



World Organisation
for Animal Health

SKETCHING CHANGE

TALES FROM VETERINARIANS ACROSS ASIA-PACIFIC





Scan the QR code to access the comic stories in this publication in digital format, and to read several others.

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ABOUT THIS VOLUME

The World Organisation for Animal Health (WOAH) is committed to strengthening gender equality, disability and social inclusion (GEDSI) within the veterinary sector. Our recent work in Asia and the Pacific has shown that, while there is a growing number of qualified women and diverse professionals in the sector, many still face barriers shaped by longstanding norms, insufficient adjustments and unequal opportunities.

As noted in regional studies conducted by WOAH in Asia-Pacific, gender stereotypes influence perceptions within the veterinary sector, and the absence of reasonable accommodations reinforces the exclusion of persons with disabilities. These findings highlight the need for continued awareness and action across institutions, training systems, and professional communities.

To foster this change, WOAH has expanded its GEDSI initiatives, including awareness raising events and partnerships with veterinary associations and networks in Asia and the Pacific region, in particular the Federation of Asian Veterinary Associations (FAVA), the Asian Association of Veterinary Schools (AAVS) and the International Veterinary Students' Association (IVSA). The Comics Competition Promoting GEDSI in the Veterinary Sector, organised between December 2025 and January 2026, invited veterinary students and professionals to reflect creatively on what an inclusive profession looks like.

The competition aimed to celebrate storytelling, artistic talent, veterinary commitment and GEDSI values, and to inspire dialogue through accessible and engaging narratives. Among the winning submissions, the comic presented here captures the imagination, concerns, and aspirations of veterinarians in different parts of the Asia and the Pacific region. The story reminds us that inclusion is not only a policy goal—it is a shared cultural commitment that strengthens the profession and the communities it serves. While we could not award all participants with prizes, we appreciated all entries and will be sharing additional comic stories of note on our website (see QR code on the cover inner page).

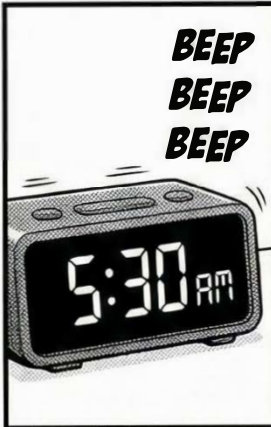
We extend our heartfelt congratulations to the winners of this competition, and thank all participants for adding their voices to this important conversation. This comic enriches WOAH's ongoing efforts to promote a veterinary sector where everyone can thrive, advancing our mission to improve animal health and welfare globally and ensure a better future for all.

