



아프리카지역 불어권 5 개국  
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# Abstract





Korea has to secure more local ODA experts and information-research on developing countries to lower the cultural and linguistic barriers between Korea and ODA recipient countries. To enable understanding a country like Tunisia which is very heterogeneous with us and promoting long-term and effective development cooperation, the provision of capacity-building measures is pre-required. That is a capacity to establish the strategies of development cooperation support by encompassing economic, social, cultural and political approach on Tunisia.

This study aims at establishing a framework of the basic strategy and specific practice plans of the KOICA's ODA by investigating the development circumstance and national development strategies in Tunisia and the development cooperation done by the international community so far.

To this end, this study did a quantitative analysis, literature review, expert group meetings, fieldwork etc. This study has the following significance; the first, we quantified the development needs of Tunisia and the assistance capacity of Korea (based on the difference between the sectoral key indicators and the benchmark countries) and we comprehensively analyzed the development needs of Tunisia through fieldwork.

"The Jasmine Revolution" caused by high unemployment, huge local disparities and low living standards made the 23 years ruling president Ben Ali flee to Saudi Arabia, then by way of the transitional government in December 2014, Mr. Beji Caid Essebsi was elected as a new president.

In the MDG trend analysis on Tunisia, the absolute poverty alleviation target is achieved but the disparity in poverty levels between urban and rural areas is still grave.

Almost all children complete primary education, however the ratio of children who do not go to school is showing largely different by region. The severe discrimination against women in society in general is increasingly go deep into senior positions. The infant mortality rate is definitely reduced, however the gap between urban and rural areas is still quite large.

Tunisia has experienced quite serious local development imbalances. Those among the Sidi Bouzid, Kasserine, Thala in the midwest of inland appear most dramatically and they have become a major cause of social unrest in Tunisia.

Nevertheless, Tunisia recorded the highest HDI levels, the narrowest gender gap and the highest literacy rates etc. among French-speaking countries in North Africa. In addition, education, health/medical, infrastructure, political rights and civil liberties, economic freedom indexes are also rated as ahead among those French-speaking countries in North Africa.

Tunisia has made a balanced progress according to the five-year plan of economic development since the 1960s. This development trend has stopped after the Jasmine Revolution.

A national development strategy of the transitional government has been established in January 2011. The strategy included good governance, improvement of business environment, modernization of economic structure, active integration into the world economy and partnership development etc.

The sectoral development strategy is as follows; the economy strategy consists of streamlining establishment and investment procedures of corporate, trade liberalization, financial system reform, fiscal efficiency improvements, promotion of public and private sector cooperation, insurance sector development etc. The infrastructure strategy is improvement of transport infrastructure, regional and

local road network improvements, construction of a railway connecting Tunisia, Algeria and Libya. Agriculture strategy consists of an acceleration of its growth rate, promoting related research and education and agricultural modernization. Industry strategy is based on the promising five areas (aerospace, automotive, pharmaceutical, textile/clothing and food). In order to develop the industry sector, the following strategic efforts are required; public-private partnerships, public procurement process reform, logistics system reform and strengthening infrastructure (industrial parks, techno-parks etc.).

For the energy industry, the excavation of renewable energy sources is necessary. For the tourism industry, diversification of tourism program, promotion of tourism quality, establishment of tourism personnel training system, and modernization of marketing are necessary.

Along with the industry development strategies mentioned above, the following social development strategies are also included; strengthening income redistribution policies, establishing social protection systems, social alarm system development, improving the quality of education sector and expanding higher education.

According to the ODA data of Tunisia over the last three years (2011-2013), France has supported the most in terms of ODA amount, then Germany and Japan are following suit.

Looking into the ODA of multilateral entities, the EU has supported the most by far overwhelming majority of the multilateral entities and the support of the AfDB was much smaller than anticipated.

Since 1992, the AFD of France has been supporting Tunisia for the next two goals; ① enhancing the Tunisian enterprise level and strengthening their

competitiveness, ② improving the quality of life through enhancing basic infrastructure etc. The focused support areas of France have been education, environment, transport and logistics in order.

Japan's assistance strategy for Tunisia focused on ① promoting political stability, ② consolidating peace and reconstruction of the country, ③ supporting the activities of Japanese companies in the region, etc. Japan's focus support sectors in 2013 were water, sanitation, industry, mining, construction, agriculture, forestry, fisheries, education in order.

The GIZ of Germany has helped focus on ① sustainable economic development and job creation, ② natural resources protection, ③ governance, regional, and intensive assistance to promote democratic development. Its focus supporting sectors are education, sanitation, government and civil society support in order.

The EU's cooperation strategy for Tunisia has been focused on the development of democracy, governance and economy, elimination of social inequality, regional development support, strengthening the role of civil society, and supporting human rights.

In 2014-2015, the priority of cooperation strategy has been inclusive growth, competitiveness and social integration for social and economic reforms, strengthening democracy, fundamental factors, local and sustainable development of the province.

