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Research Material

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Case Study Analysis on Taking an Integrated Approach towards Green Recovery and Inclusive Development

Discussions on climate change and international development cooperation have been continuously held since the 2000s. The OECD Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has been integrating climate change actions into development cooperation projects and emphasizing climate resilience; i.e. preparing guidelines for climate change adaptation. In order to minimize the negative impact of climate change on developing countries and to improve their recovery capacity, climate change should be recognized as an overall social issue, and in this context the OECD is promoting climate-development integration. Korea also, in line with this global trend, established the 3rd Comprehensive Plan for International Development Cooperation, including projects not only focusing on climate change adaptation such as projects related to water management, energy, and waste management, but expanding to mitigation, to promote the Green New Deal ODA strengthening developing countries' resilience to climate change. KOICA established a Mid-term Strategy for Climate Action (2021-2025) to carry out the development cooperation of the government's Green New Deal and 2050 Carbon Neutrality Strategy. And as part of the implementation of the strategy, KOICA is partnering with Green Climate Fund(GCF), accredited since July 2021, and is developing GCF pipelines by cooperating with various partners including Global Green Growth Institute(GGGI).

The issues in climate change and environment are closely related to diverse fields in development cooperation such as energy, health, agriculture, tourism, transportation, water, and etc. Developing countries prioritizing industrialization and economic development may regard climate change actions as a hindrance to economic growth. Yet, there is a need to promote climate change response projects and programs linked to national development plans with careful review on the conditions in each country, as development without appropriate plans may lead to environmental destruction, and developing countries lack of necessary infrastructure and vulnerable to climate change are impacted most severely. Thus, while integrated approach in development cooperation is being more emphasized, it would be meaningful to see how other donor agencies consider and progress climate and environment that has an influence on various sectors in their projects and programs.

Accordingly, this paper, as case studies, would review bilateral aid agencies' projects strengthening the resilience to climate change through an integrated approach (Sida in Sweden, Norad in Norway and AFD in France). Based on the case studies analysis – a project led by international organization with multiple donors with recipient government as a major participant, a project led by multiple donor agencies partnership in multiple regions, and a project led by aid agency in cooperation with GCF, it aims to suggest some implications to KOICA's project implementation policies, directions and promotion methods. Sida's LoGIC is a project focusing on strengthening the policy linkage between central and local governments in line with the direction of the climate change response in Bangladesh. It is funded by Sida and EU, UNDP carries out overall management of the project including procurement, and the government is responsible for the implementation. Norad's EnDev is a program that aims to provide access to sustainable modern energy in various regions based on the partnership between multiple donor agencies, mainly BMZ, Netherlands Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and SDC. And GIZ and RVO carries out overall management. AFD's GCF project aims to develop an integrated water management plan in Gaza in Northern Palestine for sustainable agriculture and enhancing resilience of the vulnerable group by cooperating with the GCF and Palestinian water authorities. AFD carries out the overall management, and the ministry of agriculture and FAO are responsible for the implementation.

The project planning and implementation procedures of all three projects do not differ greatly from the existing development cooperation projects. In all three cases, the projects were implemented in climate vulnerable countries, where recipient countries had a strategy and policy for climate change recovery that aid agencies were able to utilize for planning the projects. And aid agencies regularly participated in committee meeting and monitored using their own guidelines during the process. Yet, the role of the agencies participating in each project differed; participating by providing strategic directions in LoGIC and EnDev, and participating by managing and monitoring implementing agencies under the contract in GCF project.

Climate change may impact diverse fields of development cooperation such as water, agriculture, and energy, and therefore requires a solution through an integrated perspective, which does not necessarily mean to solve all problems. Integrated approach may create a basis where various stakeholders can collaborate successfully over the long term, by focusing on certain specific issue then spillover to surrounding environment. It has advantages in that it leads institutions with its own unique expertise to collaborate solving the complex climate change issues, and that financial resources of each institutions can be combined for more effective disbursement. As KOICA strives to expand its range of projects dealing with climate change, it would be important to consider how to enhance the practical effectiveness of its projects especially when taking integrated approach, by identifying its strengths, and thoroughly reviewing which institutions with what expertise to cooperate with, and which country to implement project in.