



[EAI Workshop] ADRN National Level Workshop

Promoting Good Governance Through International Relations and Support

East Asia Institute (EAI)

I. International Relations and Support Projects of Domestic Institutions

Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA)

- The main project of the Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA) is the ODA project. The demands from overseas researchers to visit KIPA and learn about international administration have increased rapidly in the past 4–5 years. In addition to training its own researchers, it carries out joint training related to ODA, such as KOICA training projects, to spread the expertise and know-how of researchers.
- There are two main projects of the Center for International Development and Cooperation at KIPA.
- (1) Global Administrative Issue Research Project: conducting joint global research with international organizations (mainly developed countries) such as the OECD under the theme of administrative issues. It is divided into a "research part" that deals with recent administrative issues with overseas scholars and conducts joint research and an "issue report part" that publishes a "Global Administrative Forum" with the aim of continuing to spread key issues to related institutions and scholars.
- (2) New Southern·New Northern K–Administrative Spread Project: this project includes 'Administrative Development Experience Module Development Project' to systematically organize Korea's administrative development experience, 'New Southern and New Northern Public Administrative Capacity Enhancement Project' which will be held online this year, 'Global Administrative Forum' to deal with global issues, and a recipient country–customized public administration program titled 'K–ODA Management System Research'.

Korea Democracy Foundation (KDF)

- The Korea Democracy Foundation (KDF) is a special corporation that conducts projects funded by the Ministry of Public Administration and Security. It also co-hosts the "Seoul Democracy Forum" every two years with the National Endowment for Democracy (NED).



- National resources and support are crucial for international projects. South Korea's achievement of democracy was possible under relatively good conditions due to the support of the public. However, there is a limit to allocating resources to revitalize democracy and fostering mid-to-long-term professionals. International institutions should promote these areas through international projects, not independent projects. For the past three years, KDF has prioritized and carried out projects relating to the restoration of the domestic expert network, working with civil society activists, and promoting the existence of KDF have been priorities.
- KDF is considering how to conduct meaningful ODA projects without spending an oversized budget.
 - (1) KDF aims to build a network of international experts and activists in major cities across the country to share their activities. It plans to create exchange events for foreign students studying in Korea and migrant workers to introduce democratization movements.
 - (2) Appointing international democratic goodwill ambassadors of experts and young people from 16 countries, including Asia, Europe, and the United States, to actively exchange under the name of KDF when there are democratic-related events abroad. If the performance turns out effective, KDF will increase the number.
 - (3) Operation of Peace and Public Diplomacy Cooperation Group – 92 (50 overseas and 42 domestic) participants were recruited this year to share the democratic experience with the youth generation. Twenty-four domestic and foreign organizations participated and this pilot program will be monitored for about three years to decide its durability.
 - (4) Seoul Democracy Forum – has been held every two years since 2008, but is considering switching to an annual event to improve continuity.
 - (5) Development of online democracy content – Translate and distribute democracy contents into English or second languages. Based on the evaluation of the above five projects, KDF will devise a new project plan for next year.

Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA)

- The Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), in a sentence, is an institution that conducts cooperative projects and manages performance through the monitoring of economic and social development in developing countries. Three factors are needed to implement one project: (1) Regional factors – Specific countries, (2) Sector – five major sectors of KOICA focus on education, health, rural development, technology and environmental energy, and public administration. (3) Modality – there are nine major modalities includes international cooperation projects, volunteer projects, civil society cooperation projects, training projects, etc. Projects are determined by regional factors, sectors, and modalities.
- The Korea International Cooperation Agency originally had 10 Sectors, but this year there will be 12 sectors by adding two more sectors including human rights. 'Governance' in the public administration



sector, is just one of this year's projects that is also a major KOICA project. There are 169 targets and 232 indicators aimed at 17 SDGs, which will be reviewed and selected, to expand the scope of movement.

