2022 KIPA-UN DESA International Forum
Public Administration and Governance for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19

Co-organized By
Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA)
United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)

14 October 2022
13:00 PM – 16:30 PM (Seoul, GMT+9)

Venue
2F, Main Auditorium, Korea Institute of Public Administration & Via
YouTube (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ovP4Y8vzWXo)

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Background

About the Report

This Report summarizes the key messages of the presentations and outcomes during the 2022 KIPA-UN DESA International Forum on "Public Administration and Governance for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19." The Session was co-organized by the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA)'s Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG), through its Project Office on Governance (UNPOG) in collaboration with the Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA) of the Republic of Korea. It was held in a hybrid manner on 14 October 2022 and was attended by 130 online participants.

About the KIPA-UN DESA International Forum

The Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA) and the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA) have been co-organizing the KIPA-UN DESA International Forum since 2019. This year's Forum was based on a series of research projects conducted by KIPA on *Public Administration and Governance for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19*, which encompasses the following topics:

i)   Building Public-Private Governance for Development Effectiveness and Sustainable Development Goals
ii)   The Types of Political Systems to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic
iii)   The European Union (EU)'s Public Governance for the Carbon Neutral Economic System and the Green Deal Strategy
iv)   Strengthening Public Governance towards a Green and Sustainability Recovery from COVID-19
v)   Strengthening Digital Data Governance for Achieving Climate Neutrality

Overview of the Forum

Rationale

The United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA) and the Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA) have co-organized the Forum on **"Public administration and Governance for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19."** As part of the continued collaboration between UNPOG and KIPA to co-organize the annual forum, it explored innovative public governance approaches and methods to leverage digital transformation to achieve the 2030 Agenda and address climate crisis.

Audience and Beneficiaries

The Forum brought together 130 national and local government officials in Korea and from abroad responsible for coordinating and leading the national efforts in achieving the SDGs, addressing climate crisis, and overcoming COVID-19. Participants were composed of policymakers, public governance experts, practitioners, private sectors, civil society organizations, and the academia.

At the end of this Forum, participants obtained knowledge on more innovative, sustainable, and resilient approaches to sustainable development, together with the importance of leveraging digital technologies and strengthening governance for a sustainable and resilient approach to climate action.

Objectives

The Forum aimed to discuss public administration and governance approaches for sustainable development in the era of COVID-19 by providing participants the opportunity to share knowledge and exchange innovative practices. The Forum offered a platform to:

i.   Examine the importance of public-private governance for the effective and sustainable achievement of the 2030 Agenda
ii.   Exchange different public governance approaches including the national and local-level strategies, institutional frameworks, and policy implementations for carbon neutrality
iii. Discuss innovative country practices in public governance and strengthening digital data governance for climate neutrality
iv.   Exchange innovative solutions and suggest recommendations in strengthening public governance for a green and sustainable recovery from COVID-19

v.   Share effective approaches in utilizing data and digital technologies for climate neutrality and in overcoming COVID-19

Format

The Forum featured two sessions ran by the respective institutions, thematic presentations, a Q&A and interactive discussion session, and panel discussion. The Forum provided the opportunity to introduce UN DESA/DPIDG's Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs, present key findings from DPIDG's analytical work, and share the outcomes and policy recommendations from other recent capacity development activities, including webinars, reports, and workshops.

The Forum was conducted in a hybrid format – speakers at the Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA), and participants joined via KIPA's YouTube channel. The Forum was convened for one day for 4 hours. It was conducted in English with simultaneous English-Korean translation.

Expected Results

The Forum expected the participants to have:

i.   Enhanced awareness on the importance of public-private governance for the effective and sustainable achievement of the 2030 Agenda
ii.   Increased understanding of the different public governance approaches including the national and local-level strategies, institutional frameworks, and policy implementations for carbon neutrality
iii.   Identify policy recommendations in strengthening public governance for a green and sustainable recovery from COVID-19

Participants' Feedback

With the presence of 130 live participants via YouTube from national and local government entities, public institutions across various fields, international organizations, the private sector, and the civil society, the Forum explored innovative public governance approaches and methods on leveraging digital transformation to achieve the 2030 Agenda and address climate crisis. The YouTube video has 844 views as of 21 December.

The participants were specifically able to enhance their understanding on strengthening public governance for a green and sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and acquaint themselves with the various innovative digital data governance approaches to achieving climate neutrality.

The Forum was well-received by the participants. Overall, 91% of the participants rated the Forum as either "Excellent" or "Very Good" and more than 74% of the participants stated that they are highly likely to apply the contents of the Forum onto their work. More information on the participants' feedback can be found in **Annex 2. Post-event Survey Results**.

Follow-up Actions

With the outcomes from this Forum, UNPOG and KIPA are expected to continue collaborating in 2023 through similar forums and research activities.

Session Summaries and Insights

Opening Remarks

- **Dr. Jaeho Eun**, Senior Research Fellow, delivered the Opening Remarks to the 2022 KIPA-UN DESA International Forum on behalf of Mr. Sanghan Choi, President of KIPA.
- The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) is one of the common goals of the international society. While strengthening solidarity and cooperation to reduce social risks that threaten the world's sustainability is its main objective, the COVID-19 pandemic and threats to international security and order are accelerating deglobalization and impose social risks to the global community. This increase in complexity implies that one person, one organization, or one country cannot effectively respond to the current global environment alone.
- This Forum will introduce the various forms of governance while looking back at the relevance of connections between nations and organizations. At a time when cracks are appearing in globalization, the value of this Forum should lie in why we should revisit the meaning of achieving the SDGs.

Welcoming Remarks

- **Mr. Keping Yao**, Senior Governance and Public Administration Expert delivered the Welcoming Remarks on behalf of Mr. Kyu Chang Ko, Head of UNPOG.

- Natural disasters such as the increased frequency and intensity of extreme climate-related events and borderless public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic are the challenges currently shared by the global society. The call for decisive actions to avoid climate catastrophes and ensure sustainable development in the era of COVID-19 calls for innovative public governance whilst unlocking the potential of digital and data technologies.

- While responses to COVID-19 required the acceleration of digital transformation, the active utilization of digital and data technologies enabled countries to make informed, transparent, and accountable decisions during the pandemic. This emphasized the importance of public administration and governance in the current times.

- This Forum will (1) examine the importance of public-private governance for the effective and sustainable achievement of the 2030 Agenda, (2) exchange different public governance approaches including the national and local-level strategies, institutional frameworks, and policy implementations for carbon neutrality, (3) discuss innovative country practices in public governance and strengthening digital data governance for climate neutrality, (4) exchange innovative solutions and suggest recommendations in strengthening public governance for a green and sustainable recovery from COVID-19, and (5) share effective approaches in utilizing data and digital technologies for climate neutrality and in overcoming COVID-19.

