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About the Asan Institute
Mission Statement

The Asan Institute for Policy Studies is an independent, non-partisan think tank with the mandate to undertake policy-relevant research to foster domestic, regional, and international environments conducive to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, as well as Korean reunification.

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
- Groundbreaking ceremony for the Asan Institute’s new offices at 11, Gyeonghuigung 1ga-gil, Jongno-Gu, Seoul

Jan. 13, 2010
- Opening of the new building

Mar. 10, 2010
- Dr. Hahn Chaibong inaugurated as the third President of the Institute

Jan. 28, 2011
- Dr. Lee In-ho inaugurated as the second Chairperson of the Institute

Feb. 26, 2014
- Dr. Hahn Chaibong inaugurated as the third Chairperson of the Institute

Founder and Honorary Chairman

Dr. Chung Mong Joon

Dr. Chung Mong Joon is the founder and honorary chairman of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies. He is also the chairman of the board of trustees of the Asan Foundation, the largest philanthropic organization in Korea, and the honorary chairman of Ulsan University.

In 2011, he launched the Asan Nanum (“sharing”) Foundation which seeks to foster entrepreneurship among young Koreans.

Dr. Chung served seven terms in the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea. He was the chairman of the Grand National Party (ruling party) from 2009-2010, and was a presidential candidate in 2002. He served as vice president of FIFA (Federation Internationale de Football Association), and as co-chairman of the Korean Organizing Committee for the 2002 Korea-Japan FIFA World Cup.

Dr. Chung received his B.A. in economics from Seoul National University, an M.S. from the Sloan School of Management at MIT, and a Ph.D. in international relations from the School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) at the Johns Hopkins University.
Dr. HAHM Chaibong is the president of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies. Previously, he was a senior political scientist at the RAND Corporation in Santa Monica, California, a professor in the School of International Relations and the Department of Political Science as well as the director of the Korean Studies Institute at the University of Southern California, Director (D-1) of the Division of Social Sciences Research & Policy at UNESCO in Paris, and a professor in the Department of Political Science at Yonsei University.


Dr. Hahm received a B.A. in economics from Carleton College and his M.A. and Ph.D. in political science from the Johns Hopkins University.

Dr. CHOI Kang is the vice president and a principal fellow at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies. Previously, he was the dean of Planning and Assessment at the Korean National Diplomatic Academy. In 2012, Dr. Choi served as the president at the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS). He was also a professor and director general for American Studies at IFANS, a research fellow at the Korea Institute for Defense Analyses, and senior director for Policy Planning and Coordination on the National Security Council Secretariat. He holds several advisory board memberships including: the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Trade, and Unification of the National Assembly; Ministry of National Defense; Ministry of Unification; Air Force Development Committee; and the National Unification Advisory Council. Dr. Choi was also a South Korean delegate to the Four-Party Talks. He writes extensively on the ROK-US alliance, North Korean military affairs, inter-Korean relations, crisis management, and multilateral security cooperation.

Dr. Choi received his B.A. from Kyunghee University, M.A. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and his Ph.D. in political science from Ohio State University.
### Board of Trustees

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Kim Hyung-kook</td>
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<td>Park Sung Hee</td>
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<td>Yon Kang-heum (Auditor)</td>
<td>Professor, Yonsei University</td>
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The Center for American Politics and Policy was established to analyze and cultivate expertise on issues pertaining to politics and policymaking within the United States, including the US Congress, Presidency, courts, elections, and public opinion. Within South Korea, research on this topic has traditionally been conducted under the broader heading of foreign policy studies due to its implications for ROK national security. The Center’s mission is to promote research and develop programs that educate the general public and inform leaders on important policy matters related to the United States.
Center for ASEAN and Oceania Studies

The Center for ASEAN and Oceania Studies covers Southeast Asia and Oceania, including the Pacific Island countries as well as parts of South Asia. The main research focus is international relations with ASEAN and Oceania, including the regions’ bilateral relations with South Korea and multilateral cooperation. The Center’s goal is to become a hub for ASEAN and Oceania studies by undertaking and promoting policy relevant research and building networks of Korean and overseas experts. The Center’s research agenda also includes development cooperation, non-traditional and human security, and middle power diplomacy.

