

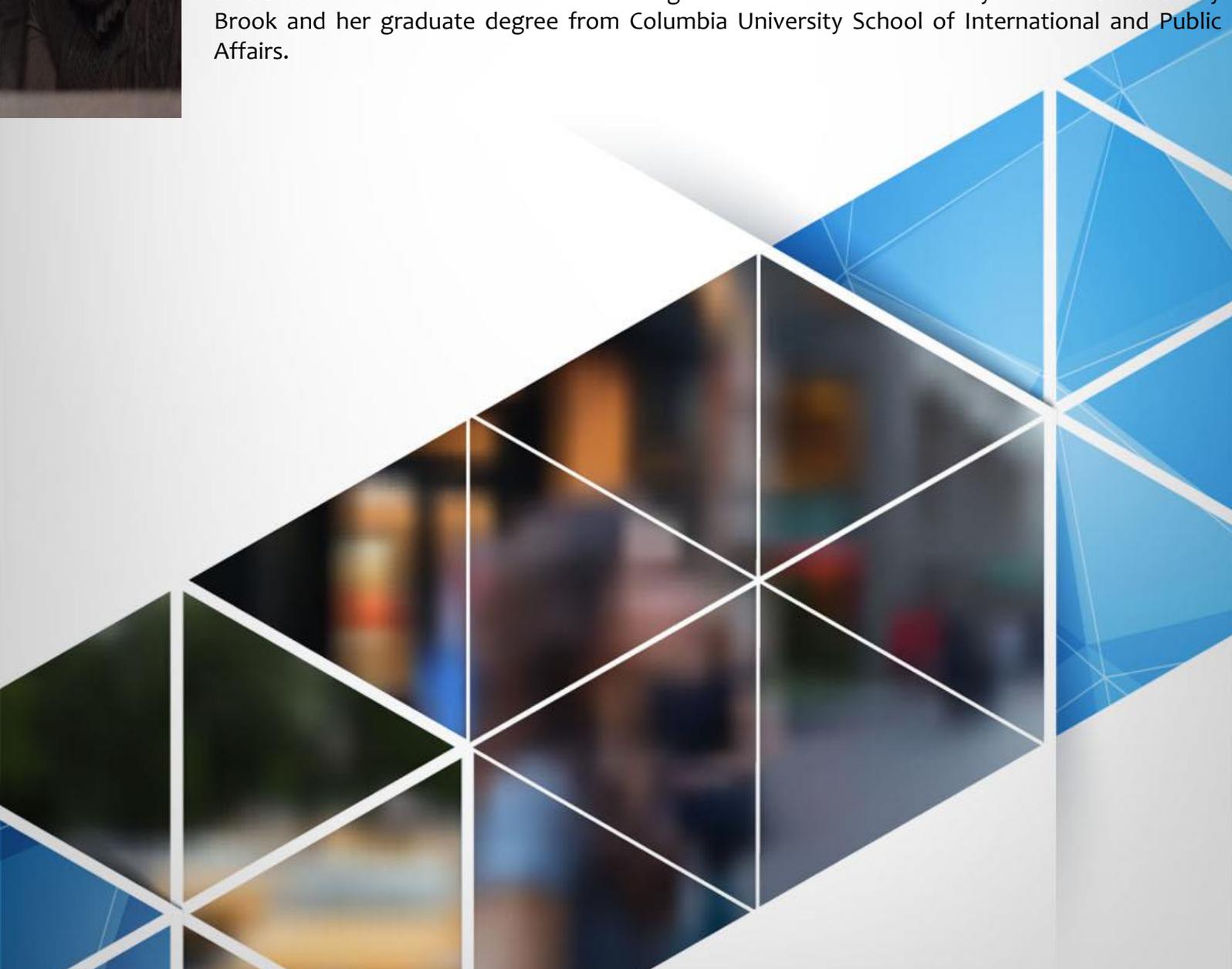
# Green Growth Finance

Eun Joo Yi, Senior Environmental Specialist, ENB SAR Unit, Bangladesh Dhaka, talked about green growth and shared her experiences on Webinar held on 05 June 2021 organized by Banking Sector Policy Support-BSPS .

