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International Council on Social Welfare

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**Working Together for
a Better ICSW**



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Dear fellow ICSW members, friends, and interested readers,

The health, social and economic crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic is still with us, now with the new OMICRON variant. For almost two years now, this pandemic has collapsed our health and social protection systems. It has forced us to make an unparalleled collective effort to develop vaccines and care for people all over the world at the same time.

Social protection systems, social policies, and the social welfare system have protected us. But we have also seen and experienced their limitations in dealing with this crisis. Some of the key issues in this process of redefining our welfare systems are the following: digitalization, new and old forms of poverty (including hunger), and the

redefinition of social protection systems and public policies in a post-pandemic environment.

For ICSW it is very important to analyze the accelerated digitalization process in which we are immersed, and to put on the public agenda a critical analysis of this digitalization process, and for this purpose we are organizing an international seminar in May 2021.

It is also very relevant to address the specific problems related to poverty, hunger and childhood. In the seminar that ICSW organized in September 2021, we addressed these problems by teaming up with other international organizations.

And in November 2021, as you can read in the following pages of this newsletter, we organized an international seminar to address the new model of social protection in a post-pandemic environment.

All these conferences are available on the ICSW website, and I encourage you to consult them. In this year 2021, despite the pandemic, confinement and the socio-health crisis, ICSW has continued to work to give voice and public visibility to the major challenges we face in the field of social welfare.

Many thanks to all of you who make this possible.

Thank you for your commitment and dedication to ICSW.

Take care and stay healthy!

ICSW International Seminar: New Social Protection Issues in the Post-COVID19 Era

According to data released by the International Labor Organization(ILO), more than 350 million jobs worldwide are expected to be lost due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Job loss inevitably leads to an increase in demand for social services. In the midst of an infectious disease crisis, the existing face-to-face social service delivery system becomes difficult to fully function. The role of the government to solve these problems is emerging and the need for discussion to establish a NEW social service delivery system is increasing.

In addition, governments are implementing unprecedented economic stimulus measures through drastic fiscal policies to escape the negative impacts of COVID-19, but there are criticisms that their effectiveness is low. The side effects including rapid inflation and setback in supply chain are also appearing, and the red light is lit on social protection in each country.

To explore the role of government, corporations and civil society to play in establishing a social protection that is faithful to its original function amid these changes due to pandemic, the 3rd International Seminar was held under the title of "New issues in social protection in the post-COVID19 era" from 3rd to 5th November. The seminar was divided into four parts: Opening session 'Social protection in the Post-COVID19 era,' Part 1 'Social protection and social security,' Part 2 'Social protection and Corporate CSR,' and Part 3 'Social protection and civil society.'

In the opening session, Neil Gilbert, a professor at UC Berkeley, spoke about 'Post-pandemic social developments: three possible futures in

the United States,' and Jennifer Splansky Juster, the Executive Director of the Collective Impact Forum at FSG, talked about 'the way collective impact collaboration brings together people from civil society, philanthropy, government and the business sector into collaboration,' and lastly Alex Nicholls, professor of social entrepreneurship at Said Business School, University of Oxford, gave a keynote lecture on 'Innovation in funding social welfare: outcomes-based models.'

'Post-pandemic social developments: three possible futures in the United States' by Neil Gilbert

In response to the economic turmoil caused by COVID-19, the U.S federal government implemented an unprecedented increase in cash transfers directly into the hands of citizens which involved stimulus check, unemployment benefits, and child tax credits. Stimulus check included three rounds of cash payments that went directly to individuals and families, which amounted to \$850 billion of direct payments.

There was also a huge increase in unemployment benefits. In most states workers receiving regular unemployment benefits would expect to get on average less than half their weekly salaries. With the additional benefits from the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security act(CARES), a significant proportion of unemployed workers received more money in unemployment compensation than they would have typically earned in their jobs.

