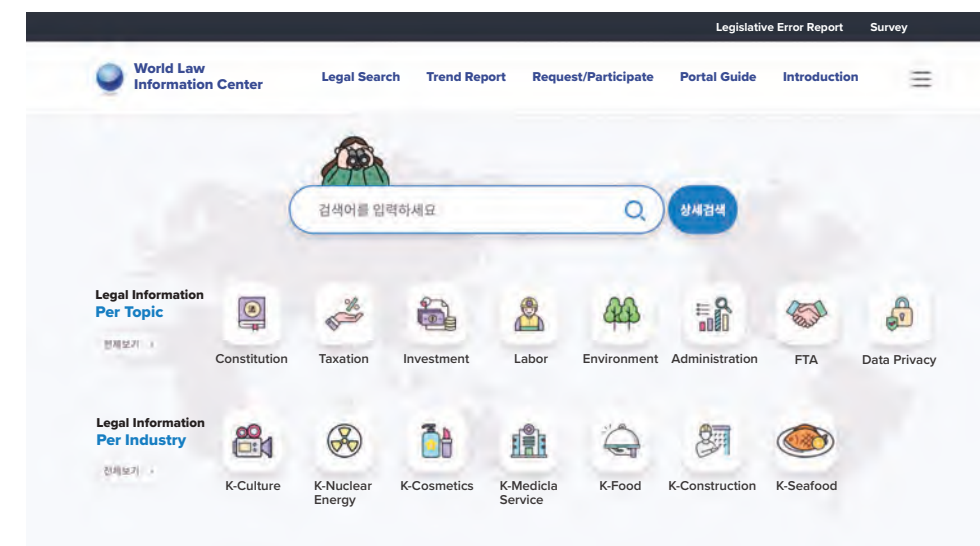
With an advisory board of legal experts with specialized knowledge of foreign legal systems and language proficiency, the portal provides a customized research and translation service, handling over 1,000 requests per year from businesses, individuals, and government agencies. After a request is submitted through the website, MOLEG responds within five days, in principle, with the translated results along with a satisfaction survey.

³¹ Accessible at <https://world.moleg.go.kr/web/main/index.do> (Korean)

MOLEG gathers demand signals through online surveys and partnerships with organizations such as the Korea Federation of SMEs.

Figure 10

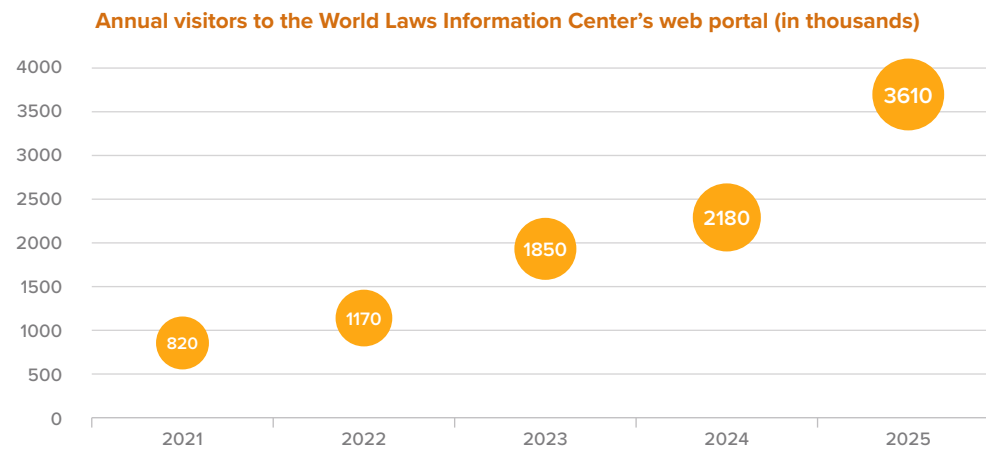
Web portal of the World Laws Information Center



iii Results

The number of visitors to the web portal saw a significant rise in 2022, driven by the growing global popularity of the ROK products, including cultural content. During 2022–2023, MOLEG also began collaborating with other ministries and agencies to identify demands in their respective sectors, a development that further contributed to increased usage of the website.

Figure 11



Box 7

Testimonials on the World Laws Information Center's web portal

Below are selected testimonials of individuals and SMEs who have benefited from the service of the portal in 2024.³²

• **Cosmetics exporter expanding to Thailand**

"We produce cosmetics and were planning to expand to Thailand. Finding Thailand's relevant regulations was very challenging until we found the World Laws Information Center via a link on the website of Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA). We obtained a translated version of the Thailand Cosmetics Law and other regulatory guidance for exports. Thanks to this support, we were fully prepared for our expansion."

• **Solar panel company entering Indonesia**

"I run a solar panel business focused on agriculture. During our expansion planning, Indonesia's government changed and new regulations were introduced. I requested information from the World Laws Information Center and received the Indonesian Farmland Act and Electricity Act, which allowed us to quickly adjust our plans."

³² MOLEG's official press release, published February 18, 2025 in Korean language, https://www.moleg.go.kr/board.es?mid=a10501000000&bid=0048&act=view&list_no=135621&tag=&pageCntBySelf=10&nPage=2&keyField=&keyWord=콘텐츠&cg_code= (last accessed 1 December 2025)

• **Business operating in Kazakhstan**

"I operate a business in Kazakhstan and needed to understand labour law details, employment procedures, drafting contracts, remuneration, and working conditions. I submitted a request through the World Laws Information Center during a demand survey and received both the original and translated labour law. That information helped me proceed with hiring confidently."

iv Challenges

The provision of this type of service, even offered free-of-charge, is rare and represents a significant undertaking for the civil service. It reflects a voluntary initiative that is demand-driven and people-centred. In view of the specialization required and the associated workload, management of the web portal has been entrusted to MOLEG's affiliated institution, the Korea Law Information Service. MOLEG is further enhancing the service through the integration of artificial intelligence, enabling more accurate and efficient translation of foreign laws and related legal information.

v Insights for adaptation

A dedicated team of translators with legal expertise is essential for operating a portal of this nature. MOLEG currently outsources key functions, including legislative research, collection of legal information, translation, and online publication to the Korean Law Information Service, which operates a specialized team covering 13 languages.

It is recommended that the new portal be developed as a search engine-based platform, particularly to facilitate the integration of artificial intelligence tools. MOLEG's World Laws Information Center has been in operation for two decades, and its aging system has increasingly revealed structural and functional limitations. As user complaints have grown, MOLEG has initiated plans to undertake a comprehensive system overhaul in the coming years.

vi Resources (personnel and budget)

- Designated personnel in MOLEG: 1.5 officers
- Overview of the relevant resources:

Item	Number of personnel	Budget (in thousands of KRW)
Outsourced contractor	19	1,431,000

1.2 People-centred laws

A. Revision of laws that cause inconvenience to the public

Revision of laws that cause inconvenience to the public is a non-digital initiative aimed at reviewing existing legislation to make it easier to comply with, better aligned with evolving social and business environments, and more people-centred.

i Background and objective

One of the main objectives of establishing MOLEG was to create an institutionalized system that supports and coordinates legislative affairs in a comprehensive and impartial perspective, grounded in expertise and firmly upholding the principle that laws must serve the public. In this context, MOLEG plays a pivotal role in advancing legal reforms by proactively identifying and improving unreasonable laws and regulations that inconvenience the public in their daily lives and economic activities. Approaching legislation from the perspective of the people as its end-users, MOLEG employs various mechanisms, including the systemic review of existing legislation, to ensure that laws are truly worth following. Through these efforts, MOLEG supports that laws continue to meet their intended objectives, remain relevant and practical, and, when necessary, rectify any shortcomings through amendment, revision, or even repeal.

ii Key activities

MOLEG adopts a proactive approach to ensure that laws effectively serve the public, systematically identifying laws that may impede public well being. The criteria for identifying such laws include those that:

- impose unreasonable burdens on citizens or hinder the business environment
- prioritize administrative convenience over substantive fairness
- contain ambiguous or umbrella provisions that may lead to abuse of power
- require updates to align with significant domestic or global policy changes

Among these, statutes that can most quickly enhance daily life, particularly for vulnerable groups, are given top priority.

MOLEG identifies target laws and undertakes the process through two tracks:

• Individual review

- A standing mechanism used to address individual laws submitted through public consultations or citizen feedback.
- MOLEG transmits the identified law improvement recommendations to the responsible ministry and conducts inter-ministerial consultations on whether to accept the proposed improvements. The responsible ministry then determines whether to accept each recommendation and, for those accepted, leads the subsequent amendment process.