- Key projects and policies include the following: (1) Building SDG 16 Peace, Justice and Institution – building a peaceful and just society, responsible and inclusive system for sustainable development. KOICA is discovering and carrying out many governance-related projects.
- (2) OECD Policy Marker System – With a total of 14 Policy Markers, KOICA tracks the management evaluation by applying it to the entire project. The five Policy Markers are gender, environment, health, good governance, and participatory development. It is used with indicators to assess how it contributes to achieving SDGs. Participatory development and good governance markers are key to reconsider government-level transparency, such as public accountability, effectiveness, efficiency, independence of the judicial system and the rule of law, and develop a fair administrative system. This system empowers KOICA to manage governance-related project performance.
- (3) Midterm Strategy in Governance and Peace – includes conflict prevention and build peaceful life, participatory and inclusive democracy, safe and just Security and judicial system, responsible and efficient administration. This strategy aims to create a foundation for a peaceful life and strengthen the legal, and administrative systems of recipient countries.
- (4) Collaborative perspective – there are many projects related to local and community, CSOs, think tanks, global civic education, and e-government projects. The purposes are to strengthen accountability through transparency, reconsider productivity through efficiency, serve better services, promote citizens' participation in public decision-making, and ultimately seek to enhance trust in the government. Although currently, the country residents are provided with education, education needs to be expanded to developing countries. The proportion of projects with local governments is very low, and the proportion of projects with the media sector is almost non-existent. E-government will target everyone, and the existence of digital footprints will enhance transparency and accountability through e-government.
- (5) Demand and Supply Perspective – A project based on Korean policy experience rather than hardware elements is called 'Development Experience Exchange Program (DEEP).' The ownership of the recipient country and institution is important. By sharing South Korea's experiences and cooperating together, the recipient country will be able to find solutions on its own. It is more important to diagnose "As is" than "To be". It is required to find the direction from "As is" to "To be" cooperatively. It is desirable to share cooperatively rather than transplantation.

Korea Foundation (KF)

- The Korea Foundation (KF) is a specialized institution for international relations. International cooperation networking activities include the following: (1) support for overseas policy research institutes – offer 40 to 50 grants per year to overseas think tanks that conduct and hold research and seminars



related to South Korea. It deals with issues on the Korean Peninsula, foreign and security policies, economic and trade policies, science and technology cooperation (AI, cyber-security, information and communications networks, etc.), and global issues (environment, democracy, civil society, etc.).

- (2) Bilateral Forums – invite experts from major countries such as the United States, China, Japan, Russia, Germany, Vietnam, and India to hold six to seven 1.5-track forums each year. Major events include the "2019 Korea-India Dialogue" which discusses ways to strengthen economic cooperation between the two countries, the "2019 Korea-German Forum" discussing relations between neighboring countries, regional cooperation, and the role of Korea-German in the global health sector, and the 2020 Korea-U.S. Strategic Forum" that discusses the future of Korea-U.S.
- (3) Seminars – 15 to 20 different types of platforms each year, including international seminars and research cooperation to discuss issues related to South Korea and international issues. Some examples are the "2020 KF Virtual Dialogue Series, COVID-19, Challenges and Opportunities" which deals with COVID-19, democracy, and public-private cooperation, and the "2020 100 Korea-Japan Citizens' Future Dialogue," which deals with civic peace solidarity, youth/education, living safety/environment, and civil society cultural cooperation.

II. Promotion of Good Governance through International Relations and Support

The need to form an international democracy support council and build networks

- Although the term 'good governance' is widely used among international organizations, many are still wary to use the word 'democracy'. However, the image of the adjective form "democratic" is much softer, so the adjective form should be more widely used. The challenge is how to tie up these two terms.
- The World Bank has six indicators, and the marking system used in South Korea is from the OECD. It is necessary to establish its own domestic indicator. The United Nations has nine categories, and the United States has three major categories such as government system and regime transition.
- South Korea is limited to the function of government, without mentioning the system of governance. Although measures to utilize civil society are also important, as many factors will help Korea develop itself, a political system-related network when considering the possibility of sharing this abroad. The Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) is a program for economic growth and reform.
- KOICA should consider how to systematize DEEP models in Korea. Claims about why a grant aid agency is facilitating projects have disappeared. It is necessary to boost projects and organize specialized research institutes. In the case of the International Democracy Support Council, limitations exist as there are structural problems, but the council still needs to be established. Currently, Korea is at the stage to make a proposal to the National Assembly. After legalization, the operating system should be established by forming an international democracy support council.



- A weakness of the marking system is that although many projects contribute to 1, there are questions on what 2, relating to peace, is. Since all four institutions' projects are tailored to the needs of recipient countries, not just about the mere dissemination and knowledge, they must act in a way that helps the recipient country in spreading democracy and sharing experiences, and to do so, structural devices are needed. DEEP is the best option for now. South Korea's experiences should be made into a model and an English version should be made to share with developing countries.
- Public institutions have most of the resources, and KOICA offers a large amount of financial support as it is a grant aid organization. A situation in which it is practically difficult to form an international democracy support council. K-Project is based on a sense of superiority and a strategy that appealed to nationalism, which needs to be avoided.
- If DEEP projects cooperate from the beginning with agencies like the UN and NED, the scale will broaden. Developing countries are merely following the same steps as South Korea's history, are not asking to solve their problems right away. Establishing an international democracy support council might be impossible, but networking such as this workshop is necessary. The effort to find out where all the participant institutions can cooperate with each other is required.
- The DEEP project needs to be developed. The amount of South Korea's ODA support fund is much smaller than China's, so Korea needs to focus on strengthening its capabilities and software. KSP projects are also meaningful in terms of giving insight to developing countries.
- Although it is difficult to form an international democracy support council right now, networking should be continued. The network needs to be settled by continuously interacting with each agency to discuss good governance projects, democratic engagement, and democratic resilience.