The child tax credit has also been greatly expanded. The total cost in 2021 is estimated to be \$117.5 billion for qualifying families—twice the amount provided by the Earned Income Tax Credit, a program which supplements the wages of low-paid workers.

As a result, despite the lockdown of businesses throughout the United States, the projected poverty rate for 2021 is estimated to be 7.7% , which is almost one-half the poverty rate in 2018.

The pandemic has also brought about changes in education. It is reasonable to expect that the skills developed during this period and the widespread experience with virtual classrooms will have some continuing effects on the delivery of education as schools reopen and face-to-face education returns to normal.

In the field of employment and labor, telecommuting is spreading and affecting work culture, and there are strong indications that many companies are planning to continue work-at-home options after the pandemic. Thus, the pandemic's impact on employment is likely to have a lasting effect on the culture or work.

However, the picture is incomplete. In regard to welfare, the huge infusion of direct cash payments through the stimulus, the unemployment benefits and the child tax credit may have primed the pump of public opinion for a general expansion of income maintenance programs. And the continuance of these programs will undoubtedly alleviate some degree of poverty in the U.S. However, as an unconditional cash grant there are also concerns that it will add just enough to existing benefits such as the Supplementary Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP food stamps) and public assistance (TANF) along with subsidized housing, child care and medicaid to create a disincentive to work for some. There also is a question of the potentially inflationary spillover effects of increasing social spending, especially in light of the looming deficit in the U.S. social security fund.

In the realm of EDUCATION, the expansion of

school choice through vouchers and charter schools, offers greater opportunities for parents to select the educational venue for their children and it may stimulate competition among providers to improve the quality of education. However, public schools could be left with smaller budgets and higher costs.

Finally, increased telecommuting reduces the amount of time spent travelling back and forth to work which averages almost an hour a day in the U.S. – saving time and money. It would also reduce the emission of CO₂ (carbon dioxide) and other global warming gasses and allow greater geographic mobility for families boosting real estate development in rural and semi-rural areas, while shrinking demand in cities for rental units and high-rise office space.

'The Way Collective Impact Collaboration Brings Together People from Civil Society, Philanthropy, Government and the Business Sector into Collaboration' by Jennifer Splansky Juster

To solve complex problems, you need to use several methods. So we need a Collective Impact. This requires organizations from different disciplines to interact to coordinate activities and quantify improvements. The Stanford Social Innovation Review 2011 winter issue defines collective impact as 'the will of important actors, people, and stakeholders in various fields and communities for a common purpose to solve specific social problems' and derived five conditions for a collective impact approach.

- 1) Common Agenda
- 2) Shared Measurement
- 3) Mutually Reinforcing Activities
- 4) Continuous Communication
- 5) Backbone Support

Since the diversified, multi-layered and complex social problems of modern society are difficult to solve with only one method, cooperation and comprehensive efforts of several actors are required, and FSG has created principles for practice.

The most important principle is 'emphasis on fairness.' It is necessary to understand how to engage the socially disadvantaged in design and implementation, and to find a way to focus on strategies. In addition, cooperation between various possible fields should be drawn.

Collective Impact pursues systematic and fundamental changes that help the entire population. So dozens of organizations with diverse perspectives, not a few, should cooperate.

In Massachusetts, the U.S., teenagers' drug abuse has decreased by more than 30% by using Collective Impact to prevent smoking, drugs, and alcohol abuse. This is the result of efforts in the school system, cooperation between parents and law enforcement authorities, as well as cooperation between liquor sales companies by changing business practices. There are many encouraging examples out there and everyone's participation in this movement is needed.

'Innovations in Funding Social Welfare: Outcomes-Based Models' by Alex Nicholls

Outcomes-Based contracts are funded in connection with the outcome that appears to be the corresponding activity for a specific service. Impact bonds are also included in this, and impact bonds mean investing money in projects or private organizations that want to engage in public projects. If the contractual target outcome is confirmed, the government or local governments will execute the budget to make

investors profit. It has the advantage of being able to immediately respond to the increasing demand for welfare in a low birth rate and aging society.

