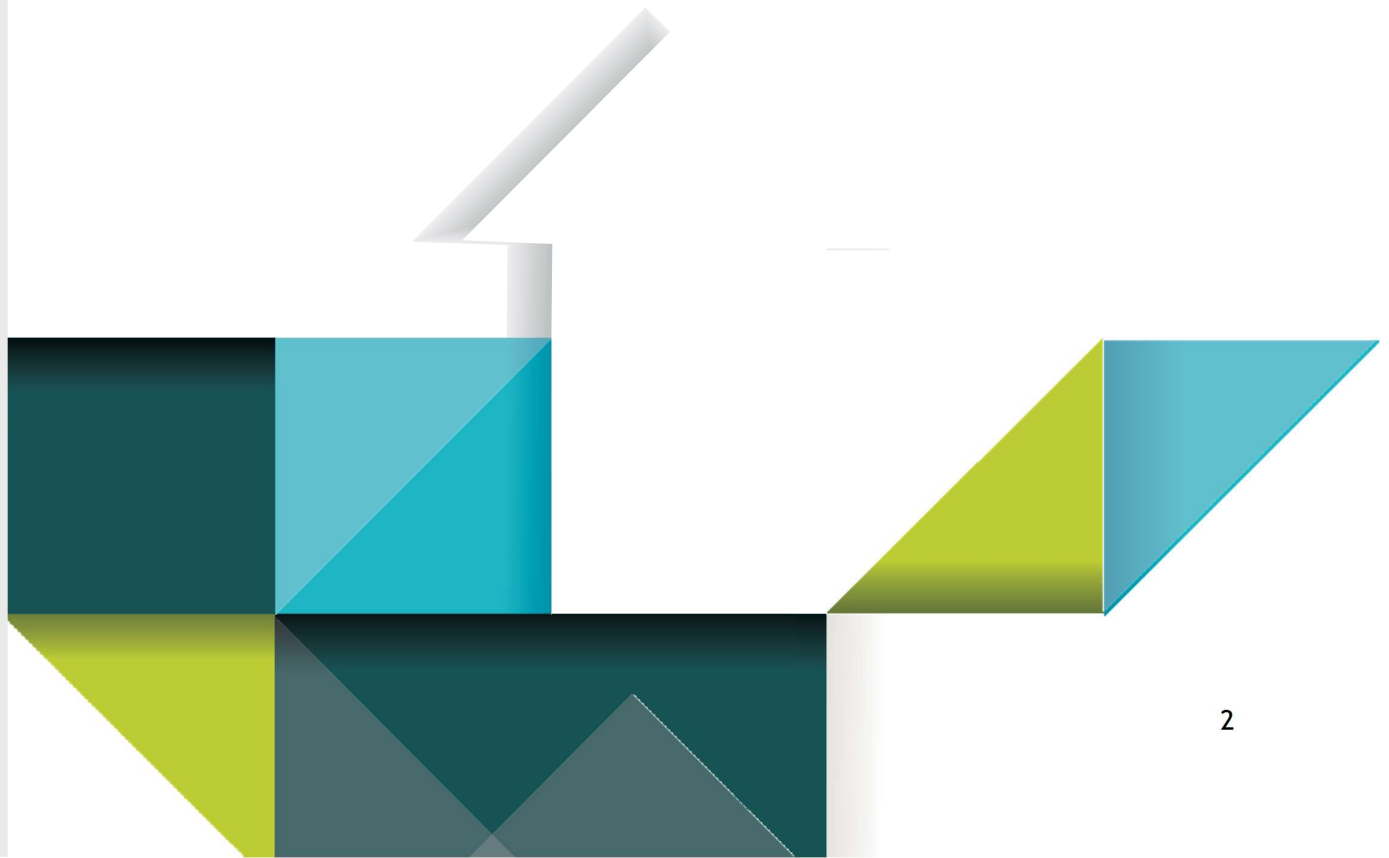




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About NSI

Established in 1991 by former Deputy Prime Minister Kyong-Shik Kang, the New Society Institute (NSI) is a premier private think tank in Korea. It's dedicated to advancing liberal democracy, a market economy, and the rule of law. NSI's membership includes former high-ranking officials, business leaders, and renowned academics, creating a powerful network that influences national discourse and policy reform through rigorous research, public education, and strategic advocacy.