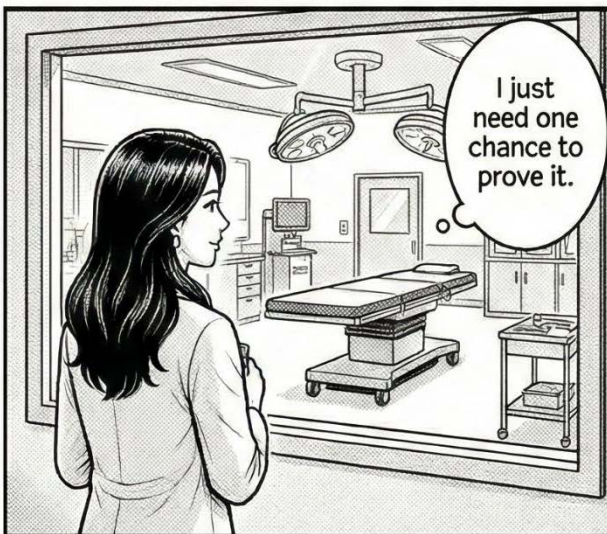
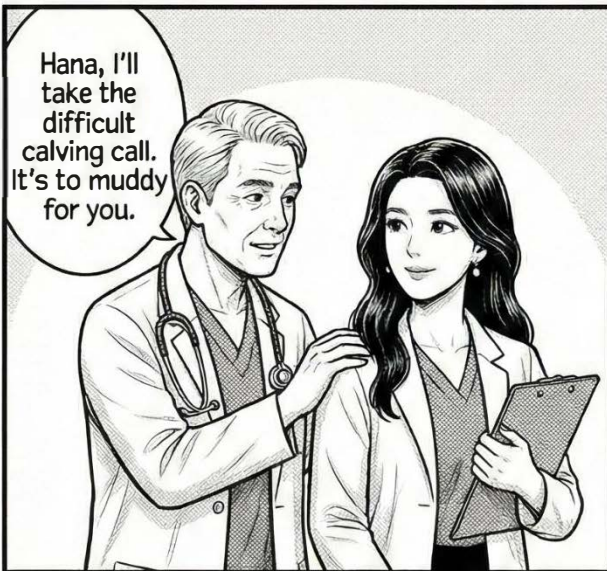
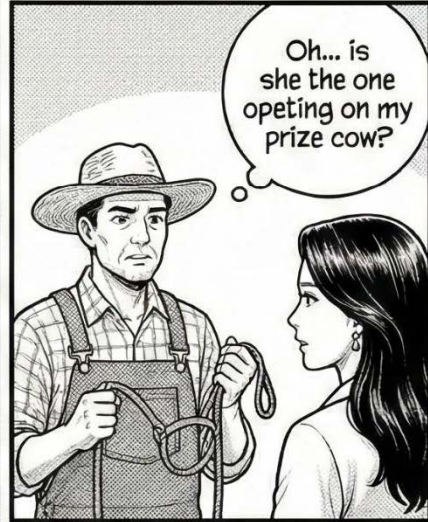
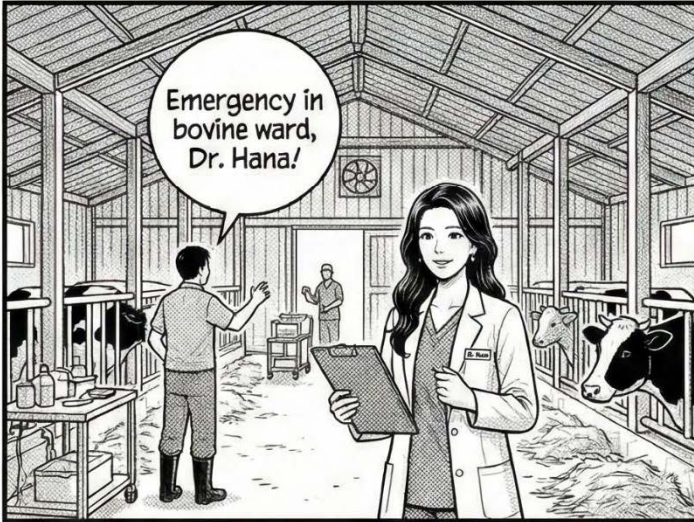


Dr Tomoko Ishibashi
WOAH Regional
Representative for Asia and
the Pacific

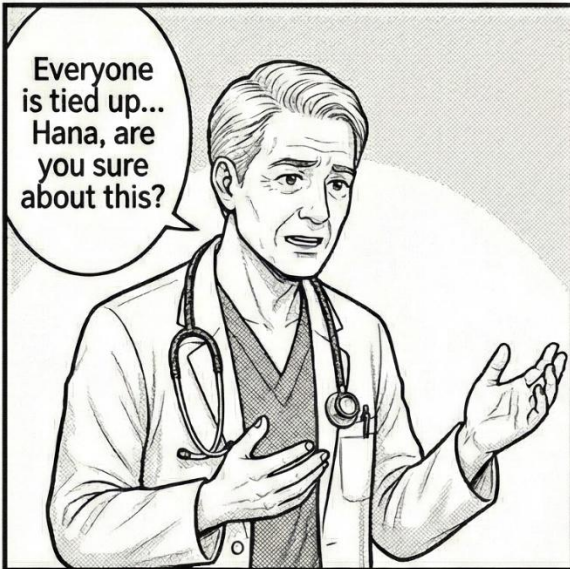


Dr Naree Ketusing
WOAH Sub-Regional
Representative for South-East Asia

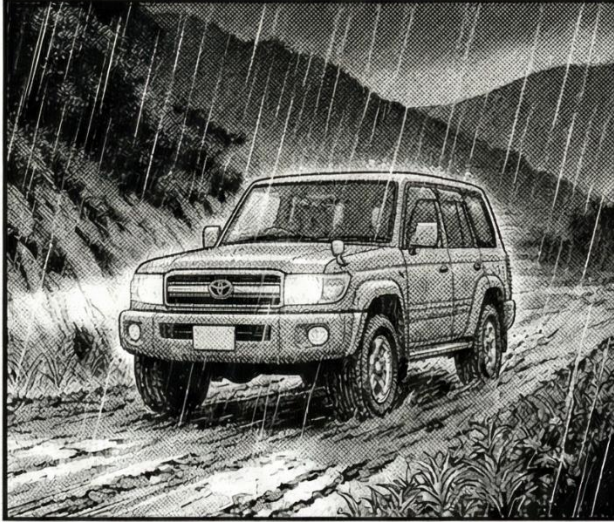




SFX: THUNDER! FLASH! ZZZAP!