• Thematic review

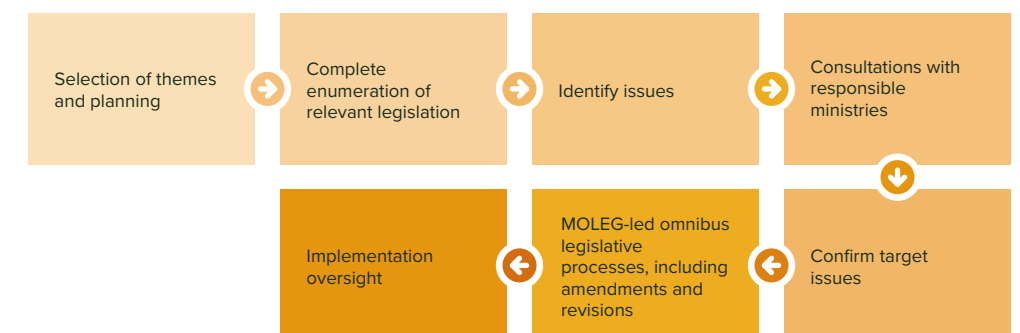
- A comprehensive, theme-based review of all related statutes and subordinate regulations conducted as a bundled initiative (e.g., youth employment, SMEs, persons with disabilities, decentralization).
- MOLEG selects the themes in alignment with current government priorities.
- MOLEG leads the entire legislative overhaul, including drafting amendments, conducting regulatory impact analyses, pre-announcing legislative drafts for public comment, submitting draft laws to the National Assembly, and overseeing promulgation.

Citizen engagement is a key driver of the individual review process. Complaints and ideas can be submitted at any time through the Legislation Center for Civic Participation, MOLEG's Annual Idea Award, or public consultation channels. Since 2011, awards ranging from USD 100 to USD 1,000 have attracted over 6,500 submissions.

During the thematic review process, MOLEG functions as both an impartial coordinator and a technical expert. It offers objective analysis and fosters cooperation among ministries, agencies, and stakeholders. Building on the consensus achieved, MOLEG assumes the penholder role and leads the legislative processes.

Figure 12

Process of MOLEG's thematic review



iii Results

What initially faced resistance by other ministries at the launch of the initiative in 2009 has, due to demonstrable benefits, evolved into a well-accepted, highly effective framework for achieving people-centred legislation.

Key examples of amended statutes through individual or thematic reviews include:

• Individual review following relevant citizen complaints

- Clearly stipulating the required documents for the elderly pension benefits:

Previously, pension applications required civil registry documents without specifying the exact type, causing confusion and repeated effort for the elderly applicants. Following a citizen's proposal to MOLEG, a new provision now clearly identifies the required documents and the specific information they contain.

- Prohibiting individuals with sexual crime convictions from being certified as youth counsellors:

Previously, individuals convicted of sexual crimes could obtain a national certificate to work as youth guidance counsellors without restriction. Following a citizen's proposal to MOLEG, a new provision now bars them from certification for ten years after completing their sentences.

• Thematic review with a focus on youth (2022-2025)

- Reducing financial barriers to national certification examinations:

Relevant laws have been amended to provide a full refund of test fees to applicants for national qualification examinations such as those for franchise transaction managers, certified labour affairs consultants, and certified appraisers who are unable to attend due to accident or illness. In addition, examination fees are reduced for unemployed youth and vulnerable groups, helping to lower financial barriers to obtaining nationally required certifications for employment.³³

³³ This policy requires the institutions administering the examinations to assume the risk of financial deficit, or for the responsible ministry's budget to cover the shortfall. MOLEG facilitates dialogue and consensus-building among stakeholders to reconcile these interests and ensure effective implementation.

• Expanding employment opportunities by easing excessive qualification requirements:

- Minimum educational requirements for certain specialized qualifications have been deregulated to broaden economic participation opportunities for youth and others with practical skills and professional competencies. For example, the requirement of a four-year university degree has been expanded to include graduates of two-year colleges (e.g., for public design specialists), and the requirement of a four-year or two-year college degree has been further expanded to include high school graduates (e.g., for feed safety managers).

The thematic review, led by MOLEG and dedicated to overhauling an entire bundle of related legislation, has proven to enhance the coherence of the legal framework, deliver more effective impacts on people's lives, and shorten the overall revision timeline compared to the individual review process.

iv Challenges

The objective of the initiative is to improve people's everyday life through targeted legislative reforms. Identifying specific issues within the confirmed themes is not always straightforward, and the proactive identification of improvement tasks in laws and regulations that cause inconvenience to citizens, followed by consultations with the responsible ministries to finalize those improvement tasks, plays an important role in this process.

It is particularly challenging in such cases where additional budgets are required, new regulations need to be introduced, or resistance arises from stakeholders with vested interests in the existing system. In such circumstances, MOLEG works closely with the responsible ministry to facilitate dialogue among key stakeholders.

v Insights for adaptation

MOLEG places emphasis on achieving substantive and meaningful system change and improvement rather than focusing solely on the performance of civil servants. The benchmarks for this system change include a larger number of people to be benefited by the revision and bringing about actual improvements in their everyday lives.

Securing the cooperation of the responsible ministry is a quintessential factor in achieving legislative and systemic change. Aligning the topics with current government priorities has proven effective in this regard. It is also more effective and efficient to compile all pertinent issues by targeted themes or by specific ministry and to conduct revisions collectively. MOLEG contributes by providing a 'third-party perspective' to the responsible ministries on the issues of concern, a role that has consistently proven valuable to them.

vi Resources (personnel and budget)

The personnel and budget for 2025 are shown below.

Task	Personnel (MOLEG)	Budget (in thousands of KRW)
Individual review	1 Deputy director; 1 Assistant director; 2 Researchers	467,000
Thematic review	4 Deputy directors	

B. Easy-to-Understand Legislation Project

The Easy-to-Understand Legislation Project showcases MOLEG’s long-standing commitment to people-centred lawmaking by replacing complicated legal jargon with clear, plain Korean language while maintaining precision and brevity.

i Background and objective

The legislation in Korean language has traditionally relied on complex legal and technical terms, often filled with Chinese characters due to the influence of the Sinosphere in East Asia. Most people across generations struggle with this legacy terminology; however, it is even more challenging for younger generations educated in pure Korean curricula. This opaque language impedes citizens’ ability to access legal information and fosters exclusivity and grants undue privilege to legal professionals. Worse, certain archaic or literal expressions can carry authoritative and discriminatory connotations that sometimes are even derogatory, for example, toward persons with disabilities.

To address these issues, MOLEG launched a five-year plan called the ‘Easy-to-Understand Legislation Project’ in the early 2000s. This initiative included developing plain-language drafting standards, revising priority statutes as model cases, and establishing a permanent language review committee to provide ongoing oversight of both draft and existing laws.

Box 8 General drafting principles established for ‘Easy-to-Understand Legislation’

Statutes should be drafted in a way that anyone who has completed the mandatory education in the ROK (middle-school level) can readily understand them. This can be achieved by following these four criteria:

- **Plain:** Use everyday Korean words instead of Chinese characters, Japanese-style words, technical terms, or foreign phrases.
- **Clear:** Employ expressions and sentence structure that are logical and comprehensible on the first reading
- **Correct:** Adhere to Korean spelling, grammatical rules, and proper notation for foreign words.
- **Common:** Rewrite literary or translation style passages in a familiar, fluid register.

The initiative’s long-term efforts have played an instrumental role in establishing a fundamental principle of public administration, now reflected in the recently enacted General Act on Public Administration. Article 38 of the statute stipulates that all legislation must be drafted in a manner that is readily understandable, enabling the public to clearly and easily comprehend its contents.

ii Key activities and results

The initiative applies the following approaches to improve clarity, accessibility, and public understanding of statutory provisions:

- **Proactive prevention (ex-ante):** Preventing the introduction of overly technical, classical Chinese, or foreign terms in new statutes
- **Revision (ex-post):** Revising existing laws to remove barriers posed by hard-to-understand terminologies and expressions

The plain-language drafting standards, providing detailed guidance and examples on how to replace complex terminology and sentence structure, have now reached their 10th edition. Between 2006 and 2025, MOLEG revised over 1,000 statutes and more than 3,300 subordinate regulations, including local ordinances, identifying 13,763 terms and 534 sentence structures. Additionally, the initiative has recently expanded to include reviews of government manuals and contractual terms and conditions.

The Project actively involves citizens in decision-making through initiatives like the Annual Citizens’ Idea Award, an online vote to select the best plain-language term, and collaborative review of draft laws to refine terminology and phrasing.

Since 2020, MOLEG has bolstered the Easy-to-Understand Legislation Project with the 'Statutes at a Glance' sub-project, which adds an interactive user-interface feature to the Korean Law Information Center and the Easy-to-Find & Day-to-Day Law Information Center. This feature pairs full legal texts with infographics, tables, and images to visually highlight key points.

iii Challenges

Although the initiative faced initial resistance, it has since gained support from the President and ministries and is now implemented in legislation initiated by the National Assembly, judicial decisions, and contractual agreements. However, given the extensive existing laws and lingering vested interests among legal and sectoral professionals, the reform remains far from complete. Annual public surveys show that citizens still encounter barriers due to complex terminology and dense sentence structures.³⁴

iv Insights for adaptation

The initiative is a long-standing project in the ROK context, requiring a sustained commitment from the government. It has received notable public support, with non expert citizens recognizing clear benefits in understanding legal phrases and appreciating the government's genuine commitment to inclusivity.

