Summary of KGID Partnership Week 2021

Korea Green Innovation Days (KGID) Partnership Week 2021 was virtually held by the Korean Green Growth Trust Fund (KGGTF) on September 27-29 (EDT) / September 28-30 (KST). The three-day event brought together more than 320 experts from World Bank teams, K-Partners, and client countries in the key sectors of agriculture, energy, environment, digital development, transport, urban development, and water. It organized 22 breakout sessions including 12 sessions led by World Bank grant teams, 6 sessions by K-Partners, and 4 sessions by WBG Korea Office teams.

At the Plenary Session of KGID Partnership Week 2021, Dr. Richard Damania, Chief Economist of The Sustainable Development Practice Group, World Bank, Dr. Kwangchul Ji, Director of Development Finance Division of the Ministry of Economy and Finance of Korea, and Jason Allford, Special Representative of the World Bank Group Korea Office, delivered opening remarks on the KGID event, KGGTF, and strong partnership between Korea and the World Bank. Dr. Hyoun Gun Wang, Program Manager of the Korea Green Growth Trust Fund (KGGTF), Sustainable Development Chief Economist Unit at the World Bank, introduced 15 new grant projects and the approval process.

Dr. June-Yi Lee, Coordinating Lead Author of WGI Contribution to IPCC 6th Assessment Report (AR6) and Associate Professor of Pusan National University, gave the keynote speech on IPCC AR6 highlighting scientific advances in the assessment of climate change. Dr. Kumari Kumari Rigaud, Lead Environment Specialist and Regional Climate Change Coordinator at the World Bank, urged immediate, rapid, and large-scale actions for greenhouse gas reduction, resilience, and financing during the panel discussion.

More importantly, KGID Partnership Week differentiated from KGID Spring event as the three-day event highlighted 15 new grant teams and focused on building new partnerships and sharing knowledge between the World Bank and Korean partners. After the announcement of Year 9 KGGTF Grants in early September, KGGTF team conducted 1-1 individual onboarding meetings with the new TTLs and encouraged them to host sessions and explore partnership opportunities with experts and K-Partners.

The event had 22 breakout sessions, including 12 grant sessions led by 15 newly awarded grant teams, 6 K-partner sessions, and 4 Korea Office PASA Sessions on Energy transition, Plastics and Innovation, Smart & Green Cities, and Land & Property Valuation. Each session presented collaboration activities and projects and held active discussions on strengthening cooperation and achieving green growth visions such as carbon neutrality, clean energy, sustainable smart cities, and green digitalization.

KGID Partnership Week served as a platform not only to discuss common global challenges such as climate change and post-pandemic recovery but also to continue and deepen partnerships between the World Bank and K-Partners and find the ways of opening the path towards green, resilient, and inclusive development (GRID).