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## Thematic Session [Social Economy]

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# Exploring social economy models for the protection of vulnerable groups from climate change

Oct 12, 2022 (Wed) 13:00-15:30

Organizers: Gwangju Association of Social Economy, Gwangju Support Center for Social Economy,  
Gwangju Energy Park Center

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## Background

Climate crisis has currently posed a threat to the right to life, the right to health, and the right to livelihood. Also, it has been further exacerbating because of its two characteristics: 'asymmetry' in which the extent of harms by the offenders' side does not match to the damages on the victims' side and 'uncertainty' that makes existing climate data no longer valid.

Even worse, while the crisis has been common to everyone, the aftermath derived from it tends to have discriminate impacts on humanity. The discriminate impacts of the climate crisis are largely dependent on an economic factor. In this regard, social economy is required to play diverse roles not only as an alternative to solutions for traditional social issues such as polarization and job creation, but also as a solution itself to address environmental social issues such as climate changes, energy transition, vegetarian trends, zero waste, and recycling of resource. Especially, in responding to climate crisis, the social economy is involved in citizen-engaged solar photo-voltaic power generation as well. For the moment, the social economy in our region appears to be disproportionately concentrated on the civil-engaged solar photo-voltaic generation as part of efforts of climate action, thus, many efforts are being made to diversify the approach at the same time.

In addition, we need to figure out fundamental approaches, at the same time, to address energy inequality and directly respond to disasters such as extreme heat and cold waves and heavy rains. In particular, we have to put efforts in expanding our roles in coping with the climate crisis that indiscriminately affects the vulnerable.

Therefore, this session would share cases of global policies and campaigns to protect the climate vulnerable and domestic examples of the Beautiful Store Foundation's movement of 'Beautiful Store'. With reviewing those projects, we would like to help participants explore new projects to protect the vulnerable in the climate crisis in related to the social economy.



## Objective

This session aims at raising awareness among social economists on the climate crisis and its impacts on human rights and providing a learning venue to ultimately expand their roles as main agents in addressing social issues.

During the session, domestic and overseas cases of climate crisis response of social economy would be shared and 'the climate vulnerable protection project' is to be proposed as an initiative to expand the role of social economy in our region. By doing so, we would take this opportunity to build a platform of climate crisis response to promote continuous discussion.

Also, the session would offer an opportunity to identify business models in the social economy and seek for ways to turn the new models into concrete businesses to directly protect the vulnerable in climate crisis such as extreme heat and cold waves, heavy rains, and drought.

## Main agenda

1. Climate crisis impacts on our lives and human rights.
2. Domestic and overseas cases and approaches of social economic response to climate crisis.
3. Current status of social economic responses to climate crisis in our region.
4. Identifying and proposing joint projects for protecting(supporting)the climate vulnerable.
5. Proposing ways and approaches of system building to respond to social economy climate crisis.



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