Interministerial collaboration is essential, as MOLEG's initial proposals for rewording or rephrasing are often further improved when the responsible ministry reviews them and offers counterproposals based on its expertise in the subject matter.

v Resources (personnel and budget)

The personnel and budget for 2025 are shown below.

Initiative	Personnel (MOLEG)	Budget (in thousands of KRW)
Easy-to-Understand Legislation Project	2 Korean linguistic experts; 5 Korean linguistic specialists; 1 legal expert;	443,000
Statutes at a Glance Sub-Project	1 content creator	453,000

³⁴ The public survey conducted in 2017 showed that 82.5% of the respondents thought that the laws were still difficult to comprehend. The 2024 survey shows 76.8%, demonstrating some improvement over the years. 94.8% of the respondents in 2024 thought that the Easy-To-Understand Legislation Project needs to continue.

C. Public administration reform through legislation

This initiative represents a non-digital, institutional reform initiative led by MOLEG, culminating in the enactment of the General Act on Public Administration in 2021.

i Background and objective

MOLEG does not frequently initiate entirely new legal frameworks on its own. However, its extensive experience in legislative affairs related to public administration placed MOLEG in a position to address a structural gap and take the lead in developing the General Act on Public Administration. Unlike civil or criminal law, the administrative domain in the ROK lacked a comprehensive statute that clearly articulated the fundamental concepts, principles, and standards governing administrative action. The absence of such an overarching framework resulted in fragmented and inconsistent provisions across individual administrative laws. This fragmentation weakened fairness, coherence, and predictability in administrative decision-making, creating uncertainty for both the public and civil servants.

In response, MOLEG undertook the drafting and legislative process for the General Act on Public Administration. Principles that had previously existed only in judicial precedents or academic discourse, often inaccessible or difficult for the general public to understand, were codified into a unified statutory framework. The Act provides clear and coherent standards for administrative practice and establishes a consistent foundation for the development and interpretation of existing and future administrative legislation.

ii Key principles and activities

The General Act on Public Administration, consisting of 40 articles across four chapters and supported by subordinate legislation, establishes the following key principles and measures:

- **Strengthening the protection of citizens' rights**
 - Codifies fundamental principles of administrative law, including the principles of legitimate expectations, good faith, proportionality, prohibition of improper or unrelated conditions, and prohibition of abuse of authority
 - Establishes clear legal grounds for the revocation or withdrawal of administrative dispositions
 - Clarifies time limits for the exercise of administrative sanctions
 - Provides a general statutory basis for the objection (appeal) system, thereby expanding opportunities for individuals to challenge administrative dispositions
 - Introduces a mechanism for requesting reconsideration of administrative dispositions

• Promoting 'proactive administration'³⁵ and regulatory innovation

- Introduces the principle of 'proactive administration' to encourage civil servants to adopt active, problem-solving, and citizen-oriented approaches in addressing unreasonable regulations and promoting good administration
- Specifies the duty of public officials to engage in 'proactive administration'

• Enhancing the efficiency and consistency of administrative practice

- Systematizes similar and common administrative mechanisms, simplifies procedures, and clarifies previously ambiguous criteria
- Addresses substantive matters that remain unregulated or insufficiently covered in existing laws, including the Administrative Procedure Act

To advance administrative legislative reform under the new statute, MOLEG operates the National Administrative Legislation Committee, a public-private consultative body composed of up to 50 experts from academia, the legal sector, research institutions, and government ministries. To advance administrative legislative reform under the new statute, MOLEG operates the National Administrative Legislation Committee, a public-private consultative body composed of up to 50 experts from academia, the legal sector, research institutions, and government ministries.

iii Results

The implementation of the General Act on Public Administration has contributed to the establishment of clearer and more coherent principles and standards governing administrative action. By simplifying and harmonizing the previously fragmented system of administrative laws and reducing interpretive ambiguity, the reform has enhanced legal certainty and improved the public's ability to understand administrative rules and procedures. Collectively, these measures represent a significant step toward more transparent, accessible, and citizen-centred governance.

iv Challenges and insights for replication and adaptation

Codifying principles that had long existed only in judicial precedents or academic theory required reconciling diverse scholarly interpretations and expert perspectives. To address this, MOLEG undertook extensive expert and public consultations across the country. Although these consultations were conducted online due to the COVID 19 pandemic, they played a critical role in building consensus and ensuring broad stakeholder engagement.

v Resources (personnel and budget)

Initiative	Personnel (MOLEG)	Budget (in thousands of KRW)
National Administrative Legislation Committee	1 Deputy director; 1 Assistant director	48,600

1.3 Citizen participation in legislation

A. Legislation Center for Civic Participation ³⁶

The Legislation Center for Civic Participation is an integrated digital platform designed to facilitate civic participation in legislative decision-making.

i Background and objective

The web portal of the Legislation Center for Civic Participation plays a crucial role in the 'legislative pre-announcement' process, allowing public opinions to be collected and integrated into draft laws prior to enactment. It serves to reconcile differing views and foster social consensus on public policies. Under the Administrative Procedure Act, it is mandatory for every new draft law to undergo this pre-announcement process; failure to do so could result in legal disputes regarding its validity.

Previously, legislative pre-announcements were published in the official gazette and on the websites of the ministries responsible for each draft law. However, in 2015, an integrated web portal, namely the Legislation Center for Civic Participation, was launched, enabling citizens to access all government-led draft laws at the national and local levels through a single digital platform. Since 2018, MOLEG has been tasked with monitoring and evaluating each ministry's compliance with the legislative pre-announcement procedures.

³⁵ 'Proactive administration' is a concept specifically defined in the Presidential Decree on the Regulations of Proactive Administration as "a public service in which civil servants work proactively for the public's best interest with creativity and professionalism, for instance, to remedy unreasonable regulations." The ROK introduced 'proactive administration' as part of broader reforms aimed at countering the bureaucratic inertia and placing citizens needs at the centre of public services.

³⁶ Accessible at <https://opinion.lawmaking.go.kr/gcom/gcomMain> (Korean)

ii Key functionalities and features

MOLEG's Legislation Center for Civic Participation serves as an integrated notice board for announcing new draft laws or amendments to existing laws from the statutes to local ordinances with the rationale, objectives, summary, contact details of the pertinent ministry/local government, attachment of actual draft and impact assessment report. It also informs citizens of the timeframe within which they can submit their opinions via various channels, the web portal, email, fax, or post.

Its primary features include:

- **Public notification and engagement:** Draft laws and amendments are published during the legislative notice period (40–60 days) to gather public feedback
- **Progress monitoring and alerts:** The platform displays the current stages of each draft law or amendment in the legislative process
- **Grievances reporting:** Citizens can report laws or provisions that cause inconvenience, unfairness, or discrimination

Draft laws are widely announced to the public via the digital official gazette, ministry and local government websites, public advertisements, and social media to inform the citizens by providing a link to this integrated web portal for citizens' feedback and inputs.

When public opinions are submitted, the responsible ministry or local government is obliged to respond to each comment, indicating whether it was incorporated into the draft and providing justifications for their decisions. This transparent process, overseen by MOLEG, ensures that every citizen's voice is heard and considered, fostering a sense of fairness and accountability.

The platform also tracks the progress of both government-initiated and parliament-initiated new draft laws and amendments in the legislative processes. Citizens can sign up on the website to monitor specific draft laws and receive real-time updates via mobile notifications or social media channels.

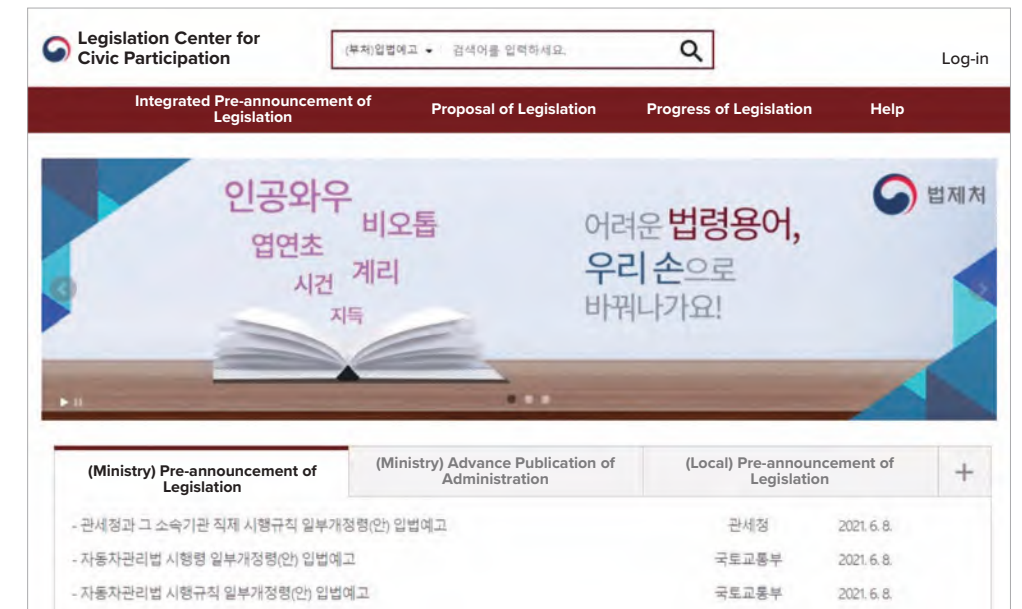
Additionally, the platform serves as the complaint mechanism for existing laws that cause inconvenience in people's lives. Citizens can report specific words, phrases, provisions, or laws they find unfair, discriminatory, outdated, or inconvenient. These reports are fed into the legislative revision and improvement processes outlined in the previous sections.