Session I – Inquiring Innovative Governance in the Pandemic Times

Building Public-Private Governance for SDGs through Private Sector Engagement

- **Mr. Jin Wook Choi**, Professor in the Department of Public Administration of Korea University delivered a presentation on "Building Public-Private Governance for SDGs through Private Sector Engagement."
- **Private Sector Engagement (PSE)** is a strategical approach to donor agencies where private firms are key partners of collaboration. One of the goals of PSEs is the attainment of development outcomes and development results.
- The benefits of PSEs for **donor agencies** are the (1) additional source of development financing and the (2) utilization of private sector's expertise, knowledge, and innovative entrepreneurship. For **private firms**, PSEs allow the (1) acceleration of corporate social responsibility (CSR) activities, (2) better CSR performance by using the donor agency's networks, (3) the improvement of image and reputation, and (4) the expansion of business opportunities. For **partner countries**, PSEs bring the (1) increase of funds for social and economic development and (2) more chances for private sector development. Lastly, for **international communities**, PSEs enable them to move forward to the achievement of SDGs.

- However, the limitations of PSE strategy of the Korean government are that (1) there is no separate PSE strategy, (2) limited development and use of PSE policy tools, and the (3) lack of manageable and traceable PSE-related targets. As such, the following recommendations can be made:
 (1) **Systematic and strategic approach at the national level** by integrating PSE into its framework of national development cooperation strategy;
  (2) **Development and deployment of PSE policy tools** through diversifying them based on a detailed needs analysis of diverse private participants;
  (3) **Accelerate the mobilization of the private sector capital** by developing diverse and sophisticated policy tools to garner financial mobilization; and
  (4) **Trace and record PSE results** by verifying the improvement of development outcomes and contribution to the SDGs.

Panel Discussion
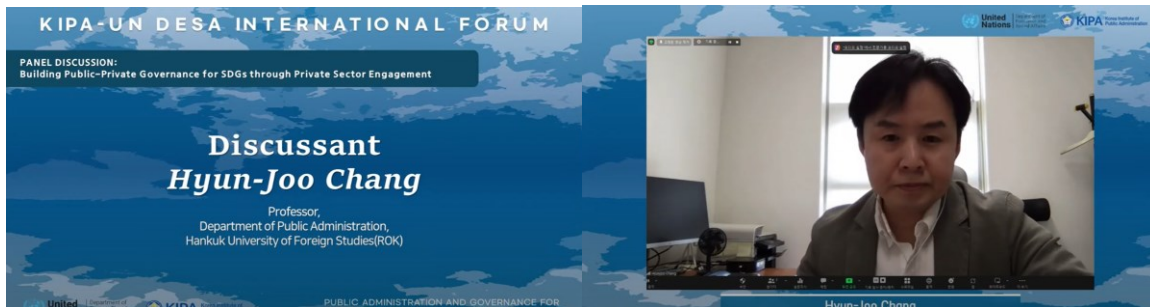
- **Mr. Hyun-Joo Chang**, Professor in the Department of Public Administration of Hankuk University of Foreign Affairs administered the Panel Discussion for the presentation on "Building Public-Private Governance for SDGs through Private Sector Engagement" and offered some suggestions on how PSEs can be further promoted in Korea.
- As the policy implications presented are in the perspective of the governments, business disciplines such as CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility), social welfare, and business administration should be included.
- It is a well-known fact that corporate CSR teams in businesses are usually a small team under the PR division or is a small team under the investor relations division. From the social welfare administration perspective, CSR teams should be in parallel with other business divisions. Hence, expanding the size and position of the CSR teams within a company is essential.
- In response, **Mr. Jin Wook Choi** emphasized that PSEs cannot be promoted by governments and there should be voluntary participation by the private sector. For this to happen, financial and non-financial incentives should be offered for private companies.

- It is important for PSEs to be sustainable. When it comes to public-private governance, a shared goal between the stakeholders in which the private sector willingly agrees to is essential. Since a shared goal will ensure the sustainability of PSE, the private sector will actively and voluntarily participate to further promote its business and positively impact its reputation in the long run.
- **Mr. Choi** likewise agreed that there needs to be a shared goal between the public and private sectors, where policy dialogues should also be included with various incentives of capacity building and knowledge sharing as preconditions for PSEs to take off.
- Two issues concerning private companies when it comes to PSEs are as follows:

  (1) There is a difference in the level of preparedness and readiness amongst large companies, SMEs, and startups when companies are to begin working on their PSEs. For startups, PSE is favorable for them to promote their business and are generally proactive. On the contrary, large firms see no need to expand their PSE for international development because their current CSR programs are already doing well. Hence, rather than letting companies understand the importance of PSE themselves, there has to be awareness building to educate them on the importance and benefits of PSEs.

  (2) PSE has been government-driven in Korea. The programs were developed by the PSE team in the government, in which corporations were invited to join. Since it is difficult to agree on a shared goal set by the government in this top-down system, some initiations from the companies on PSE is highly encouraged. Moreover, there has to be continuous communication and dialogue between the public and private sectors to find a common goal and develop common programs together.

Does the Type of Political System Matter for the Wicked Problem of the COVID-19 Pandemic?

- **Mr. Jaekwon Cha**, Professor in the Department of Political Science and Diplomacy of Pukyong National University delivered the next presentation on "Does the Type of Political System Matter for the Wicked Problem of the COVID-19 Pandemic?"
- The background and rationale of the research were that political factors were to be crucial explanatory variables for the outcome of COVID-19 quarantine policies, as the magnitude of damage and the effects of quarantine measures varied across the world.
- With institutions contributing to the access of relevant actors to the decision-making process, the preferences and opportunities of actors were expected to influence the interaction orientation of actors.
- Moreover, because the nature of democracy is sensitive to the periodic election pressure and public opinion, successful quarantine measures could create a rallying effect between the government and voters to secure maximum support for the ruling party.

- The political regime variables in this study were analyzed by including them only in the whole country models. In addition to the political regime variable, it can be partially confirmed that political variables such as local government index, data transparency index, world press freedom index, federalism, and Polity V Index have also a statistically significant effect depending on the model and data collection year.
- The stringency index included in the analysis for the purpose of control and the number of vaccinated populations – which indicates the government's ability to supply COVID-19 vaccines, were also found to have a significant effect in most models.

Panel Discussion
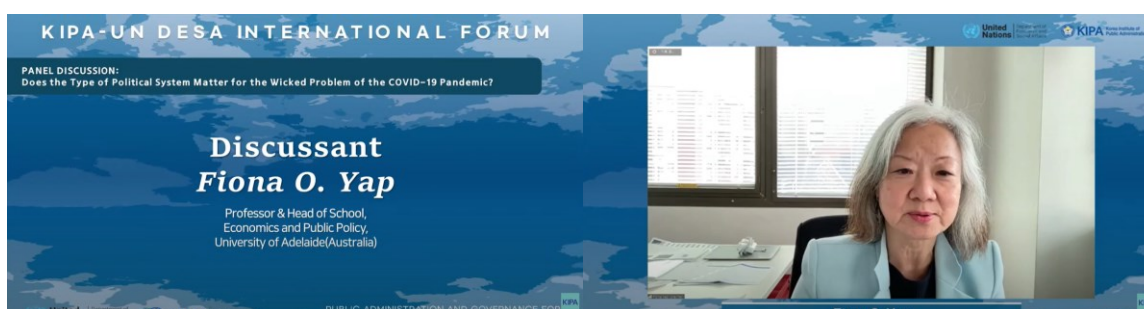
- **Ms. Fiona O. Yap**, Professor and Head of School in the Economics and Public Policy of the University of Adelaide handled the Panel Discussion for the presentation on "Does the Type of Political System Matter for the Wicked Problem of the COVID-19 Pandemic?"
- The discussion on food and water security, support of social systems such as health, income, and employment call in the question of, "*what are the similarities and differences in pandemic policies amongst different kind of political systems?*" With the goal of exploring crisis management governance required for situations such as the COVID-19 pandemic, the question helps researchers develop a reconciliation in the debate regarding the relationship between political systems and COVID-19 policy performance.
- Crisis management performance indicates that it might be different for policies to develop under certain administrations and political systems. As such, theoretical grounding and empirical implications of the question may provide more substantive directions for further research.
- Democracies matter during a pandemic because they provide the support and consent for quarantine policies and provide extensive information disclosure and freedom of press as an alternative source of information. Autocracies likewise matter because of the successful control of infection rates and its prompt and unchallenged responses to a pandemic.

