

Book Reviews

Knowledge, Policy and Power in International Development : A Practical Guide, Harry Jones, Nicola Jones, Louise Shaxson, and David Walker, The Policy Press(2012), ISBN: 978-1447300953

Introduction

In the Asian region, there are some countries such as Korea and China that have successfully caught up with the advanced economies in only a short span of time. The policies, which have underpinned such growth, have historical value as the data for sustainable growth in the future and they become the objects of analysis for national development policies of other countries in Asia.

In spite of the rapid growth of some Asian countries, many countries in Asia in general have short history of national innovation policies because industrialization in Asia started later than the West. It means that their experiences—obtained from the knowledge of various innovation policies or through the implementation of those innovation policies—have not been sufficiently accumulated in comparison with the West. Therefore, it would be difficult for these countries attempting to adopt a successful innovation policy of other nations to predict whether they can manage to introduce the policy to their counties properly or whether the adopted policy would work as expected.

Taking these into consideration, this book will be very useful for the readers interested in innovation policies in Asia because it can provide in-depth understanding on the complexity that occurs in the actual process of policy making. Specifically, this book describes the various actors associated with knowledge-policy interface and the power dynamics

among different intellectuals, suggesting a practical guide to practitioners as well as researchers. The scholars who study the innovation policies tend to ideally think that they can derive the desired effects by applying their knowledge on innovation policy immediately to the policies. However, this book provides thematic description on very diverse social interactions surrounding policy-related knowledge until it is reborn as an actual policy. It would also help the readers get the macroscopic perspective on the whole process in which the innovation policy of a nation can take the real effect after starting from the knowledge production stage.

Main Contents

Except for Chapter 1, the introductory part, and Chapter 6, the description of conclusion and implications, this book introduces the four main elements that influence the knowledge-policy interface in each of the different chapter one by one.

In Chapter 1, the importance of the subject, “the link between knowledge, policy and power in development”, dealt with in this book and the backgrounds of the discussion are first explained. Furthermore, this chapter helps the readers prepare for the abstract concepts that will be used in future logical development by briefly suggesting the definition of key words used in this book, such as policy, knowledge, and knowledge-policy interface, etc.

In Chapter 2, the political context is introduced as the first element that influences the knowledge-policy. The authors reject the simplification of the policy making process into a mere phrase, such as “it all depends on political will”, and analytically explain how the political context can influence the knowledge-policy interface. As political context, this chapter

suggests various elements, such as restraints on power (separation of powers), decentralisation, regulation and competitiveness of political participation, informal politics, external forces, and the capacity to absorb change. Furthermore, it classifies the political form of a nation into more consolidated democracies, more autocratic governance, more fragile or postconflict states. Then it explains what particular significance the various forms that define the political context have in each different political forms. The various cases introduced in the process of introducing various elements defining the political context help the readers understand the key points, not making them immerse only in complicated and abstract concepts.

Chapter 3 introduces various actors who connect the knowledge-policy interface. It also explains how those various actors make decisions in their activities of knowledge production, delivery, and application, and how they ultimately influence the knowledge-policy interface. The authors comprehensively accept the trend of other previous researches, such as the rational choice theory, pluralism, Marxist theory, and researches that stress the roles and functions of institutions. Previous researches were focused on the bureaucratic and academic researchers as the main actors. In this book, however, the discussions are conducted on much wider concept that covers very diverse actors in the categories of the policy actors, knowledge actors, and intermediaries. In the first part of this chapter, three elements, such as actors' interest, actors' beliefs and values, and actors' credibility are suggested as a theoretical ground that can comprehensively explain the behavior of those various actors. In the last part of this chapter, the tools for the readers, who should negotiate with others in response to the behavioral characteristics of those various actors, are suggested.

In Chapter 4, the kinds of knowledge to be used in policy making process in knowledge-policy interface are classified and explained. The authors are classifying the knowledge into three categories: research-based knowledge, practice-informed knowledge, and citizen knowledge. This chapter first gives clear definition on what exactly each of these three categories stands for. It also provides deep analysis on how different is the

knowledge in each of those three categories according to major issues, such as actors, source of knowledge, and knowledge flow that occur when the knowledge is used for policy making. The middle part of this chapter explains what kind of power dynamics occurs in the process of each different kind of knowledge being connected with the relevant policy. In the last part of this chapter, practical implications are provided on how those different kinds of knowledge can be utilized in policy making.

