

Comments of the Government of the Republic of Korea on Open Government Partnership End-of-Term Report for the 2nd National Action Plan 2014-2016 of the Republic of Korea

Preface

With the Republic of Korea(ROK) End-of-Term Report 2014-2016 (hereinafter referred to as “the Report”) published, the process of ROK’s 2nd National Action Plan has officially come to an end. We express our appreciation to a national researcher, Geoffrey Cain, and Independent Report Mechanism (IRM) staff members for assessing the ROK’s implementation of commitments and writing the Report. Reflecting the recommendations in the Report, the ROK government will continue its efforts on implementing commitments of the 3rd National Action Plan and develop ambitious and concrete commitments for the 4th National Action Plan in collaboration with a variety of government ministries and civil society organizations (CSOs).

The following is the ROK government’s comments on the Report to make the assessment for the government’s efforts on implementation of the 2nd National Action Plan more just and balanced.

Sampling

The ROK government points out that the pool of cases targeted for verification and the group of interviewees in the Report are fairly small in size and lack representativeness. An instance is as follows:

In the September 2016 self-assessment report, MOI offered the example of “e-People ideas,” a mobile-friendly participation platform that allows citizens to make one-way suggestions for policies. However, this does not always include requirements for the government to inform citizens of how their proposals are considered and applied in the decision-making process. The researcher conducted an audit of three randomly chosen policy discussions on the e-people site and found government agencies promoting their policies, in which citizens could vote on proposals without a two-way debate and in which the comments sections were largely dead. (page 10)

This audit which was conducted with merely three randomly chosen policy discussions on e-People shows a limited number of samples compared to 3,415 cases of discussion posted online as of June 19, 2017. When conducting desk research, a researcher needs to draw a conclusion based on more balanced pool

of evidence.

Here comes another:

[I]t should be noted civil society stakeholders have expressed reservations in considering commitment milestones complete (further details below). As it relates to the spirit of the commitment to increase two-way collaboration between citizens and policy makers, stakeholders do not consider the e-people platform updates a new or improved tool for policy debate. (page 10)

However, the researcher should not generalize since groups referred to as a civil society stakeholders do not vary in the Report. The Report would have been able to include more balanced voices if the researcher had interviewed those who have actually participated in policy discussions through e-People or e-People's ideas.

Furthermore, in many parts of the Report the researcher simply cites an academic paper written by Professor Chung Chung-sik, without reviewing it from an independent and critical perspective. For instance, the report quotes him by saying as below (p.2):

[A]mong 100 ODSC members, none are engaged in Strategy Council work full-time and the chairman of the council heads several other government committees in addition to this one.⁴ This could suggest that the ODSC is being conducted as "business as usual," with the same inside figures trusted by the government, rather than being inclusive of a wider national civil society community. Furthermore, rather than mediating discussions between government ministries to facilitate policy-making or mutual collaboration, the council, he writes, in reality fulfills deliberative and executive functions and is little more than a messenger for government policies. (page 2)

The Open Data Strategy Council (ODSC) was established according to the Open Data Act as an advisory council under the Prime Minister's Office. Its aim is to strategically promote data sharing and data use beyond government's "business as usual." The ODSC reviews open data master plans and its delivery plans, examines and assesses the implementation of policies. Furthermore, in order to implement policies based on incorporated views from various stakeholders, it guarantees the participation of experts from central and local government offices, public institutions, corporations, academia, the media and CSOs. Recently, for the benefit of stronger networks with the private sector including CSOs, the ODSC established the Specialist Committee for Public-Private Partnership.. The government has also designated an officer in charge of

public data in each ministry to have a strategic framework for all levels of the policy-making process. Against this backdrop, we disagree with Professor Chung's view that the absence of full-time committee member is an issue. Furthermore, it should also be noted that the chairman of the council heading other government committees can have various policies at ministerial levels linked with one another for better and more effective coordination.

To sum up, it is inappropriate to assess the implementation of commitments with a merely small number of cases and comments of a few 'stakeholders.' The ROK government hopes that the future IRM reports include voices of various stakeholders in a impartial manner in the process of assessment.

Need for More Accuracy in Fact Check

The Report has some comments in need of fact check, which are presented below.