Previously, the focus was on input and throughput of services, but now the focus is on outcomes, and these changes are bringing positive changes. Private capital can be administered to the public sector, actual impact can be confirmed through outcomes, and efficiency of public financial execution can also be improved. However, the most important effect is that it encourages the desired activities. By forming a consensus on positive outcomes between service providers and public clients, it can be directly linked to the achievement of predetermined public clients.

In addition, public finances are paid only when specific outcome is achieved, so the risk of new public projects with uncertain expected outcome is transferred to investors and service providers. The public sector helps service providers solve problems more flexibly and innovatively by providing incentives to do what they want, and service providers choose an evidence-based approach. It can also reduce costs and increase effectiveness by allowing multiple service providers to compete to provide better services.

Recently, interest in impact bonds is also increasing. The word "bond" is a different concept from bonds generally known and is a type of outcomes-based contract. Investors, service providers, and the public sector participate together.

In order to apply the impact bond model,

- △ Social and environmental issues where services are not properly provided
- △ Social outcomes to measure prices
- △ Investors who can risk providing services
- △ Outcome compensators who are ready to pay for

better outcomes at lower cost or even at higher cost

△ Service providers who can provide effective services are essential.

Various cases of applying Impact Bond appears these days. Development Impact Bond to improve learning performance of Indian girls, Conservation Impact Bond to protect rhinos in South Africa, and social outcomes-based bond projects to strengthen learning ability of children with borderline intelligence in Seoul social welfare facilities are the examples.

However, the concerns over the emergence of new colonialism through the Development Impact Bond, criticism that private capital is making profits on the back of the socially vulnerable through impact bonds, criticism that it unfairly distributes risks and profits and criticism that it does not provide an exit to service providers are emerging together with the implementation of impact bonds.

Part 1: “Social Protection and Social Security”

The session was held with 6 presentations on the Universal Basic Income around the world: Guy Standing, professional research associate at SOAS University of London, Lee Sun Woo, senior research engineer at Korea National Council on Social Welfare, Olavi E. Kangas, professor at University of Turku, Sandhya Iyer, associate professor at Tata Institute for Social Sciences and Rebecca Hasdell, professor at University of British Columbia.

Basic Income: An Ethical and Economic Imperative in an Era of Pandemics by Guy Standing

The Universal Basic Income should be a prop for the new income distribution system and it is a necessary measure to overcome the economic changes that have emerged over decades. He defined the UBI as “a citizen’s right to be paid to all citizens equally and regularly regardless of gender, marital status, household income and so on.” UBI for the high-income group can also be paid the same as for the low-income group, but the basic income paid can be recovered through the tax system according to social consensus.

Wealth and income enjoyed by the entire nation are not the result of our own efforts, but can be seen as inheriting public goods created by the hard work of previous generations that cannot be specified. The Universal Basic Income should be viewed as an equal social dividend.

In terms of environment, it can be understood as a concept of compensation for the high-income group receiving less damage from environmental pollution than the low-income group, even though the high-income group cause more environmental pollution than the low-income group. The justification of basic income can also be explained in terms of recognizing the legitimate value of unpaid domestic labor.

UBI guarantees more freedom and basic living, and provides psychological stability to individual citizens. In the COVID-19 pandemic situation, abnormal asset prices and inflation are concentrating wealth on some high-income groups and job insecurity for non-regular workers is intensifying which leads to the state’s obligation to ensure social security.

Korea's Social Protection System: Entering the Welfare State and Way Forward of its Development by Lee Sun Woo

Although Korea's public social security spending as a percentage of GDP is the lowest among OECD countries, it is the only country where the level of spending has increased significantly since 2010, unlike most OECD countries.

Korea's social security system is composed of social insurance, public assistance, and social services. The Korean social security system is a conservative welfare state centered on social insurance with low level of coverage in redistribution between income classes and national pension. It can also be seen as a liberal welfare state with a high dependence on market income, and a strong residual and selective character in income security, with wide welfare blind spots.

