# Table of Contents

## I. About the Asan Institute 04
- Mission Statement 06
- Chronology 06
- Founder and Honorary Chairman 07
- President’s Message 08
- Board of Trustees 10

## II. Centers and Research 12
- Center for Foreign Policy and National Security
  - Foreign Policy Program 16
  - Security Policy Program 19
- Center for Global Governance
  - Global Governance Program 22
  - International Law and Conflict Resolution Program 24
  - Nuclear Policy and Technology Program 26
  - Science and Technology Policy Program 28
  - Climate Change and Sustainable Development Program 30

## III. Asan Academy 50

## IV. The Asan Forum 56

## V. Events 62

## VI. Asan in the Media 78

## VII. Publications 82

## VIII. Finance 88

## IX. Asan People 92

## Center for Public Opinion and Quantitative Research
- Public Opinion Studies Program 32
- Quantitative Methods Program 34
- Risk, Information, and Social Policy Program 36

## Center for Regional Studies
- American Politics and Policy Program 38
- ASEAN and Oceania Studies Program 40
- China Policy Program 42
- Middle East and North Africa Program 44

## Center for Korean Studies
- Korean Studies Program 46
- Humanities Program 48

## Center for Global Governance
I. About the Asan Institute
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 that are conducive to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and Korean reunification.

Chronology
2008. 2. 11 Founding of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies

Dr. Han Sung-Joo inaugurated as the first Chairman and President of the Institute.

2009. 2. 11 Ambassador Song Young Shik inaugurated as the second President of the Institute.

Groundbreaking ceremony for the Institute’s new building at 11 Gyeonghuigung 1-ga-gil, Jongno-gu, Seoul

2010. 1. 13 Opening of the new building

2010. 3. 10 Dr. Hahm Chaibong inaugurated as the third President of the Institute.

2011. 1. 28 Dr. Lee In-ho inaugurated as the second Chairperson of the Institute.

2012. 8. 27 Founding of the Asan Academy

2013. 7. 17 Launch of The Asan Forum: An Online Journal

2014. 2. 26 Dr. Hahm Chaibong inaugurated as the third Chairperson of the Institute

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 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.
President’s Message

2015 was a monumental year for the Asan Institute for Policy Studies. Within 7 years of its opening, the Institute has ascended to global ranks in the field of public policy research institute. The Institute has emerged as the epicenter for policy discussion and networking in Northeast Asia. Foreign government officials and policy analysts routinely seek out Asan’s specialists for intellectual discussions across a range of global issues.

Asan’s experts have addressed Korea’s most crucial policy challenges by offering innovative and rigorously analytical recommendations to policymakers, business leaders, and the general public. I am proud to announce that the Asan Institute’s publications have become one of the most widely cited and a must-read among leading policymakers and opinion leaders.

The Asan Institute also retains a hidden treasure—the Asan Academy. We offer selected students the education, training, and experience that no other institute can emulate. In 2015, sixty students underwent rigorous training and were edified by leading scholars in the nation, an intellectual experience augmented by a twenty-week overseas internship at leading think tanks in Washington DC and Beijing.

The success and excellence of the Asan Institute are a testament of the dedicated work of our extraordinary staff. Our founder Dr. M.J. Chung’s commitment and passion for the Asan Institute not only endures, but also perseveres.

With renewed vigor, confidence, and vision, the Asan Institute will forge ahead to provide cutting-edge research and contribute to sophisticated and meaningful conversations on global peace and security.

Hahn Chaibong
Ph.D. in Political Science, Johns Hopkins University
Board of Trustees

Bark Taeho  Professor, GSIS of Seoul National University
Han Sung-Joo  Professor Emeritus, Korea University; Former Minister of Foreign Affairs
Kim Dong-Sung  Professor Emeritus, Chung-Ang University
Kim Hyung-kook  Professor Emeritus, Seoul National University
Kim Jong Seok  Dean & Professor, College of Business Administration, Hongik University
Kim Sung-han  Professor, GSIS of Korea University; Former Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Kim Yong Min  Professor, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

Lee Chulwoo  Professor, College of Law, Yonsei University
Lee Hong-Koo  Chairman, Seoul Forum for International Affairs; Former Prime Minister
Lee In-ho  Chairman, Korean Broadcasting System; Professor Emeritus, Seoul National University
Park Cheol-Hee  Professor, GSIS of Seoul National University
Park Hyungji  Dean, Underwood International College; Professor, English Language & Literature, Yonsei University
Park Nohyoung  Professor, Law School of Korea University
Shin Myungsoon  Professor Emeritus, Yonsei University
II. Centers and Research
Centers & Research

Center for Foreign Policy and National Security

The Center for Foreign Policy and National Security integrates insights among policymakers, analysts, and the public on vital diplomatic and security affairs. The Center's research encompasses multilateral and regional security cooperation, public diplomacy, and foreign and security policies of various stakeholders. The Center is committed to undertaking original, timely, and rigorous research as well as collaborating in joint projects and conferences with major universities and think tanks around the world. These efforts deepen public understanding of global issues and promote effective government policies toward realizing peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia.

Center for Global Governance

The Center for Global Governance offers policy recommendations for establishing new and effective governance that is fit for responding aptly to the changes of the 21st century and the daily evolving dynamics of international relations and politics. To that end, the Center strives to go beyond traditional ways of thinking that focus on state actors and national security and recommends policies that account for nontraditional security factors such as human security.

