

Long – term Care Policy in Korea and Taiwan - Comparison with Japan in Policy Scheme Decision -

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Summary

Aging has been proceeding both in Korea and Taiwan. Its speed is faster than that of Japan. So, we need rapid policy scheme making to cope with population aging, including long-term care policy. Korea has implemented “Long-term care Insurance” (LCI) in 2008. Taiwan has now tax funded long term care scheme. Taiwanese LTCI is under planning for implementation in 2016.

Japan, Korea and Taiwan are located in East Asia Area with common culture and historical background. So, we can see that Korea and Taiwan will have similar long-term care scheme with Japan. But there are not only similarities but also differences among these countries and region.

For example, insurer of LTCI is municipality (local government) in Japan, national health insurance corporation in Korea. In Japan, municipalities have many roles as insurers of social insurance, but in Korea, central governmental bodies do so. So, Korean policy maker has made scheme design in insurer like this. Taiwan is in similar situation with Korea.

Japan and Korea have adopted common long-term care needs certification system. Taiwan is under the discussion to adopt similar system with Japan and Korea when LTCI will have started. But, the number of certification degrees is only three, comparing to Japan (five degrees). Less financial burden will be the background of this difference, I suppose.

In addition, family caregiver allowance scheme is included in Korean LTCI (Japanese LTCI is not allowed). In Taiwan, many foreign born workers exist as domestic long-term care workers (Japan does not have such persons).

In this way, the long-term care systems among countries and regions in East Asia Area will have both similarities and differences. Thus, when we show findings from policy experiences in Japan, we need consider the circumstances in each country or region.

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