- To answer the question of which kind of institutions matter during a pandemic, it is important to increase the number of proxies and investigate the checks and balances. Moreover, comparing the depth and level of decentralization pre, during, and post-COVID-19 situation will also be valuable.

Slide content (slide 25):

5. Empirical Findings
- Backgrounds
  - Realizing famines, draught, wars, poverty in their homes (2015)
  - High-level political forum adopting 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
  - 17 SDGs & 169 targets: 13 SDGs related to climate change
  - EU's approach to climate neutrality by 2050
  - EU Green Deal Strategy as core policy tool for final target by 2050
- Carbon Neutral Economic System
  - Implementing modernization & transition of economic structure since the 1990s
  - Achieving to reduce 23% of carbon emission compared to 1990 levels in 2018
  - Enabling to decouple the relationship between energy consumption and economic growth since 2006
  - Strengthening policy framework to reduce 55% of carbon emission by 2030
  - Ambitious reduction plan from Mil. 4,858 in 1990 to Mil. 3,724 in 2020 to Mil. 1,943 in 2030
  - Half time slot (10 years) & 4 times higher reduction
  - Second term as turning point to meet climate neutrality by 2050

Slide content (slide 26):

- Building cooperative system involved by all economic actors, persons & institutions
  - Private & public cooperation as EU model for good & sound governance
  - Reducing energy dependency from 55% in 2019 to 20% by 2050: saving 70% of energy import cost
  - Energy imports substitution effect accounting for Euro 2~3 trillion from 2031 to 2050
  - Expecting new jobs in renewable energy sectors from 1.5 mil. 2020 to 2.8 mil. by 2050: 2.3 mil. as fulltime job & 0.5 mil. as irregular jobs
- European Green Deal Strategy (EGDS)
  - Protecting environment & shifting to green economy: recovery allocation efforts
  - Package of Euro 807 billion for economic recovery in 2020 & EU budget for Euro 1.85 trillion from 2021 to 2027

Prof. Dr. Dr. Sang Chul Park — 25 / 26

- **Mr. Sang-Chul Park**, Professor in the Graduate School of Knowledge-based Technology and Energy of Korea Polytech University presented on "EU's Public Governance for the Carbon Neutral Economic System and the Green Deal Strategy."
- In order to build a cooperative system for carbon neutrality that involves all economic actors, persons, and institutions, the European Union prioritizes private and public cooperation for good and sound governance.

Slide content (slide 27):

- 1,000 project among 2,000 project ready to run
  - Creating significant social, environmental, and economic values
  - Requiring Euro 200 billion of private & public investments & generating 3 mil. jobs
  - High job intensity ratio than traditional & fossil based industries
- Stimulating green & resilient recovery in post pandemic era
  - Green projects accounting from over Euro 1 trillion reducing carbon emissions & creating 12 mil. jobs: same amount of lost jobs under pandemic era
  - Over 20% of projects identified as small sized up to Euro 5 mil.
  - 30% of projects for start ups & SMEs
  - Strong representation of large economies (Germany, France, Italy, Spain)
  - Well balanced in income per capita

Slide content (slide 28):

6. Summary and Policy Implications
- Eyewitness of climate change since 2000 & recognizing by IPCC report in 2014
- UN Agenda 2030 for SDGs
- EU's climate & energy policies since 2007 for carbon neutrality by 2050
- From 20/20/20 by 2020 to Fit For 55 by 2030 & carbon neutral economic system by 2050
- EGDS as policy tool, over Euro 1.85 trillion investment to 1,000 projects, creating 12 mil. jobs by 2050: green & resilient recovery in post pandemic era
- Policy implications
  - Long term project from 1990/2000 to 2050
  - Strategic approaches
  - Green & resilient recovery
  - Mid- and long term control

Prof. Dr. Dr. Sang Chul Park — 27 / 28

- This will allow EU to reduce energy dependency from 55% in 2019 to 20% by 2050, saving 70% of its energy import cost.
- This will also lead to the following effects: (1) energy import substitution effect, accounting to 2-3 trillion Euro from 2031 to 2050 and (2) jobs in renewable sectors will increase from 1.5 million in 2020 to 2.8 million by 2050.
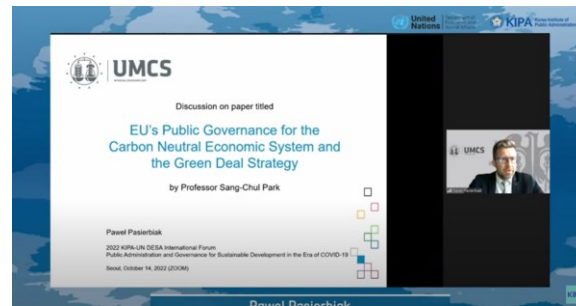
Panel Discussion

- **Mr. Pawel Pasierbiak**, Professor of Maria Curie Sklodowska University carried on the Panel Discussion for the presentation on "EU's Public Governance for the Carbon Neutral Economic System and the Green Deal Strategy."

- SDGs and climate change are intertwined, with 13 out of 17 goals connected to climate change. Good public governance is one of the key instruments that will help countries achieve the SDGs quicker than before. Good public governance in the EU is observed through its Green Deal Strategy. The strategy illustrates how EU uses public governance to achieve the SDGs.

- Sound public governance is supportive for the implementation of climate and energy policies. All stakeholders (e.g., European Commission, national and local governments, NGOs, civil society, private sectors, and more) involved should create a strong cooperative system for climate neutrality. Moreover, economic development is not a precursor to SDGs and climate neutrality. The EU case analysis has proved that decoupling energy consumption and economic growth are possible albeit theoretically contradictory. It is thus advisable and desirable to devote our efforts to SDGs and climate neutrality.

- Some questions for further consideration are: (1) is it possible for different actors (e.g., United States, European Union, China, and South Korea) to work together to achieve the net zero goal by 2050 or 2060? Or would it be a disorderly process? (2) Is it possible for the EU to fully introduce a common energy policy? (3) How can the resilience model be applied to the current situation in relation to the Russian aggression in Ukraine?

- In response, **Mr. Sang-Chul Park** indicated that 5 key aspects should be considered for EU's Green Deal Strategy to be successfully carried out.
  (1) Legal systems that guarantee EU to set up regulations and extend the contents of these regulations
  (2) Long term and sound financing to implement sound public governance
  (3) The decoupling process that has been implemented since 2006 proved that the carbon dioxide reduction process could not harm the national economy at the EU level but contribute to the development of EU's economy as well as its technological innovation. As such, decoupling will bring about efficient energy consumption as well as economic growth.

