THE ASAN INSTITUTE for POLICY STUDIES
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About the Asan Institute
Mission Statement

As an independent, non-partisan think tank, the Asan Institute for Policy Studies is dedicated to undertaking policy-relevant research to foster domestic, regional, and international environments conducive to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

The Asan Institute was established in commemoration of the Founder and Honorary Chairman of Hyundai Group, Chung Ju-yung, who left an indelible mark on South Korea’s modernization and inter-Korean exchanges towards peace.

Named after Chung Ju-yung’s pen name, “Asan,” Dr. MJ Chung founded the Asan Institute on February 11, 2008 to become a world-class think tank that mirrors South Korea’s place on the world stage.

Chronology

Feb. 11, 2008 Founding of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies
Dr. Han Sung-Joo inaugurated as the first Chairman and President of the Institute
Feb. 11, 2009 Ambassador Song Young-Shik inaugurated as the second President of the Institute
Jan. 13, 2010 Opening of the Asan Institute’s new building
Mar. 10, 2010 Dr. Hahm Chaibong inaugurated as the third President of the Institute
Jan. 28, 2011 Dr. Lee In-ho inaugurated as the second Chairman of the Institute
Feb. 26, 2014 Dr. Hahm Chaibong inaugurated as the third Chairman of the Institute
May 15, 2019 Dr. Han Sung-Joo inaugurated as the fourth Chairman of the Institute
Mar. 29, 2022 Ambassador Lee Jun-gyu inaugurated as the fifth Chairman of the Institute
Dr. Choi Kang inaugurated as the fourth President of the Institute
Mar. 23, 2023 Dr. Yoon Young-Kwan inaugurated as the sixth Chairman of the Institute
Center for Foreign Policy and National Security

The Center for Foreign Policy and National Security was established to help devise foreign affairs and national security policies that contribute to the stability of Northeast Asia and the promotion of peace on the Korean Peninsula through theoretical considerations and empirical analysis of the ever-changing geopolitical environment internationally.

By holding joint academic conferences with a wide range of domestic and foreign research institutes, while also conducting research projects and releasing publications at the same time, the center plays an important role in contributing to the revitalization of public-private cooperation networks as it heightens the level of social discourse. The main research topics are related to multilateral cooperation and regional security, public diplomacy, and comparative analysis of foreign affairs and national security policies by country.
The Center for Regional Studies consists of four separate program areas—the United States, China, the Middle East, and Southeast Asia & Oceania—with the programs all attempting to analyze and understand each region by carrying out research on their relations with Korea. This includes a host of pending responsibilities and issues, notably those concerned with politics, economics, society & culture, and international relations in each specific area. While exploring the direction of foreign policy through detailed investigations into a particular region and its associated countries, the center highlights Korea’s role as a developed and technologically advanced country in the always-changing international community.
The Public Opinion Studies Team is contributing to the drafting of policies and collecting data on public opinion by analyzing how domestic sentiment is changing through public opinion surveys and statistical analysis. On the other hand, it is also summarizing and evaluating policies using mathematical modelling, such as quantitative analysis and statistical tools, and coming up with future policy alternatives based on these results. What’s more is that by disclosing a large amount of qualitative and quantitative data to experts and the public at large, the team is also playing a critical role in encouraging social discourse to derive policy alternatives.
Activities of the Institute
Asan Plenum

The Asan Plenum, which discusses pressing issues in the international arena, is the main annual meeting of the Asan Institute.

Foreign affairs and national security experts in South Korea and overseas participate as both the agents and audience of the discussions, with the aim of uncovering worthwhile policy alternatives.
The Asan Institute holds an annual Asan Symposium to promote multilateral cooperation for world peace and to propose rational policy alternatives regarding international issues. In light of this, the Asan Symposium invites highly respected scholars and leaders from myriad fields to spur important public discourse on international political issues facing both the Korean Peninsula and the world, while also contributing to the expansion of dynamic international exchanges.
The Asan Policy Forum is a monthly meeting of foreign affairs and national security experts to analyze time-sensitive issues. Through expert presentations on urgent issues and subsequent discussions between conservative and progressive panels, policy alternatives that are objective and non-partisan are presented.
The Asan Institute is strengthening the promotion of academic exchanges with the international community by advocating for joint research with leading research institutes and global think tanks in the United States, Japan, and Europe, including the RAND Corporation, Brookings Institution, Chicago Council on Global Affairs (CCGA), and the Université Libre de Bruxelles.
The Asan Institute regularly invites domestic and foreign scholars and policy experts to the Asan Roundtable, a forum for lively, unfettered discussions on topics related to the Korean Peninsula and international matters. The institute also conducts activities to discuss the situation on the Korean Peninsula and imminent diplomatic and security issues with foreign diplomatic missions in Korea.
IV

