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シンポジウム報告  
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The ODA Policy and Practice of Korea

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With its success in transforming itself from an aid recipient to a donor in a short period of time, Korea is perceived by many developing countries as a symbolic case of development. Since joining the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) in January 2010, Korea has worked hard to strengthen its aid and to contribute to global development efforts. In this presentation, I will introduce the legal and organizational framework of Korea's ODA policy and discuss the characteristics of Korean ODA and the challenges ahead.

The Legal Framework of Korea's ODA

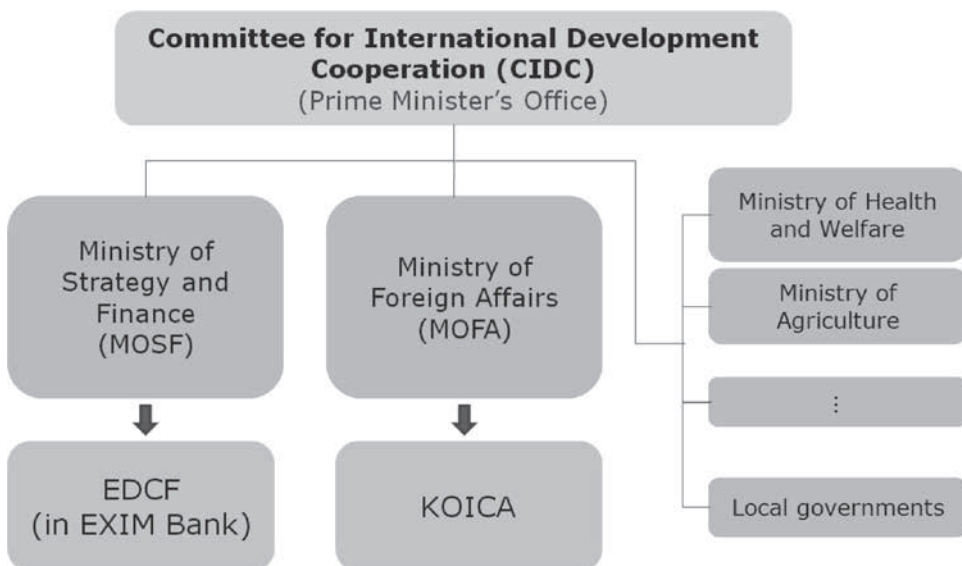
In the last several years Korea has strengthened the framework for its development co-operation by putting in place a Framework Act and Presidential Decree on International Development Co-operation (Framework Act). The *Framework Act (2010)* provides the legal basis for a more integrated system. The legal framework is complemented by Korea's *Strategic Plan for International Development Co-operation and its Mid-term ODA Policy for 2011-2015*.

The main purpose of Korea's legal and strategic framework is to improve the management of Korea's aid-funded grants and loans, particularly by strengthening the Committee for International Development Co-operation (CIDC). The framework also establishes the basic principles underpinning Korea's development co-operation system, including a poverty focus, respect for human rights, gender equality, sustainable development and support for peace and prosperity in the international

community. These principles have been disseminated across the Korean government and should be fully reflected in all of Korea's development co-operation strategies and programmes. Under this framework, Korea selected 26 priority partner countries, for each of which the country partnership strategies has been completed by 2012 and now are being implemented.

The Structure of ODA Management

Korean development cooperation is overseen by the national Committee for International Development Co-operation (CIDC) with the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) and Ministry of Strategy and Finance (MOSF). Korea's aid system is based on two main pillars: grants and loans. The former are managed by MOFA and its agency KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency), while the latter are managed by MOSF and its agency EDCF (Economic Development Cooperation Fund). The two agencies, ECDF (founded in 1987) and KOICA (founded in 1991) was modeled after the Japanese system, namely the Japanese Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), which are now merged under the umbrella of new JICA.



<Korea's Organizational Structure for ODA>

The Characteristics of Korea's ODA and Challenges Ahead

Comparative advantage relative to other DAC donors: To many developing countries Korea is particularly attractive with a comparative advantages in the area of sharing ideas and experience on development drawn from actual development experience.

The Korean government is well aware of this expectation from developing countries and has made efforts to disseminate Korea's development experiences. The Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP), a demand-driven comprehensive consultation program, was launched in 2004 by the MOSF and implemented by KDI. KSP became an important mode of Korea's ODA to deliver Korea's development experience systemically by supporting policy formation and institutional capacity building in the partner countries. Another is the Development Experience Exchange Partnership Programme (DEEP) managed by MOFAT with KOICA that was launched in 2012.

Korean government also assumes its role as a 'bridge' between donors and developing countries. Korea has been active in global processes on development cooperation and contributed to the international aid architecture: played a leading role in the Fourth High Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness at Busan and the framework for Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation, as well as in the G20 development agenda.

For more integrated and coordinated management: Although Korea has worked hard to strengthen its aid system, there are many challenges as Korea's ODA increases.

Fragmentation and lack of coordination is a main challenge to Korean ODA system. In addition to EDCF (MOSF) and KOICA (MOFA), more than 30 other ministries and agencies are engaged in ODA activities. How to integrate these activities (including all grants and loans) into a unified strategy is the priority. Possible solutions would be: to ensure the CIDC's role as the ultimate decision-making body in planning and budgeting process and to strengthen the inter-agency committees with necessary authorities so that all aid-funded activities could be processed through those committees.

As the aid activities expands, the lack of human resources and experiences

especially in management of development activities in the field becomes a serious challenge. In addition to strengthening further the human resources of the main ministries and agencies, Korea needs to attract and retain quality people with the right kind of development experience and build the capacity of the employees.