(4) Cooperation is necessary amongst developed and developing countries. This is even more significant as it has been stated in COP26 that carbon neutrality cannot be achieved without the cooperation from major countries, for instance China and the United States, that generate nearly 48% of the total world CO_2 emission.

Session II – Exploring Innovative Strategies for SDG Implementation

Strengthening Public Governance towards a Green and Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19: A Comparative Study between Bangladesh and Korea

- **Dr. M Aslam Alam**, Chairman and Executive Director of the Bangladesh Institute for Information Literacy and Sustainable Development (BIILSD) presented on "Strengthening Public Governance towards a Green and Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19: A Comparative Study between Bangladesh and Korea."

- The governance capacity theory was used as the analytical framework where governance capacity was conceptualized as the abilities of a state – both systemic and organizational level – to formulate sound policies and implement those policies effectively in collaboration with non-state actors to solve collective and complex problems.

- This study found that Korea's successful march towards a green and sustainable recovery is the result of a strong public governance mechanism, demonstrated by the 9 building blocks of the Readiness Assessment on Institutional Arrangements for Policy Coherence to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- For Bangladesh, inadequacies in the above 9 building blocks are impeding progress towards the SDGs as well as to a green and sustainable recovery. Developing countries like Bangladesh should focus on enhancing these building blocks to

strengthen its governance capacity and thereby ensure a green and sustainable recovery from COVID-19, as well as the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

Panel Discussion
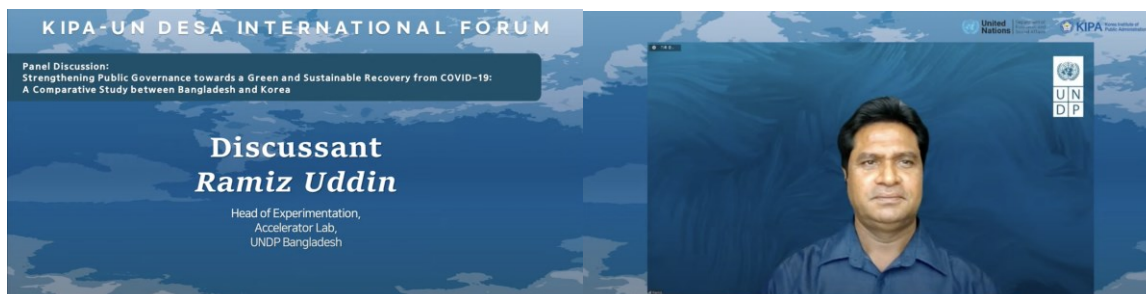
- **Mr. Ramiz Uddin**, Head of Experimentation of the Accelerator Lab in UNDP Bangladesh administered the Panel Discussion for the presentation on "Strengthening Public Governance towards a Green and Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19: A Comparative Study between Bangladesh and Korea."
- In some comparative parameters and indicators, both Bangladesh and Korea have good achievements despite the significant variations in addressing the COVID-19 challenges. While it was found that the 9 building blocks are excellent proxy measures, they can be expanded to give a clearer picture.
- While Bangladesh can take the lessons from Korea to achieve the SDGs, the country also needs some local contextualization, such as the engagement of political leaders and connecting them to engage in meaningful ways. Moreover, the lack of awareness and capacity building in the local level can be addressed through online courses.
- Monitoring the SDGs can be implemented through IMED (Implementation Monitoring and Evaluation Division), a monitoring and evaluation division in Bangladesh.

Strengthening Digital Data Governance for Achieving Climate Neutrality – An Effective Approach to Unlocking the Potential of Data and Digital Technology

- **Mr. John Hongsup Song**, Representative Partner of the Green Transformation Lab presented on "Strengthening Digital Data Governance for Achieving Climate Neutrality – An Effective Approach to Unlocking the Potential of Data and Digital Technology."

- To examine how data and digital technology can contribute to achieving climate neutrality within the digital data governance, two levels of framework were used in the study: (1) technical level – European Union's "twin" transition in the country cases and C40's City Climate Data Management Framework in the city cases and (2) institutional level – Readiness Assessment on Institutional Arrangements for Policy Coherence to Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- The World Resource Institute (WRI) recommends 4 challenges related to overcoming barriers to opening climate-related data: (1) lack of awareness or misunderstanding about open data practices, (2) technical capacity gaps among data producers and/or users, (3) lack of regulatory frameworks to support information transparency, and (4) lack of mandate or political leadership to coordinate data publication across agencies.

- **Mr. Keping Yao**, Senior Governance and Public Administration Expert administered the Panel Discussion for the presentation on "Strengthening Digital Data Governance for Achieving Climate Neutrality – An Effective Approach to Unlocking the Potential of Data and Digital Technology."
- It is recommended to revise the framework as per the UN DESA Framework for Digital Governance, which is based on the 3 key elements of effective governance (effectiveness, accountability, and inclusiveness). Moreover, it is advised to elaborate more on the challenges in unlocking the potential of digital and data technologies for digital data governance.t
- The author can elaborate on data or digital security issues, especially on how we can enhance the resilience of the ecosystem, capacity gaps in data gathering and collection, the lack of data standardization and classification, the lack of rigorous quality control framework, and the difficulty in data access and control.
- Additional elements to be considered are as follows:
  (1) **Importance of citizen science**: it is impossible to collect all millions of data points. As such, citizen science has a lot of potential to address these data gaps and leveraging digital technology for climate neutrality. Citizen science can provide data for local decision making, since climate change-related decisions happen at the local level. The direct involvement of citizens drives climate action from grassroots up.
  (2) **Open government data**: even if governments have data on GHG emissions, they are unsure how to maximize the value of this data and how best to utilize them, especially for countries in special situations. This stems from the general lack of understanding of data, data science, and the absence of data leadership.
  (3) **Digital inclusion**, especially on gender digital divide.
  (4) **Communicate public trust**: it is important for the public to know in which direction the government is proceeding to achieve carbon neutrality.
  (5) **Building data literacy**: policy and decision makers should focus on how they can understand and interpret data for insights. Data stewards should focus on building data literacy to enhance leadership skills, provide oversight, and technical framework for governance.

(6) **Highlight the importance of harnessing public value of data**: governments should employ a holistic overall approach in developing overarching data frameworks, which can be supported by national data streaming policies, a strong data leadership, and a better ecosystem.

- In response, **Mr. John Hongsup Song** stated that governments should contemplate on how best to put all data in one place and set up the proper governance framework and functionalities for citizen science, since there are lots of problems, issues, and barriers in terms of data exchange and in engaging citizens. As such, there are efforts in Korea, EU, and the US to engage citizens through data lab, city lab, or living lab approaches. This model can be applied to developing countries where citizens and businesses can gather to search, learn, and use data for climate change.

- Governments should spread out the message on the importance of the availability of climate-related data through e-Learning courses and YouTube clips. Moreover, there needs to be easily accessibly platforms where data entries can be validated and standardized automatically. In this case, the NGMS case of Korea is a good example.