Recently in the COVID-19 pandemic situation, the characteristics of a conservative welfare state in which systems that have simple and universal selection standard, such as the basic disaster income, basic pension, child allowance and youth allowance, are gradually expanding.

Despite entering a super-aged society in 2025, the elderly poverty rate stood at 43.4% as of 2018, the highest among OECD countries, which will increase the burden of social security spending in the future.

As the social security system matures, it is necessary to pursue a Korean-style rationalist welfare state with a balanced multi-layered social protection system in the future. To this end, efforts should be made to increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the social security system through advanced ICT such as the recent

Korean New Deal policy and the establishment of a next-generation social security information system, while strengthening social security based on sustainability.

Lessons from the Finnish Basic Income Experiment by Olavi E. Kangas

In 2017, an experimental program to introduce a Basic Income in Finnish, received global attention. In this program, there were four different options which were 'Full basic income,' 'Partial basic income,' 'Negative income tax,' and 'other models.'

Soon, it was realized that the full basic income is unrealistic that it is too expensive and there were no possibilities whatsoever to test legally income tax or other models. Then only the partial basic income option was left and it became the basis of the calculations and evaluations.

The selection was taken from the unemployed persons whom receiving flat rate unemployment benefits from social insurance institution of Finland. 2,000 unemployed people became the participants and rest of the unemployed people receiving benefits formed the control group.

If the participants find employment, they earn additional benefit to 560 Euros and if they stayed at home, they just got 560 Euros per month. The Finnish government was mostly interested in the employment part.

During the second year, the differences began to develop. Nevertheless, those differences were not statistically significant in the whole group, but there were some specific groups where employment effects were significant, such as participants who had families, and those people who had immigrant backgrounds. This proves that

basic income does not necessarily diminish the will to work.

However, despite some positive effects of the basic income, Finland's existing social welfare system has not undergone much adjustment unlike other countries in the midst of a pandemic, and the people are generally satisfied with the social security system, so he conveyed his thoughts that there is no need to introduce a basic income system.

The Wage-Employment Conundrum & Universal Basic Income in India: Challenges, Opportunities and Emerging Lessons by Sandhya Iyer

Call for the introduction of UBI in India has come to centre-stage from the perspective of improving efficiency and effectiveness of public spending in the Economic Survey 2016-17. It articulated the scope of the UBI as encompassing four characteristics: periodicity, as cash, to individuals—and unconditionally.

COVID-19 pandemic has led to compression of wages across all economic activities. Amidst growing enthusiasm to convert all public subsidies for the poor to DBTs would have positive impact needs to be anticipated cautiously.

Although the basic income experiment showed positive effects, in various ways, such as improving children's academic performance and improving the health of low-income families, a basic income-based social security system that pays a certain amount to all citizens is not appropriate considering the financial situation of developing countries in India and Africa.

The problem is most developing countries are

dominated by informal sector, and the minimum wages are not determined. A reduction in income inequality through UBI would be possible only when there is sustained implementation of the policy as the real disposable income of those who receive such transfers needs to be maintained.

Therefore, fiscal policy needs to garner support through implementation of progressive taxes and introduction of consumption taxation to transfer of the resources that would reduce inequalities in market income. It also needs to encompass in-kind transfer subsidies of education and health. The UBI seems to be more in the nature of a superficial quick fix without tackling the underlying causes for the persistent deprivations.

Universal Basic Income and the Social Determinants of Health: State of the Evidence by Rebecca Hasdell

Individuals with lower income have poorer health outcomes. The correlation between income and health has become more pronounced after the onset of COVID-19.

Basic income experiments has been conducted in various countries such as the United States, Canada, and Kenya. As analysis of the experiment, in low-income countries, there was consistent evidence of measurable poverty reduction, although it was not sufficient to escape poverty in low and middle income countries. In high-income countries, there were result of increasing in income, but income inequality also increased.

