

Social Development in the World Bank

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講演者の石原氏は本学中国語科の卒業生である。今回の講演会は質疑応答の一部を除き全て英語により進行し、通訳専攻の大学院学生による同時通訳が実施された。講演では題目の”Social Development in the World Bank”とは何か、石原氏が現在世界銀行で取り組んでいるコーカサス地方でのプロジェクトを例に用いながら講義が行われた。

<What is Social Development?>

As to the World Bank's definition, Social Development means transforming institutions to promote better growth better projects and better quality of life for people. What institution is very unclear due to its wide range of the meaning that the term has. It can mean framework, scheme, or some conception. Also it can mean tangible things such as organization like the World Bank. The unclearness of institution creates some problems for social development to actually be on operation.

<Three operational principles to Social Development>

- Inclusion (Inclusive Institution)

Inclusive institutions promote equal access to opportunities, enabling everyone to contribute to social and economic progress and share in its rewards.

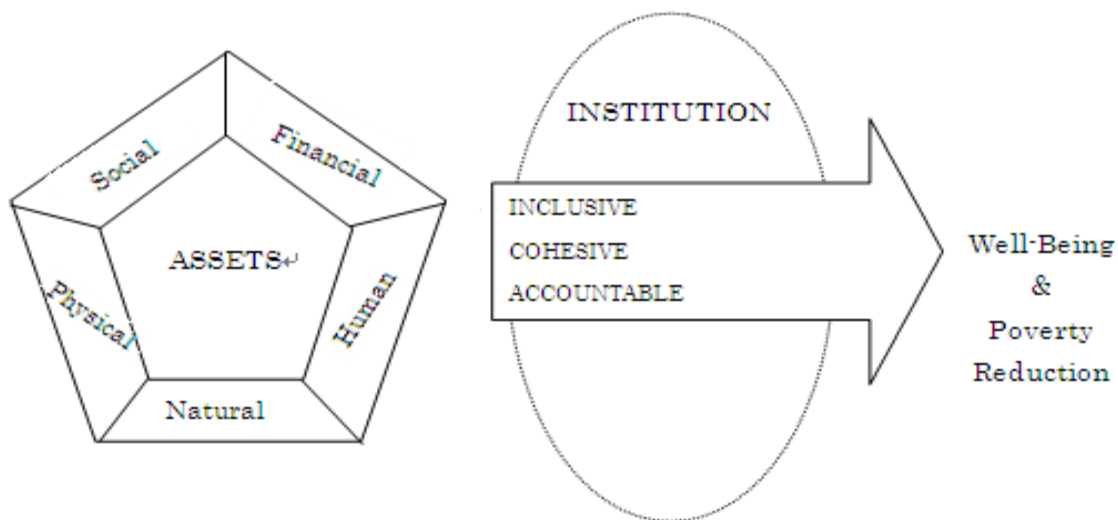
- Cohesion (Cohesive Society)

Cohesive societies enable women and men to work together to address common needs, overcome to constraints and consider diverse interests. They resolve differences in a civil, non-confrontational way, promoting peace and security.

- Accountability (Accountable Institutions)

Accountable institutions are transparent and respond to the public interest in an effective, efficient and fair way.

Building inclusive institutions, cohesive societies and accountable institutions, cohesive societies and accountable institutions will improve people's welfare. In short, as shown in the schematic diagram, the assets are transformed into welfare through institution with inclusion, cohesion and accountability.



And the question is what does it mean in the World Bank's business that the Social Development aims to transform institutions? What are the abstract concepts of the development in the World Bank? And what do social development specialists do to achieve the objective?

<“Triple Bottom Line” of sustainable infrastructure>

This is a new concept which has been developed in a context of infrastructure development. Quite often, project objectives are not maintained and as a result the supposed benefit is not obtained. Therefore, there needs to be something more than financing for infrastructure to achieve sustainable development and that is the “Triple Bottom Line”.

The “Triple Bottom Line” is

- Economic and financial viability

The state should benefit.

- Environmental sustainability

There is a need to achieve balance between material development and exploitation of natural resources.

- Social inclusion

Social development needs social inclusion as discussed earlier.

I would like to explain more about social inclusion in using the examples.

<Georgia Secondary and Local Roads Project>

This is a project to rehabilitate 700km of secondary/local roads connecting rural area with growth centres. This is not high ways, but roads which connect between city centre and rural area such as villages. The roads with higher economic return and/ or higher distributional/ poverty impact were selected.

<Azerbaijan Highway 2 Project>

This is a project to rehabilitate both the regional arterial road and its connecting roads to expand impact. The project prioritizes rural roads with high cost effectiveness and then rejects roads with low economic rates of return. But as a social development specialist we will take consideration not only about the whole country’s economy impact but the regional impact. The key task for the World Bank is safeguards. If there will be new roads, the shops around the existing road loses business. Therefore, the negative impact needs to be minimized and be compensated. The money lend by World Bank should not be used to lower any people’s the welfare. This is a very tough requirement.

<Armenia Lifeline Roads Improvement Project>

This is a project to rehabilitate 250km of lifeline roads, which are the rural road links

connecting rural communities to an inter-state road. Roads with low rates of return are rejected like the other projects. Also, the program included introducing Micro-enterprise for road maintenance to the villages and the “Safe village” program, a road safety campaign through educations. This shows a good example of the social development projects which considers both about economic welfare and the social welfare.

<Azerbaijan Rural Investment Project>

This is a project to rehabilitate critical infrastructure in 500 rural communities. In this project, the beneficiary communities identified issues and the project staff helped to identify the cost effective technical solutions since the beneficiaries know the problem or the needs the best but necessarily know the effective technical solution. This is most effective, which means how many people will benefit. Also environmental guidelines are developed and the “regional design companies” design the standards. The idea is to hire the region based design companies to have higher chance of sustainability.

<The World Bank as a bank>

Lastly, the World Bank is a bank. We don't implement projects- we finance projects and supervise implementation. Basic Task of Bank staff is fiduciary. The World Bank is going beyond “fiduciary” responsibilities to design better projects. However, we need to keep in mind that the primary responsibility in design and implementation of project remains with governments. It's their projects, not ours. It's their money, not ours. This is a Dilemma that we face.

世界銀行で実際に石原氏が取り組んでいる具体的なプロジェクトを例に行われた講演は、**Social Development** の在り方はもちろんのこと、世界銀行の役割や世界銀行での業務、そして本学卒業生のキャリアについて詳しく知ることができる大変貴重なものであった。そのため、質疑応答もとても活発に行われ、本講演や世界銀行に関する質問だけでなく、どのように大学で得た語学というスキルを活かしていけばよいか、といった本学での学びとキャリアの関連についての質問も多くみられた。世界で活躍する本学中国語科卒業生である石原氏の姿は、ますます学生たちの国際協力というフィールドへの関心を向上させたことに違いない。