Center for Global Governance

The mission of the Center for Global Governance is to offer policy recommendations for new and effective governance that is fit for responding aptly to the emerging security challenges of the 21st century and the daily evolving dynamics of international relations and political economy. The Center strives to go beyond traditional ways of thinking that has focused on state actors and national security and recommends policies that account for human security and nontraditional security goals. The Center aims to promote policy agendas on global and domestic governance to tackle emerging global threats such as climate change and natural disasters, and also provides advocacy for sustainable development and international cooperation. The Center’s main research areas include climate change and sustainable development; emerging global threats and human security; international development assistance and cooperation; and renewable energy and green economy.
Center for Korean Studies

The Center for Korean Studies takes an interdisciplinary approach to Korean studies by integrating social-scientific methods of research with a focus on the humanities. To understand the social circumstances of Korea and contribute to societal betterment, the Center addresses fundamental issues, such as the role of Korean studies in a globalized context and how it may be further developed. The Center’s core mission is to raise the profile of Korean studies in international society.

Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Center

The Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Center is South Korea’s leading independent research center devoted to the study of the Middle East and North Africa region. Recognizing the enormous economic and geopolitical importance of the region to Korea’s long-term interests, the MENA Center provides policymakers, academics, and the general public with timely analysis of the major trends and developments unfolding across the region as well as their implications for Korea. The Center examines how the critical processes of democracy, capitalism, and globalization are fundamentally transforming the region and the impact this will have on Korea’s relationship with the Middle East. Specifically, the Center conducts research on four distinct trends: Comparative Democratization & State-building; Diversification & Privatization in Oil-dependent Economies; Regional Security & Terrorism; and Civil Society & Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism (PCVE). In addition, the MENA Center collaborates closely with research institutes across the region via frequent track II dialogues and exchanges to ensure that it continues to conduct innovative policy work.
Center for North Korean Research

Located in one of the most dynamic regions in the world characterized by rapid technological innovation and growing people-to-people exchanges, North Korea is an exception to regional and global norms and remains a challenge to South Korea and the wider international community. The Asan Institute has since its inception expanded the public and experts’ understanding of North Korea in the domains of security, economics, and politics. The Center for North Korean Research continues the institute’s track record of innovative research by leveraging expert insights and latest quantitative methodologies to produce highly informed analysis of North Korea. The Center’s core mission is to help policymakers understand and prepare for the medium and long-term security challenges presented by North Korea’s nuclear and missile development. In addition to analyses of current events, it provides insights into the North Korean regime’s long term social, economic, and political viability.

Center for Public International Law

Public international law governs relations among States. It plays a key role in settling international disputes and increasing cooperation among States. To this end, the research of the Center for Public International Law encompasses the law of the sea, international dispute settlement, territorial issues, international institutional law and sanctions in international law. The Center’s extensive research encourages public debate about global issues requiring a broad understanding of public international law.
Center for Public Opinion Studies

Leaders and experts rely on public opinion surveys to gauge public sentiment regarding policy matters. To this end, the Center for Public Opinion Studies conducts regular polls to obtain reliable data about the South Korean polity, thereby fostering more informed policy debates and decisions. The Center strives to be the most trusted source for analysis of South Korean public opinion.

