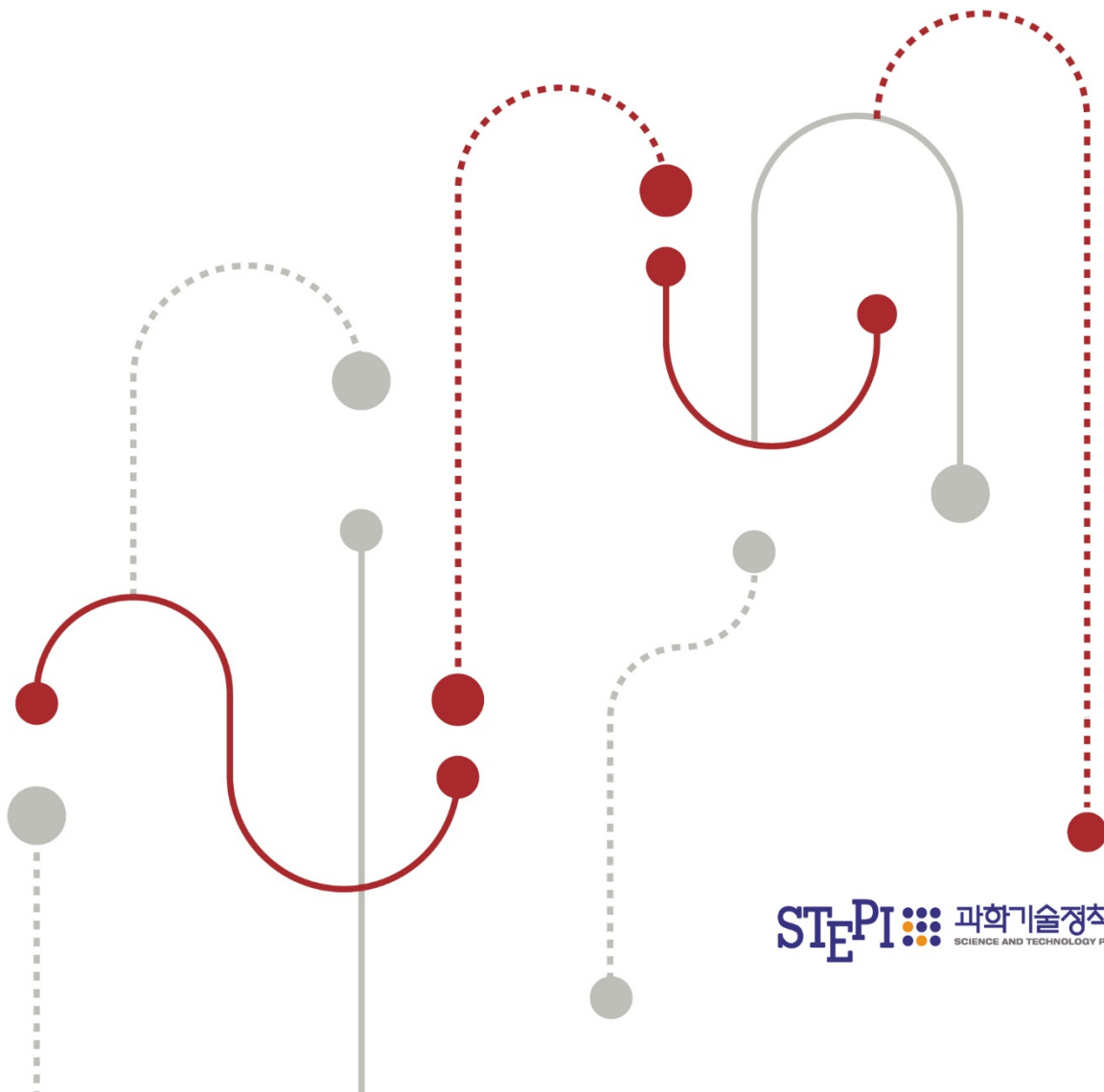


SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY POLICY

STEP Insight

A Study on the Advanced System of the S&T International Cooperation Responding to Technopolitics Era



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**A Study on the Advanced System
of the S&T International
Cooperation Responding to
Technopolitics Era**

**Jongseon Kim · Kyungmo Sung · Yonggi Kim ·
Elly Hyanghee Lee · Jieun Kim · Jeehe Min**

SUMMARY

■ **(Background)** The importance of the international cooperation system for science and technology has expanded as the international community has shifted to the era of tech politics, in which core technologies determine international politics. In the era of techpolitics, rapid response to changes in critical technologies in the international community is essential. For this, advancing the national science and technology global cooperation system is necessary.

■ **(International Trends)** International efforts are being made to advance the international cooperation system for science and technology. Major economies such as the United States and Japan are trying to respond efficiently to changes in the international community. In this aspect, they are making great efforts to achieve their national goals by establishing and promoting various policies and measures based on advanced international cooperation systems for science and technology.

■ **(Current status and issues)** In Korea, an inefficient international cooperation system for science and technology is in operation amid the national policy response efforts. The Korean government is making various policy efforts in response to changes in the international community. Since the US-China technology hegemony competition began, the Korean government has established and implemented various policies and measures for international cooperation for science and technology to cope with the hegemony. However, the inefficient operation of the international cooperation system for science and technology has prevented the Korean government from responding effectively to changes in the international community:

- In Korea's international cooperation system for science and technology, it is challenging to create synergy between ministries because each ministry operates individually due to the lack of an unified national strategy.

- Due to the government-led rigid international cooperation system, it is difficult to respond flexibly to changes in the international community.
- The short-term approach to international cooperation projects reduces the expertise of the government and related organizations, and as a result, the international cooperation system is not operating efficiently.
- Due to the low importance of international cooperation, there are many problems of reluctance to cooperate internationally in actual research activities

■ Suggestions for Measures to Advance the International Cooperation System of Korea for Science and Technology

1. Establish clear national goals and strengthen mission-oriented functions of various ministries

- Establish a national control tower and clarify the national science and technology international cooperation strategy
- Strengthen the mission-oriented functions of international cooperation strategies for science and technology

2. Strengthen expertise in international cooperation for science and technology in the public sector

- Need to enhance the expertise of government agencies in international cooperation for science and technology, for example, by abolishing the circular employment system in the field of international cooperation for science and technology and introducing a system for fostering experts.
- Need to strengthen the professionalism of business management institutions and flexible operation strategies

3. Strengthen expertise in government support by enhancing capacity of think tanks

- Expand the foundation for strengthening international cooperation research capabilities of public think tanks
- Enhance the government's expertise in policy support by revitalizing private think tanks

4. Make a transition from short to long-term system

- Introduce a long-term operation system in all areas related to international cooperation for science and technology
- Avoid short-term approaches to science and technology international cooperation projects and establish an operation and evaluation system for related projects from a long-term perspective

5. Select, concentrate and create a relevant environment

- Increase the efficiency of the international cooperation system for science and technology through selection and concentration.
- Strengthen the importance of international cooperation
- Create a domestic environment to strengthen international cooperation international cooperation