Roundtable Session

- **Mr. Tae Young Kim**, Professor of Department of Public Administration in Kyung Hee University administered the Roundtable Session. The Session was held in a question and answer (Q&A) manner.

Question (Mr. Jaekwon Cha): Are there new government strategies for the SDGs in fighting poverty and in addressing climate crisis?

- The COVID-19 pandemic produced mixed and complicated problems in many aspects. If governments wish to overcome these complexities, they would have to construct a special governance system. However, it has been discovered that indexes such as the stringent index do not operate effectively to make remedy for overcoming the COVID-19 pandemic.

Question (Mr. Sang-Chul Park): Is it possible for governments and private companies to achieve the SDGs during the pandemic era?

- Yes, in the long term as governments will try to maximize public interest. As per the 2008 financial crisis, the power structure in advanced countries has shifted from the power elites to public interest groups. Since governments in advanced countries do not have the capacity to avoid this collective desire of people, they need to maximize public interest in the long run. In this sense, governments will strive to achieve the SDGs. For private companies, they will likewise adhere to the SDGs in the long term, with the presence of CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) and ESG (Environmental, Social, Governance).

Question (Dr. M Aslam Alam): Do you agree that efforts for the SDGs is a luxury that only developed countries can afford?

- SDGs is not a luxury but a necessity for developing countries. The beauty of SDGs is that it includes both developed and developing countries, as the goals benefit both types of countries on poverty, gender equality, and climate change. Moreover, the importance of data is emphasized with COVID-19 having exposed all mismanagements and ill-conceived policies in both developed and developing countries. The lack of data led to the lack of information and consequently the inadequacy of policy decisions.
- The world has lost 3 years to implement the SDGs due to COVID-19. With the Russian aggression in Ukraine, the world may lose another 3 years, together with the resources governments were planning to invest in achieving the SDGs. As these finances and resources have been diverted to addressing COVID-19 measures, many developing countries are more vulnerable than ever to the effects of climate change. In this context, it may not be possible for developing countries to achieve the SDGs by 2030 and may even need an extension for at least 5 years to cover the time lost due to COVID-19 and the Russian aggression in Ukraine.

Question (Mr. John Hongsup Song): How do you evaluate the efforts by the UN to achieve the SDGs?

- The world pre- and post-COVID-19 is just the same. ESG, SDG, and the pandemic only enabled people to turn the coin and look at the other side. ESG is now not just a terminology but is itself a form of business management. While achieving the SDGs is still viewed optimistic, the most important factor here is the presence of a good financial mechanism that can accelerate the flows of sustainable investment, climate investment, and ESG investment.

Annex 1. Concept Note & Agenda

2022 KIPA-UN DESA International Forum

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14 October 2022
13:00 PM − 16:30 PM Seoul (GMT+9)

Venue:
2F, Main Auditorium, Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA)
&
Via YouTube (https://bit.ly/3Cj693z)

I. Background

Natural disasters such as the increased frequency and intensity of extreme climate-related events and borderless public health emergencies such as the COVID-19 pandemic are the challenges currently shared by the global society. The call for decisive actions to avoid climate catastrophes and ensure sustainable development in the era of COVID-19 calls for innovative public governance whilst unlocking the potential of digital and data technologies. While responses to COVID-19 required the acceleration of digital transformation, the active utilization of digital and data technologies allowed countries to make informed, transparent, and accountable decisions during the pandemic. This emphasized the importance of public administration and governance in the current times, with less than a decade to act on the promises under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In 2018, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) on Sustainable Development issued a Ministerial Declaration which emphasized that digital and data technologies could act as powerful tools to realize the 2030 Agenda.[1] Digital and data technologies act as new mechanisms for innovation and are regarded as an asset to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As such, strengthening digital data governance is important

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[1] UN DESA. High-Level Political Forum 2018. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/2018

for the promotion, innovation, and investment in digital and data technologies for countries to declare a climate emergency, to accelerate climate action, and to address any COVID-19 pandemic related issues on an emergency footing.

In 2022, the UN Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), an integral part of the Division for Public Institutions and Digital Government (DPIDG) of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), has organized several capacity development workshops and webinars on establishing effective, inclusive, and accountable public governance, unlocking the potential of data and digital technologies through instituting digital data governance, and enhancing public-private-people partnerships (PPPPs) to overcome the adverse impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change. Moreover, UNPOG has also been developing three Handbooks: i) Strengthening Resilience in Cities and Local Communities through Innovation and Digital Government; ii) Promoting Local Innovation for Inclusion of People in Vulnerable Situations and Leaving No One Behind; and iii) Effective National to Local Governance for Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation, as part of the Handbooks on Innovative Local Governance, to support the capacity development of member states in their effective, innovative, and resilient responses to COVID-19 and climate crisis.

The Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA) has conducted a research project on *Public Administration and Governance for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19*, which encompasses the topics: i) Building Public-Private Governance for Development Effectiveness and Sustainable Development Goals; ii) The Types of Political Systems to Address the COVID-19 Pandemic; iii)The European Union (EU)'s Public Governance for the Carbon Neutral Economic System and the Green Deal Strategy; iv) Strengthening Public Governance towards a Green and Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19; and v) Strengthening Digital Data Governance for Achieving Climate Neutrality.

Against this background, the United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA) and the Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA) are co-organizing the Forum on **"Public Administration and Governance for Sustainable Development in the Era of COVID-19."** As part of the continued collaboration between UNPOG and KIPA to co-organize the annual forum, it will explore innovative public governance approaches and methods to leverage digital transformation to achieve the 2030 Agenda and address climate crisis. The Forum will be held in hybrid format, where presenters and discussants will be expected to share experiences based on concrete country cases focusing on the factors that either promote or hinder efforts on the topic.

II. Objectives

I. Examine the importance of public-private governance for the effective and sustainable achievement of the 2030 Agenda;

II. Exchange different public governance approaches including the national and local-level strategies, institutional frameworks, and policy implementations for carbon neutrality;

III.   Discuss innovative country practices in public governance and strengthening digital data governance for climate neutrality;

IV.   Exchange innovative solutions and suggest recommendations in strengthening public governance for a green and sustainable recovery from COVID-19;

V.   Share effective approaches in utilizing data and digital technologies for climate neutrality and in overcoming COVID-19.

III. Thematic Focus

I.   **Session I. Inquiring Innovative Governance in the Pandemic Times (KIPA)**

Achieving the cross-cutting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in these turbulent times requires a shift in partnership that goes beyond the public and private sectors. Innovative and creative governance approaches by leveraging the public-private-people partnership (PPPP) can bring greater efficiency and sustainability to the achievement of the Goals. With the most recent pandemic having emphasized the importance of whole-of-society efforts in overcoming the pandemic-related challenges, the PPPP is expected to assist governments in tailoring their responses and national goals to the local context. PPPP can also increase resilience and bring more sustainable solutions, improve access to infrastructure and services, and mobilize high-level political action during the pandemic times.