First, the Report explains that the Feedback Survey commissioned by the Government 3.0 Committee has been conducted with three questions. (page 2) However, in reality, the survey referred in the Report consists of nine questions in six categories designed to select priority data among 36 sets of government data in 16 sectors, understand the challenges of data sharing, know the demand of users for new types of data and collect information for analysis on public demand to support enterprises using public data and encourage data use. The questions of the survey referred in the Report are those of the Government 3.0 Satisfaction Survey, which needs clarification.

Second, about the e-People website the Report writes "*In addition, relevant government agencies could list the contact information for the civil servants in charge of reviewing specific petitions on the e-People website, so stakeholders may contact them directly and initiate a two-way conversation about the commitment.*" (page 12) However, the contact information of civil servants in charge of reviewing petitions is posted on the e-People platform. (See Reference 1)

Third, another example of erroneous information is from an interview with a stakeholder that goes "*One stakeholder, Jennifer Kang, a member of the Open Data Strategy Council, said this challenge continues to limit the impact of this commitment. She cites as an example the data category, "city planning facilities information" ("도시계획 시설정보"), where a .CSV file should be available, but instead the government website links to a non-readable PDF document. Kang believes this and similar examples¹⁷ illustrate that the data format continues to*

lack standardization, and points out many instances of .HWP or .PDF formats being used, rather than .CSV or readable Excel formats. She also called for a stronger system of eliciting user feedback, which she believes has been lacking on the current MOI web system.(page 30)” In order for citizens to use data in various formats, public institutions are obliged to release data in the .hwp format with other types of formats including .csv. When data can only be provided as a .hwp file, it is recommended that the file can be open in other word processors. Regarding the cited example, once you search “city planning facilities information” on the public data platform at www.data.go.kr, you will find relevant files in the format of .csv or .xml (See Reference 2), which shows that the cited information has not been verified.

Fourth, with reference to milestone 2.d.4 Post Ethics Inspections Online under commitment 2.d Strengthening Public Service Ethics, the Report codes its implementation as “limited”, writing that *“The 2016 government self-assessment report states that audit results are posted on the Government Public Ethics Committee website at www.gpec.go.kr/servlet/GpecServlet. The IRM researcher confirmed in June 2016 that the audit results had been posted on the website; however, upon subsequent visits to the webpage later in 2016, the audit information was not available. The IRM researcher, a research assistant, and IRM staff members have independently tried to access the audit information and at the time of writing this report (May 2017), all confirm that the website fails to load. Therefore, it remains difficult to verify what happened after June 2016, and if the audit results are still posted as required by this milestone.”*(page 25) However, once visiting the Government Public Ethics Committee website(www.gpec.go.kr), you can find the results of ethics inspections in the menu “취업심사 및 취업이력” (Ethics Inspections and Results) under “위원회 운영” (Activities) (See Reference 3) Therefore, this milestone needs to be re-evaluated as “completed,” rather than “limited.”

Line between “Information” and “Data”

The Korean legal system sees data and information differently. “Information” refers to ‘documents that public institutions write or acquire and manage for public affairs’ as defined in the Freedom of Information Act, while “data” refers to ‘documents or information processed in an electronic manner that public institutions write or acquire and manage’ in the Open Data Act. The objectives and the delivery of disclosing ‘information’ and ‘public data’ are also different. While ‘information disclosure’ aims to assure the people’s right to know, encourage citizen participation and enhance government transparency, the objectives of ‘data sharing’ are to guarantee the people’s right to use data and encourage the private sector to utilize it. Furthermore, the Open Data Act

stipulates that ‘data’ are provided in the machine readable format, which is differentiated from information disclosure which does not have any delivery regulations.

Although the ROK government did provide such an explanation on the distinction between the two categories, the Report seems to have failed to reflect it. The Report still uses the term “information” and “data” interchangeably, with excerpts of interviews that deal with data in the part of information disclosure. Therefore, two paragraphs that are wrongly placed in information disclosure part need to be removed, and implementation levels of the relevant milestones of the commitment 2.c information disclosure should be reevaluated.