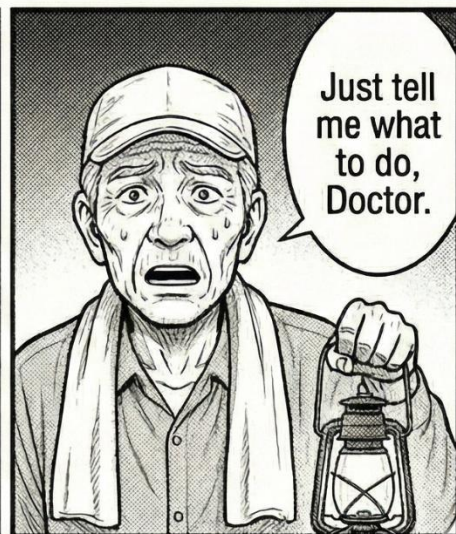
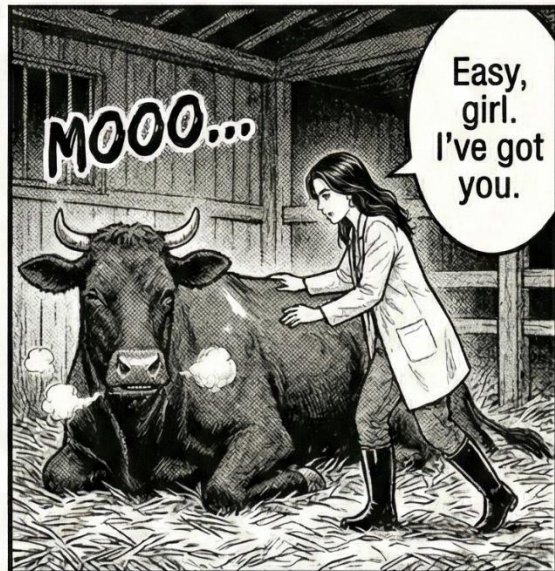
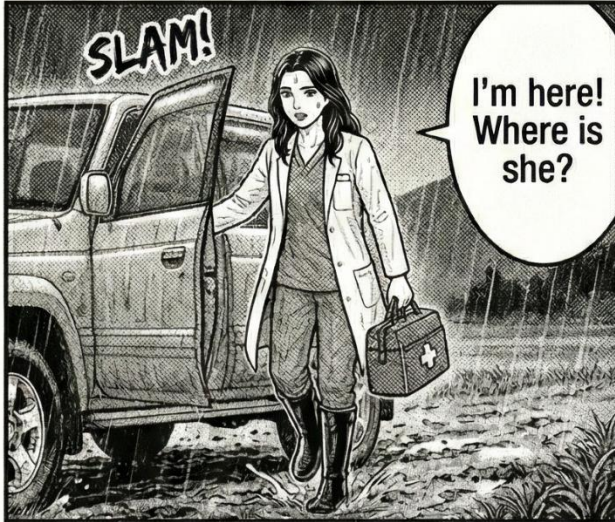
SFX: VROOM!



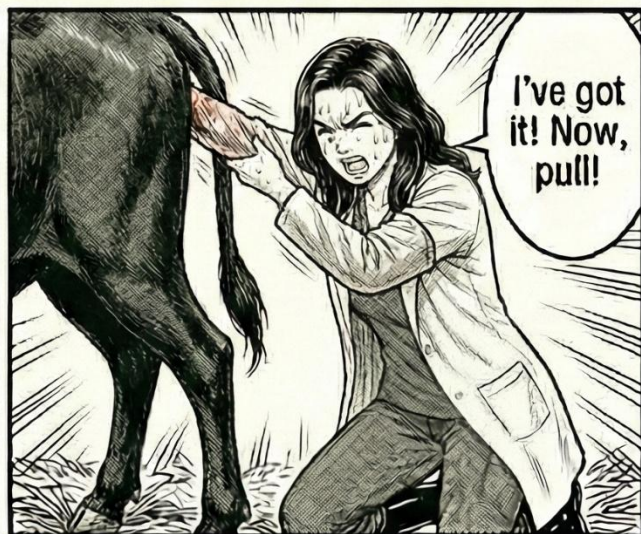
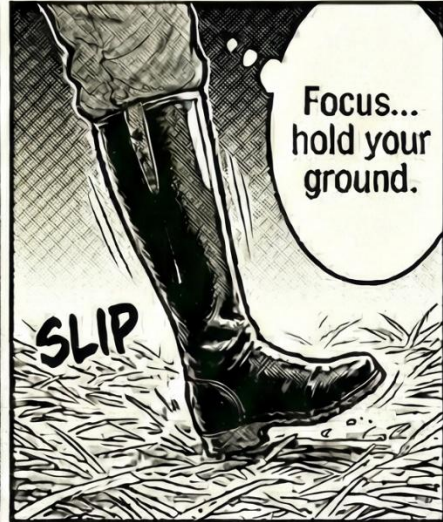
SFX: SCREEECH!