The COVID-19 pandemic has illustrated how vulnerable and exposed the world is to global threats. With the effects of rapid climate change being one of those threats, the road to reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions by 2030 and achieving net-zero by 2050 will require efforts across all society and sectors. The European Union (EU)'s Fit-for-55 Package is often mentioned as an exemplary case when it comes to achieving carbon neutrality and mobilizing public governance for all levels of government, industrial sectors, and society in underpinning the bloc's pledge to cut GHG emissions by at least 55% in 2030 compared with 1990 levels. With the package to fundamentally transform the paradigm of partnership and cooperation amongst national and local governments, private sectors, and other related stakeholders, developed and developing countries alike are on the lookout for EU's innovative governance approaches to climate change.

This Session aims to discuss the innovative governance strategies to enhance coordination between the public and private sectors for the effective and sustainable achievement of the SDGs. It will converse on how policy coherence through institutional coordination, inclusive and participatory governance, transparent and accountable governance can contribute to addressing the unprecedented challenges from the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change.

II. Session II. Exploring Innovative Strategies for SDG Implementation (UN DESA)

The socio-economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and the exacerbating impact of the climate crisis are the major defining crises hindering efforts to achieve the SDGs by 2030. These challenges present the need for governments to adopt different approaches and strategies to achieve the SDGs, aside from the ones they have previously implemented. Amongst those, strengthening public governance is considered as one of the key implementation strategies for achieving the 2030 Agenda and building forward together. As governments will continue to be at the center of coordinating response measures to consequent pandemics and climate crisis, this calls for the strengthening of effective, transparent, accountable, and inclusive whole-of-government approach at national and local levels. Consequently, identifying the appropriate roles and responsibilities of institutional actors by breaking down silos, increasing cooperation and collaboration, and ensuring inclusivity so that no one gets left behind during the green and sustainable recovery from these crises would be crucial.

The abovementioned crises require governments to increase investments in innovative technologies. While data and digital technologies effectively coordinated widespread testing, contact tracing, and contagion containment during the COVID-19 pandemic, these technologies likewise have the potential to contribute to climate mitigation and adaptation efforts through carbon profiling and providing accurate environmental and climate data to analyze and predict future climate-related challenges. This emphasizes the importance of digital data governance that is composed of the following: i) people (how different stakeholders are involved in the governance paradigm), ii) process (the legislative framework that engages diverse stakeholders starting from the public sector to the private sector, academia, civil society, and individuals), and iii) technology (the digital and data technologies such as AI, data analytics, GIS, and citizen science involved in the process).

The objective of this session is to explore different implementation strategies to strengthen public governance for a green and sustainable recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Moreover, it aims to discuss how strengthening digital data governance at national and local levels and actively utilizing data and digital technologies contribute to achieving climate neutrality by 2050.

IV. Structure and Methodology

The Forum will feature two sessions run by the respective institutions, thematic presentations, a Q&A and interactive discussion session, and panel discussion. The Forum will also provide the opportunity to introduce UN DESA/DPIDG's Curriculum on Governance for the SDGs, present key findings from DPIDG's analytical work, and share the outcomes and policy recommendations from other recent capacity development activities, including webinars, reports, and workshops.

The Forum will be conducted in an in-person format – at the Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA). The Forum will be convened for one day for 4 hours. It will be conducted in English with simultaneous English-Korean translation.

The recording, presentations, and the final report will be made available after the Session on the UNPOG website at http://www.unpog.org/.

V. Target Audience

This Forum will bring together national and local government officials in Korea and from abroad responsible for coordinating and leading the national efforts in achieving the SDGs, addressing climate crisis, and overcoming COVID-19. Participants will be composed of policymakers, public governance experts, practitioners, private sectors, civil society organizations, and the academia. At the end of this Forum, they will benefit from a more innovative, sustainable, and resilient approaches to sustainable development, together with the importance of leveraging digital technologies and strengthening governance for a sustainable and resilient approach to climate action.

VI. Co-organizers

Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA)

KIPA is committed to researching the development improvement of the administrative system. It collects and manages information and data related to public administration. It also aims to contribute to national administrative development by promoting the exchange of information among domestic and overseas research institutes. KIPA has a vision of a 'vibrant research environment, leading the innovative and inclusive government' and it has a mission to lead scientific, autonomous, and innovative research to devise public administration policy. KIPA promotes research for government innovation to realize social values and it is mandated to foster leadership to lead the inclusive nation, expand research networks to lead future changes, strengthen research capacity, and establish active organizational culture for everyone.

UN DESA/DPIDG/UNPOG

UN DESA holds up the development pillar of the UN Secretariat and works to promote the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. UN DESA promotes capacity development as a link between global and regional processes and development at the country level. The mandate of DPIDG is to assist the Member States in fostering effective, efficient, transparent, accountable, innovative, and citizen-centered public governance, administration, and services for sustainable development. United Nations Project Office on Governance (UNPOG), as an integral part of UN DESA/DPIDG, is mandated to address the strengthening of the capacities of public administration in Asia and the Pacific and Eastern Africa to translate the SDGs and other internationally agreed goals into institutional arrangements, strategies, and programmes at the country level.

Time (KST, GMT+9)	14 October 2022 (Friday)
13:00-13:15 (15 mins)	**Opening**
	Moderator: Ms. Ga-Young So Associate Research Fellow, Korea Institute of Public Administration
13:00-13:05 (5 mins)	**Opening Remarks** • **Mr. Jae Ho Eun** Senior Research Fellow, Korea Institute of Public Administration
13:05-13:10 (5 mins)	**Welcoming Remarks** • **Mr. Keping Yao** Senior Governance and Public Administration Expert, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
13:10-13:15 (5 mins)	**Group Photo**
13:15-13:20 (5 mins)	**Break**
13:20-14:50 (90 mins)	**Session 1 (KIPA):** **Inquiring Innovative Governance in the Pandemic Times**
	Moderator: Ms. Ga-Young So Associate Research Fellow, Korea Institute of Public Administration
13:20-13:40 (20 mins)	**Presentation 1: Building Public-Private Governance for SDGs through Private Sector Engagement** • **Mr. Jin Wook Choi** Professor, Department of Public Administration, Korea University
13:40-13:50 (10 mins)	**Panel Discussion:** *Building Public-Private Governance for SDGs through Private Sector Engagement* • **Mr. Hyun-Joo Chang** Professor, Department of Public Administration, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
13:50-14:10 (20 mins)	**Presentation 2: Does the Type of Political System Matter for the Wicked Problem of the COVID-19 Pandemic?** • **Mr. Jaekwon Cha** Professor, Department of Political Science and Diplomacy, Pukyong National University
14:10-14:30 (20 mins)	**Presentation 3: EU's Public Governance for the Carbon Neutral Economic System and the Green Deal Strategy** • **Mr. Sang-Chul Park** Professor, Graduate School of Knowledge-based Technology and Energy, Korea Polytech University