The EU has supported Tunisia by the European Neighborhood Partnership Fund (ENPI) and the European Neighborhood Fund (ENI) etc.

Tunisia is under economic and social development projects funded by the Member States of the Arab Social and Economic Development Fund (AFESD). AFESD has put a priority on basic infrastructure sector and mainly invested in the field of agriculture, energy, industry, social services, and transportation.

As to the features of ODA of the international community and its implications, first, France and Germany have supported with the emphasis on education and water sanitation, Japan's focus support sectors have been transportation and logistics and water sanitation. The cases of other countries and institutions can be summarized as follows;

the US: civil society (governance), the EU: energy and bank financial sector, the AFESD: energy and water and sanitation. Tunisia has been relatively more supported in the field of civil society (governance) and education in the wake of the Arab Spring.

Korea is the ninth donor for Tunisia. In 2014, the following projects were successfully carried out; a pilot project to restore cork oak forest, a project for recycling electrical and electronic equipment and a project for improving distribution reliability in industrial energy management. In addition, Korean Ministry for Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs, Ministry of Education, etc. also have supported Tunisia.

Tunisia is facing the challenges, that is political and economic instability, inter-regional disparities, and high unemployment rate. Therefore, it is proposed that the KOICA set up a goal for a democracy and an alleviation of regional imbalances.

To select focus sectors for supporting, the quantitative and qualitative evaluations were attempted. As a result, public administration was selected as

the best focus sector for supporting, and then the energy industry and the education were followed in order

In the case of public administration, the new government was elected early in the 2015 however, Tunisia has failed to stabilize the political, democratic demands of people. Considering the unstable situation, it is suggested to intensify the development of the e-procurement systems support project of the KOICA which received good reviews. The e-procurement system that can prevent a corruption of the public authorities shall comply with the requirements of democracy in Tunisia. Therefore, it is recommended to expand the e-government system to highly demanded areas such as customs, tax, pension fund management etc.

In the case of energy sector, it is proposed to support techno parks in marginalized areas and local industry for balanced regional development. Tunisian government currently operates eight techno parks in nationwide for activating local economy and job creation.

Korea is rich in experiences related to similar case of development of local economy through an establishment of techno-park. Also the leading projects were successfully promoted, therefore the KOICA could be available to carry it out in the form of single project.

The secondly proposed project in industrial energy sector is the technology cooperation for water resources and renewable energy. In the energy sector, current budget deficit situation continues and requires a rationalization of national energy consumption. To do so through improved energy supply system, there is a need to pursue and expand the technology transmission and the capacity building.

Tunisia is a water shortage country. So the feasibility studies on optimal use of water resources and seawater desalination are recommended and viable through technical cooperation with Korea. With regard to energy and water resources projects, Korea has similar experience abounds and the concerned international organizations such as the GCF and the GGGI are in Korea.

Development projects of local specialties (consulting, training) is suggested to activate tourism industry. As an impact of political unrest in Tunisia, the tourism industry which is a main source of income of Tunisia received a severe blow, then it has had a negative impact on the entire economy of Tunisia. The Tunisian tourist industry has provided jobs to about 400 thousand people. For example, in 2010 the number of tourists was 7.71 million, however in 2011 it has plummeted to 5.45 million.

The portion of the tourism industry in GDP has been significantly great share so far. However, since Tunisia has not developed enough local specialties to sell at the tourist places, local residents in the tourist places failed to get additional income. So what we propose is to contribute to tourism development and commercialization of local specialties by developing more than one local specialty per tourist place. Tunisia has quite good natural resources and culture to commercialize regionally. Thus, we propose to promote it in the form of consulting.

As to educational sector, extremely high unemployment in Tunisia is one of the main factors that lead to social unrest in Tunisia. In general, support for vocational education and training has not been well connected with labor market, so it has been often resulted in being insufficient. Thus, to support the low income families by alleviating the problem of unemployment and poverty in Tunisia, it is recommended to support those who have successfully completed vocational training courses to find a job or to start up small business with the

microcredit funds. This is targeted to strengthen low-income families' capacity to combat unemployment and poverty through vocational training and entrepreneurship support. For this purpose, it is necessary to consider a build-up of new vocational training centers in areas suffering by low-income or high unemployment rate to expand more equitable opportunities.

Taken together the Tunisian national strategies, the main cooperation directions, the key support areas and sectoral cooperation programs, the following cooperation framework is recommended. The cooperation objective is a democratic settlement and resolving regional disparities. The strategic priorities are 1) democratic settlement and recovery of social stability and 2) promotion of local economy and national industrial competitiveness. The focus support sectors are public administration, energy industry and education in order.

It is advisable to cooperate with the advanced donor countries, such as France to improve aid effectiveness in Tunisia. For the successful cooperation with them, it is pre-required to adequately train local Korean experts who can communicate and work in French with the locals.