Regarding the labor and employment, there were limited impact on labor market activities, with reductions for some groups, such as caregiving, and increased in other groups. On the education sector, it had a positive result that participation in work decreased for young people and children in

low and middle income countries. There also have been large increases in participation and retention, but educational performance indicators were less consistent.

In conclusion, the evidence is strongest for income, employment and education as mechanisms through which UBI-type policies impact health, however, evidence is still limited. There are 'trade-offs' and challenges to build the evidence base: universality and permanence. We have to think about that fully universal programs likely to have different impacts and participants' decisions may be different if payments were permanent and effects may take time to appear such as chronic disease.

Part 2: "Social protection and Corporate CSR"

The session was conducted with 4 presentations on the role and way forward of CSR activities: Lisa McIlvenna, deputy managing director at Business In The Community(BITC), Nam Jae In, vice president of SK SUPEX council, Min Hee Kyung, vice president of CJ CheilJedang, and Cho Sang Mi, professor at Ewha Womans University.

Collaborating for a Better Future? The Role of Business by Lisa McIlvenna

Business In The Community(BITC) has been carrying out various activities for Corporate Social Responsibility for the past 40 years, but has undergone great changes due to the pandemic in the past year.

In particular, Northern Ireland had many conflicts in various areas due to the clash of culture and identity with the UK region. And to compensate for these issues, BITC is striving for cooperation in four key areas.

First, in community resilience, BITC focuses on digital inclusion and volunteering in their member organizations. They also support them to think about education and the role that organizations can play and what they can do to inspire young people about their careers and their jobs in the future.

Second area is the volunteering and local skills and BITC focuses primarily on literacy, numeracy and coding.

Third, the environment is a huge issue for the member organizations. In this area, BITC work primarily around biodiversity, circular economy, benchmarking, and most recently, carbon.

Last key area is the well-being and inclusion. BITC work in relation to age and what organizations can do to be inclusive for people regardless of their age, gender, equality in the workplace, health and well-being.

BITC together with its member organizations and a number of founding partners, quickly created the national Business Response Network(BRN). The idea for the BRN was for organizations to collaborate with community partners to get resources out to those in the community that needed it the most. The BRN succeeded the collaboration right across the United Kingdom for organizations to work with companies, public sector and the community sector to ensure that resources are delivered well to those who needed the most in a short period of time.

To make such collaborations to success, two track approach was needed. First was about building the capacity of frontline community organizations. The range of provided support was from the professional skills to food, PPE, digital devices and so on. Second was to have a longer-term

approach to how business can collaborate to try and help society.

BITC also created a campaign called Build Back Responsibly(BBR). This campaign is about rethinking the way that we build back the society and economy.

BITC and the partner organizations have realized that they cannot make a difference or a big enough difference on their own. Only through Collaboration, by sharing their expertise and resources can make difference that they want to make. And they had the greatest impact in those areas where government, business and society are working together. The challenge for now is how do we structure ourselves as a society with the help of government to try and ensure that we leverage the support that business is offering and willing to give.

The Cases of SK Pursuing Social Values by Nam Jae In

In the past, it was important to know how much profit a corporate could provide to shareholders, but now, as society changes, it is important to ensure the happiness of all stakeholders, including society, business partners, customers and the government.

Accordingly, SK introduced the DBL(Double Bottom Line) management concept that considers both economic and social values in the decision-making process. It seeks to change from the existing fossil fuel-centered business model to a business model that is helpful to the environment, and also strives to solve social problems.

There are SK's two new approaches to pursue social values. First one is the supporting activities for social enterprise ecosystem. As an expert in

solving social problems, SK tries to make a positive impact. And one example of this activity is building a water purification center instead of donating 1.2 million dollars' worth water that SK have purchased to achieve a long-lasting effect.

SK nurtures social innovation talent to support the social enterprise ecosystem, revitalizes social finance and promotes various projects to enhance the competitiveness of social enterprises.