One stakeholder, Kyungsin Park, Director at Open Net Korea and Professor of Law at Korea University at Korea University,⁴ expressed concerns that the Ministry appears to be posting repeat datasets on the same topic from individual administrative districts, rather than creating a single data portal to eliminate redundancies and to allow datasets from individual districts to be collated. With scattered data across hundreds of districts nation-wide, Kyungsin estimates that the actual number of unique nationwide datasets released is low, perhaps not more than 100 nationwide datasets, and that the government-reported figure of 19,500 data files (as of February 2017) obfuscates the real picture. Based on desk research, the IRM researcher concurs that a large number of datasets are not nationwide ones, and may include unnecessary redundancies because datasets are organized locally.(page 20)

Professor Sungsoo Hwang at Yeungnam University agreed there are still challenges, but added that South Korea’s open data projects are nevertheless a positive step forward in practice since the Open Data Law was passed in October 2013... Current lack of quality control on the open data portal can make locating specific information difficult.(page 21)

Evaluation of Civic Participation

Regarding commitment 1.a. Strengthening Public-Private Collaboration, the Report assesses the commitment conservatively, writing that there is no significant evidence that the citizen engagement has led to specific policy changes, while recognizing that its implementation is “substantially completed.” Here is an excerpt:

[C]itizen’s views were incorporated into government policy, but no specific

details are provided. Given that the IRM is unable to verify evidence that citizens contributed to policy outcomes, this milestone is considered limited in completion,(p.11)” “While the government has made some progress improving the number and quality of platforms for citizens to post feedback, the activities carried out while implementing this commitment have not provided demonstrable examples of stakeholder’s influencing government decision-making in a major way,(p.11)” and “in the researcher’s own sample audit of e-people policy discussions have not provided significant evidence to indicate this commitment has allowed citizens to engage in shaping specific policy changes.(p.11)

The Ministry of the Interior makes annual publications with flagship policies designed with citizens’ suggestions and posts them on e-People. The publications with its Korean title “중앙우수제안 사례집” are available here at http://www.epeople.go.kr/jsp/user/on/cu/UOnBbsList.jsp?brd_id_v=news.

Regarding milestone 1.a.4 Online Discussions of State Projects that the researcher evaluated as “limited” in its implementation due to, as written, lack of verified evidence of citizen’s contribution to policy outcomes, here are cases below that demonstrate policies with citizen’s views incorporated by enacting laws and developing plans for promotion.

First of all, in order to find ways to eradicate tax evasion via borrowed-name bank accounts, the Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission (ACRC) and National Tax Service (NTS) conducted a survey and received 172 responses that claim legal penalty more than collecting the amount of tax evasion and ensuring confidentiality and personal protection of criminal reporters. With the citizen’s opinions incorporated into policy, NTS designed plans to promote a report reward system and developed a mobile app for report. (See Reference 4)

Second, in order to establish the enforcement decree of the Improper Solicitation and Graft Act, a survey was conducted to hear from citizens on its details such as requisites for establishing improper solicitation and exceptionally permitted money and valuables, and 724 sets of ideas were received from 7,216 respondents. Drawn from this survey result, the amount of permitted money and valuables was set for different circumstances, educational programs developed and anti-corruption campaigns and presentations open to the public conducted. (See Reference 5)

Third, with a survey on public awareness in which 502 respondents participated and 279 sets of ideas were collected, ACRC recognized the need of tightening the Promotion of Personality Education Act and developing public awareness

education programs customized for lifecycle, which resulted in an improvement scheme in the individual and societal dimensions and opened public debates. (See Reference 6)

Last but not least, milestone 1.b.3 Develop New Public Services by Holding Multiple Consultations and Workshops is one of examples which citizen's views were incorporated into government policy. In order to hear from users, surveys had been conducted among pregnant women in hospitals and through an online platform and 471 respondents voiced their opinions some of which are proposals to receive pregnancy and delivery related information before request and apply for services online in a simpler way. With these opinions taken into consideration, a system has been improved and information for Happy Childbirth Service has become available at local government agencies, community centers, health centers, etc. in order for pregnant women and also those who are not registered as married or pregnant to receive information before request. For the moment, the services can be applied for at once at community centers and will be soon available online.

Document Verification

The Report evaluates the implementation of commitment 2.c Enhance Information Disclosure as "limited" indicating that it is not because that the commitment has not been implemented but because that it is not verifiable as the relevant documents are not open to the public. In March 2017, the ROK government provided IRM with supporting documents of Information Disclosure Citizen Inspectors (IDCI) activities and posted the documents on the official portal for information sharing at www.open.go.kr in June. (See Reference 7) Based on the supporting documents, the milestone 2.c.2 should be evaluated as "complete." The researcher considers the supporting documents that ROK government has provided in good faith simply non-existent because they are not open to the public, without examining how they can be used in evaluating the implementation level of milestones. The ROK government hopes that the IRM would be given an opportunity to carefully review the appropriateness of its fact-finding methodology.

