

Executive Summary

This following study is a preliminary report regarding the introduction of a qualification system for development cooperation specialists in Korea. The scope of this study is limited to the preparations for introducing the new qualification system, analyzing jobs of development cooperation specialists and current status of professional training system in Korea and major donor countries. It also suggests how to establish a new qualification system for development cooperation specialists and how to utilize it in the future.

Firstly, this report gives a definition of development cooperation specialists and conducts job analysis. In order to do so, it classifies development cooperation specialists into technical specialists and development specialists according to their function and then subdivides the latter into regional specialists, project management specialists, and monitoring and evaluation specialists.

Secondly, this report examines the current status of professional training system of development specialists in Korea as well as in major donor countries including Japan, the United States, and the United Kingdom. For the Korean case, this report focuses on the system of KOICA for the public sector and on higher educational institutions such as graduate schools for international studies for the private sector. For the cases involving donor countries, it investigates the training system in Japan where the system has been developed mostly by the public sector and those of the United States and the United Kingdom where the private sector has been taking a major role in developing international development professionals.

Thirdly, this report develops a curriculum for training and educating three types of development specialists discussed above. Besides the core courses for all, it selects four to five courses for each type of development specialists based on basic skills and knowledge required to perform their tasks.

Fourthly, this report proposes a qualification framework for the new professional qualification system. The framework sets two levels of qualifications, including Level 2 (Junior Specialists) and Level 1 (Senior Specialist in three areas of specialty).

Lastly, this report proposes a development plan of the qualification system for development cooperation specialists, suggesting KOICA introduce the system as a private qualification managed by non-governmental entities at first, then as a nationally recognized private qualification, and finally as a national qualification accredited and managed by the government. Based on close cooperation with various stakeholders both in public and private sectors, this report suggests how to utilize the newly introduced qualification for international development specialists by investigating comprehensive benefits of national qualifications and other examples of utilizing various qualifications.