For over three decades, NSI has played a central role in setting national agendas, often partnering with Korea's leading newspapers and broadcasters, including The JoongAng Ilbo, Chosun Ilbo, and MBC. Its projects span economic policy reform, fiscal responsibility, and governance modernization. NSI's public forums and policy series have notably helped shape presidential priorities and legislative direction.

Internationally, NSI has led youth diplomacy programs with the American Council of Young Political Leaders (ACYPL), CAFIU in China, and foundations in Europe and Australia, fostering mutual understanding and leadership development across borders. Domestically, NSI has impacted over a decade of civic engagement through its University Debate Series, the National Policy Analysis Contest, and recent programs educating teenagers on the rule of law in collaboration with the American Bar Association.

NSI's long-standing Wednesday Forum, now held over 1,100 times, demonstrates its commitment to sustained, high-level public dialogue. Today, NSI continues to inspire Korea's future generations by investing in education that fosters critical thinking, civic responsibility, and policy literacy. With a trusted voice, a proven track record, and a global perspective, NSI is uniquely positioned to lead national innovation.



Wednesday Forum

The NSI Wednesday Forum is Korea's most distinguished policy dialogue series, renowned for its depth, longevity, and impact on national discourse. Launched in 1992, the forum has convened over 1,100 sessions as of April 2023, establishing itself as a cornerstone of Korea's intellectual and policy ecosystem. Held twice a month on Wednesday mornings—excluding January and August—the forum brings together an exclusive audience of around 100 high-level participants, including corporate executives, public sector leaders, academics, and seasoned policymakers. With 100 corporate members and 200 individual members, its institutional backing includes Korea's most influential organizations such as the Bank of Korea, Samsung Electronics, KT, SK Energy, and the Korea Development Institute (KDI).

Each session features a lecture by a prominent figure in politics, economics, or society—ranging from the Prime Minister and cabinet ministers to business leaders and media executives—followed by an in-depth Q&A session that fosters candid, cross-sectoral dialogue. In 2022 alone, speakers included the Prime Minister, the Mayor of Seoul, the Minister of Strategy and Finance, the Chairman of the Financial Services Commission, and presidents of major institutions such as KBS and KB Financial Group.

The Forum addresses both national and global challenges, with a consistent focus on the implications of globalization, digital transformation, and AI innovation for Korea's governance, industries, and institutions. It offers a space where emerging policy priorities are identified, tested, and refined—often inspiring follow-up discussions in mainstream media, including major newspapers and national TV.

More than just a lecture series, the NSI Wednesday Forum is a premier platform for knowledge sharing, critical debate, and future-oriented networking. Attendees gain exclusive access to lecture transcripts, video recordings, and audio archives through the NSI website, ensuring that the insights shared extend well beyond the morning sessions. With its unique blend of intellectual rigor, public engagement, and elite participation, the Forum continues to play a vital role in shaping Korea's public policy landscape and preparing the country for the next era of global challenges.

Forum for Fiscal Soundness

The NSI Forum for Fiscal Soundness, established in September 2012, serves as one of Korea’s most important civic platforms for advancing public dialogue on fiscal responsibility and sustainable economic policy. Initiated by 119 founding members, including former cabinet ministers, senior government officials, renowned journalists, and academic experts, the forum was created in response to the mounting pressures on national finance posed by a prolonged global economic downturn, structural low growth, and the accelerating aging of Korean society.

At its core, the forum addresses critical and often contentious issues affecting the fiscal landscape of the country—such as the politicization of welfare spending, economic democratization, and the long-term viability of public pension and budget systems. Under the leadership of distinguished figures such as Kang Bong-Kyun (former Minister of Strategy and Finance), Choi Jong-Chan (former Minister of Construction and Transportation), and Choi Byung-Ho (President of the Korean Association of Public Finance), the forum has convened over 20 major policy debates and conducted numerous public opinion polls on fiscal awareness and national priorities.