SFX: SLAM!

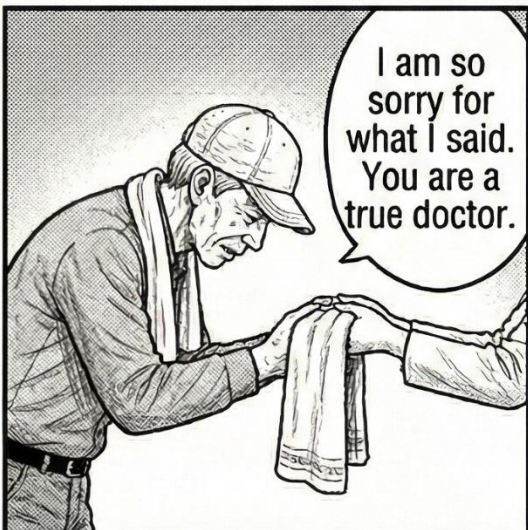


SFX: SLIP

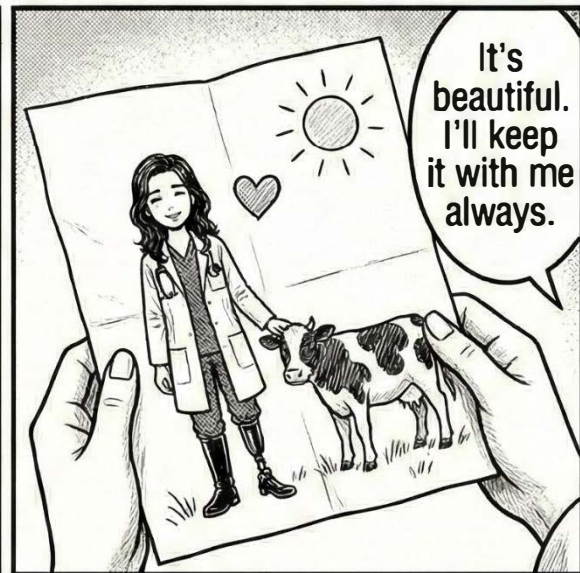


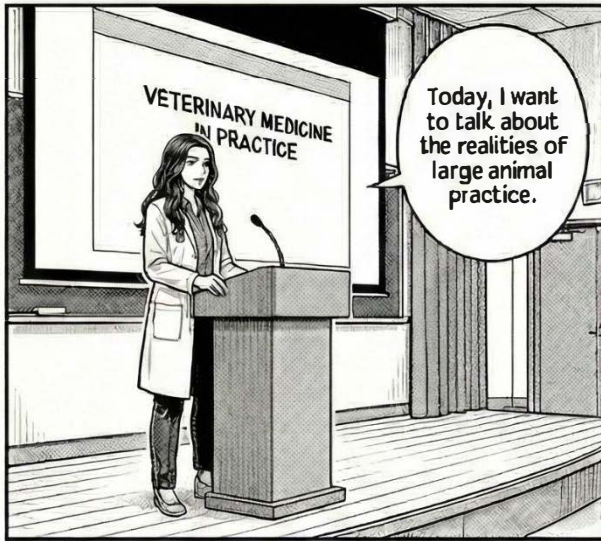
SFX: SLITHER...

SFX: SNORT!