Center for Science & Technology Policy

The Center for Science & Technology Policy aims to promote the understanding of science and technology issues from security aspects and develop policy options for technology development. The Center’s research focuses on science and technology developments with significant implications. Current activities include nuclear nonproliferation, nuclear safety and security, emerging technology policy.
The Center for Security and Unification was established in order to contribute to policy-making in diplomacy, security, and unification, through analyzing Korea’s security environment and emerging issues in foreign affairs. The Center conducts six major tasks. First, the Center examines relevant global trends, including U.S.-China relations, in order to assess their impact on peace and security on the Korean peninsula. Second, it examines the changing security environment of Northeast Asia and assesses the impact on Korea. Third, through deeper-level analysis of the changing trends in the ROK-U.S. alliance, it seeks to lay the groundwork for maintaining a strong security framework on the Korean Peninsula. Fourth, by examining North Korea’s denuclearization negotiations and proposing reasonable options for policymakers, it seeks to prevent major threats to South Korea’s national security. Fifth, by suggesting proper alternatives for developing inter-Korean relations and the peace regime, it seeks to contribute to establishing a permanent peace regime on the Korean peninsula. Sixth, through active discussions on issues of inter-Korean exchange and unification, it lays the cornerstone for Korea’s future. In order to successfully perform these tasks, the Center for Security and Unification hosts various policy seminars and offers policy suggestions for diplomacy, security and unification issues. It also widely distributes the Center’s research through publications and videos and contributes to forming public opinion through active research and press interviews.

Center for Quantitative Research

Mathematical approaches can often be tailored to address complex policy issues in a systematic manner. The main objective of the Center for Quantitative Research is to inform the general public and policymakers on effective methods which form evidence-based decisions through the use of modeling and simulation. Over the years, the Center has utilized analytical and statistical tools to effectively evaluate various policies concerning North Korea, carbon emissions, man-made disasters, old age pension, fertility and more, while also offering solutions for the future. The Center for Quantitative Research also provides other Centers within the Asan Institute for Policy Studies with necessary technical expertise.
Washington, D.C. Office
Established in 2012, the Asan Institute for Policy Studies’ Washington, D.C. Office provides a platform for Korean and American officials, scholars, experts, and media to engage in a constructive dialogue that promotes peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, as well as Korean reunification. The Asan-Washington Office hosts a range of roundtables, conferences, and forums and crafts policy recommendations designed to strengthen the Korea-U.S. alliance and advance our shared interests on the international stage. The D.C. Office also coordinates the Asan Academy’s Washington Fellowship Program which trains future Korean leaders at more than twenty leading American think tanks and nonprofits.
Asan Academy
Asan Academy

The Asan Academy offers a liberal arts educational program based on a combination of Korea’s traditional Confucian education system (Seowon) and the modern-day university. All selected Asan Young Fellows live and share the same routine activities throughout their studies in Korea while learning to bond and appreciate the value of community through monthly volunteer work and community outreach activities. The Asan Academy also provides Asan Young Fellows with the opportunity to work as interns at leading think tanks and non-profit organizations in either Washington, D.C. or Beijing. Through international experience and philosophical teachings, the Asan Academy seeks to foster Korea’s future leaders with global outlooks, profound knowledge of the humanities, and community spirit.
The Asan Forum is an online publication for in-depth analysis of rapid changes across the Asia-Pacific region. Its primary mission is to capture the latest currents of thought within Asia on transformative issues as expressed through voices from the region and assessments by outsiders. While current events and how they are interpreted are in the forefront, insight into the historical and cultural background relevant to distinct national responses is also stressed. The objective is to stimulate well-informed observations from diverse perspectives that highlight what political elites and the media in Asia are currently discussing.
Forums and Events
Asan Plenum

The Asan Plenum is the annual gathering of leading national security and foreign policy experts from around the globe. In addressing the most pressing challenges facing the world, the Asan Plenum aims to impact the policy making process and enable the global community to better deal with the challenges it faces. The “conversational” format of the Plenum will allow for maximum interaction among the panelists and participants. Parallel break-out sessions will also provide further opportunity for in-depth, focused discussions.

3. Asan Plenum 2013 “New World Disorder” (April 30 – May 1, 2013)
Asan Memorial Lecture

The Asan Memorial Lecture is the flagship lecture series of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies. In keeping with its mandate to provide innovative policy solutions and spearhead public discourse on many of the core issues that face the Korean Peninsula, the region, and the globe, the Asan Institute invites world-renowned leaders from a variety of fields and disciplines to offer their perspectives on pressing matters in global politics.

