The Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of Korea was 1.3 in 2012 and it is the lowest level among the OECD countries. The Korean government has expanded family policies since 2005, especially there have been significant improvements in supports for childcare services and governments spending for it. However, there is still limitation in terms of efficiency and equality.

Korea's family policy is weak in responding to population ageing and encouraging female labor market participation. Governments support childcare services for all children aged 0-5 without special consideration for dual working parents. Childcare allowances are provided for children only if they are cared at home. Payment for parental leave is provided for the people who are enrolled in employment insurance.

France has long history of family policy and achieved success in both high levels of fertility rate and female labor market participation. There is much to learn from French family policy, which is one of important area of Social security system, allowing people to have the number of children as they want and guarantee vertical and horizontal equity. The implication of French family policy would provide useful insight for developing family policy in Korea.

This presentation shows currents debates on family policy and short description on recent research of KIHASA. Current works of KIHASA include as follows. "The effectiveness and efficiency of cash versus in-kind benefit for family income," "Childcare service and early education for the consideration of work-life balance and child development, and "Comparison studies on family policy for Selected East Asian countries – South Korea, China, Japan, and Singapore." The seminar provides useful opportunity to exchange experience of both countries and to develop better family policy.

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