

Accountability as An Institutional Platform for Development Partnerships

Taekyoon Kim

Associate Professor of International Development

Graduate School of International Studies

Seoul National University

oxonian07@snu.ac.kr

Motivations

- What are the factors that motivate a country to pursue (mutual) accountability in development cooperation?
- How does the country assess the effectiveness of development assistance?
- How does the development such as Busan partnership agreement or BRICS block affect the prospects of cooperation among North East Asian countries?

Components of Accountability

- Responsibility
 - An essential component of accountability in the sense that those in positions of authority have clearly defined duties and performance standards, enabling their behaviours to be assessed transparently and objectively
- Answerability
 - Public officials and institutions need to provide reasoned justifications for their actions and decisions to those they affect, including the public at large.
- Enforceability
 - Requires public institutions to put mechanisms in place that inspect the degree to which public officials and institutions comply with established standards, impose sanctions on officials who do not comply, and ensure that appropriate corrective and remedial action are taken when required.

Why Accountability?: Controlling Buck-Passing for Partnerships

		Recipient	
		High effort	Low effort
Samaritan	No help	2, 2	1, 1
	Help	4, 3	3, 4

Dominant Strategy

Sources: Buchanan (1977: 170); recited from Gibson, Andersson, Ostrom, and Shivakumar (2007: 38).

Why Accountability?: Controlling Buck-Passing for Partnerships

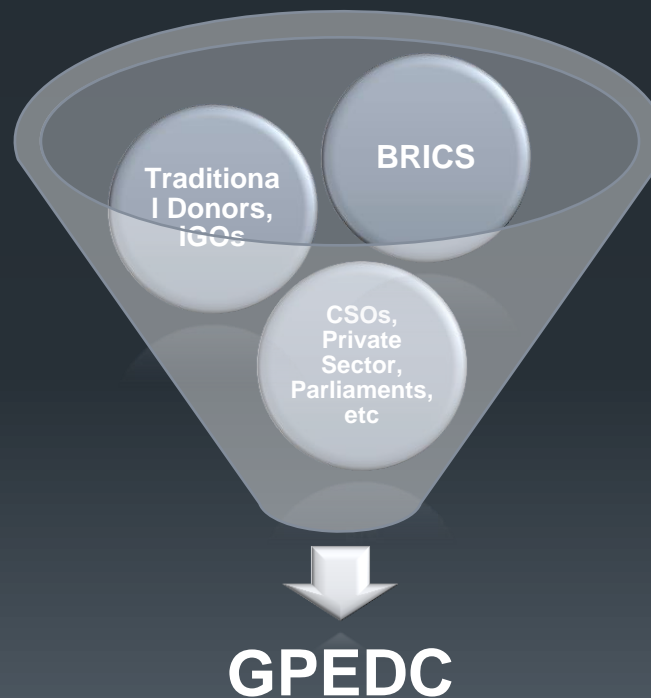
- Preventing collective action problems
 - “Unless the number of individuals is quite small, or unless there is coercion or some other device to make individuals act in their common interest, *rational self-interested individuals will not act to achieve their common or group interests*” (Olson 1965).
- Preventing ‘free-riding’ as the non-contributor benefits
- Preventing buck-passing in cases of multiple actors
 - Buck-passing occurs whenever multiple actors jointly use a single common-pool resource in the absence of effective institutions to control the behaviors of actors (Hardin 1968).

Assessing Effectiveness of Development

- Transparency and effective implementation and monitoring mechanism for common goals
- Busan partnership agreement on IATI
 - The gains made on transparency at the global level should translate into real benefits at country level.
- South-South Cooperation partners will continue to improve the availability of information on the scope, results and impacts of their cooperation actions, according to methodologies conceived by developing countries that better fit their specificities.

GPEDC Embracing BRICS

**Paradigm Shift
from aid
effectiveness to
effective
development
cooperation**



**Inclusive
Partnerships**

**International Aid
Transparency
Initiative (IATI)**

Politicization of Accountability in Northeast Asia

- Co-existence of DAC donors and middle power donors
- Development partnerships among donors, rather than between aid givers and aid receivers
- Easier to securitize accountability issues as political tensions in the region of Northeast Asia (historical redress, territorial tensions and so on)
- Finding a way of accountability tailored for a new conceptual effort for the context of Northeast Asia
 - Soft accountability: A flexible conceptualization of accountability, designed to enhance its adaptability of Northeast Asian partners on the basis of their own distinctions of contextual environments
 - Among the three components of MA discussed above, responsibility would be the main foundation and stepping stone of soft accountability
- Nonstate actors, mainly CSOs, as main engines to encourage development cooperation among Northeast Asian countries
- Linking national accountability institutions with internationally recognized accountability standards

Concluding Remarks

- Establishing accountability mechanisms to minimize risks of buck-passing and to maximize trust-building among partners
- The more actors involved in development partnerships, the more need to institutionalize accountability mechanisms.
- Alignment of accountability mechanisms at national and international levels is critical.
- GPEDC is a better platform to embrace non-OECD-DAC donors and non-state stakeholders.
- Conceptualizing 'soft' accountability tailored to the context of Northeast Asia