Evaluation of ROK's Pursuing Open Government

The Report writes *"He [Chung Chung-sik, Professor of Public Administration at Kyungshin University] added that in the case of the Government 3.0 design groups, the government was more focused on "everyday residential life" and not the "public administration of civic needs" relevant to OGP values.(p.11)" and "Documented and verifiable examples of public-private collaboration focus*

primarily on improving residential life, rather than open governance values.(p.12)” According to the Report, it seemingly gives an indication that everyday residential life and open government values are separated from one another. However, civic participation is one of principal open government values and it gives rise to improving residential life. Certainly, citizens’ willingness to improve their everyday life serves as one of influential elements in participatory governance. The ROK government continues its efforts to improve citizens’ everyday life and realize open government with the Citizen Design Group through which citizens participate in the policy-making process.

Consultation with Civil Society

The ROK government co-created the 3rd National Action Plan in concert with CSOs and kept the track of its development by informing CSOs of whether and how their proposals had been taken into consideration to develop commitments. The ROK government is now in consultation process with CSOs to create a structured multi-stakeholder forum in order to coordinate Korea’s OGP activities. Furthermore, as an example of ongoing consultations with civil society and encouragement of civic participation in the policy-making process, the ROK’s new administration has opened a platform called People’s Committee for Presidential Transition-Gwanghwamun 1st Street in order for citizens to voice themselves and freely suggest policy ideas to the government.

We recommend that readers of the Report also take the ROK government’s official comment into consideration. Should you have any inquiries or supporting documents needed for better understanding, please contact points of contact below.

ROK government Point of Contact for the OGP

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List of Referenced Sources

1. Contact Information of Civil Servant in Charge of Reviewing Petitions

결과

추진상황

답변완료

검토내용

- 식품위생법 제2조(정의)에 의하면 직장, 기숙사, 사회복지시설 등 특정인을 대상으로 영리를 목적으로 하지 않고 계속하여 음식물을 제공하는 경우 집단급식소 허가를 득하도록 규정하고 있으며, 불특정(일반인)다수인을 대상으로 한 영업은 식품위생법에 저촉될 수 있고, 주변 일반음식점 등 지역상권과의 마찰 우려가 큼니다.
- 다만, 경제적 사정 등으로 식사를 해결할 수 없는 분들을 위해서는 도내 종교단체, 사회복지시설 및 도에서 무료급식소를 운영하고 있습니다.
- 아울러 행정자치부에서는 2011년부터 물가안정을 위해 가격이 저렴하지만 양질의 서비스를 제공하는 우리동네 착한가격업소를 지정하고 있습니다.
- 위와 같은 사유로 일반인을 대상으로 한 음식점(급식소)운영은 관에서 추진할 사항은 아님을 알려드립니다.
- 기타 검토의견과 관련 문의사항이 있으면 보건복지국 복지정책과 나눔문화팀 윤숙민 주무관에게 연락주시기 바랍니다.(031-8008-5218)
- 도정발전을 위한 귀하의 제안에 감사드리며, 대내 건강과 행복이 가득하시기를 기원합니다.

2. City Planning Facilities Information at www.data.go.kr

전체(6)
파일데이터(5)
오픈API(1)
표준데이터(0)

전체 6건을 찾았습니다.

