

Abstract

The purpose of this study was to comparatively analyze KOICA's assistance to the transition countries under its Official Development Assistance (ODA) program and that of EU to the Central and Eastern European countries. The research differs from earlier ODA studies by combining transition theory to ODA. This study is composed of three chapters. First, process and outcome of support for transition of Central and Eastern European countries will be reviewed. In this, the main focus will be the PHARE (Poland and Hungary: Assistance for Restructuring their Economies) program which began in 1990. Particular attention will be given to the way the EU engaged in Hungary and Poland with ODA program just before their transition began in 1989. The programs agreed upon between European Commission and the two governments and their implementation process will be reviewed, before describing how the PHARE is transformed into a support program for accession of these two countries to the European Union. Through a case study analysis on the PHARE program, the study will critically review how the EU provided assistance to countries in transition, set up accession and evaluation criteria, aiming at providing a general standard of support required for countries in transition in future. Second, for case study of the KOICA's assistance to countries in transition, Uzbekistan which gained independence through dissolution of the Soviet Union and Laos, a socialist state in South East Asia were selected. The former represents a country that is undergoing radical economic transitions without political changes, in contrast to the latter that manages to keep political transition under control while pursuing a gradual transition in its economic system. By comparing ODA programs of the EU and the KOICA from

a transition-focused perspective, this study will attempt at assessing the outcome of the KOICA, by reflecting the experience of the PHARE program of the European Union. Third, through analysis and evaluation of the case studies, the study will present implications of these experience in KOICA's future ODA undertakings for potential countries in transition. In particular, this study will present principles and norms which will be required for providing support to North Korea which neighbors the Republic of Korea, and to Cuba which normalized diplomatic relations with the United States in 2015, as the two countries are both regarded to have begun economic transition, although partially, and fit into the ODA support criteria by OECD/DAC.