

Abstract

There has been global consensus around the critical role of technical cooperation in building the capacity of developing countries to achieve long-term poverty alleviation and sustainable development. The scope of interest in technical cooperation has been extended to cover more comprehensive capacity building mechanisms to enable developing countries to take a lead in their development process including institutions and technologies.

KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency), Korea's aid implementing agency in charge of grants and technical cooperation, has espoused technical cooperation as one of the core aid modalities to support the development of its partner countries. As it recently launched 'DEEP (Development Experience Exchange Partnership)' to expand its technical cooperation programs as an important tool that includes policy advisory and development researches to promote capacity development in developing countries, this study tries to provide implementation strategies and policy insights based on the review of existing programs both in and out of Korea.

By reviewing the performance and modalities of the facilities of technical cooperation by many leading donors as well as specific projects, this study aims to provide suggestions to enhance the quality of DEEP program for its future implementation along the cycle of design, operation, assessment and post-completion management. It also intends to incorporate Korea's development experiences and KOICA's existing strengths to draw useful implications improve the program and suggest strategies to reinforce

development consulting industries.

This study first provides conceptual foundation of DEEP by categorizing the program by policy advisory, institution building, linkage with infrastructure building, and human capacity building. Then it conducts a comparative study to find useful perspectives of technical cooperation programs implemented by other donors such as the US, UK, Japan and EC. It also performed a qualitative analysis for KOICA' s existing technical cooperation projects that can be fit into the categories suggested in the previous chapter to draw institutional lessons. The cases include: Indonesia (government reform capacity strengthening), Guatemala (maternal/child health), East Timor (preparation of a geological map), and Vietnam (development master plans).

The next chapter proposes main principles and implementation strategies of DEEP program based on the findings from previous chapters. The four principles as a theoretical and logical foundation include cooperative partnership, results-based partnership, comprehensive partnership and harmonized partnership, and the study also recommends the standards and indicators for each principle. The core implementation strategies cover topics on how to structure the basis of the DEEP program, how to advance the program' s process, and how to assess the program. The study suggests ideas related to the expansion of the supply capability of development consulting services and adoption of online networking system that may assist the task.

The study concludes by providing policy suggestions on how KOICA can engage DEEP with greater efficiency by assetizing comparative advantages such as local expertise, networks in partner countries, existing project infrastructures, as well as results-based management system to promote the effectiveness of DEEP.