About NSI

The National Strategy Institute (NSI) is a private, nonprofit research organization founded in 1991 by a group of former high-ranking government officials and leaders in the private sector who had played leading roles in Korea's economic development. NSI is dedicated to promote parallel developments of the market economy and the pluralistic democracy in Korea, and ultimately to help bring prosperity to the nation. NSI’s goal is to conduct research on reforming the national governance as well as the strategic work to prompt them with necessary imperatives.

NSI strives to elucidate civil society a set of roles that the government should perform in order to bring about a dynamic market economy in Korea. Furthermore, NSI is dedicated to establish agenda for policy reforms that will empower and enable the government to perform those roles in key areas. It also proceeds with devotion to design agenda for reforms of the national policy-making system as to reinforce national affluence.

NSI assumes research and public debate projects abide by the principles above, and propagate the findings in order to educate the public, that is in practice, to support political actions to implement new reforms for respective issues.

The makeup of its member ranges from executive-level businessmen, specialists and academics of high standing in their expertise, to former senior civil servants from economic ministries who advocate the goals and principles of NSI, and beyond.
Principal Activities

Policy Research & Projects for Public Consensus

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

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

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

The major projects undertaken during the 1992-2012 period are as follows:

- The Symposium with Four Religious Leaders - “Korea’s New Morality and Values for National Development in the 2000s” (1992)
- Joint Project with The Dong-A Ilbo (Daily) - “Discussion Series: ‘Seven Principles for Reforming the Political System’” (2003)
- Joint Project with The Dong-A Ilbo & Hankuk Kyongje (Daily) - “Monthly Symposium Series: ‘What’s Wrong with the Korean Economy?’” (2005-2006)
- 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)
**Wednesday Policy Forum**

This program consists of a series of high-level policy dialogues on the management of national affairs. A high-ranking policymaker or political leader delivers a lecture, which is followed by a Q&A session with the audience consisting of NSI members. It is convened by about 100 participants every Wednesday morning; Total members of NSI consist of 100 corporate memberships and 200 individual memberships. Primary corporate memberships come from Bank of Korea, Samsung Electronics, KT, SK Energy, and KDI.

The policy discussion is carried out with a series of exhaustive dialogues on the globalization challenges that businesses, industries, institutions, and individuals are facing today. The Wednesday Policy Forum emerged as an important venue where the national agenda could be discussed regularly and new priorities could be identified. It has inspired follow-up public discussions in the media such as mainstreaming daily newspapers, TV, and other venues.

The weekly Wednesday Policy Forum has met 770 times in total since June 1992 up until now as of March 2013. The Forum’s proceedings are made available to members in the form of transcripts, videos, and voice recordings on the Institute’s home page.

Key speakers in 2012: Prime Minister, Seoul Special City Mayor, Minister of Strategy and Finance, Chairman of Financial Services Commission, President of KBS, KB Financial Group President.

**International Exchange Program for Next-Generation Leaders**

For nurturing young leaders in politics and government who are to lead Korea into the future, NSI has launched since 1998 an international exchange program with the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL) of the United States through which young political leaders at the local and regional levels participated in mutual political and cultural exchange.

And also, NSI has launched an exchange with the collaboration of the Chinese Association for International Understanding (CAFIU) since 2003, visits the host country, visiting various governmental and other institutions as well as notable business plants and cultural sites.

In 2005, the NSI sent a Korean delegation of Next-Generation political leaders to Australia and later hosted an Australian delegation of next-generation political leaders in partnership with the Australian Political Exchange Council (APEC). This Korea-Australia exchange program was replaced in 2007 by another one sponsored by the Korea Foundation and the Korea-Australia Foundation.

During 1998-2012 in total 105 Korean ‘Next-Generation Leaders’ participated in these programs having visited the U.S. and China, Australia and 200 foreign ‘Next-Generation Leaders’ participated in these programs having visited both Seoul and Korea’s regional authorities.
NSI believed in a place with an outlet whereby analysis of issues based on solid facts is carried out and its relative debates are also imperative in order to form proper public opinion about important national agendas and social issues.

Hereupon, NSI has established an online debate initiative called “NSI Policy Agora” in August 2011 and launched the program with selected college students as NSI Policy Agora’s Columnists, who are obligated to carry the future of Korea. These columnists post columns about different primary social issues on weekly basis in ‘Policy Agora’ on NSI website (www.nsi.or.kr), and run the debates with the public citizens. Through SNS activities the columnists publicize and promote “NSI Policy Agora”, and NSI has taken the role of propagating the columns every week through NSI Weekly sent to the 100,000 opinion leaders of all different realms of social standings.

Moreover, NSI Policy Agora has been providing the college students columnist group with various mentoring programs to assist them to grow as future leaders who would have sound awareness and ideas.

The principal activities have been:

- The 1st, 2nd, and 3rd College Students Columnist Group round offs & the 4th group’s take up (March–August 2013)
- Mentoring program for the group (Visit to the National Assembly, the Blue House, discussion with business associates, and etc.)
- Co-hosted College Students Debate Workshop with The Joongang Daily
(1) Board of Directors & Chairman
The management of NSI is guided and supervised by the Board of Directors. The Board currently consists of 15 distinguished members, mostly well-known business leaders, former high-ranking government officials and eminent scholars. The Chairman of the Board is Mr. KANG Kyung-Shik. Mr. KANG served on the Economic Planning Board throughout Korea's developmental era of the 1960s through the 1980s, serving subsequently as Minister of Finance, Chief of Staff for President, and in the National Assembly. After founding NSI, he successfully ran for the National Assembly for two consecutive terms and then served as Deputy Prime Minister. Throughout his career, Mr. KANG has been well known and widely admired for his commitment to the principles of the market and competition as well as his reforms geared to these principles.

(2) President
The President of NSI is CHUNG Dong-Soo who started his service in NSI since 2011. President CHUNG Dong-Soo incumbent is 7th president of NSI, subsequent to predecessors including former ambassador to the OECD, Deputy Prime Minister, former Chairman of the Board of Bank Supervision, etc. He earned a BA from college of Commerce, Seoul National University, and a MA in Public Policy from Wisconsin-Madison University in the United States. He served in many governmental organs including the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Strategy and Finance, and etc. He also performed himself as the vice-minister of the Ministry of Environment in 2000~2002, and the chairman of the Board of Kookmin Bank. Mr. CHUNG is presently a chair-professor at Sang-Myung University.

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