

The implication of TOSSD Pillar II to Development Cooperation Project in STI and its Promotion

Abstract

TOSSD(Total Official Support for Sustainable Development) is a new international statistical framework which comprehensively presents the flows of all officially supported resources which promote sustainable development in developing countries. With the expansion of stakeholders and partnerships in development cooperation, TOSSD is expected to identify the diversified public resources and its supply and demand, and to monitor the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals(SDGs). In particular, as TOSSD Pillar II also measures global/regional expenditures provided in support of global challenges, it incorporates contributions made in donor countries for International Public Goods(IPGs) and development enablers into the development cooperation framework. Due to increased transnational crisis such as infectious diseases such as COVID-19 and climate change, global solidarity is ever more emphasized, which is expected to lead to vitalization of researches for evidence based development cooperation projects.

Based on the result of 2019 TOSSD report, Pillar II contained a number of R&D activities in STI(Science, Technology and Innovation), and it revealed the support status which was difficult to grasp in existing ODA reporting system. Some examples are as follows: UK FCDO through the Ross Fund supports R&D activities to prevent and treat diseases such as infectious diseases and marginalized tropical diseases which threaten the global health including developing countries; EU HORIZON 2020 encourages international joint R&D activities for sustainable economic growth and taking actions against global dilemma. It consists of long-term projects addressing a wide range of research topics, with large-scaled budget investments; CGIAR, a global partnership joined by agricultural research institutes in various regions with a sponsorship by multiple countries, aims to enhance the agricultural productivity in developing countries. All three cases recognize R&D results as international public goods and share them according to the open access principle, thereby encourage follow-up researches and applications to projects and businesses.

Pillar II makes emphasis on the role of STI and cooperation, as a means to achieve SDGs, respond to global challenges, and support IPGs. The aforementioned cases demonstrate that researches on STI, supported by development cooperation agencies and international organizations, do not stay on basic research but move forward to practical solution, in alliance with their development cooperation strategy, working in hand with developing countries. On the other hand, KOICA reported only administrative operation expenses to 2019 TOSSD Pillar II, and it is necessary to seek various possibilities that Pillar II suggests as the cases show. Diverse R&D projects in STI can be considered as Pillar II. KOICA can carry out ODA projects responding to the global challenges as well, in accordance with Vitalizing Science and Technology·ICT ODA Strategy. Yet, due to the nature of the agency, there is a limitation in cooperation with private sectors, especially in respect of R&D projects. As the development cooperation paradigm shifts, the norms and the system should be up to date to vitalize supports to R&D in STI and the related projects. Moreover, internally, researches should not be remained back office but proceed to R&D projects in line with the ongoing ODA projects, providing practical applicability.