A Clue of How the Citizens Could Join in R&D Project Evaluation from Technology Assessment in Korea

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[Research Background]
The qualitative evaluation for R&D projects in Korea is focused on developing its methods. Especially, to intensify the usefulness of social problem-solving R&D projects, its quality assessment requires the participation of stakeholders including the citizens as final technology consumers. But, currently, there is no way to join in R&D project evaluation for the citizens.

Technology assessment (TA) has been conducted since 2003 in Korea and ‘Civic Forum’ in the TA has been run from 2006. The citizens take part in that as panels to assess technology’s effects in various aspects (economy, society, environment, etc.).

[Research Objectives]
How their thought is different from that of the experts and the media was investigated by comparative analysis in TA 2014. How the citizens’ thought influences was surveyed in 2015 from the citizens experienced.

[Conclusion]
Regarding the ultimate purpose of problem-solving R&D projects, the satisfaction of the citizens as final beneficiary should be the key indicator to evaluate the projects.

However the experts are only engaged in R&D project evaluation, at present, in Korea.
Especially, in public sector, well-designed ‘Citizen Forum’ deserves to evaluate the projects in a quality assessment way. (Should be from and in the core problems)

The result shows a clue how the citizens could join in R&D project evaluation to improve quality assessment methods.

[Results]
Comparison on the subjects interested in TA b/w ‘the expert/the media’ and ‘the citizen’

Survey on Citizen Panel

Do you believe that the citizen panel are sufficiently representing the positions of the citizens regarding technology assessment? Do you believe that the number of people in the citizen panel, composed of around 15 people, is appropriate?

Do you believe that sufficient information regarding technology subject to evaluation, is provided to the citizen panel in advance? Do you believe that the evaluation comments and recommendations are sufficiently reflected in the final result?

Plural counting

Similar in overall even little bit different in details

Online channel with the citizen

The press report with the expert

Data from TA 2014 in Korea
Period: June 2014 – Oct. 2014
Method: On-line

Respondents: 37 (48.7%, out of 76(4yrs))
Period: 8 Sep. 2015 – 22 Sep. 2015
Method: On-line
* Presented at SEES 2015