📁 **파일데이터 [5건]**

 날짜순 ▾ 제목순 ▾ 조회순 ▾ 다운로드순 ▾

서울특별시 도시 통계 조회수 : 160 방문하기 횟수 : 95

수정일 : 2016.09.01 기관 : 서울특별시 서비스유형 : LINK

서울시 통계정보시스템에서 제공하는 도시에 관한 통계정보입니다

국토관리

XLS

도시계획통계시설 조회수 : 27 방문하기 횟수 : 16

수정일 : 2017.01.16 기관 : 국토교통부 서비스유형 : LINK

도시계획시설 유형, 면적, 위치 정보

행정데이터

CSV

토지이용용역사전 조회수 : 688 다운로드수 : 10

수정일 : 2017.05.29 기관 : 국토교통부 서비스유형 : 다운로드

지역지구, 건축물 용도, 도시계획시설 및 토지이용행위 등과 관련된 용어 해설 자료

국토관리

HWPP

파일데이터 결과 더보기 >

⚙️ **오픈API [1건]**

 날짜순 ▾ 제목순 ▾ 조회순 ▾ 활용신청건수 ▾

도시계획통계시설 조회수 : 27 활용신청건수 : 2

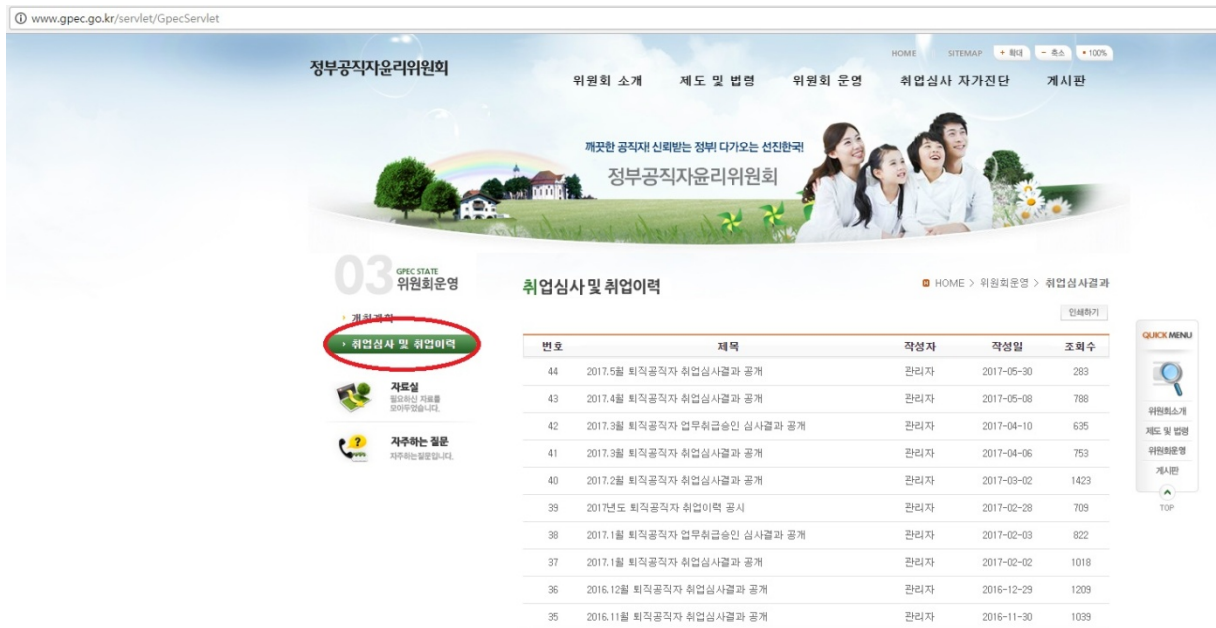
수정일 : 2017.02.13 기관 : 국토교통부 서비스유형 : REST

도시계획시설 유형, 면적, 위치 정보

행정데이터

XML

3. Locating Results of Ethics Inspections on the Committee website



4. Eradication Tax Evasion via Borrowed-name Bank Accounts

Press Release

Mobile Application

Press Release

Mobile Application

5. Establishing Implementing Ordinances of Anti-corruption Law

Leaflets

Posters

Leaflets

Posters

6. National Integration and Public Awareness


Online Discussions

Public Debates

Online Discussions

Public Debates

7. Information Disclosure Citizen Inspector Documents Online



검색

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사전정보
원문정보
공개청구
공개현황
공개제도
도우미

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공지사항 >

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정보공개는 쉽다 >

정보공개 미 안내 >

홍보캐릭터 소개 >

국민 모니터링 >

홈 > 도우미 > 국민 모니터링

국민 모니터링

* 국민 모니터링 활동내역

년도	번호	제목	첨부파일
2014	1	국민정검단 모질공지(인터넷 등)	다운로드
2014	2	국민정검단 모집 안내문	다운로드
2014	3	국민정검단 선정지(41명)	다운로드
2014	4	국민정검단(교육)	다운로드
2014	5	국민정검단 정검결과 개선방안 통보	다운로드
2015	1	국민모니터단 구성운영계획보고	다운로드
2015	2	국민모니터단 선정결과(50명)	다운로드
2015	3	국민모니터단	다운로드
2015	4	국민모니터단 발대식(인촌보도)	다운로드
2015	5	정보공개 국민 모니터단 개선회(3월)비식별	다운로드
2015	6	정보공개 국민 모니터단 운영결과(2월) 및 향후계획 비식별화	다운로드

QUICK MENU

로그인

마이페이지

정보공개청구

통합검색

수수료안내

FAQ

TOP ▲

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1588-2572