



An educational institution that cultivates a mature
Korean society and nurtures future leaders.

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About NSI

NSI (New Society Institute) was established in 1991 as a private, nonprofit think tank with liberal democracy, market economy, and rule of law as its fundamental philosophies. NSI aims to conduct research on vital reforms in national governance and strategically prompt public organizations with necessary imperatives. NSI endeavors to elucidate for the public a set of roles that the government should provide to foster a dynamic and stable market economy in Korea. Furthermore, NSI is dedicated to creating an agenda for policy reforms to assist the government in its pursuit of national prosperity.

NSI undertakes research and public debate projects guided by the aforementioned principles and disseminates findings to educate the public, aiming to support political actions that initiate reforms on respective matters. In 2002, recognizing the need for youth economic education, NSI collaborated with Junior Achievement to establish Junior Achievement Korea.

Recently, NSI has been investing in educational projects to cultivate a mature civic culture in Korean society and to empower future generations, including teenagers and young adults, to become leaders.

Principal Activities

Policy Research & Projects for Public Consensus

NSI has conducted numerous projects for policy-related research, public debate and governance reforms since its establishment in 1991. The focus has been to challenge the people's conventional modes of thinking about economic policies and political governance of the country, and assessing the areas of improvement that are in need the most.

Each of these projects involved the participation of Korea's experts, senior government officials, and representatives from the related interest groups including political parties and independent researchers. Most of the projects were undertaken in partnership with the major daily newspapers or TV stations in order to ensure the nationwide reporting of the discussions.

Thanks to the enthralling findings from the individual projects and the strategic partnership with the media, the NSI has been able to establish itself as a major agenda-setter in national debates on Korea's need for desirable revisions of economic policies and political governance.

The recent major projects are as follows:

- Joint Project with The Dong-A Ilbo & Hankuk Kyongje (Daily) - "Monthly Symposium Series: 'What's Wrong with the Korean Economy?'" (2005-2006)
- Joint Project with The Joong-Ang Ilbo (Daily) and Mouth.com - "The Voter Sovereignty Campaign for the Presidential Election: The National Choice of 2007! Vote to Become Successful Voters!" (2007)
- The 10th Financial Crisis Anniversary Project - 'The Role of Foreign Capital in the Korean Economy' (2008)
- Joint Project with The Chosun Ilbo (Daily) - 2012 Global Leadership total shift and Presidential Leadership of Korea" (2011)
- Joint Project with The Joong-Ang Ilbo (Daily) "criteria of president in the eyes of college students" (2012)
- Guardians of the National Fiscal Soundness, sponsored by the Ministry of Strategy and Finance (Since 2013 ~)
- Unification Biz. Courses (2014, 2015)
- Defective Public Finance, in collaboration with the Hankook Kyungjae (Daily) (2019)



Wednesday Forum

This program consists of a series of high-level policy dialogue regarding the management of public affairs. A high-ranking policymaker or a political figure delivers a lecture, followed by a Q&A session with the audience of the NSI members. It is convened by about 80 participants every Wednesday morning. The enrollment at the NSI includes 80 corporate members and 200 individual members. Primary corporate memberships come from the Bank of Korea, Samsung Electronics, KT, SK Energy, and KDI.

The policy discussion is carried out with exhaustive dialogues on the challenges that globalization poses to private businesses, national industries, institutions, and individuals. The Wednesday Policy Forum has established itself as an important venue where the national agenda could be discussed regularly and new priorities identified. It has inspired follow-up public discussions in the media such as mainstream daily newspapers and TV channels.

The weekly Wednesday Policy Forum has met 1100 times since June 1992 up until now as of January 2024. The Forum's proceedings are made available to members in the form of transcripts, videos, and voice recordings on our website.

Key speakers of 2022 include the Prime Minister, the mayor of Seoul, the Minister of Strategy and Finance, the chairman of the Financial Services Commission, the president of KBS and the president of the KB Financial Group.



Forum for Fiscal Soundness

The Forum for Fiscal Soundness was established in September 2012 with 119 initiators, including former high-ranking government officials, journalists, and academic scholars, serving as its pillars. Its primary objective is to provide a platform for national community debates. Topics for debate encompass, but are not limited to, the extended competition regarding welfare expenditure in the political realm, economic democratization, and the current soundness of national finance, threatened by prolonged world economic crises, low growth rates, and an aging population.

The Forum's representatives include Kang Bong-Kyun, former Minister of Strategy and Finance; Choi Jong-Chan, former Minister of Construction & Transportation; and Dr. Park Hyung-Soo.

The Forum has received media coverage approximately 100 times across various platforms including broadcasting, newspapers, and the internet. It has conducted 50 policy discussions and public opinion polls on national consciousness. The Forum will continue to strive to promote various activities, including comprehensive research, public opinion dissemination, and assessment of the current administration, with a mission to safeguard financial health and economic growth through efficient management of fiscal policies.



Education for Future Leaders

NSI has been focusing on university student programs for over a decade with the aim of nurturing future generations. We operate both online and offline university student debate forums, conduct competitions analyzing national policies, and propose improvement plans. Moreover, we have initiated numerous projects where university students discuss public issues and disseminate the content through the media. Recently, we have expanded our scope to include programs targeting adolescents. Particularly, we have launched programs aimed at informing the importance of the Rule of Law among adolescents and embodying the rule of law through various activities. NSI plans to develop diverse programs for university students and adolescents, assisting Korea's future generations in becoming responsible leaders.





Organization

Board of Directors & Chairman

The Board of the NSI currently consists of 15 distinguished members, most of whom are well-known business leaders.

The Chairman of the Board is Mr. KANG Kyong-Shik. Mr. KANG has served on the Economic Planning Board throughout Korea's developmental era from the 1960s to the 1980s, serving subsequently as a Minister of Finance, a Chief of Staff for the President, and in the National Assembly. After founding the NSI, he was elected to the National Assembly for two consecutive terms and then served as an Economic Deputy Prime Minister under President KIM Young-Sam. Throughout his career, Mr. KANG has been well known and widely recognized for his commitment to the principles of the market economy as well as for his policy reforms geared towards such principles.

President

The President of the NSI is Mr. Jahng Shick Bahn. He obtained a Ph.D. in Public Administration from Korea University, and pursued master's degrees in Public Policy from Seoul National University and the University of Wisconsin. Beginning his career in 1977 in the government sector, Bahn held various positions within the Ministry of Planning and Finance, eventually serving as Vice Minister. He also served as Senior Secretary to the President and later assumed roles such as Dean of the Graduate School at Sogang University and President of the Korea Minting and Security Printing Corporation. Currently, he holds the distinguished position of Chair Professor at Sogang University.

Contacts

Address	NSI 705 Gangseo IT Valley 82 Hwagok-ro 68 gil, Deungchon-dong Gangseo-gu, Seoul 07566
Phone	+82-(0)2-786-7799
Fax	+82-(0)2-780-4151
Home Page	www.nsi.or.kr
E-mail	nsi21@nsi.or.kr