Through the contents from Chapter 2 to Chapter 4, the authors of this book argued that the process of policy making is not one of those linear and sequential processes, such as conception, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation process. Consequently, it appears that these chapters are trying to explain that the complex process of different kinds of knowledge interacting among various actors is the essence of knowledge-policy interface. Chapter 5 deals with the role of intermediaries, which are the media of knowledge interaction among various actors. The authors are systematically delivering the various roles of intermediaries in knowledge-policy interface through the six functions performed by intermediaries. These six functions are informing, linking, matchmaking, engaging, collaborating, and building adaptive capacity. By describing the characteristics of detailed items, such as definition, strength, and weakness, this chapter gives the clear introduction of relevant functions. In the last part of this chapter, practical guide is suggested on how the function of such various knowledge intermediaries can be used in knowledge interaction. The authors of this book insist that the knowledge interactions be performed through the intermediaries in each stage of "undertaking a needs assessment" (step 1), "understanding organisational mandates" (step 2), "sequencing the choice of intermediary functions" (step 3), and "interpreting the results and monitoring process" (step 4).

In Chapter 6, the last chapter, the authors are suggesting political implications while concluding the discussion on knowledge-policy interface. In particular, they wrap up the book by separately describing implications of their analysis for knowledge producers,

knowledge users, knowledge intermediaries, and donors.

Concluding Remarks

While introducing the knowledge-policy interface, this book not only covers the comprehensive range of political economy so that it can be adopted by various countries, but it also secures the generality that can be applied to different policy areas. Accordingly, the readers interested in innovation policies of Asia will be able to use the contents of this book considering the different characteristics of each country, such as the kinds of actors that usually intervene in the political context or the process of policy making.

Considering that many papers in ARP Journal are producing new knowledge related to innovation policies, the understanding on the knowledge-policy interface introduced in this book is expected to play the role of helping the new knowledge to be actually reflected in the policies. It is also expected to contribute to the development of innovation policies of Asia by fostering complementary interaction with the research papers in ARP Journal.

Donghyuk Choi

S&T Policy Plannign Division

Korea Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP)

8F, Dongwon Industry Bldg. 68 Mabung-gil,

Seocho-gu, Seoul 137-130 Republic of Korea

E-mail: dhchoi@kistep.re.kr

Ecology of Wisdom, Arne Naess, Alan Drengson and Bill Devall, Counterpoint(2010), ISBN: 978-1-58243-592-3

The Norwegian Arne Naess who died in 2009 was philosopher, a mountaineer, an environment advocate, and a activist. He is also frequently said to be a person who marked a new era in the history of environmental movements in the 20th century, probably because his *Long-range Deep Ecology Movement* has large effects on environmental movements. Although

he thought actions are important, he was a peace-loving person, who was never violent or radical. He has great respect for Gandhi. The book *Ecology of Wisdom* to be introduced now is an Anthology edited by Alan Drengson and Bill Devall containing diverse writings related to the *Long-range Deep Ecology Movement* written by Arne Naess.

One of the reasons I decided to introduce this book is the people's misunderstanding or misusing of the ecological terminology. I think that a few politicians and public officials sometimes tend to mislead or ignore philosophical elements inherent in ecology, that is, the philosophical elements of ecology, which are close to naturalism and reciprocity, although they talk about "symbiosis", "ecology", "ecosystem", and so on. There are some cases of misunderstanding and misusing the scientific terminology such as "evolution" and "evolutionary theory"; the evolutionary theory was sometimes misled as supporting eugenics or racism. Furthermore, without any consideration on the fundamental meaning of its own, the word "evolution" is used sometimes where the word "change" is sufficient, for the only reason that evolution is better expression. On reviewing recent use of terms related to ecology, I feel that this tendency is being intensified (as a recent example, ecosystemic development). Another reason for the selection of this book is that I think ecological concern should be included in policies for science and technology, including environmental technology. One of the roles of science and technology emphasized by the new Korean administration is to solve diverse social and welfare problems of people aside from economic problems. Therefore, reviewing the roles of humans and views of the world presented in *Long-range Deep Ecology Movement* will provide a moment to agonize over the direction for development and scientific technology to scientists or science and technology policy decision makers.

In the preface, the editors said, "... You may never have heard the phrase *Long-range Deep Ecology Movement*, but you might be a supporter of the movement and are awakening to your intuition of deep ecology." This probably means that the "*Deep Ecology*" concept has been recognized by everybody to some extent in mind and that most people are