The second new approach that SK pursues for social value is to spread collective impact and social values through cooperation and collaboration. SK is carrying out a project to build a happy safety net through the corporate's flexible budget operation and quick decision-making.

Social Protection and CSR: the Cases of CJ by Min Hee Kyung

The social protection system in Korea consists of the primary safety net including social insurance, the secondary safety net of public assistance and the tertiary safety net that supports the near poverty groups and disaster medical expenses. Although the basic framework of social security is complete, there are still blind spots due to social and cultural changes after COVID-19 pandemic.

In line with CJ's corporate characteristics, from the perspective of culture and art, the 'basic right to culture' is a basic right necessary for citizens to lead a humane life, but the national level of support is insufficient compared to the basic economic right. Accordingly, the concept of a cultural safety net was introduced with the idea that a system is needed that can guarantee and support a minimum of cultural services, so that all citizens can enjoy opportunities for cultural activities.

In particular, the experience gap in culture and art has widened since the outbreak of COVID-19, and the income of artists has also declined sharply. CJ Welfare Foundation supports the cultural industry ecosystem through a project called "Cultural Dream Keeper" and supports cultural education for students.

In addition, CJ also contributes to the expansion of the cultural industry base and the creation of a healthy cultural ecosystem through tune-up which is a support for musicians entering the market, story-up which is a support for discovering directors and going global, and stage-up which is for discovering and supporting musical creators, for young creators.

Corporate CSR in the Era of Social Value: Is it a Social Protection? by Cho Sang Mi

Corporate Social Responsibility refers to a broader range of socially responsible activities beyond the traditional economic role of a corporate.

The external environment of corporate is changing, and corporate social responsibility, such as creating a good organizational culture, strengthening internal solidarity, enhancing corporate image, responsibilities as a corporate citizen and impacting non-profit organizations and local communities, is essential.

Today, the flow of corporate social responsibility starts with CSR and changes to sustainability, CSV, impact investment, ESG and so on. As the community safety net collapsed after the corona virus, small businesses, SMEs, youth entrepreneurship, and social enterprises were threatened. Community-based jobs also collapsed and inequality within the region increased.

Therefore, in order to solve social problems in the age of social value, it is necessary to propose a way forward in the relationship between the community and the social economy.

A transition of values that create new economic values is required through the realization of social values, and at the same time, social values and corporate social responsibility can be combined to pursue solutions through convergence and networks between sectors.

Efforts are needed through several methods: preemptive respond to changes in the social responsibility management and the external environment, diversity within the organization, strengthening regional problem-solving capabilities by expanding community participation and securing sustainability through multidimensional evaluation.

Part 3: "Social protection and civil society"

The session was conducted with 4 presentations on the role and way forward of civil society in the social protection and social welfare sector: Mariana Anton and Jeffrey Maganya, regional policy coordinator for social protection and social protection regional advisor at Oxfam, Lee Hae Young, Country Representative at Ashoka Korea, Kim Sung Joo, professor at North Carolina State University, and Lee Yeo Wool, team director at Good Neighbors.

The Power of Coalitions in Advancing Inclusive Social Protection Systems by Mariana Anton & Jeffrey Maganya

Despite the challenges faced by the COVID-19, civil society is working together to solve the problems in a variety of ways. The power of civil

society was enormous in solving the problem of blind spots that the government's policy did not reach. It performed various roles including providing essential social services and relief goods, and establishing a social protection system.

Therefore, civil society is an indispensable and important actor in the field of social protection. The 17th, the last of Sustainable Development Goals, is also a global partnership. Social dialogue and social participation play an important role.

Civil society offers policy makers a variety of perspectives when gaps arise among the works and activities governments do. Oxfam is committed to providing community leadership, advancing rights for social protection, and helping local communities and organizations for making necessary policy-making and changes in practices.

In the case of Cambodia, not only has it established a citizen-led social protection platform for the first time, but it is also pursuing new changes, such as signing business agreements for public finance management.

