

Perspective of national policy for empowerment of women in S & T

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In Korea , the policies related on women' s rights were initiated based on ‘Act on Women 's Development’, which was enacted on December 30, 1996, and implemented on July 1, 1996 ‘The Act on Women's Development’ aims at enhancing gender equality and equality protection in employment uplifting women's rights.

KWSE was established in 1993 and contributed to the establishment of the 'Childcare Facilities Complex in the Daedeok' and ‘Act on Fostering and Supporting Women Scientists and Technicians ' (enacted on December 18, 2002 and enacted on July 30, 2003). After KWSE hosted ICWES13 at Ewha Womans University in 2005, its role was expanded in the International Network of Women Engineers and Scientists (INWES) so that Prof. Kong-Joo Lee was elected as a President of INWES for 2011-2017 accordingly. Furthermore, the KWSE proposed officially an Asian Network under the umbrella of INWES at 2010 in accordance with my proposal so that KWSE began to play a key role in INWES and Asia-Pacific regions.

Taiwanese female scientists, who had shown great interest in the activities of the KWSE, invited me as a president of KWSE to give a lecture to a Taiwanese high school students in 2010. Since then, it was a cornerstone to introduce the activities of the KWSE to Taiwan. Also, as the president of KWSE for 2010-2011, it was an opportunity for me to recognize that science and technology diplomacy is very important for Korea to sustain innovative growth through science and technology.

It was a motivation that KWSE officially proposed to formulate the Asian Network under the umbrella of INWES at 2011 in accordance with my proposal so that KWSE began to play a key role in INWES and Asia-Pacific regions. Besides it is expected that KWSE could internationally serve as a bridge or a hub between developing and developed countries. These proposals have been of great interest to the policy on the enhancement of capacity building for life cycle for women in science and technology, and during my term as a member of the National Assembly, I promoted funding to conduct a survey on the development of capacity for each life cycle and thought KWSE could make an international research project reality.

In order to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the KWSE and the 10th anniversary of the enactment of ‘Act on Fostering and Supporting Women Scientists and Technicians’, we held an international conference to propose a science diplomacy led by women's science and technology and to provide policy advice through surveys. While WISET has been concentrating on fostering domestic women in science and technology and strengthening their capacity building on life cycle, KWSE has put a lot of efforts into promoting international network and scientific diplomacy with enhancing capacity of female researchers.

For the better future, it is a time *to discuss on proposing new policies to support the roles and responsibility of women scientists and engineers to contribute to develop science and technology by excavating international collaborative research to solve global social issues.*