1. Henry A. Kissinger
   “Nuclear North Korea and Northeast Asia” (March 3, 2010)

2. Michael J. Sandel
   “Justice: What’s the Right Thing to Do?” (August 19, 2010)
   “What Money Can’t Buy: The Moral Limits of Markets” (June 1, 2012)

3. Guy Sorman
   “Should We Fear China?” (January 20, 2011)
   “European Union and Eurozone Crisis” (July 12, 2012)
   “The State and the Citizens’ Safety” (May 26, 2014)

4. Tu Weiming
   “Confucian Humanism in the 21st Century: China’s Quest for a New Cultural Identity” (February 24, 2011)

5. James J. Heckman
   “What Tests Miss: Hard Evidence on Soft Skills” (August 8, 2011)

6. Donald Rumsfeld
   “21st Century Challenges in the Pacific and Beyond” (October 13, 2011)
**Asan Distinguished Speaker Series**

The Asan Distinguished Speaker Series delivers insightful and stimulating public lectures by prominent researchers and policymakers on a wide variety of topics in global politics, economics, and society. These lectures offer unparalleled opportunities for audience members to meet many of the world’s movers and shakers in the intimate setting of the Asan Institute’s auditorium.

1. **Christopher Hill** (University of Denver)
   “ROK-U.S. Relations in the New Decade” (January 14, 2011)

2. **Kwon Yul** (LinkTV)

3. **Stephen D. Krasner** (Stanford University)
   “Foreign Aid: A Fool’s Errand?” (October 18, 2011)

4. **Fawaz A. Gerges** (London School of Economics and Political Science)
   “Arab Revolutions in the Making: Internal, Regional and International Implications” (November 3, 2011)

5. **Lisa Anderson** (American University in Cairo)
   “The Egyptian Uprisings: Opportunities and Challenges” (November 7, 2011)

6. **David W. Brady** (Stanford University)
   “The Future of American Conservatism” (November 28, 2011)

7. **Alexander A. Dynkin** (Institute of World Economy and International Relations, Russia)
   “Russian Foreign Policy in the Global Context” (January 17, 2012)

8. **Fred R. Dallmayr** (University of Notre Dame)
   “Confucianism and Cosmopolitanism” (June 5, 2012)

9. **Chang Hasok** (University of Cambridge)
   “Visualizing the Invisible: 19th Century Atomic Models and the Realism Debate” (February 25, 2013)

10. **Bill Gates** (Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation)
    “Korea’s Leadership in the Field of International Aid” (April 22, 2013)

11. **Michael Puett** (Harvard University)
    “Confucianism and the Rise of China” (August 19, 2013)

12. **Robert Menendez** (United States Senate)

13. **John McCain, Sheldon Whitehouse** (United States Senate)
    “Asan Conversation” (August 26, 2013)

14. **Eric X. Li** (Changwei Capital)
    “Warring States: The Coming New World (Dis)order” (September 4, 2013)

15. **Suzanne Scholte** (Defense Forum Foundation)
    “Will North Korea Ever be Free?” (October 28, 2013)
16. Nicolas Berggruen (Berggruen Holdings)
   * "Intelligent Governance for the 21st Century: A Middle Way between East and West" (December 3, 2013)

17. Marco Rubio (U.S. Senate)
   * "US Foreign Policy toward Asia" (January 24, 2014)

18. Ian Bremmer (Eurasia Group)
   * "How is Geopolitics Impacting Markets Today?" (March 4, 2014)

19. Mike Honda (United States House of Representatives)
   * "Peace and Prosperity in Northeast Asia" (December 19, 2014)

20. John Dunn (King’s College, University of Cambridge)
   * "What to Fear and What to Hope for from Democracy Today?" (March 13, 2015)

21. Antony Blinken (U.S. Department of State)
   * "New Frontiers for Northeast Asia" (October 7, 2015)

22. Mike Kelly (United States House of Representatives)
   * "ROK-U.S. Alliance and the Three Pillars of Commitment" (November 24, 2015)

23. Jonny Ernst, Cory Gardner, Dan Sullivan (United States Senate)
   * "Asian Conversation" (May 30, 2016)

   * "Thank You for Being Late: Thriving in the Age of Acceleration!" (May 29, 2017)

   * "NATO’s View on Northeast Asia" (November 2, 2017)

