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MCEE Unveils AI Initiative to Transform Public Sector Work

- 20 teams selected from headquarters, affiliated offices, and subordinate agencies to lead AI-driven workplace innovation

The Ministry of Climate, Energy and Environment (MCEE, Minister Kim Sungwhan) announced that it will hold the launch ceremony for the “Climate AI Friends” initiative on July 8 at the Event Hall of Social Campus ON Sejong (located in Eojin-dong, Sejong), marking the official start of AI-driven workplace innovation projects to be carried out jointly with affiliated agencies under the ministry.

With the recent proliferation of generative AI technologies and the government's push for an "AI Transformation (AX)," the public sector has also begun implementing AI-driven workplace innovation in earnest.

In line with the public sector's AX initiative, the MCEE has launched the “Climate AI Friends” program to strengthen employees' ability to use AI technologies and to identify and implement innovative projects that apply AI to real-world government operations.

“Climate AI Friends” is a collaborative program in which employees from the ministry's headquarters, affiliated offices, and subordinate agencies form teams of two or three to design and carry out AI-driven workplace innovation projects. The name "Friends" reflects the program's emphasis on learning together, collaborating, and sharing experiences and achievements in applying AI to government work.

The MCEE evaluated a total of 40 applicant teams based on the creativity, feasibility, and practical applicability of their proposed projects, ultimately selecting 20 teams to participate.

The selected teams proposed a wide range of ideas, from using AI to streamline repetitive administrative tasks and improve operational efficiency to developing initiatives that could enhance public convenience and drive innovation in public administration.

In particular, several of the proposed projects included ideas that could be adopted by other government agencies, demonstrating strong potential for broader implementation across the public sector.

These AI-driven workplace innovation projects will be carried out by joint teams composed of employees from both the ministry and its affiliated agencies. This collaborative approach is expected to strengthen interagency cooperation and foster the joint development of AI-powered innovations across government operations.

At the launch ceremony, participants received appointment certificates and introduced their team's project. The event also provided an opportunity for participants to share their activity plans and engage in discussions and networking to support the successful execution of their projects.

From July through September, the selected teams will work in one of two areas: AI-based workflow automation and AI service planning and implementation.

The MCEE will support the teams with hands-on training and expert guidance needed to carry out their projects. It also plans to identify and

promote outstanding initiatives through a project showcase where participants will share their results and best practices.

Ahn Se-chang, Deputy Minister for Planning and Coordination Office at the MCEE, stated, “The government's AI Transformation is not simply about adopting new technology. It begins with changing the way we work. We hope that these 20 AI-driven projects, developed directly by our staff in the field, will accelerate AI adoption across the public sector and lead to tangible improvements in public services that citizens can experience.”