	Moderator: Ms. Ga-Young So Associate Research Fellow, Korea Institute of Public Administration
14:30-14:40 (10 mins)	**Panel Discussion:** *Does the Type of Political System Matter for the Wicked Problem of the COVID-19 Pandemic?* • **Ms. Fiona O. Yap** Professor & Head of School, Economics and Public Policy, University of Adelaide
14:40-14:50 (10 mins)	**Panel Discussion:** *EU's Public Governance for the Carbon Neutral Economic System and the Green Deal Strategy* • **Mr. Pawel Pasierbiak** Professor, Maria Curie Sklodowska University
14:50-15:05 (15 mins)	**Break**
15:05-16:05 **(60 mins)**	**Session 2 (UN DESA):** **Exploring Innovative Strategies for SDG Implementation**
	Moderator: Ms. Hye Yong (Hailey) Kim Associate Research and Policy Analysis Expert, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
15:05-15:25 (20 mins)	**Presentation 1: Strengthening Public Governance towards a Green and Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19: A Comparative Study between Bangladesh and Korea** • **Dr. M Aslam Alam** Chairman & Executive Director, Bangladesh Institute for Information Literacy and Sustainable Development (BIILSD)
15:25-15:45 (20 mins)	**Presentation 2: Strengthening Digital Data Governance for Achieving Climate Neutrality – An Effective Approach to Unlocking the Potential of Data and Digital Technology** • **Mr. John Hongsup Song** Representative Partner, Green Transformation Lab
	Moderator: Ms. Hye Yong (Hailey) Kim Associate Research and Policy Analysis Expert, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
15:45-15:55 (10 mins)	**Panel Discussion:** *Strengthening Public Governance towards a Green and Sustainable Recovery from COVID-19: A Comparative Study between Bangladesh and Korea* • **Mr. Ramiz Uddin** Head of Experimentation, Accelerator Lab, UNDP Bangladesh
15:55-16:05 (10 mins)	**Panel Discussion:** *Strengthening Digital Data Governance for Achieving Climate Neutrality – An Effective Approach to Unlocking the Potential of Data and Digital Technology* • **Mr. Keping Yao** Senior Governance and Public Administration Expert, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA
16:05-16:25 **(20 mins)**	**Roundtable Session**
	Moderator: Mr. Tae Young Kim

	Professor, Department of Public Administration, Kyung Hee University
16:05-16:25 **(20 mins)**	**Roundtable Discussants:** • **Mr. Jaekwon Cha** Professor, Department of Political Science and Diplomacy, Pukyong National University • **Mr. Sang-Chul Park** Professor, Graduate School of Knowledge-based Technology and Energy, Korea Polytech University • **Mr. M Aslam Alam** Chairman & Executive Director, Bangladesh Institute for Information Literacy and Sustainable Development (BIILSD) • **Mr. John Hongsup Song** Representative Partner, Green Transformation Lab
16:25-16:30 **(5 mins)**	**Wrap Up & Closing**
Moderator: Ms. Hye Yong (Hailey) Kim Associate Research and Policy Analysis Expert, UNPOG/DPIDG/UN DESA	

VII. Contact Information

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Annex 2. Post-event Survey Results

The post-event survey collected a total of 34 responses. Based on the population, the respondents were from Academic Institution (32.35%), National Government (20.59%), Civil Society Organization (17.65%), International Organization (11.76%), Local or Regional Government (8.82%), Private Sector or Philanthropic Organization (5.88%), and UN Entity (2.94%)

Organizational Background

Legend:
- Academic Institution
- Civil Society Organization
- International Organization
- Local or Regional Government
- National Government
- Private Sector or Philanthropic Organization
- UN Entity
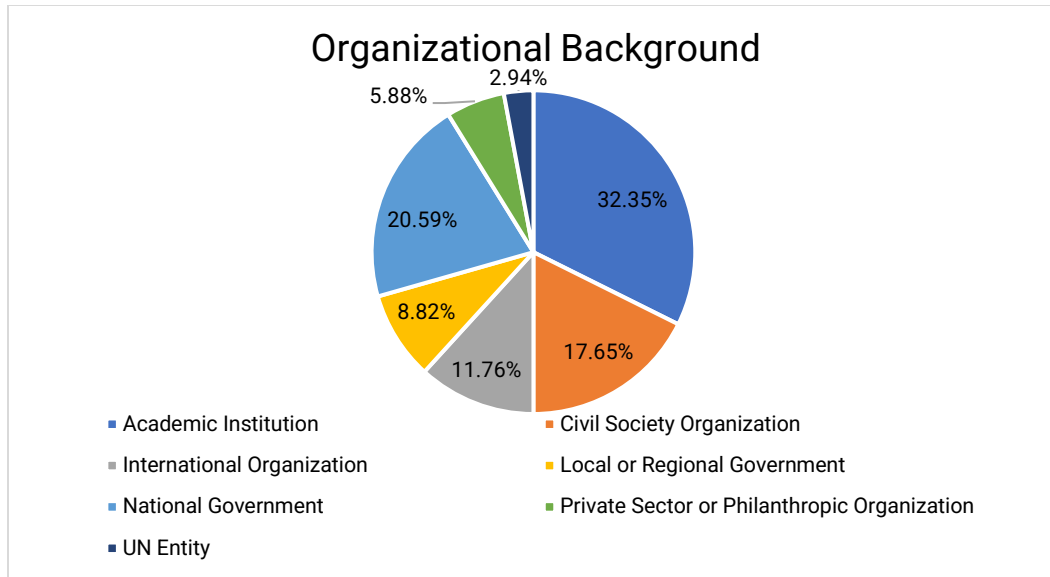
The Forum received an overall rating of 'Very Good' (50%), 'Excellent' (41.18%), and 'Good' (8.82%).