26. Frank-Walter Steinmeier (President, Federal Republic of Germany)
   * "Stability in East Asia: Experiences and Challenges" (February 9, 2018)

27. Borut Pahor (President, Republic of Slovenia)
   * "Current Situation around the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia" (February 20, 2018)
Asan Conference

Asan Institute-Wilson Center: Joint Conference
“Lasting Peace? Prospects for Peace on the Korean Peninsula” (October 17, 2018)

Asan Institute-East West Center: Asia Matters for America Project
“Korea Matters for America / America Matters for Korea Booklet Launch” (August 27, 2018)

Asan Gangneung Workshop
“Sustaining the Liberal International Order: The Role of South Korea” (May 25-26, 2017)

Asan Institute-Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: Forum
Asan Strategic Dialogues are closed meetings that bring together policymakers and experts from major think tanks around the world to candidly discuss regional and global challenges and develop practical approaches to handling them. As a form of unofficial, or “Track II”, diplomacy, the Asan Strategic Dialogues offer a forum in which experts and policymakers are insulated from political and media pressure and free to experiment with ideas and solicit candid feedback from one another.

1. Asan-Atlantic Council-Centre for International Governance Innovation (September 11 - 12, 2018)
2. Asan-Asia Pacific Initiative (January 16, 2018)
3. Asan-Center for Strategic and International Studies (September 25, 2017)
4. Asan-Asia New Zealand Foundation (December 6, 2016)
5. Asan-Rebuild Japan Initiative Foundation (Renamed as: “Asia Pacific Initiative”) (December 3 - 4, 2016)
6. Asan-Pacific Forum CSS (Renamed as: “Pacific Forum”) (August 28 - September 1, 2016)
Ⅶ Publications

Asan Reports are lengthier up-to-date analyses for readers seeking in-depth examinations of issues critical to the region. Depending on topics addressed, Asan Reports are presented in Korean, English, and Chinese to ensure that key stakeholders are able to stay fully informed on pressing issues. As of 2018, The Asan Institute had published 65 reports.
Proceedings

Proceedings are published transcripts and summaries produced after the completion of a major research project or followings the conclusion of various Asan conferences. They provide records of discussions that can inform government officials, experts, and the public. They also contain summaries of major research findings, detailed analysis of key issues, and recommendations for current and future policy initiatives. As of 2018, The Asan Institute had published 15 Proceedings.

The Asan Book Series

The Asan Book Series consists of books produced as the result of conferences and research. These books include papers written by distinguished scholars, practitioners, and experts in their fields, which provide useful analyses to better inform government officials and the public. As of 2018, The Asan Institute had published 15 books series.
The Translation Series translates some of the world’s most engaging and important books on policies, economics, and society into Korean and thus contributes to Korea’s participation in the global marketplace of ideas. As of 2018, The Asan Institute had published 21 books in the Translation series.

"By More than Providence" (left)
"Strategic Reassurance and Resolve" (center)
"The Impeccable State" (right)

"Escape from Camp 14" (left)
"The World America Made" (center)
"Strategic Vision" (right)

Asan-Palgrave Conference Series are books compiled after conferences hosted by the Asan Institute for Policy Studies and published in partnership with Palgrave Macmillan. As of 2018, The Asan Institute had published 12 books in the Asan-Palgrave Conference Series.

"Isaiah Berlin’s Cold War Liberalism" (left)
"MIKTA, Middles Powers, and New Dynamics of Global Governance" (center)
"Transitional Justice in Unified Korea" (right)

"Asia’s Alliance Triangle" (left)
"Assessing China’s Power" (center)
"The Arab Spring" (right)
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<th>Research Staff</th>
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<tr>
<td>Kang Chungku</td>
<td>Choi Hyeonjung</td>
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<td>Senior Associate</td>
<td>Director</td>
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<td>Ham Geon Hee</td>
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<td>Research Associate</td>
<td>Senior Program Officer</td>
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<td>Hong Sanghwa</td>
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<td>Research Associate</td>
<td>Senior Program Officer</td>
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<td>J. James Kim</td>
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<td>Kim Jieun</td>
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