For easier access, the platform is also available as a mobile application and through the ROK's most widely used social media channels without requiring a subscription.

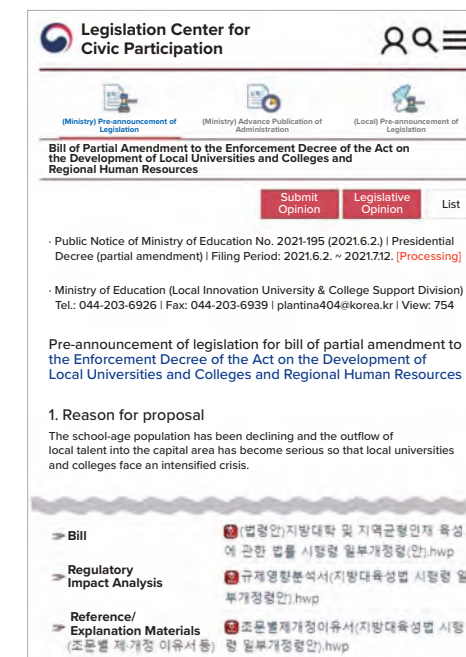
Figure 13

The web portal and mobile application of the Legislation Center for Civic Participation

• Web portal



• Mobile application

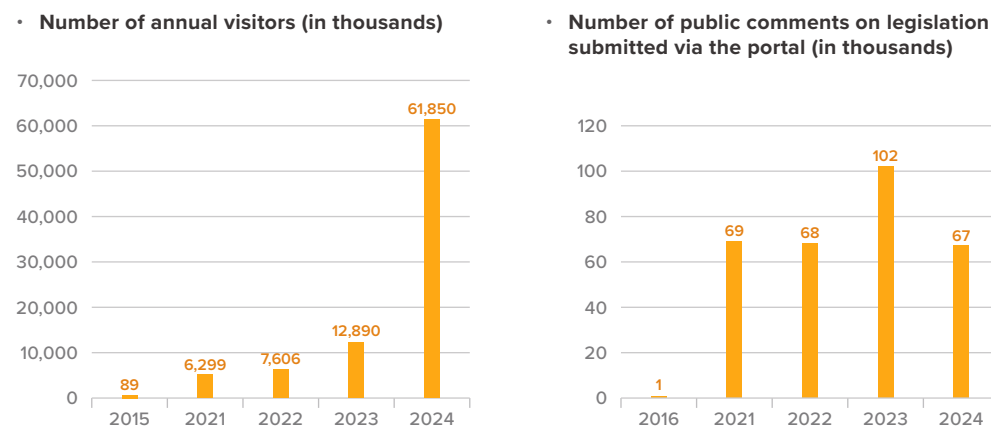


iii Results

Since its launch in 2015, the number of annual visitors to the digital platform of the Center has steadily increased.³⁷ Although the number of visitors to the web portal and comment volume can fluctuate with the submission of contentious draft laws, public use of the portal has clearly increased, with comment submissions, rising from 2,000 in its inaugural year to 67,000 in 2024.

Figure 14

The number of visitors and utilization of the Legislation Center for Civic Participation



iv Challenges

MOLEG seeks to strike a balance between citizens' rights to participate and the administrative need for efficiency in relation to the public notification period. Accordingly, MOLEG monitors responsible ministries to ensure they do not evade the notification timelines established under the Administrative Procedure Act, and consults with them when necessary.

It is not feasible to quantify or measure the extent to which public opinions are reflected in new legislation, as this falls within the broader realm of public policy decision-making. However, MOLEG monitors the process to the extent of generating statistics on whether responsible ministries respond to citizens' complaints.

³⁷ The steep increase of the visitors in 2024 is attributed to the widespread use of AI. Beginning that year, visitor counts included automated AI systems (robots), whose access volumes exceeded those of human users exponentially. At present, it is not feasible to distinguish between accesses made by robots and those made by people.

v Insights for adaptation

The key feature of the web portal is its integration across all ministries and local governments, allowing all government-led legislation to be announced through a centralised channel, in addition to each individual ministry and local government's website. Establishing this integrated participation service requires a policy or legal framework mandating that all relevant institutions register their legislative notices, along with necessary information and documents, on the platform.

On this basis, institutional procedures, including registration criteria for legislative notices³⁸ and public-comment management, must be standardized, supported by technical infrastructure that links each ministry's internal systems to the platform.

Ensuring transparency in the handling of public comments at each stage, from submission to the final outcome, is essential. Accessibility and user-friendliness should also be strengthened through compliance with web accessibility standards and the use of responsive user interface.

Given differing administrative and technical capacities across countries, a phased implementation roadmap, from pilot testing to gradual expansion and full deployment, provides an effective approach for sustainable adoption.

vi Resources (personnel and budget)³⁹

Once installed, only minimal maintenance budget has been allocated for an extended period, until a comprehensive system reconstruction is warranted. One MOLEG officer manages and oversees the upkeep of legislation-related portals and tools, including the Legislation Center for Civic Participation, the Legislation Support Center, and the Legislative Draft Editor, along with the outsourced software management contract.

³⁸ Provision 1, Article 41 (Administrative Pre-Announcement of Legislation), Administrative Procedure Act: In cases of enacting, amending, or abolishing an Act, subordinate statute, etc. (hereinafter referred to as "legislation"), the administrative agency that has prepared the relevant draft legislation shall pre announce it: Provided that the administrative agency may omit such pre announcement in any of the following cases:

1. Where legislation requires urgency due to the need for prompt protection of citizens' rights or the occurrence of any extraordinary and unforeseen circumstances;
2. Where legislation is required solely for the enforcement of a superior Act, subordinate statute, etc.;
3. Where the contents of legislation have no relation to the rights, obligations, or daily lives of citizens;
4. Where pre announcement is deemed unnecessary or impracticable considering the nature of the legislation, such as simple modifications of expressions or wording;
5. Where pre announcement might seriously undermine public safety or welfare.

³⁹ From the ROK government's policy perspective, the three digital systems of the Legislation Center for Civic Participation, the Legislation Support Center and Legislative Draft Editor are treated as a single bundle under the broader theme of government-led legislative initiatives. Information on establishment costs for these three initiatives can be found in the Resources section of the Legislation Support Center.

The personnel and budget for 2025 are shown below.

- Designated personnel in MOLEG: 1 Officer
- Overview of the relevant budget:

Software Management (via outsourced contractor)	Budget (in thousands of KRW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Legislation Center for Civic Participation • Legislation Support Center • Legislative Draft Editor 	1,611,910

In this context, the government established a web portal as part of its broader e-governance strategy,⁴¹ coupled with efforts to streamline and integrate legislative procedures. In the initial phase, several function or institution-specific legislative portals operated separately, resulting in inefficiencies such as duplicated features and multiple log-ins. These portals, initially established in 2007, were consolidated in 2015 and integrated with the systems of the Prime Minister's Office, the National Assembly, and local governments, and later connected to the Legislation Center for Civic Participation, thereby further enabling a public feedback loop at the drafting stage.

ii Key functionalities and features

To assist with the legislative process, the website offers the following functions:

- **Coordination and planning:** The platform serves as a coordination dashboard with other ministries regarding legislation planning (the list of laws planned to be newly drafted or amended by each ministry, with a timeline, current status, digitized drafts, and contact details for the focal points).
- **Review and approval:** The progress of legislation is tracked and recorded through each step of the process, including consultations, impact assessments, reviews by MOLEG, submissions to the Council of Ministers, and Presidential promulgation.
- **Citizens' input:** Inputs provided by citizens on a separate but linked website, the Legislation Center for Civic Participation, are forwarded to this platform. This allows the responsible ministry to collect feedback, respond, and incorporate it into the draft laws, while MOLEG monitors the feedback process.
- **Archiving:** All information generated throughout the legislative process, such as policy intentions and objectives, progress reports, impact assessments, feedback, outcomes of complaints, related judicial decisions, required budgets, and adjustments to enforcement dates, are archived in a centralized database.
- **Evaluation:** Each ministry's performance is recorded and displayed through quantified scoring measures. This assessment is based on their adherence to plans, compliance with procedural requirements, and timely responses to citizen inputs.