As program manager of the Korea Green Growth Trust Fund, Eun Joo Yi built an innovative, implementation focused trust fund devoted to supporting World Bank staff and clients design, plan, and implement green growth initiatives, strategies, and investments. The trust fund's focus on operational expertise worked to improve economic and resource efficiency, build greater resilience to extreme weather and natural disasters, and increase competitiveness.

Prior to joining the World Bank, Eun Joo consulted for the IFC Advisory Services (WBG) on resource efficiency and clean energy. Before moving to Washington DC, she lived in Norway and Russia working in projects related to international science & technology diplomacy, climate, energy and environment. Her broad global experience ranges from a Norwegian engineering firm, ISTC working with the US EPA and State Department, and Pfizer Inc.

She is a US national and received her undergraduate from State University of New York at Stony Brook and her graduate degree from Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.



So first of all, I'm Korean American; my country is United States. I will be moving to Dhaka as early as end of July. And I'll be there for next 2-3 years. I'm really excited about it. I was a technical advisor and fund manager at the World Bank and I managed about a hundred forty five activities across 90 countries on green growth. So I think there's a lot of experiences that I can bring to bear. So, I want to share some of those experiences in this dialogue.

One of the biggest pet peeves about this kind of forum is that people tend to talk about the generalities or go about the general terms such as green growth, green finance etc. Rather, we need to be very specific, practical and down-to-earth with these issues so that every engagement will lead us to the next implementation steps.

I am going to share couple of Korean facts related to this. Green growth is something I'm most passionate about and I know that Bangladesh will not only achieve it but also surpass it. In Korea, the Ministry of Economy and Finance are together. Bangladesh has separate Ministry for Finance and Planning. Environment friendly policies taken by Korea helped to increase GDP, GNI and they didn't see any downsides of any of those policies. Reforestation Policy in 1970s, Greenbelt Policy in 1971, Bus Reform Policy in 2004 are the examples for being green there.

When Korea took on green investment or green recovery, they were at the bottom of their economic and financial situation with the financial crisis. The entire country including the people on the streets said that the President was crazy to undertake green initiatives at such crisis moment. Everybody criticized him and asked if there was any money for green growth. They said that he was going to make the whole nation poorer as men already had lost jobs, economy had gone down and so forth. But, he was able to turn the whole economy back on track simply by hiring a top level financial reporter, and he was hired as a political machine to shift the way people could understand green and recovery as an inclusive economic growth. The Ministry of Finance, once the President took that direction, took two years to formulate framework with hard work of all-night sessions. They cut every project, every initiative, every Ministry, that was not performing as well as they deprioritized it. They did not take money away from welfare, education, social justice and social well-being etc; they took a little bit from defense. This is where they found fiscal space for green growth investment. They shifted from quantity to quality growth and from fossil fuel dependency to energy independence. Korea found the necessity of green growth because it is not only good for environment but also good for finance.

Over five years, Korea spent about 95 billion dollars. It started with a first supplemental budget in 2009 and that went on further. They ended up spending about two percent GDP per year over five years. They had several big goals for the country. Adapting to climate change, energy independence, creating new engines for economic growth and improving quality of life. Under these directions, 10 different activities of the different lines, Korean Ministry came up with different projects. So overall, the government had selected 50 national projects that took 95 billion dollars.

From 1978-1993, Korea was facing total unfavorable environment, whereas they are now earning over a hundred million dollar in a year from the landfill, which was used to be open dump waste site. This is the world's largest landfill to produce 50 megawatts from waste to energy. So they were able to decrease CO<sub>2</sub> over 8 lac tons a year.

The largest concern for the private sector is that they need longer term finance at low interest rate. So we hope to have dialogue with the World Bank, the government and all of you on around the policy space, the regulation space and the monitoring space. I will be the first one to tell you because I'm the coordinator for environment for the World Bank in Dhaka. I am excited because I am going to lead the world bank's green growth of analytical work for the next three years in Bangladesh. I want to build some waste management facility, solid wastewater treatment plant etc. However, as there is no enforcement for monitoring data, no financial intermediary, investors do not feel confident. This is where we need your support to bring attention of the government for the need of data transparency and constant reliable regulation. I'm looking forward to engaging with you further. Technical and analytical studies from many sectors like transport, green financing, urban, environment will be helpful in this regard. Again, thank you so much for this moment.