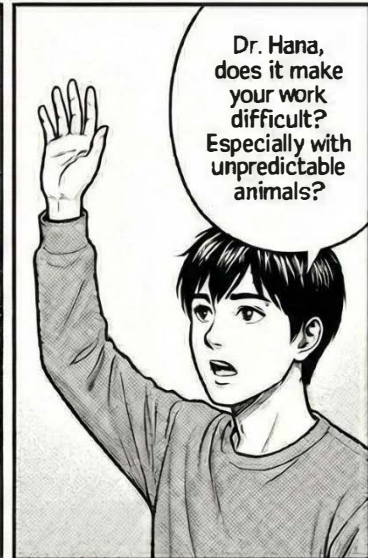
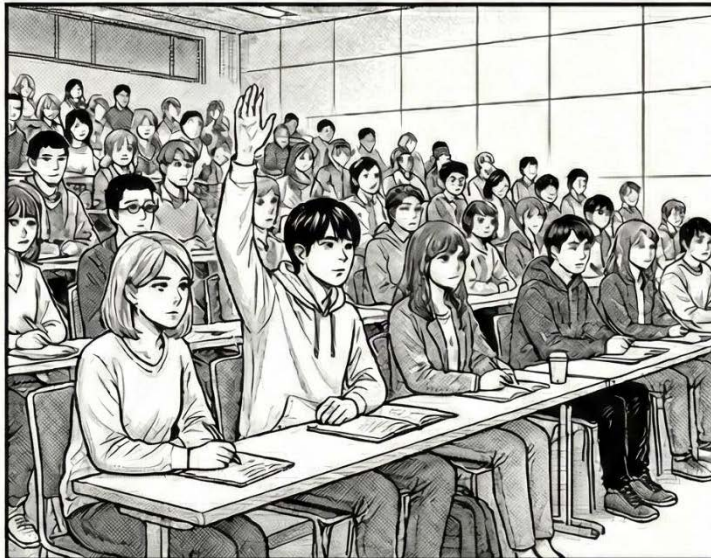




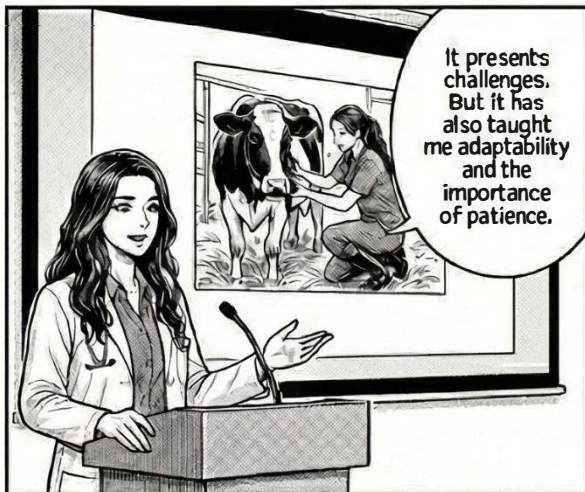
Today, I want to talk about the realities of large animal practice.



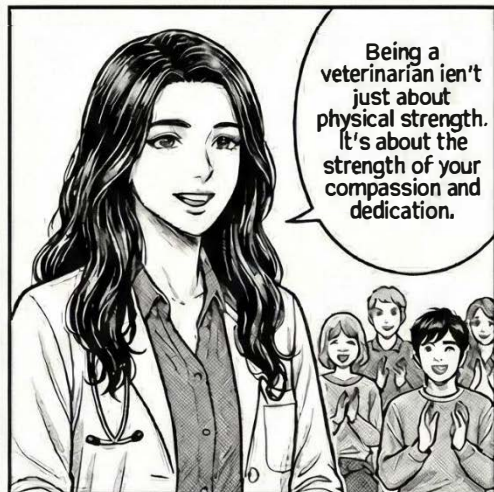
And yes, some of you have asked about my leg. It is part of my reality.



Dr. Hana, does it make your work difficult? Especially with unpredictable animals?