1.4 Administrative efficiency and legislative quality assurance

A. Legislation Support Center ⁴⁰

The Legislation Support Center is an internal one-stop service platform designed to manage the entire legislative process initiated by the government, from legislative drafting, consultations, reviews, enactments, and promulgation.

i Background and objective

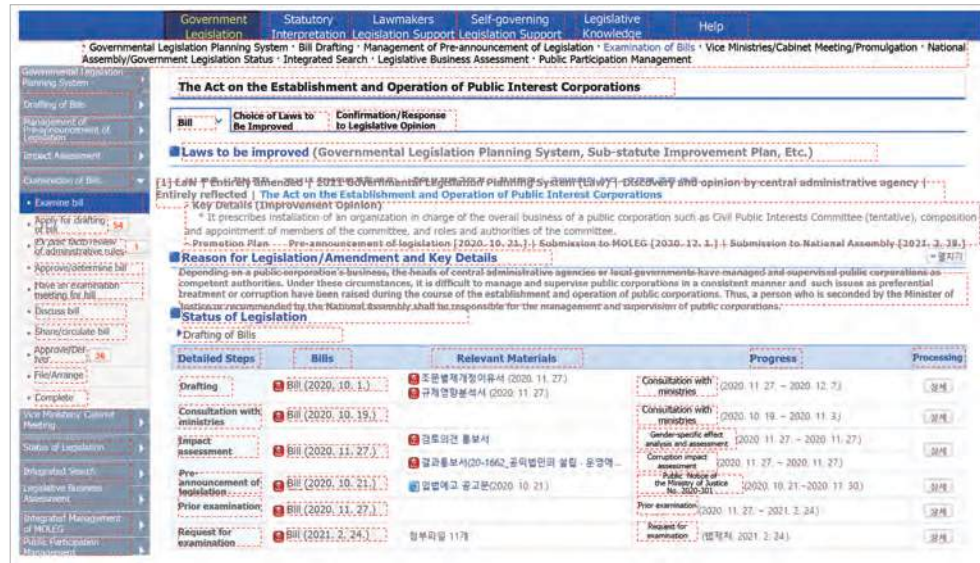
Government-led legislation is among the most time-consuming and complex procedures, involving multiple institutions. In the absence of tools such as dashboards or web portals, tracking legislative processes was time-consuming, making swift responses to urgent issues nearly impossible. Moreover, due to this limitation, opportunities for citizen engagement in lawmaking were limited.

⁴⁰ The official website is inaccessible to the public as of September 2025.

⁴¹ In the mid 2000s, the Republic of Korea intensified its e-governance strategy, emphasizing connectivity among government agencies (G2G) and between the government and citizens (G4C). One of the key components was to identify and digitalize common tasks and processes across government sectors to create synergies in e-governance. The digitalization of the government led legislative procedures was one of the initiatives undertaken during this period (50-Year History of E-Government: 1967 – 2017, the Ministry of Administration, Republic of Korea, 2017).

Figure 15

Legislation Support Center's web platform



iii Results

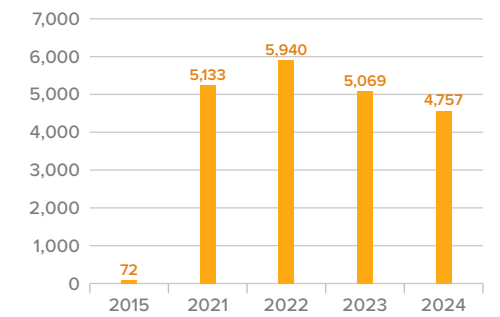
The digitalized platform has generated the following results:

- Significantly improved efficiency and transparency by standardizing repetitive processes and enabling public monitoring and participation.
- Facilitated collaboration among ministries and between government and the National Assembly.
- Enhanced the legislative capacity and expertise of individual ministries through effective and focused management of legislation-related information.
- Increased public trust and predictability in institutions by effectively managing the status of legislation.

Figure 16

Annual visitors to the Legislation Support Center platform (in thousands)

The number of visitors has risen markedly following the consolidation of all processes into a unified one-stop service portal.⁴²



iv Challenges

For the past two decades, the Legislation Support Center's digital platform has undergone only maintenance-focused improvements and partial upgrades without a comprehensive redesign. As a result, the system now faces structural limitations in keeping pace with evolving administrative environments, legislative procedures, and technical requirements. Increased system complexity also undermines the stability in delivering optimal service to users. A full-scale reconstruction project is planned for 2026, aiming to modernize the system architecture, redefine business processes, and enhance overall service quality in an integrated manner.

v Insights for adaptation

Traditional offline practices need to be restructured for efficient online processing, and the system must be designed in alignment with these procedures to ensure consistency and stability. Ministerial regulations, ordinances, and manuals, such as a standard operating procedure and document formats, should be established to provide a framework and detailed guidance for developing and operating the web portal.

⁴² The web portal was previously accessible to the public, albeit with limited interface features. However, as of September 2025, it has been fully transitioned for civil servants' internal use only, while transparency and public involvement in lawmaking continue to be ensured through the Legislation Center for Civic Participation. Thus, the number of visitors shown in this graph reflect both civil servants and the public.

Expert participation is also critical throughout the system planning and development, as legislative drafting, review, and promulgation require a high level of procedural coherence and legal consistency. Without such expertise, aligning workflows with system functions can be challenging. A central governance mechanism is further needed to coordinate institutional roles and responsibilities.

To sustainably support complex legislative work, the system architecture must ensure technical scalability and operational stability. Structuring legislative data to enable future expansion into AI-based services is also an important component of a forward-looking legislative environment.

vi Resources (personnel and budget)

The development of the portal, together with the Legislative Draft Editor, was a gradual process that accelerated in the early 2000s as part of Korea's e-governance initiatives in legislation. The first phase of development spanned three years, with a budget of approximately KRW 10 billion. This was followed by a four-year effort to advance and enhance the portal, supported by a budget of KRW 4.6 billion. Subsequently, an additional year was dedicated to consolidating the dispersed portals and improving the system, with a budget allocation of KRW 3.9 billion.⁴³

The personnel and budget allocated for maintenance in 2025 are aforementioned in the Resources section of the Legislation Center for Civic Participation.

B. Legislative Draft Editor⁴⁴

The Legislative Draft Editor is a software tool originally developed for MOLEG and other civil servants at the national and local levels to support effective law drafting. It has since been made available to the public.

i Background and objective

Drafting laws involves a series of straightforward yet repetitive steps, such as drafting, reviewing, and amending. The process demands meticulous attention to detail and accuracy at every stage, making it highly time-consuming. Digitalization and automation of these procedures have therefore been essential, supported under the Government's e-governance strategy along with the development of the Legislation Support Center.

⁴³ MOLEG's 70 Years of Institutional History: 1948-2018 (MOLEG, 2018)

⁴⁴ Currently available for download at <https://opinion.lawmaking.go.kr/advc/datRm/download>.

Responding to strong demand from civil servants, an electronic editor was introduced in the early 2000s to automate such repetitive tasks in legal drafting. The Legislative Draft Editor became a critical tool, accelerating progress in the e-governance system and enabling digitalized legislative processes across ministries and government agencies via the Legislation Support Center, as well as improving the promptness of legislation uploads in the Korean Law Information Center.

Over the years, the software's functionalities have been improved and expanded, and it has been made available to the public. As of December 2025, MOLEG plans to convert the system into a web-based platform, further enhancing accessibility and usability for a variety of purposes.

