

Major Research Projects in 2008 and Future Projects

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2008 was a productive year for the KWDI which carried out 19 researches (excluding research assistance projects) for the purposes of: stimulating the demands for women's human resources, strengthening the assistance for economic activities, strengthening the protection of human rights and welfare rights of women, and eliminating the gap between the gender equality system and the public awareness, in addition to 8 more researches on timely themes germane to gender. And 56 commissioned researches were carried out in response to social change and demands for policy researches from various government agencies.

These research projects contributed to the formulation and implementation of government policies as they responded to major government goals related to women such as “Creating customized jobs for women,” “Raising gender equality to the level of an advanced nation,” and “Making a nation where women and children can feel safe to be in.”

As to the contents, in relation to “Creating customized jobs for women,” the following researches were carried out: 1) Policy tasks for creating women's jobs in social service sector (II), 2) Policy tasks for creating jobs for highly educated women with discontinued employment, 3) Measures to assist the development of vocational competence of elderly women, 4) Vision and policy tasks of the new government for developing and utilizing women's human resources, 5) A survey of working conditions of care-work employees and the case studies of advanced countries, and 6) Development and management of education and training programs for promoting the employment of women who had discontinuity in employment.

For “Raising gender equality to the level of an advanced nation,” the following researches were carried out: 1) Visions and strategic tasks of the new government for women's policies, 2) A research on the institutionalization of gender-sensitive budgets (II), 3) A research on the effective establishment of a system of gender mainstreaming (II), 4) Building a gender-sensitive statistical information system, 5) A research for the legislation of the gender impact evaluation analysis act (Draft), and 6) A research on improving the implementation review of the women's policy basic plan.

As to “Making a nation where women and children can feel safe to be in,” the following researches were carried out: 1) Measures to prevent and protect children against the recurrence of sexual violence crimes, 2) Measures to create the safe living environment safe for women, 3) Domestic violence against women marriage-based immigrants and measures to improve the assistance system, and 4) Measures to improve services for violence against women: focusing on the system to assist victims of domestic and sexual Violence.

In addition, a number of studies were carried out on the system of improving the compatibility of work and family such as “An International Comparative Study of the Work-Family Balance Policies and the Policy Tasks for Korea,” “Building a Woman-Friendly Industry Model,” and “The Current State of Child Care and

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the Measures to Eliminate the Blind Spots.”

Such research achievements have been recognized by outside institutions and organizations as important and excellent policy and academic researches. For example, Hankyong Business awarded the first place in the women and labor divisions of “100 Think Tanks that Move Korea” in 2008 to KWDI. This goes to show that the KWDI is the leading women's policy research institute in Korea.

In addition to carrying out researches that correspond to governmental tasks or for social change, the KWDI is making efforts to mobilize public opinion through women's policy forums, various international symposiums, and seminars that are based upon the KDWT's researches and to publicize women's policies through active engagement with mass media. Women's Policy Forum not only contributed to the presentation of policy alternatives on various current issues but also helped to form social opinions on “Affirmative Employment Improvement Measures: Achievements of 2 Years and Tasks,” “Diagnosing Safety of Girls in Korean Society,” and “How to Revise the Custody Act.” And, it also made efforts to publicize the development and achievements of Korean women's policies through themes like “The Institutionalization of Gender-sensitive Budget in the World: Achievements and Tasks,” and “Balancing Work and Family: An International Academic Symposium on the Work-Family Balance Policies,” and to reflect upon policy development by drawing policy implications from the cases of advanced nations. Furthermore, Women's Policy Forum became a platform for reflecting upon the role of Korea in the global world and encouraging discussions through topics like “Immigration and Gender from a Multicultural Perspective: Centered on Asian Experiences,” “United Nations Convention to Eliminate Discrimination Against Women and the Protection of Women's Human Rights,” “Gender Mainstreaming of Development Assistance and the Tasks,” and “The Current State of Gender-sensitive Statistics in the Asia-Pacific Region and the Role of Korea.”

In 2009, it is expected that a gender mainstreaming system will be established and distributed. For example, gender sensitive budget will be introduced and gender impact evaluation will be expanded. Not to mention, demands for women's policies that are not only for institutional development but also for the benefit of people's daily lives are increasing. Unfortunately, the conditions for women's economic activities have degenerated due to current economic recession and women's safety is being threatened by violent crimes. Therefore in 2009, the KWDI plans to execute 35 research projects based on the achievements of previous years and under the main research goals of creating women's jobs and strengthening women's competence, protecting women's human rights and promoting the level of gender equality, effectively establishing the gender mainstreaming system and strengthening global status, and consolidating the support system for the work-family balance.

In addition, the KWDI plans to establish the “Life Agenda Customer Panel” and organize the “Visiting Forum for gender equality in daily lives” for the purpose of seeking policy agenda from the level of daily life for gender equality.

Lastly, but not least, it plans to strengthen policy networks with various experts and women leaders of various strata to secure broader support groups for women's policies. It is expected that such efforts and achievements of the KWDI will greatly contribute to realizing gender equality in Korean society.