

Abstract

This report aims at assessing the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in South Korea and other countries in terms of democratic governance in order to find out the common and different characteristics as well as lessons which can be applicable in other countries.

The Korean response to the COVID-19 has so far been considered ‘successful’ as a model that has faithfully followed the international standards and manuals provided by the WHO as well international human rights and democratic norms. The findings of this report are expected to be used as a useful reference for other countries, in particular, partner countries of the KOICA for effective development cooperation.

The report consists of the several chapters : the first part covers theoretical framework and international standards on governance and COVID-19, and the main part analyses impact and main characteristics of the COVID-19 in South Korea and provides international comparison among several selected countries in Europe and East Asia. Main emphasis in the analysis of the Korean experience, was given to the role of civil society, specially citizens participation in the response to the COVID-19.

The concluding part describes how the Korean government as well as the KOICA has responded to the COVID-19 internationally, and several recommendations were made with regard to the future tasks and strategies on the COVID-19 in terms of the SDGs and democratic governance, with focus on the Goal 16 and public diplomacy.

It is hoped that this report can be used for effective policy development for the development cooperation agencies as well as advocacy for civil society organizations internationally in particular partner countries.