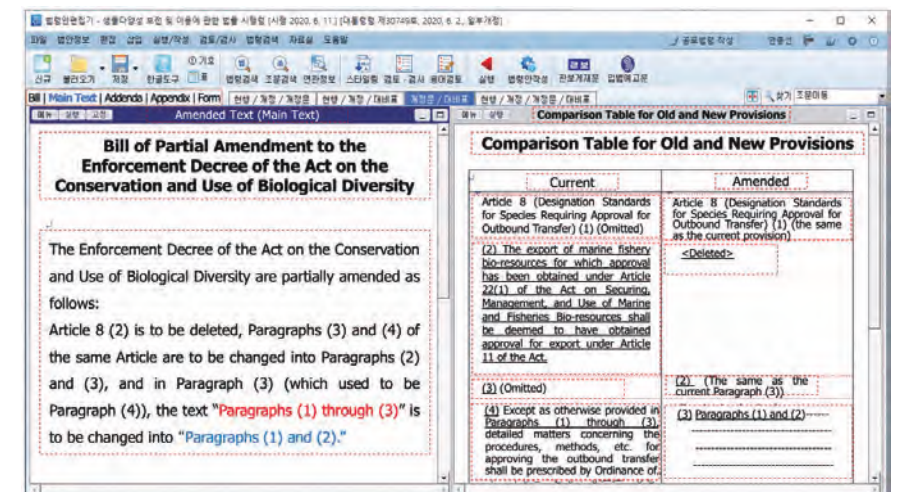
ii Key functionalities and features

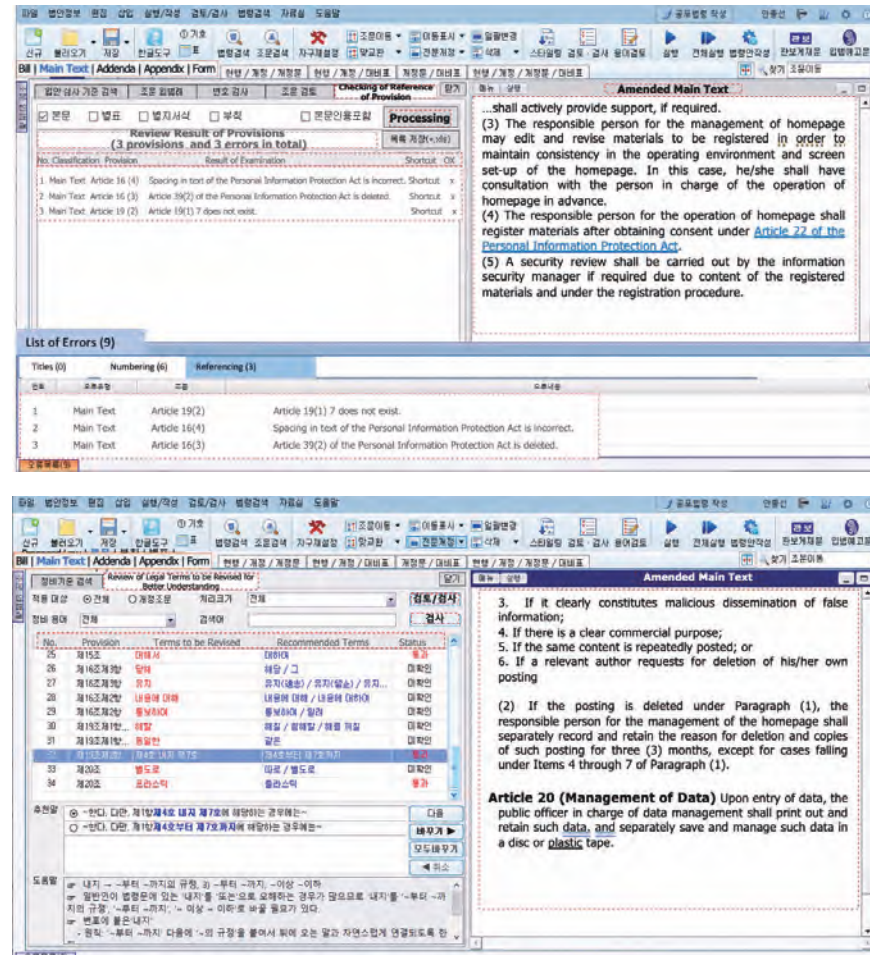
The key features of the Legislative Draft Editor include:

- Standardized formats for legal drafting
- Automatically creating a side-by-side comparison of previous and amended provisions and articles
- Automatic review of any errors in referencing other laws, terminology, sentence structure, and grammar
- Automatic identification of terms and phrases subject to refinement under the Easy-to-Understand Legislation Project and provision of recommended alternatives along with guidance

Figure 17

Features of the Legislative Draft Editor



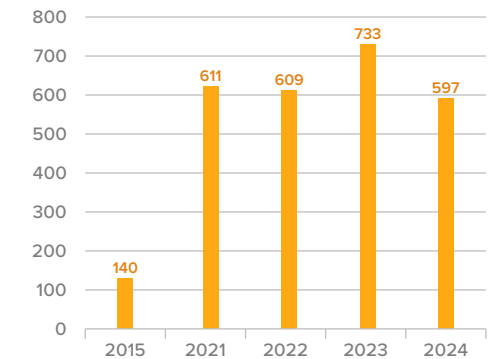


It was made publicly accessible in the early 2010s and has since been widely adopted across the private sector, universities, and other institutions for drafting bylaws, regulations, and terms and conditions.

Figure 18

Number of annual users of the Legislative Draft Editor (in thousands)

For the past four years, approximately 600,000 people or more, including civil servants and the public, have consistently used the software.



iv Challenges

The current system, built on the technical environment and needs of its initial development period, now faces constraints arising from the system's aging and outdated technologies, such as discontinued vendor support and a shrinking maintenance ecosystem. These issues hinder timely updates and upscaling, including the introduction of new functions, security enhancements, and alignment with new standards. The programme is also dependent on a single operating system (i.e., Windows), limiting its usability across diverse environments and complicating integration with other institutional systems.

To overcome these challenges, it is planned to transition from a downloadable software to a web-based editor by 2027. This shift aims to redesign the system by eliminating operating system dependency, strengthening centralized security management, and ensuring interoperability with emerging technologies, thereby equipping the tool with adaptability to future legislative work environments.

iii Results

This innovative tool has produced the following results:

- Lowered the technical complexities of drafting laws for civil servants who are inexperienced in legal drafting
- Significantly reduced the time and effort required for labour-intensive and repetitive tasks involved in legal drafting and editing at both central and local government levels
- Prevented typos and errors in draft texts in advance

v Insights for adaptation

This software was developed on the foundation of MOLEG's legislative database and the drafting rules and standards established through the Easy-to-Understand Legislation Project. Its development was possible because the legislation had already been digitized with standardized structures, formatting rules, and metadata-based information management. Through the sustained efforts of the Easy-to-Understand Legislation Project, legislative terminology, expressions, and amendment practices were refined and formalized into clear drafting and editing guidelines. These standards were embedded directly into the programme, enabling advanced functions such as precise article editing, automated generation of amendment texts, format compliance, and metadata processing.

For this reason, it is essential for any country to first establish national standards for legislative structure, terminology, and formatting, and to build an integrated digital database and management framework for legislative data. With these data and standardization foundations in place, an editor system can operate reliably and significantly improve both the automation and the quality of the legislative drafting process.

vi Resources (personnel and budget)

The personnel and budget allocated for maintenance in 2025 are aforementioned in the Resources section of the Legislation Center for Civic Participation.

C. Legislative support for local governments

'Legislative support for local governments' is MOLEG's initiative to support local governments in drafting and interpreting ordinances and regulations within the bounds of national legislation, enabling them to exercise their autonomy to the fullest extent, while enhancing the effectiveness and completeness of local legislation.

i Background and objective

Local governance serves as the primary interface between the government and its citizens, and local legislation directly impacts daily life and the business environment. As local autonomy continues to expand, strengthening the local legislative capacity of local governments and enhancing the quality of local ordinances and regulations have emerged as key priorities. However, the process of enacting and amending local ordinances and regulations frequently poses challenges such as potential conflicts with national legislation, ambiguities in statutory interpretation, and the failure to update local ordinances in response to amendments to national laws.

In response, MOLEG, as the central institution for legislative expertise, draws on its accumulated knowledge and experience to support local governments in developing ordinances and regulations that both comply with national legislation and safeguard local autonomy to the fullest extent. MOLEG further enhances the effectiveness of local governance by pursuing legislative reforms that strengthen local legislative authority, thereby ensuring that laws serve citizens as a public good.

ii Key activities

MOLEG collaborates with municipal and provincial governments to ensure effective local legislation through the following means:

- Upon request from local governments, MOLEG provides official opinions focused on legal principles regarding issues that arise in drafting and interpreting local legislation, such as potential conflicts with national legislation, thereby proactively resolving legal uncertainties in the local legislative process.
- MOLEG reviews local ordinances and regulations to identify those lacking a statutory basis, containing provisions that may conflict with higher-level legislation, or exhibiting linguistic or structural deficiencies. To facilitate the amendment process, MOLEG develops targeted improvement tasks and provides revised legislative drafts, thereby enhancing the legality and overall quality of local ordinances and regulations.
- MOLEG promptly notifies local governments and the public via official correspondence and newsletter services about matters requiring the enactment or amendment of ordinances and supports local governments in completing mandatory updates of ordinances by publicly disclosing the progress of ordinance revisions through the Korean Law Information Center.

Some of the examples of the revisions made through the initiative include:

- The ordinance stipulates additional grounds for imposing fines without statutory authorization, or allows fines to be imposed at amounts higher than those prescribed by higher-level legislation ➔ Deleted
- The local ordinance stipulating that, without legal grounds, in cases of arrears of charges, an additional surcharge equivalent to 12/1000 of the charge shall be imposed on top of the existing surcharge ➔ Deleted
- In cases where shared property cannot be used due to unavoidable reasons, the ordinance stipulates that the remaining rent shall not be refunded. ➔ Amended to refund the rest for the remaining period
- The local regulation requires resident registration numbers to be submitted without any statutory basis (personal information must be handled only when specifically required or permitted by statute) ➔ Amended to replace resident registration numbers with dates of birth

This engagement is designed to fully respect the constitutional principle of local autonomy. MOLEG's legal opinions are issued at the request of local governments, are non-binding, and focus solely on assessing the legality and delegated authority of ordinances. When national statutes unduly restrict local authority or fail to reflect on-the-ground realities, MOLEG also proposes targeted amendments in close coordination with local governments and relevant line ministries.

iii Results

From the launch of the initiative in 2014 to 2025, a total of 115,378 local ordinances and regulations from all 243 local governments have been reviewed and improved. MOLEG pays particular attention to regulations that restrict the freedoms and rights of local residents, fail to reflect newly enacted or amended higher-level legislation, breach higher-level regulations, or impose requirements without a legal basis.

