

# From the Editor

It is our great privilege and at the same time responsibility to publish the Gender Studies and Policy Review(GSPR). This scholarly journal has a double mission of informing the status and outcomes of Korean gender policies to the international communities and of providing a forum to stimulate discussion on gender, gender studies and gender policies for them. We hope that people feel at home and free to participate in this forum.

With this first edition of the GSPR, we attempted to give an outlook on the current status of Korean gender mainstream policies and on Korean Women's Development Institute as a pivotal agency to carry them out. Gender mainstreaming, the cutting edge gender policy, has received the full-fledged legislative support in Korea. There are the "Basic Act on Women's Development Act," which stipulates the legal basis for 'gender impact analysis(article 10)' and 'gender statistics(article 13),' and the "National Finance Act" for 'gender budget(article 16).'

However, the legal legitimacy is not always sufficient for implementing an "esoteric" policy such as gender mainstreaming. Gender mainstreaming is a term that does not ring a bell to most policy executioners, much less to the general public. It is not only the new coinage in Korean from the English word but also its concept that is unfamiliar to people. Many people (especially male constituents) not only believe that gender equality is a *fait accompli* but also do not buy the contention that gender equality help national development. They tend not to think that promotion of gender equality is an urgent project at the most.

We need women's organizations and scholarly discourse producers to fill in the gap. The Korean Women's Development Institute is a forefront agency to produce proofs, discourses, data, skills, know-how's and etc. to persuade and educate people including politicians, civil servants and entrepreneurs why gender mainstreaming is necessary and how to do it. The four papers contributed by the researchers of KWDI, Youngcock Kim, Kyunghye Kim, Kitaek Jeon, and Jaeseon Joo, attest to the difficulties of these processes as well as their accomplishments and necessity of further endeavors.

To balance this Korean picture of gender mainstreaming, we included that of international efforts. Carolyn Hannan contributes her paper with an overview of U.N. gender mainstreaming stating what efforts are needed to implement gender mainstreaming strategy and what they have accomplished. Like her Korean counterparts, she acknowledges the "persistent gap between policy and practice."

Gender mainstreaming being an ambitious project of integrating the mainstream into gender perspective, it faces obstacles and barriers in the real world ruled by the patriarchal perspective. However, failures do not stop gender mainstream strategists--local or international--from advocating more substantial investment in gender mainstreaming implementation.

Regina Frey gives us a German case of gender mainstreaming practice, especially how Germany has strived to settle gender mainstreaming as a policy tool both on the federal and regional levels. In her paper, Frey praises gender mainstreaming strategy for upgrading administrative culture by encouraging civil servants into systematizing decision making process, activating policy impact analysis, and deliberating on outcomes if used as “part of the normal procedures of governance.” To be the part of the normal procedures, however, is not easy due to resistance to gender equality policies and inevitable slowing down in the bureaucracy. Frey proposes some measures to counteract the unwelcome outcome.

Other than the gender mainstreaming topic, we are happy to present a scholarly paper on the relationship between gendered culture and gendered values. Aeri Lee attempts to show how some political attitudes of women are influenced by their Confucian socialization in Asian countries such as Korea and Japan. The author contends that in Asian culture where Confucian values still persist, although selectively, women’s situation such as marital status influences their political attitudes, which in turn determines their political participation. She also points to the interesting differences and similarities in values and political orientation between Korean and Japanese women, which may have resulted from cultural difference between the two countries.

We also included the introduction of the Korean Women’s Development Institute. We feel that it is desirable for the readers to get acquainted with the KWDI’s history, mission and achievements so that they better understand the intended direction of the Gender Studies and Policy Review published by the institute.

We are looking forward to receiving helpful comments on this issue and the journal itself and also thought-provoking papers from the reader.

**Sooyeon Lee**

Research Fellow of the Korean Women’s Development Institute