The forum’s activities are regularly amplified through national media coverage, having appeared in over 100 reports across television, newspapers, and digital platforms, often in collaboration with leading outlets such as The Chosun Ilbo and The Korea Economic Daily. Its work spans beyond academic discussions, engaging the public with comprehensive research, real-time fiscal analysis, and critical evaluations of government fiscal policies. Recent debates have examined topics such as annual budget proposals, the financial underpinnings of industrial restructuring, and proposals for public sector reform.

The NSI Forum for Fiscal Soundness remains committed to promoting transparency, efficiency, and accountability in national financial governance. By fostering a culture of informed debate and evidence-based policy recommendations, the forum contributes meaningfully to Korea’s long-term economic resilience and public trust in fiscal institutions.

Youth & Young Adult Education

NSI is deeply committed to cultivating a new generation of engaged and responsible citizens through a suite of impactful youth education programs. These initiatives foster critical thinking, policy literacy, global awareness, and civic responsibility, equipping young Koreans to contribute to national development and a more just society.

The Youth National Fiscal Master Program empowers future leaders to understand and actively oversee national finance. Hosted by NSI with support from the Korea Institute of Public Finance, Ministry of Economy and Finance, and media partners, this program trains university students to analyze government expenditures and propose fiscal improvement plans through online Master Classes and team-based Master Projects. Since 2013, hundreds of students have participated, providing actionable recommendations on diverse issues, from welfare and youth policies to job creation and budget efficiency.

NSI's Public Leadership School, a flagship civic education initiative since 2011, nurtures public-minded youth. This program encourages university students to identify and solve real-world social issues through collaborative, project-based learning. It has cultivated critical thinking and civic responsibility among over 1,000 university students from more than 30 institutions, fostering a robust community of future leaders equipped to tackle Korea's most urgent societal challenges.

The Global Leadership Challenge fosters "Glocal Citizenship" by equipping youth with global awareness and local responsibility. Supported by the Federation of Korean Industries and in partnership with APCEIU (UNESCO) and The Korea Economic Daily, this program combines online civic education modules with team projects addressing local community sustainability. In its 2025 cycle, it reached nearly 2,000 online participants and engaged 75 university students in developing practical proposals for their communities, cultivating future-ready leaders who bridge global insight with local action.

Further extending its reach to foundational civic values, NSI's Law Village Explorers program targets elementary school students. Developed with the Federation of Korean Industries and public elementary schools, this initiative instills core values of glocal citizenship. Through interactive, four-session curricula like "The Law Hidden in Our Daily Lives," it introduces legal and civic concepts, promoting empathy, fairness, and social responsibility from an early age. In 2025, the program is reaching 5,000 students across 200 elementary schools, laying the groundwork for a more just, cohesive, and participatory society.

Organization

Board of Directors & Chairman

Board of Directors

- Kim, Moon Hee: Managing Partner, Shinchon Law Firm
- Kim, Byung Il: Former Advisor, Kim & Chang Law Firm
- Kim, Yong Geun: Former Executive Vice Chairman, Korea Employers Federation
- Seo, Jong Ryul: Vice Chairman, Sejong Telecom Co., Ltd.
- Son, Sam Soo: CEO, Warevalley Co., Ltd.
- Lee, Seung Woong: Chairman, Gugi Moolsan Co., Ltd.
- Jeon, Yong Bae: Chairman, DTR Co., Ltd.
- Choi, Jong Chan: Former Minister, Ministry of Construction and Transportation

Chairman

The Chairman of the Board is Mr. KANG Kyong-Shik. Mr. KANG served on the Economic Planning Board throughout Korea's developmental era from the 1960s to the 1980s. He subsequently held positions as Minister of Finance, Chief of Staff for the President, and a member of 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 widely recognized for his commitment to market economy principles and his policy reforms aligned with these principles.

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