In the case of Africa, it was difficult for the poor and the socially vulnerable to participate in social protection, but their rights are being recognized through Oxfam's active activities.

Although there are many cases where NGOs are recognized as charitable organizations, Oxfam has a big difference in that it allows them to actively participate in society and gain rights. It will be of utmost importance for members of society to actively participate in policies such as social protection, and for each member to have the right to express their opinions.

Digital transformation of civil society assets and the use of data technology by Lee Hae Young

The Ashoka Foundation was ranked fifth in the social enterprise evaluation. The reason the outcome was high compared to the input was because it focused on system change as well as investment in people.

The first example of Ashoka Korea's experiment is 'digital transformation,' where a mobile app was developed that contains the social innovation stories of thousands of Ashoka Fellows.

The second innovation case was the 'Social Innovation Museum.' They opened a museum and held exhibitions related to environmental and climate change issues, and exhibitions dealing with current issues related to the aging society.

The third innovation case was 'Utilization of data technology.' This is a social innovation that is customized to an organization or individual. It uses AI language to analyze the SDGs and apply and analyze which civil society projects are available.

In order to convert the field-based assets accumulated by civil society into public goods, it is necessary to use digital transformation, content innovation, and data technology. It is expected that new social projects can be created using ICT.

Current status of civil society organizations(non-profit organizations) in the era of COVID-19 and cases of public-private cooperation by Kim Sung Joo

There must be enough discussion about how COVID-19 has affected civil society and what roles the government and civil society have played, so

that the topic of today's seminar, building a new social protection system in the post-COVID19 era, can be drawn. At the beginning of the COVID-19 outbreak, it was expected that non-profit organizations would suffer serious damage due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but contrary to expectations, there was no major damage. In particular, the program demands from the managerial aspect such as leadership, change of guidelines on non-profit accounting, and reinforcement of education for human resource management were emphasized.

Let's take a look at the cases of responses from governments in various countries.

In the case of Germany, Austria, the United Kingdom and Korea, it seems that the government and civil society maintained a cooperative relationship and implemented countermeasures during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The types in which civil society played a passive function under the strong government control include China, Turkey and Hungary. These countries consider civil society to be a subject of control.

In the case of Japan and Israel, there was a significant difference from the existing roles of the government and civil society, and civil society took the lead in resolving social problems and the role of prevention in the absence of active prevention of epidemics by the government.

The role of civil society in strengthening the ability to respond to the COVID-19 in local communities in developing countries by Lee Yeo Wool

Founded in 1991, Good Neighbors is promoting domestic welfare projects, social development education, international relief and development, and support for North Korea.

In the case of international relief and development projects, efforts are being made to achieve balanced development such as education, health, and drinking water, led by the Regional Development Committee and to ensure children's rights through community development projects in 37 countries.

In the early days of the COVID-19 outbreak, information on new issues was pouring out indiscriminately, while in developing countries such as Tanzania, there was no information at all, and the information gap was serious.

During the pandemic, the global poverty rate and the number of children from economically poor families increased. As schools were closed, new problems such as child labor and early marriage increased rapidly, and had a more fatal impact on developing countries and vulnerable groups in humanitarian aid situations.

In particular, there are serious negative effects on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: No.1 No Poverty, No.2 Zero Hunger, No.3 Good Health and Well-being, No.8 Decent Work and Economic Growth and No.10 Reduced Inequalities.

Good Neighbors established a global strategy with the goal of protecting the vulnerable and enhancing the resilience of local communities and

countries. Good Neighbors carried out projects for the production and distribution of sanitary products and food kits, the campaigns for the importance of COVID-19 prevention, and the protection of children.

In this crisis situation, civil society was able to come up with countermeasures to solve the problems based on close cooperation with established local organizations. Through partnerships with various actors, namely, local communities, governments, and international organizations, civil society has played a major role in responding to the field in an effective way, strengthening the social safety net including the underprivileged, and strengthening the responsiveness of the local community.

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**Contributions to the newsletter are
welcome!**