



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

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About NSI

NSI (New Society Institute) started in 1991 as a private, nonprofit think tank with liberal democracy, market economy, and rule of law as its basic philosophies. The NSI aims to conduct research on the vital reforms of the national governance, and to strategically prompt public organizations with necessary imperatives.

The NSI strives to elucidate the public a set of roles that the government should provide in order to bring about a dynamic and stable market economy in Korea. Furthermore, the NSI is dedicated to building an agenda for policy reforms in order to assist the government in its productive pursuit of national affluence.

The NSI assumes research and public debate projects guided by the aforementioned principles, and propagates the findings in order to educate the public, seeking to support political actions that will initiate the reforms of respective matters. In 2002, the need for youth economic education was felt and Junior Achievement Korea was established in cooperation with Junior Achievement.

Recently, it is investing in educational projects to help Korean society have a mature civic culture and to help future generations, including teenagers and young adults, grow into 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' 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 100 participants every Wednesday morning. The enrollment at the NSI includes 100 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 1000 times since June 1992 up until now as of January 2023. 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

Forum for Fiscal Soundness was established in September 2012 with 119 initiators as its pillars, including the former high-ranking government officials, journalists, and academic scholars, in order to serve the national community as a platform for the debate; The topics of debate include but are not limited to: the extended competition of welfare expenditure in the realm of politics, economic democratization, and the current soundness of national finance threatened by the prolonged world economic crisis, low growth rate, and penetration of the aging basis. The Forum's representatives are Kang Bong-Kyun, former Minister of Strategy and Finance, Choi Jong-Chan, former Minister of Construction & Transportation, and Choi Byung-Ho, president of the Korean Association of Public Finance.

The Forum has made press coverage on different platforms about 100 times (broadcasting, newspapers, and internet), conducting 20 policy discussions and public opinion polls about national consciousness. It will continue to strive to promote various activities including comprehensive research, opinion publicization, and assessment of the current administration with a mission to defend financial health and economic growth through efficient management of fiscal policies.



Education for Future Leaders

The NSI believed in the importance of providing a place where the analysis of issues and debate of opinions based on credible facts could be carried out in order for the next generation to grow into the members of the future society with the ability to properly sensor information, form opinions about important national agendas and social issues.

Hereupon, NSI launched a program called “Next-Generation Opinion Leader College” with selected college students whom the future of Korea depends on. This program can be best described as a debate forum for university students. Participating students discuss social issues and the contents are later publicized through various media including the more casual platforms such as blogs and Facebook. The goal of this program is to nurture the young adults to become the next-generation’s opinion leaders who can analyze the social issues in a balanced and unbiased manner, and make their voices heard in our society.

And we also run a competition for college students where they delve into the financial side of state policy and make reports.





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. Kim Byung-II. He earned a BA in Economics from Yonsei University, an MA from the Graduate School of Public Administration at Seoul National University and another MA from Hunter College of the City University of New York in Urban Economics. His career prior to his appointment at the NSI includes being a Chief of the General Affairs at the Economic Planning Board, a Counselor at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Japan, a Vice-Chairman at the Fair Trade Commission, and an Executive Advisor at Kim & Chang Lawfirm.

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