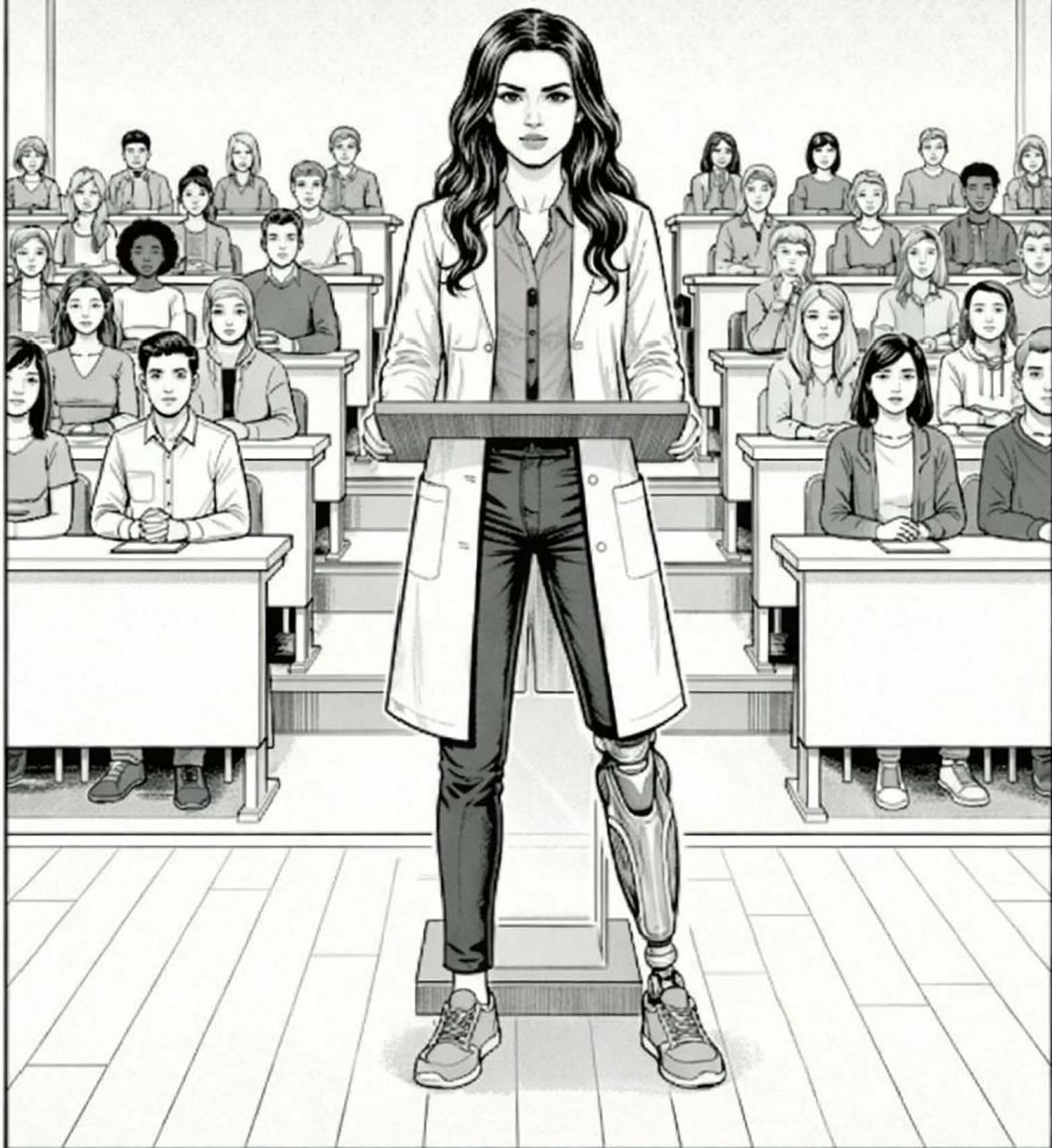


It presents challenges. But it has also taught me adaptability and the importance of patience.



Being a veterinarian isn't just about physical strength. It's about the strength of your compassion and dedication.

**GENDER AND DISABILITY
ARE NOT LIMITATIONS. THEY
ARE UNIQUE STRENGTHS.
THAT IS THE 'GEDSI'
PHILOSOPHY I EMBODY AS
A VETERINARIAN.**



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sungdae Park

I am Dr Sungdae Park, working at the Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs of Korea (R. O.). I believe that GEDSI is not just a policy slogan, but a fundamental engine that will drive a sustainable future for both agriculture and our society. Through this comic, I aimed to show how professional expertise can transcend the barriers of gender and physical limitations, proving that our differences are, in fact, our greatest strengths.

Comic description: "Beyond Difference, Into Strength"

We often judge others' abilities based solely on what we see. In physically demanding fields, women and individuals with disabilities are frequently dismissed as "weak." This work follows the journey of a veterinarian who proves her worth through her skills and sincerity at the front lines of such prejudice, redefining what it truly means to be "strong."

The key message is, "Gender and disability are not limitations; they are unique strengths."




I authored the narrative and GEDSI philosophy based on policy expertise, while the visual artwork was realized through Generative AI tools.

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