Through this support, MOLEG has strengthened the legality and quality of local legislation, ensuring a coherent and complete set of laws for effective implementation. According to MOLEG's 2025 satisfaction survey of local civil servants:

- 94.1% of respondents reported being satisfied with the services provided; and
- 99.1% of MOLEG's guidance was accepted by local governments.

The high level of satisfaction is largely attributed to MOLEG's prompt response time, an average of 13.8 days from the request submission to final reply, which enabled local governments to advance their legislative work without delay. The exceptionally high uptake of MOLEG's guidance, despite being non-binding, reflects the strong trust local governments place in the central government and a shared understanding of the appropriate scope and level of central government involvement.

iv Challenges

In the ROK, local governments have had a tendency to have a limited understanding of legislative processes compared with the central government, and the level of awareness regarding the importance of legislative work varies considerably among them. Consequently, there remains a strong need for sustained and recurring legislative support, including structured legislative training.

v Insights for adaptation

A MOLEG survey showed that over 90 percent of local civil servants favoured structured collaboration with the central government. In response, MOLEG has introduced a technical assistance framework that respects local prerogatives while providing guidance on drafting and interpreting ordinances and regulations. Such cooperation is essential for effective delegated legislation and for maintaining a coherent and practical legal framework nationwide.

vi Resources (personnel and budget)

The legislative support to local governments is entirely undertaken by MOLEG staff. The personnel and budget for 2025 are presented below.

Number of personnel (MOLEG)	Budget (in thousands of KRW)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Legislative Support Division <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Management (1) - Planning and Strategy (4) - Response team to local governments' queries (5) - MOLEG-initiated review of local ordinances (1) - Review of delegated ordinances (2) 	2,740,000

2. Overarching results, challenges, lessons learned, and way forward

2.1 Results

With the digitization of laws and digitalization of the legislative process, grounded in people-centred policies, administrative efficiency has improved significantly: centralized resources and standardized processes have streamlined government workflows and reduced duplication. MOLEG has taken this a step further by creating a people-centred legal information service that goes beyond aggregating legal texts. MOLEG integrates supplementary materials and information, reorganizes them for daily issues, invests in plain-language presentation, and provides practical guidance so the public can find, understand, and apply legal information in real situations. These efforts have led to positive outcomes, including:

- **Strengthened access to justice:** Citizens are legally empowered with the knowledge and means to facilitate their access to justice;
- **Greater public access and participation:** Citizens benefit from the digital and non-digital initiatives, improving public access, transparency, and participation;
- **Improved administrative efficiency:** Digitalization with faster update cycles across interconnected systems reduces workload and coordination costs when responding to citizen feedback and requests;
- **People-centred legal culture:** The service encourages broader adoption of user-focused legal expertise and policymaking across the government;
- **Fewer disputes and lower costs:** Clear, accessible information minimizes the risk of misunderstandings and the administrative or legal costs that follow;
- **Support for the business environment:** Provision of translated foreign legislation and legal information facilitates cross-border commerce and accessibility; and
- **Stronger public trust:** Reliable, official information and improved legislation positively impacting people's lives strengthen confidence in the government.

2.2 Challenges

Over the years, MOLEG has overcome many challenges in delivering people-centred legal services; nonetheless, certain operational issues persist and continue to be addressed, including the following:

- **Cross-agency coordination:** Aligning content, formats, and update cycles across ministries, local governments, the National Assembly, and the judiciary is complex and resource intensive;
- **High maintenance demand:** Frequent legal amendments and a variety of source materials (national laws, ministerial guidelines, 243 local governments' ordinances) require continuous monitoring and prompt updates;
- **Technical and sector complexity:** Responding to technical, sector-specific inquiries often exceeds the capacity of generic content; specialist input from the responsible ministry is frequently necessary;
- **Terminology barriers:** Legal and technical terminology continues to limit public comprehension despite efforts to use plain language;
- **Competing user needs:** Citizens' requests vary widely and sometimes conflict, making it difficult to design a one-size-fits-all solution; and
- **Balancing civic participation and efficiency:** Ensuring open access and civic participation in decision-making while maintaining administrative efficiency is an ongoing trade-off.

2.3 Lessons learned

Drawing on MOLEG's experience, the following lessons can guide efforts to enhance public access to laws and legal information and advance people-centred justice:

- **Reforming institutional norms on the ownership of laws and legal information is fundamental:** A shift in institutional perception, recognizing that laws belong to the people, underpins innovative efforts to democratize legal information and advance people-centred justice.
- **Both public and leadership support are essential:** Transforming institutional culture toward a people-centred approach requires both strong public demand and committed decision-making at the leadership level.
- **Innovation is not limited to digital solutions:** Non-digital reforms can have a direct impact and lay the groundwork for more effective digital innovations.
- **A government-owned legal database enables experimentation:** There are no restrictions on utilizing the legal repository for implementing novel and innovative ideas.
- **Concerted and sustained civil service commitment is a prerequisite:** Strategy development, rollout, and ongoing maintenance depend on dedicated civil servants across agencies.
- **Coordination and partnerships are critical:** Close collaboration with line ministries, parliament, courts, and local governments, as well as sectoral experts, ensures that initiatives are effectively and coherently implemented and that legal information is comprehensive, accurate, and relevant.

2.4 Way forward

Artificial intelligence

Humanity has stepped into a new era, driven by AI, a transformation often paralleled with the advent of the internet or even the industrial revolution. While much about this future remains uncertain, one thing is clear: AI is being integrated at a fast pace into ongoing work across sectors, including access to laws and legal information. For MOLEG, this integration is not to replace but to complement and strengthen the commitment to people-centred justice.

MOLEG applies AI to lower barriers posed by complex terminology and to make legal content retrievable through everyday language. An initial AI-driven search portal with plain, everyday language marked a significant step forward, and MOLEG is currently integrating advanced generative AI to improve relevance, context understanding, and user guidance to a greater extent, especially for the AI-assisted legal search service, Korean Law Information Center, and World Laws Information Center.⁴⁵

Concurrently, the emergence of advanced AI tools may raise questions about whether MOLEG's digital platforms will remain as useful since people may increasingly be able to obtain the legal information they seek directly through AI. By leveraging AI to augment, rather than replace, the portals will be able to enhance accessibility and user experience while preserving authoritative and accurate legal information. Responsible AI augmentation will enable MOLEG to deliver more timely, people-centred legal services at scale as the trusted custodian of official legal information.

Most of all, the changing landscape due to the introduction of AI will require significant legislative adaptation, including the enactment of new laws⁴⁶ and amendments to existing ones. MOLEG is committed to proactively and effectively addressing these needs to minimize any potential administrative gaps or voids that may occur.

International cooperation

Since 2005, MOLEG has strengthened international cooperation to learn from partner institutions and enhance its legislative performance while sharing Korea's experience. MOLEG hosted the Asian Forum on Legislative Information Affairs in 2011 and 2012 to build partnerships and networks for sharing legislative information with academics, legal professionals, and private sector stakeholders across Asia. The forums convened delegates from more than ten countries to discuss legislative approaches for regional coexistence, prosperity, and socioeconomic development. Since 2013, the Asian Legislative Experts Symposium (ALES) has succeeded the forum, bringing together experts and policymakers annually to address targeted legislative responses to specific issues, such as urbanization, transportation systems, disaster risk reduction, and public participation.

In 2025, the 13th ALES was convened under the theme of Preparing Digital Economy Legislation in the Age of AI: Global Trends and Future Directions, with participation from Cambodia, China, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, Thailand, and Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam. The symposium was followed by the launch of the Council of Asian Legislative Institutions (CALI), a new multilateral consultative body established in partnership with Mongolia, Thailand, and Uzbekistan to foster cooperation on shared challenges such as AI, digital transformation, and climate change.⁴⁷ Starting in 2026, CALI will share joint legislative research and innovations through ALES. MOLEG is also planning to broaden its legislative collaboration with Europe and the United States, exploring future legal norms, especially in support of emerging industries.

As part of Official Development Assistance (ODA) efforts, MOLEG has shared the ROK's legislative expertise and supported legal information infrastructure development across Asia. Since 2016, MOLEG has provided technical assistance to partners including Indonesia, Myanmar, Nepal, Uzbekistan, and Viet Nam. For example, in partnership with Myanmar's Ministry of Legal Affairs (2016–2018), MOLEG delivered capacity-building programmes and developed a laws database, a digital content management system, and a bilingual Law Information Center platform and mobile application, which have operated in Burmese and English since 2018.

⁴⁵ The innovation is still underway; however, in the meantime, the portals will transition to an AI language model (a smaller large language model) and introduce a range of new features and functionalities. These include plain language search, AI recommended legislation, judicial precedents, legal interpretations for reference, legislation mapping, translation of foreign laws into Korean, and more effective searches of amended articles and provisions in foreign legislation. In the longer term, it is likely that the AI-assisted Legal Search Service will be integrated into the Korean Law Information Center.