Overall Rating of the Forum

Legend:
- Excellent
- Good
- Very good
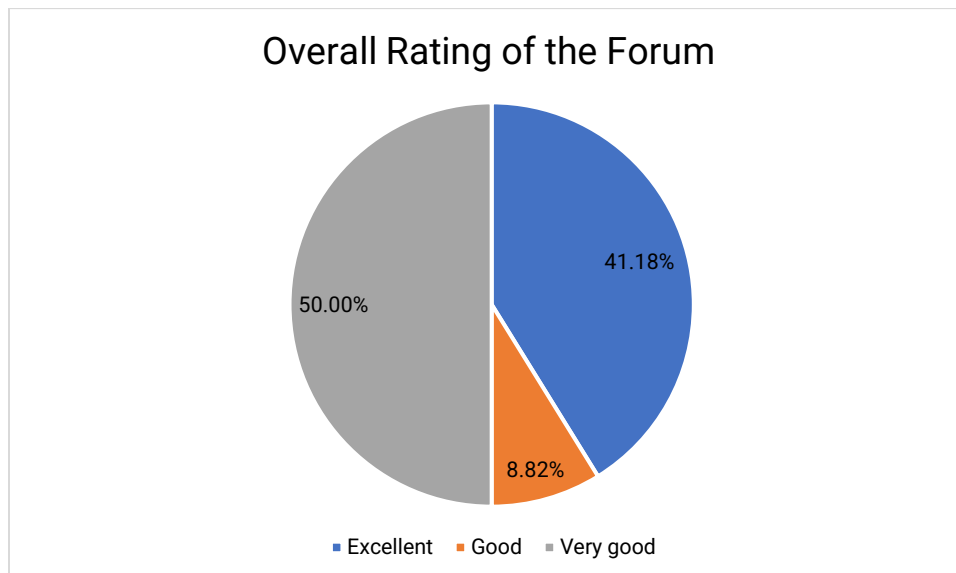
The respondents were asked to rate the following aspects of the Forum: i) relevance of the theme and clarity of objectives and ii) quality of the presentations and discussion. In particular, 50% of the respondents rated the **relevance of theme and clarity of the objectives** 'Very Good' while 44.12% responded it was 'Excellent', and 5.88% rated it 'Good.' The **quality of the presentations and discussion** also received a positive rating of 61.76% 'Excellent' and 38.24% 'Very Good.' The overall outcome based on the assessment provided by the respondents showed that the Forum was 'Excellent.'
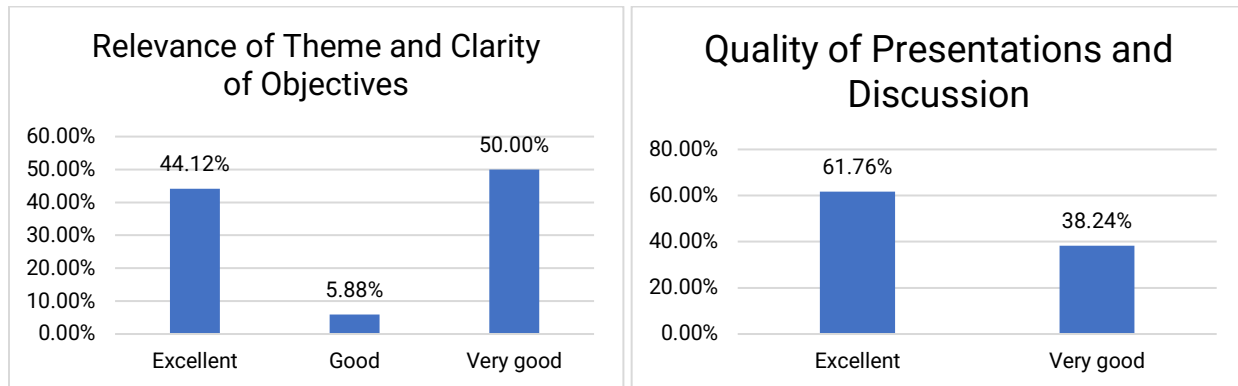
When asked on the likeliness of applying the lessons learned in the Forum, 73.53% responded 'Very Likely.' 26.47% also said that they are 'Likely' to do so.
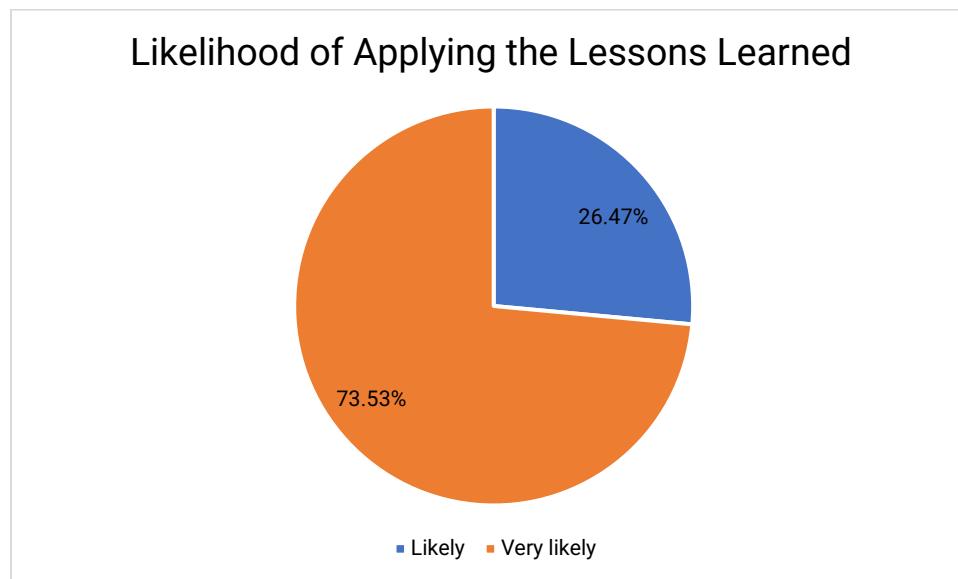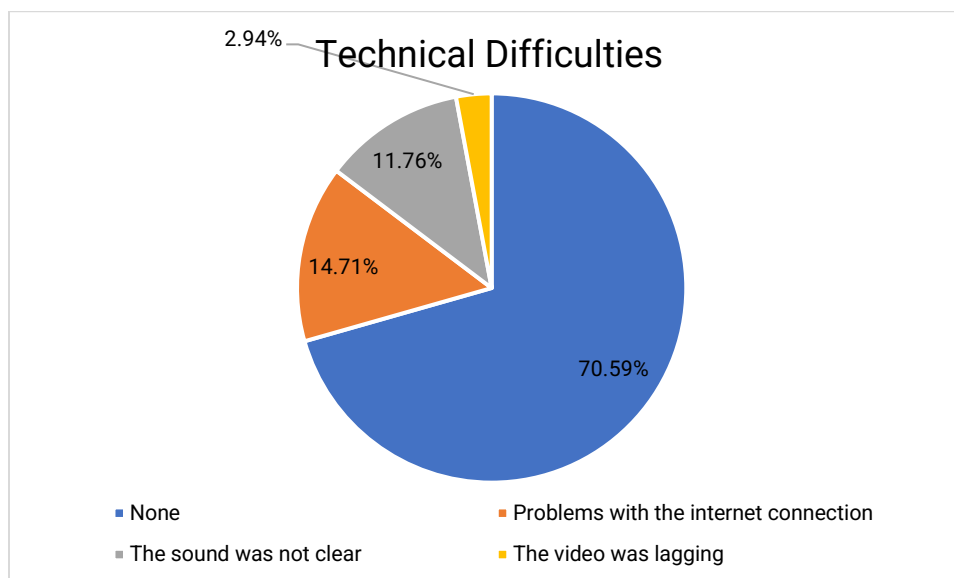

When the respondents were asked what they found most useful from the Forum, some selected feedback can be found below:

Selected Feedback

- The explanations
- All the topics
- The Roundtable session
- All the presentations
- Role of government during COVID-19
- Importance of sustainable development
- ESG and Bangladesh case study
- Digital data governance for climate neutrality
- Role of public and private sectors for SDGs
- Korea case study
- Digitization
- EU's Fit-for-55 and Green Deal Strategy
- Sharing of case studies
- Research methods for COVID-19
- Public governance for climate neutrality
- Research methodology
- Resource speakers

In terms of the technical difficulties experienced by the respondents, 70.59% reported that they have not encountered any issues. However, 14.71% of the participants said they had problems with the internet connection, 11.76% with unclear sound, and 2.94% with lagging video.

Technical Difficulties

2.94%
11.76%
14.71%
70.59%

- None
- Problems with the internet connection
- The sound was not clear
- The video was lagging

When the respondents were asked what UNPOG and KIPA could further improve when organizing similar events in the future, some selected feedback can be found below:

Selected Feedback
- More forum in the future   - Congratulations and job well done   - More time for Q&A   - Similar forums   - Certification programs   - None   - More speakers   - Pre-release of PPTs   - More topics   - Hybrid event   - It was okay   - More countries   - More time for engagement   - It was fine   - Face-to-face event   - A training program   - Everything was OK   - Nothing I can think of   - None at the moment   - All good   - Provide certificate of attendance or training certificate