

Abstract

A Study on Implementation Strategies for ODA in the Public Administration Sector

This study aims to offer implementation strategies for the Korean government, focusing on official development assistance (ODA) in the public administration sector. This will help the Korean government's ODA to contribute to poverty reduction and growth of developing countries, which are the ultimate goals of ODA and are also consistent with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In order for developing countries to achieve sustainable development, government capacity needs to be improved and a base of good governance for growth and development established. In this regard, ODA in the public administration sector should focus on the governance- and government capacity-building of developing countries.

This study reviews existing ODA strategies and programs of the Korean government including the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). Based on the review, this study provides suggestions for a government-wide roadmap and KOICA's programs for the implementation of aid strategies in the public administration sector. Detailed suggestions are as follows:

First, this study examines the positive aspects of the Korean government's ODA in the public administration sector including the ratio of grants and loans, project diversity, and the disbursement of aid funds to low income countries and fragile states. Despite these merits, the total amount of aid falls short of international standards and aid projects concentrate heavily on e-government and capacity building programs. Moreover, the Korean government's ODA in the public administration sector faces the problem of fragmentation, as too many agencies and institutions are involved, which hinders aid effectiveness.

Second, with regard to ODA strategy in the public administration sector, the strategy

at the national level is not well structured and decoupled with the annual strategy and the medium-term strategy. In addition, despite efforts to reflect SDGs, the concept and implementation boundary of ODA in the public administration sector is narrowly defined and weakly linked with SDGs. The lack of mid- to long-term strategic allocation plans of ODA resources in the public administration sector is also recognized as one weakness of the Korean government's ODA in the public administration sector.

Third, based on a progress review of the Korean government's ODA in the public administration sector, this study suggests the scope of ODA in the public administration sector needs to be expanded to embrace the governance sector. Accordingly, ODA projects need to become more diversified to reflect public administration as well as the governance sector. This refinement will enable the Korean government's ODA to meet the SGD goals set by the international community. Moreover, ODA strategies in the public administration sector should be aligned structurally with a national foreign policy.