Customized support based on the current situation in the recipient country.

- From the perspective of developing countries with structural problems in politics and society, KSP projects are not relevant. The economic environment in which South Korea developed is very different, and policymakers in developing countries are well aware of this fact. What developing countries need is a model, based not on South Korea's past, but on current issues.
- In the Obama Fellowship in Africa, the government actively invested in young people with potential. Young people who were seen to possess the potential to develop the country were asked to submit a proposal and selected to be sent to Washington for networking. Partnerships should be built in this way. It is questionable how meaningful it will be in to share Korea's experience during the development policy project unless the recipient countries come up with their own initiative action from the start. From the budget support phase of intellectual projects of institutions, specialized institutions should be effectively matched for each project. From the external perspective, South Korea's ODA support project is not differentiated from Japan's and India's. There is a need to form a partnership from the beginning and



expand the scale of the project to maximize promotion in the long term. In this way, the impact will be increased without spending too much budget.

- Research institutes have a unique role in intelligent work. These international organizations relevant to democracy and governance have their own indexes and indicators. Developing its own index that is applicable at the Asian level, not limited to South Korea's experience, is a task that intellectual workers should accomplish. Once the index is developed, it will have a huge impact.
- to the aim is to disseminate the information from the Korea Foundation to researchers, projects operators, etc. domestically. A platform where Korean experts can intervene is necessary. Domestic support needs to be involved from the first stage of the project planning. The Korea Foundation or higher-level institutions needs to secure intelligence in advance when carrying out aid projects.
- South Korea's current development model system cannot be applied to the present developing countries. Rather than trying to apply it uniformly, the model should be adjusted to the level of the recipient country. As it is difficult for foreign agencies to find a suitable way for individual countries, recipient countries should diagnose themselves and figure out how to apply the model.
- International cooperation activities among civil societies have become active due to the issues in Myanmar and Thailand. South Korea should engage with these issues responsibility. The Moon Jae-in administration's New Southern project brought on huge expectations, but it ended up with a mere research project which lacks civil society participation or realizing peace in the region. Networking such as this workshop should continue to support countries that are currently experiencing the same history that South Korea has experienced in the past.

Achieving good governance through gradual change

- Governance, as we speak, refers to democratic decision-making and enforcement system in which members of a diverse society evaluate each other in participating in and executing decisions. Most developed countries carry out international exchange and support projects that invest astronomical amounts in developing countries, but there are few successful cases. South Korea is almost the only successful case. The problem lies in governance itself when looking at failures such as Africa and South America.
- Then how will governance evolve? It is not something that can be changed immediately through exchange or support projects. The composition and participation of members in each field differ by policy and field. When those subsystems mature and evolve one by one, they ultimately become good governance. Of course, international support is needed, but that alone, is not possible. Many systems within individual countries must change, mature, and accumulate over a long period of time to become good governance, and thus, a democratic society. It is impossible to achieve this only through support projects and therefore, the entire civil society needs to be changed.
- The overall maturity of the civil society still has a long way to go and the underdeveloped aspects still appear throughout society. This is not something that can be accomplished at an institutional/field level.



It is not clear how long it will take or even whether it can be achieved, even though various fields have been intertwined for a long time. South Korea needs to consider whether its experience or history is an example of benchmarking in other countries. International organizations only spend budgets without diagnosing and considering the effectiveness and impact of the project.

- It is questionable whether international cooperation projects so far have been worth the budget. There are a lot of overlapping ODA projects, and there has been a lot of waste in budget and manpower. According to the ODA projects implemented by each department, show no productive results as there are many cases where targeting is not clear. Projects should focus on efficiency and outcomes.
- International organizations should have access points as close as possible to the site to increase opportunities for South Korea to contribute to the international development area. South Korea should keep up with the international trend rather than refining its own. ■

■ Typeset by Junghye Suh, Research Associate at EAI
For inquiries: 02-2277-1683 (ext. 207) jhsuh@eai.or.kr

Knowledge-net for a Better World

The East Asia Institute takes no institutional position on policy issues and has no affiliation with the Korean government. All statements of fact and expressions of opinion contained in its publications are the sole responsibility of the author or authors.

Date of Issue: 01 June 2021

Promoting Good Governance through International Relations and Support

ISBN 979-11-6617-137-6 95340

The East Asia Institute

#909 Sampoong B/D, Eulji-ro 158, Jung-gu,

Seoup 04548, South Korea

Tel. 82 2 2277 1683 Fax 82 2 2277 1684

Email eai@eai.or.kr Website www.eai.or.kr