⁴⁶ The Republic of Korea enacted the Act on the Development of Artificial Intelligence and Creation of a Foundation for Trust in 2025, with entry into force scheduled for January 2026. The Act provides a comprehensive framework for addressing AI-related issues, including national strategies for AI development, government support for industrial advancement, and regulations to protect life, safety, and individual rights.

⁴⁷ MOLEG press release, https://www.moleg.go.kr/board.es?mid=a10501000000&bid=0048&act=view&list_no=141136&tag=&pageCntBySelf=10&nPage=3&keyField=&keyWord=&cg_code= (accessed 17 December 2025)

Figure 19

Myanmar's Law Information Center: web portal and mobile application ⁴⁸



Chapter 4. Insights for adaptation in development context



⁴⁸ Accessible at https://www.mlis.gov.mm/?locale=en_US (accessed 17 September 2025)

Chapter 4.

Insights for adaptation in development context

As highlighted in the previous chapters, digital technologies can serve as powerful and innovative tools to advance people-centred access to justice. While digital transformation is not a panacea, it can significantly enhance equal access to justice by improving accessibility, inclusiveness, quality, transparency, and efficiency of justice services and institutions. Recognizing the pivotal role of digital and AI transformation, UNDP has identified this as an accelerator for human development in its Strategic Plan 2026–2029 and incorporated into its programming to drive structural and sustainable impact.

Through its work in supporting adaptation and co-creation of innovative development solutions to deliver tangible improvements in justice systems worldwide, UNDP has gained valuable experience in overcoming challenges such as legal and infrastructure limitations, resistance to change, and resource constraints. Critical lessons were drawn for broader systemic impacts and sustainability as follows:⁴⁹

- A sound understanding of context, legal frameworks, institutional environments, and the justice needs of the population, supported by digital and Rule of Law assessments, surveys, and people-centred data, is essential.
- Strong institutional leadership is critical to steering the transformation process.
- Digital tools are means, not ends, for achieving meaningful justice sector reform.
- Digitalization should enhance accessibility, responsiveness, inclusiveness, transparency, and accountability in the justice system.
- Solutions must be designed for sustainability and local maintenance, building internal capacity, rather than perpetual dependence on external vendors.
- Gradual, iterative implementation is preferable to large-scale, ambitious “big bang” approaches.

The ROK’s experience also offers concrete and practical insights for countries seeking targeted solutions to specific challenges in various national contexts.

- **Complex, fragmented legal information:** Legal texts are often highly technical, frequently amended, and dispersed across multiple sources, making it difficult for the public to access and understand the information they need. Drawing on the ROK’s experience, countries could introduce initiatives that ensure laws are written in plain language and that legal information services incorporate visual guidance. Organizing legal information by thematic areas, similar to MOLEG’s Easy-to-Find & Day-to-Day Law Information Center, would also significantly improve the ability of the public to navigate and utilize these resources effectively.

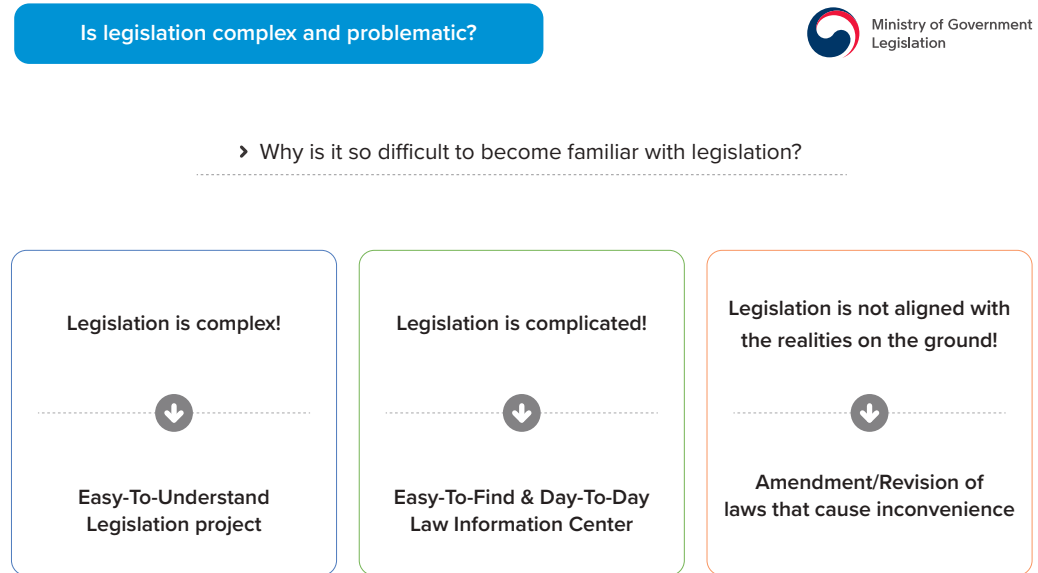
- **Limited access to laws and legal information in multiple languages:** In multilingual national contexts, providing laws and legal information in only one or a few dominant languages severely hinders public access to justice. Adapting the ROK’s approach to accessibility, countries facing this challenge would benefit from prioritizing multilingual access to their legal frameworks.
- **Unequal access to legal information for vulnerable and marginalized groups:** Legal information may remain out of reach for individuals with low literacy or limited access to public services and digital infrastructure, such as the internet. A lack of inclusivity in the legislative process exacerbates this gap. MOLEG’s people-centred approach can be adapted in these contexts by introducing inclusive, user-friendly digital services—such as text-to-speech features—and by proactively encouraging civic participation among marginalized communities during the legislative process.
- **Coordination gaps among responsible institutions:** Responsibilities for ensuring that laws are accessible and understandable are often scattered across various institutions, leading to inconsistencies and a lack of accountability. In the ROK’s journey, MOLEG—a dedicated ministry—has played a central role in coordinating reforms and ensuring compliance across government. In contexts without such a ministry, governments can establish a designated agency or committee supported by a clear legal or policy mandate. This mandate should grant the necessary authority to guide, coordinate, and ensure effective compliance among all relevant institutions.
- **Institutional resistance to democratisation of legal information:** Some institutions may perceive open access, plain-language drafting, or civic participation in the legislative process as threats to administrative control, authority, or legal precision. The ROK’s experience underscores the necessity of fostering a cultural shift across institutions to cultivate a shared vision of legislation as a public good. Driven by this shared commitment, long-term institutional reforms that prioritize transparency and accountability will enable the effective and sustainable implementation of these initiatives.

Across these insights, a central lesson drawn from the experience of the ROK is that a paradigm shift in perception of laws is the crucial cornerstone of people-centred legislative policy. Viewing the law as an accessible public good is an important shift not only for government institutions but also for the public itself. This shared understanding ensures that realities on the ground are effectively reflected in laws that truly serve the people.

⁴⁹ UNDP (2025), Digital Innovation in the Rule of Law and Human Rights Sector: A Solutions Catalogue

Figure 20

Simplified rationale for MOLEG’s people-centred policy development ⁵⁰



The ROK’s experience of leveraging digital innovation to advance access to legal information requires careful adaptation to local realities. Because the ROK’s advanced technological solutions may need to be simplified for contexts with lower technical capacity, a phased, step-by-step approach is worth consideration. This sequenced pathway can effectively support governments in utilising digital technology to strengthen public access to laws and legal information. While reforms must always be tailored to a country’s unique context through dedicated surveys and consultations, the following broad steps can guide practical and sustainable progress.

- 1. Embed the perception of laws as a public good within institutions:** Establishing a shared understanding that laws must be accessible, understandable, and publicly owned is foundational. This shift in institutional norms enables a long-term commitment to transparency and people-centred service delivery.
- 2. Digitize laws and develop a consolidated, government-owned, and ideally AI-ready legal database:** Digitizing laws in line with open data principles—ensuring they are findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable—creates the foundation for a modern, people-centred legal system. A unified, authoritative repository of laws that is searchable, regularly updated, and government-owned strengthens sustainability, security and public trust.
- 3. Undertake legislative revision and standardization:** Reviewing existing laws to improve clarity, coherence, and linguistic accessibility helps reduce barriers for the general public. Establishing clear drafting principles and standard formats during this process ensures consistency and lays the groundwork for a digital legislative draft editor.
- 4. Introduce a digital legislative draft editor:** Implementing a standardized digital drafting tool enhances efficiency, accuracy, and coordination across the legislative processes. Furthermore, it enables swift and consistent updates to the central legal database.
- 5. Develop tailored, people-centred platforms and services:** Once a digital legal database and standardized drafting processes are in place, governments can introduce more advanced features to improve usability and public engagement. These may include plain-language explanations, thematic navigation, multilingual access, and participatory mechanisms. Implementing these features will ultimately require the reformulation and restructuring of existing legal information to best serve the public.

⁵⁰ This is an excerpt from the MOLEG’s training manual.

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