

GLOBAL COOPERATION: SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INNOVATION

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ABSTRACT

The number of prominent economists has pointed out the critical role of technology in promoting economic growth. Joseph A. Schumpeter considered technological innovation as a major force of economic growth, and Robert M. Solow argued that only technological progress can make permanent growth possible. In addition, Paul M. Romer has explicitly introduced the research sector into economic model.

Especially, Solow has suggested that poorer countries can catch up richer countries if they can receive better information and technology. That is, advanced countries can boost economic growth of less developing countries (LDCs) through transferring more information and better technology. Solow's remark would be the theoretical background of global cooperation in science, technology and innovation.

In early stage of economic development, Korean government wanted to promote the technology capacity of a nation by investing on R&D and education. In order to facilitate technological development, Korean government established the KIST (Korea Institute of S&T) in 1966 and the KIST has provided critical contribution since then. The Battelle Memorial Institute of US has supported the establishment as well as development of KIST in early stage. In addition, Korea has extensively utilized global cooperation with US, Japan, France and UK in the process of S&T development and economic growth.

As a more developed country, Korea has started participating in multilateral cooperation activity via international organizations such as World Bank, UN Agency, OECD and other regional development organizations (ADB, AfDB & IfDB) since 1990s. Since 2010, Korea has substantially increased the volume of ODA (official Development Assistance) as a member country of OECD DAC.

During that process, Korea has actively participated global cooperation in the field of science, technology and innovation. Through OECD, APEC and ASEAN+3, Korea has followed major issues and agenda of global S&T community. At the same time, Korea has gradually increased cooperation with developing countries by providing policy consultation and joint R&D. As a GRI (Government Research Institute), STEPI has extensively participated in multilateral cooperation scheme as well as S&T based ODA.