

Major Research Projects for 2011 and Future Plans

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The Korean Women's Development Institute has placed four major items on its research agenda for 2011: expansion of jobs for women and support for work-life balance; development of strategies to respond to the country's low birth rate, aging population, and diversifying family structures; establishment of a more gender-sensitive system and culture for social integration; and developing infrastructure more conducive to the qualitative improvement of gender-mainstreaming policies.

Expansion of women's employment and support for work-life balance was selected in order to facilitate the expansion of women's participation in economic activities. The projects falling under this category are the following: First, ongoing research projects are being conducted designed in response to policy issues in the knowledge-based service, social service, and female entrepreneur sectors. Second, research is underway to help enhance the effectiveness of policies related to women's career discontinuance and to better measure the social costs of this issue. Third, projects being performed to examine the effectiveness of the flex-time system that is aimed at promoting a balance between work and family lives, as well as to promote the system across the public and private sectors.

The second research thrust, the development of strategies to respond to the ongoing rapid demographic changes in the country, including a low birth rate, aging population, and emergence of diverse types of family, has been identified in order to identify the future of women and family and to devise a future-oriented policy agenda. Policy measures are being studied with an aim to enhance the effectiveness of a range of systems designed to ease the existing burdens placed on individual families, such as child-rearing and support for seniors. In addition, research is being conducted regarding the development of policy issues and measures to address the growing trend of delayed marriage and childbearing.

The third research prong, establishment of a gender-sensitive system and culture for social integration, aims at completing a comprehensive review of policies related to a multicultural society and a more proactive response to the connected issues. In addition to studies on multiculturalism, there is ongoing research into violence against women and children as well as studies aimed to help resolve latent or gradually emerging gender and generational conflicts.

Finally, the crafting an infrastructure conducive to the qualitative improvement of gender-main-

streaming policies aims to enhance the quality of these policies, seeing as a systemic foundation has been deemed to have been laid, including gender impact assessments, gender budgeting, and gender statistics. For this area, research is underway designed to quantify the achievements of these systems and offer specific policy measures for their further advancement. Despite the legal and systemic stops made toward gender equality, much of the general public has yet to observe progress in their daily lives. As part of the effort to bridge the gap dividing policy and reality, research is being conducted to monitor the discrepancies and assist with the qualitative improvement of gender mainstreaming policies.

Within this research framework, in 2011 the Institute has embarked on a total of 30 general and special research projects and nine irregular and short-term projects crafted as a response to pressing policy issues. In addition, approximately 50 projects are commissioned on an annual basis from different government ministries and other organizations. Among all of these, seven core projects for 2011 have been selected:

- Strategies for economic growth and jobs for women (II): policies on jobs in the service industry
- Policy agenda for the creation of jobs for women in the social service sector (II): social enterprises for female care-workers
- Prospects on the future of family and policies on women and family
- Pregnancy among women aged 35 or older and policy implements to support them
- Measures to create a safe community environment for and women and girls (III): Status of and measures against female adolescents' experience of sexual violence, domestic violence, and prostitution among
- Establishment of a policy paradigm in response to the transition to a multiethnic and multicultural society (V): Achievements of policies on a multicultural society and remaining challenges
- Analysis and evaluation of gender budgeting
- Strategies for improved quality of life

The following table shows the plans of each research center within the Institute for future research projects.

Research center	Plans for future research projects
Gender Budget Research Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research has been conducted into the gender budgeting system since 2007. - Research has been carried out since 2009 in order to assist in the selection of target projects for gender budgeting and operation of the gender budgeting system. - In line with the expansion of the system to local autonomous bodies, research will be undertaken to support the successful deployment of the gender budgeting system within local governments. Comprehensive

Research center	Plans for future research projects
	research will be also devised conducive to the continued advancement of the system.
Center for Gender Statistics and Longitudinal Surveys	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Production and compilation of a database for customized statistics in line with gender impact assessment and gender budgeting undertaken by central and local governments - Continuous operation of the gender statistics system - Continued production of gender statistics (statistics on subjects related to daily lives such as women's health and female immigrants arriving through international marriages), for which the demand is rising, as well as research on relevant indices
Gender Impact Assessment Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Research has been conducted since 2004 into gender mainstreaming, a comprehensive analysis of gender impact assessment in both South Korea and other countries, and cultivation of models. - Aiming to assist a further improvement of the gender impact assessment system and to support its expansion to local governments, provision of consulting to relevant public servants, in-depth analyses for gender impact assessment of major policies, establishment of a gender mainstreaming policy network both domestically and internationally, and creation and management of a database on gender impact assessment will be promoted, among other efforts.
Family Policy Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Currently, the center's research is focused on identifying practical issues and policy suggestions related to diverse types of families (working-parent families, single-parent families, grandparent-grandchild families, multicultural families, etc.), as well as the creation of a more family-friendly social environment to accompany an aging society. - Future research agenda items include family-related policies able to promptly respond to societal changes such as diversifying family structures, economic turbulence, and development of information and communication, as well as the establishment of infrastructure and a support system for vulnerable families.
Human Rights and Dignity Center for a Multicultural Society	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The center's recent major research agenda includes methods to improve laws related to the protection of women's human rights and prevention of discrimination against women; protection of the human rights of female immigrants arriving through international marriages; and the creation of a secure environment for women and girls. - In the future, research will be conducted on the advancement of the legal and institutional infrastructure to become comparable to other industrialized countries in terms of protection of women's human rights and prevention of violence against women, in addition to other projects commissioned by government ministries.
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Given that the political participation of South Korean women remains

Research center	Plans for future research projects
Center on Gender Equality Policy	<p>as low as in some less-developed nations, research will continue to be conducted into measures to increase women's political participation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The center will continuously perform research on raising public awareness of the value of gender equality, entrenchment of a gender-equal culture, eradication of gender-role stereotypes, raising gender awareness among men, and techniques to ease gender-role conflicts.
Women's Employment Policy Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The utilization rate of the female workforce in South Korea is the lowest among OECD countries. - Research will continue on policies to address women's unemployment, policies to foster youth employment, prevention of career interruption, policies designed to support women's employment such as the introduction of flex-time, employment services for women and measures to improve women's job skills, measures to promote employment of female members of vulnerable groups (the working poor, youth, irregular workers, etc.) and to improve their working environment.
Human Resources Policy Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Compared to other OECD countries, South Korea has a wide gender gap in enrollment rates at institutions of tertiary education (including post-graduate programs). In particular, the gap is considerable in terms of the cultivation of highly skilled individuals with master's degrees or higher, a subject upon which the center has recently conducted research. - In the face of a rapidly graying population, more focus will be placed on continuing education for senior women, who tend to have a relatively low level of education, retraining after interrupted careers, and measures to enhance the vocational skills of women in vulnerable groups.
International Development and Cooperation Team	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The team is committed to the development of gender-equality policies for developing countries by means of official medium-to-long term development assistance, such as the project to strengthen the infrastructure for gender equality policies in the Asia Pacific region, that reflect the Institute's experience and expertise. In particular, given the international trend of witnessing the effectiveness of assistance, our team is planning to present a module and development model for women's policies that reflect the needs of developing countries based on thorough regional research.