Executive Summary

Developing an Administrative Scheme for NECA Round-table Conference

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☐ Introduction

Recently political issues on the health and welfare problem for people's quality of life are increasing widely. Health care is unique and professional area related to individual privacy, and interwoven many social stakeholders with sensitive interests. Health care issues have variable perceptions among the social groups and conflicted with others. Consensus development conference is a relatively inexpensive and rapid mechanism for the consideration and evaluation of different attributes of a medical technology. This is the reason needed objective and impartial mechanism for transparent decision making process. So consensus or round-table conference with evidence is worth of notice as the useful process and reasonable decision making for health policy. This study is to develop an administrative scheme for NECA (National Evidence-based Healthcare Collaboration Agency) round-table conference model appropriate group judgement method in Korean setting of national health care system. The term of 'round-table conference' rather than 'consensus development conference' is preferred here due to poor situation on the social debate culture in Korea.

☐ Major trends of consensus development conference

The current concept of the consensus development program originated at the National Institute of Health (NIH) in the United States. The first conference was held in the US in 1977 as part of an effort to improve the translation of NIH biomedical research findings for use in clinical practice. Since that time, the methods of conference organization and conduct, as well as dissemination strategies for the results, have evolved in the attempt to refine the US

process. Many countries, including Canada, Denmark, Netherlands, and United Kingdom have initiated their own consensus development programs modifying this NIH model. Although the idea of consensus development is common to all programs, the consensus development process and dissemination mechanisms differ across the countries. Individuals in a variety of countries have remodeled the NIH consensus development conference methodology to adapt the technological assessment to the particular national context of the program.

In Korea, many consensus conferences were held actively since the late 1990 to the mid of decade 2000 on the themes of scientific technology and related policy, such as the safety of GMO food and bioethics, cloning technology, atomic energy policy, organ transplantation, and so on. In the area of health care, the most representative consensus development program is the NECA round-table conference, 9 meetings were held since the conference on the meaningless terminal care 2009. The NECA round-table conferences have two differentiated aims by the issue, one is to resolve the interest conflict among stakeholders, and the other is to derive a conclusion on the issues of research question and disseminate them into the field of clinic and policy. In this study, all the NECA round-table conferences were evaluated with a protocol developed by the research group to examine the strength and weakness of the conference meetings and to feedback for a better round-table conference.

□ NECA Round-table Conference administrative scheme

The NECA Round-table Conference may be defined as a consensus mechanism to discuss and search for a mutual agreement needed opinion convergence among stakeholders, based impartial and systematic information and evidences supported by NECA research staffs, participating various social groups including professionals related with the raised issue.

NECA Round-table Conference is prepared through the process of topic selection, organizing administrative committee, appointment of presenters and panel members, and preconference meeting, and the whole conference is consisted of three stages of preparation planning, postconference follow-up measures including reporting, dissemination and publication. The NECA Round-table Conference constituents are composed planning committee, administrative committee, panels and presenters, and working staffs. The role of planning committee is to select conference topic, nomination of administrative committee members, and budgeting. The administrative committee has the role of determining the conference time schedule and program, identifying the stakeholders, selecting key questions for the conference,

appointment of the presenters and panels, postconference follow-up measures, public relations, dissemination strategy planning. Major role of panel is developing consensus statement on the key questions based on the informations provided by working staffs, and the presenters are charged to give presentations of their opinion on the issued items and answers for the panel's questions based on the scientific evidence. Working staffs participate overall administration of the NECA Round-table Conference.

NECA Round-table Conference is performed in the usual order, topic selection, stakeholder analysis, organizing administrative committee, determination of key questions, nomination of presenters and panel, preconference meeting, main conference meeting, derivation of consensus statement, postconference follow-up measures. Final consensus statement, following beforehand planned measures, may be published as articles on the related journal, round-table conference report, press release and so on.

Key Words : consensus development conference, NECA Round-table Conference, administrative scheme