Publications
Featuring noted experts in numerous fields and regions who provide astute insight into international issues, Issue Brief is a report that analyzes current domestic and international issues and pending diplomatic concerns in a timely manner in response to the rapidly changing international environment. The report covers topics such as national security, nuclear issues, diplomatic relations, governance, global governance, international law, science & technology, economics, democracy, culture, social issues and energy.

Through the publication of Asan Report, the Asan Institute provides extensive information on major international community issues to experts in the field of foreign affairs and national security, policymakers, and the general public. Published in either Korean or English (depending on the topics addressed), Asan Report deals with a variety of topics, ranging from national security, diplomatic policies, and regional studies to global governance and public opinion.
The Asan Forum (online English journal)

The Asan Forum is an online English-language journal that analyzes changes going on within the Asia-Pacific region. The journal’s main task is to highlight trends in major diplomatic issues not only inside but also outside the region. Specifically, by analyzing a situation based on the historical, social, and cultural contexts of each country, The Asan Forum provides a wide array of in-depth conclusions to readers.

Proceedings

Proceedings are published transcripts and summaries produced after conferences where world-class experts discuss policy initiatives and international diplomatic issues. They are provided to government officials, experts in the field, and the general public.
The Asan Institute publishes books in various fields, ranging from foreign affairs, national security, and international relations to humanities and liberal arts. Compilation books of conferences and research projects involving prominent scholars, experts, and specialists in each field help broaden readers’ perspectives in a wide variety of relevant fields.

Since 2015, the Asan Institute has been publishing an annual report that makes farsighted predictions about potential changes in the international environment vis-à-vis the Korean Peninsula. *Asan International Security Outlook* provides analysis and prospects by issue and region through one keyword selected every year, enhancing experts’ understanding and the general public’s awareness of changes in international matters as well as contributing to the government’s policy-making process.

*Asan International Security Outlook*

*The Asan Book Series*
The Asan Institute translates books published in foreign languages that draw attention to political and diplomatic fields connected to Korea, giving readers an opportunity to better comprehend and gauge international affairs from the point of view of some of the world’s leading intellectuals on major issues in the rapidly changing international community.
Chung Mong Joon

**Education**
- B.A. in Economics, Seoul National University
- M.S. MIT Sloan School of Management
- Ph.D. in International Relations, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University

**Publications**
- The Promises of Liberal Democracy (Midasbooks Publishers, 2012)
- The Promises of the Market Economy (Midasbooks Publishers, 2012)
- The Promises of Fair Society (Midasbooks Publishers, 2012)
- Conversations with Leaders (Purme Publishers, 2012)
- My Challenges, My Passions (Gimm-Young Publishers, Inc., 2011)
- This I Say to Japan (Gimm-Young Publishers, Inc., 2001)
- The government-business relationship of Japan (The Korea Economic Daily, 1995)
- Business Ideology (University of Ulsan Press, 1982)

**Professional Experience**
- Lawmaker for 7 terms (13th-19th National Assembly), Republic of Korea
- Chairman of the Grand National Party
- Chairman of the Asan Foundation
- Honorary Chairman of the Asan Nanum Foundation
- Honorary Chairman of the University of Ulsan
- Vice President of FIFA (Fédération Internationale de Football Association)
- Co-chairman of the Korean Organizing Committee for the 2002 Korea-Japan FIFA World Cup

Founder and Honorary Chairman
Yoon Young-ikwan

Education
B.A. and M.A. in International Relations, Seoul National University
Ph.D. in International Relations, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), Johns Hopkins University

Professional Experience
Senior Visiting Scholar, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School
Senior Advisor, The Presidential Committee on Northern Economic Cooperation
Board Member, Korea Peace Foundation
Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Seoul National University
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Professional Experience
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Dean of Planning and Assessment at the Korean National Diplomatic Academy
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Member of the Standing Committee at the Peaceful Unification Advisory Council
Chairman of the Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP) Korea
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Professor at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS)
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