

Abstract

I . Introduction

There is a growing need for extending the focus of interest on the development experience of Korea from the economic development model (state-led development, developmental state, etc.) to the development process of its democracy. Although the democratization experience of Korea is an important topic in academia and the development cooperation field, there have been no sufficient research and systematic studies due to the internal and external restrictions. Therefore, it is necessary to apply the perspective of international development cooperation and by doing so develop and provide appropriate policy implications.

The objective of this study is to examine Korea's experience of democratization from the perspective of international development cooperation and provide implications for international development cooperation projects.

II. Development Process and Characteristics of Democracy in Korea

The Korean democracy can be explained in terms of the sustainability and dynamism of democratization movement from the March 1st Movement, the April 19 Revolution, the June Struggle, to the Candlelight Struggle.

The sustainability of Korean democracy has become a unique form of political change as the path dependence increases, and the underlying force for the sustainability can be said to be the repeated recalls and reproductions of popular sovereignty.

The unique experience of Korea with international assistance for democratization can be a strength but at the same time a disadvantage. Korean democracy cannot and should not be duplicated. However, given that the formation of an autonomous subject is essential in democratization, the need for international assistance to the making of such subject is of high importance.

This secondary importance of democracy in understanding Korean development stems from the "economic development first, democratization later" theory. However, considering the fact that the democratization movement had started before the market economy was fully established and that the democratization movement had matured alongside the process of economic development, Korea's development can be characterized by "accompanying of democratization and industrialization." Different from many developing countries which are

stuck in the state of formal democracy, Korea has successfully consolidated its democracy through the repeated recalls of popular sovereignty. Succeeding the previous democratization movement, the occurrence of the Candlelight Struggle demonstrated that democracy can resolve social development issues that the market cannot deal with and revealed the importance of democracy in the development process of Korea.

Therefore, Korean ODA should be executed based on the reflection of its development, and in that context, democracy deserves to be one of the main pillars supporting Korean ODA.

III. Development, Democracy, and International Development Cooperation

There have been a lot of discussions on the relation between democracy and economic growth, rather than a dominant theory, due to the diverse meanings of economic growth and democracy. The relation between economic growth and democracy in a country is more like a relationship accompanied by social conflicts and compromises between the democratic power and the power with the vested interests, rather than a causal relationship.

Aside from debates over the nature of democracy, it seems that there exists a consensus about the role of democracy in the process of development. By guaranteeing the rule of law and citizens' safety and contributing to social stability, democracy is accepted as a catalyst or prerequisite for economic growth. As being responsive to citizens' demand and accountable, it is also recognized as a prerequisite for relief of poverty.

Regarding the relation between development aid and democracy, scholars have presented diverse study results. The results can be categorized into three groups. The first group says that development aid for democracy brings in the development of democracy in a recipient country. The second group suggests that development aid has a negative impact on citizens' liberties and democracy and even causes political instability. The last group's conclusion is that development aid and democracy in a recipient country are not related.

The support for democracy by the international community started in the 1970s when the donor countries accelerated democratic shift or promoted its implementation in developing countries. In the early 1980s, governments, multilateral agencies, local and international NGOs were involved in the international intervention for support for democracy. In the 1990s, support for democracy became the core element in the assistance and development policies of the US, Canadian, and many European governments. Later in the mid 1990s, support started to head toward the civil society and media, then to the parliament and political parties. Recently, the focus has moved to civic voice and accountability and government-society relations.

IV. Korea and International Development Cooperation for Democracy

The amount of assistance from the international community (bilateral and multilateral aid agencies) to Korea from 1945 to 1999 was USD 13,976.5 million, including humanitarian aid for post-war recovery, infrastructure, and economic and social development. However, it did not include assistance for development of democracy.

After the Korean War in 1950, Foreign Voluntary Agencies (FVA) provided Korea with aid for relief, social welfare, and social services. The civil social organizations of Germany and the US that received ODA fund from their own governments, including EZE, MISEREOR, the Asia Foundation, and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, initially put their assistance to Korea especially into human development such as education and public health and later expanded the scope to social development for the poor and women. Then along with the development of the society, they contributed to political, legal, and systematic improvement and development of Korea's social movement including women's movement, peasant movement, labor movement, cooperative movement, and Christian social movement, exerting great influence on Korea's democratization movement.

Since the establishment in 1991, KOICA has executed about 20% of its ODA into "public administration" which was set as a core area. In terms of the OECD DAC CRS code, public policy and administrative management account for 41.86%, and public administration accounts for 29.12%, totaling about 71%. On the other hand, the main elements of democratic governance such as election (0.18%), anti-corruption organizations and agencies (0.37%), CSO strengthening (0.44%), human rights (0.23%), and gender equality (2.37%) account only for a very small portion.

Korea's civil society for development cooperation has participated in development cooperation with the unique characteristics as an independent development actor with the 30-year history. The civil society for development cooperation has executed about 2,000 projects with the international development cooperation fund of about KRW 500 billion by 2017. However, only 2.1% of the projects and 0.85% of the fund were for "public administration and civil society."

V. Proposals

KOICA needs to plan to expand the "public administration strategy" to "democratic governance" shall be considered and expands its support in the field of 'democratic governance' considering accordance with the higher-level government institutions and policies

There are two implementation methods, direct and indirect support, by KOICA. The indirect support can be executed through cooperation with CSO or international organizations.

For Korea to expand international development cooperation for democracy in the future, the following three ways will be available. First, KOICA expands the current project method for the “public administration” field, sets the direction toward “democratic governance,” increases the scale of projects, and executes the projects. Second, KOICA focuses on the current “public administration” field, and the government establishes an organization like NED of the US which will concentrate on support for reinforcement of democracy. Third, a cooperation system between KOICA and democracy supporting agencies such as the Korea Democracy Foundation shall be set up, and roles for providing support shall be distributed.