Center for Public Opinion and Quantitative Research

The Center for Public Opinion and Quantitative Research performs the most advanced analysis of South Korean public opinion in the country. In the age of information overload, accurate and timely analysis of this data is crucial in providing feedback both to policymakers and to the public to create a more informed dialogue. Using its robust public opinion surveys, the Center investigates attitudes toward Korea's foreign policy as well as its changing social dynamics. Its findings are cited in both academic papers and in media around the world, helping to create a more complete picture of South Korea, its people, its politics, and its policies.

Center for Regional Studies

The Center for Regional Studies provides a platform for in-depth policy analysis and debate on Korea's place in the world today. Comprised of four leading research programs covering America, China, the Middle East and North Africa, and Southeast Asia and Oceania, the Center examines the political, economic, strategic, and cultural dynamics that are shaping Korea's relations with key interlocutors. The Center brings a strong multidisciplinary approach to its regional mandate by incorporating expertise in political economy, security studies, and international relations.

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, it 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 the international society.
In 2015, the Foreign Policy Program continued to facilitate the production and exchange of insights and analyses among experts, policymakers, and the general public on foreign policy issues.

The Program hosted several roundtables in 2015 and engaged in candid conversations about the region's security environment. Topics of discussions included the changing regional security environment, South Korea's role as a middle power, and its relationships with China, Japan, the United States, and North Korea, among others. Most notably, the Program invited Australian National University Professors William Tow and Brendan Taylor to explore whether greater levels of trilateral cooperation among South Korea, Australia, and Indonesia can be realized given their converging strategic interests.

Building from the success of its strategic consulting project with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2013-2015, the Program renewed its 2-year contract with the Gates Foundation to continue research into South Korea's official development assistance (ODA) policy. The project looked to identify South Korea's ODA decision-making process, engage with ODA policymakers, and foster discussions on an issue that is becoming increasingly
In 2015, the Security Policy Program focused on issues related to North Korea, regional security, alliances, and multilateral cooperation in Northeast Asia. The Security Policy Program published an Asian Report titled “Eight Priorities for Korean Foreign and Defense Policy,” which analyzes the challenges the Park Geun-hye administration faces and makes several key recommendations on how to overcome these challenges.

Members of the Program were widely published in 2015. Publications addressed Korea’s relationships with Japan, the United States, and other regional partners. An issue brief about LGBT rights in South Korea was particularly well-received by the media and public alike. Members of the Program were also widely interviewed by leading media outlets.
On December 10th, the Program hosted a roundtable titled “Strategic Foresight and Preventive Planning: Future Uses by the ROK” and invited Dr. Paul B. Stares, Senior Fellow of the Council of Foreign Relations (CFR). During the roundtable, techniques and trends for analyzing and predicting the signs that threaten national security through data were discussed. Moreover, the precautions to be taken by the Korean government during a crisis, the inspection of contingency plans, and future directions were also key elements of the conversation.

The Security Policy Program also actively conducted joint research with foreign governments, their respective branches, and other international think tanks. On March 19th, the Program hosted The Asan-SIPRI Seminar in Brussels, Belgium. The conference was sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and centered on the topic of “Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative as Confidence Building Measures from the European Perspective.” From July 19-21, the Program held the “U.S.-ROK-Japan Trilateral Strategic Dialogue” in Maui, Hawaii in collaboration with the Pacific Forum CSIS. This conference was sponsored by the Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) and aimed to increase future cooperation on peace and stability in the region within the context of Korea-U.S.-Japan, Korea-U.S., U.S.-Japan, and Korea-Japan alliances in Northeast Asia. In particular, the question of how to best implement the Korea-U.S.-Japan alliance was intensively discussed if a sudden change in North Korea took place.
The Global Governance Program analyzes the strengths and weaknesses of existing multilateral institutions, proposes reforms tailored to new international circumstances, and identifies opportunities for policymakers to contribute positively to the reform of the global governance system.

In 2015, the Program continued its research and activities on issues of how middle power countries can work to advance good global governance. In January, a roundtable titled “South Korea’s Role as a Middle Power: Evaluating South Korea’s Contributions to the Global Agenda” was held. The event featured speakers such as Scott Snyder from the Council on Foreign Relations, Shin Dong-ik from the ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Toby Dalton from the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

The Council of Foreign Relations published the roundtable proceedings in a report under the same title. The report points out that as a result of South Korea organizing major international conferences in recent years, the country has been strategically raising its international profile. Yet, the report makes the argument that as a result of limited resources and influence, South Korea would have to allocate its resources and attention to those areas where the country already commands some sway. These include *inter alia* sustainable development, green growth, and nuclear governance.
The International Law and Conflict Resolution Program (ILCRP) aims to understand and analyze how international law and global governance regimes can contribute to the management and peaceful resolution of international conflicts.

Continuing its ambitious long-term project on potential transitional justice in Korea, the ILCRP co-hosted a conference with the Transitional Justice Working Group, Human Asia, and the SSK Human Rights Forum in September. The 2015 Asia Human Rights Forum titled “Regional Cooperation for Transitional Justice in Asia and Human Rights in North Korea,” provided a forum for policy discussion and partnership opportunities for transitional justice in Asia.

The ILCRP published *Transitional Justice in Unified Korea* in October, a volume in the Asan-Palgrave Macmillan series. This text effectively served as the *coda* of the Program’s research activities related to transitional justice in Korea. This volume featured papers presented at the 2013 Asan Transitional Justice Conference. The authors drew from real-world experience, comparative case studies, and theoretical knowledge to examine the future of transitional justice in the Korean peninsula.

Another notable publication included an *Asan Issue Brief* on “How to Deal with Cyber Attacks and Threats by North Korea” by Dr. Shin Chang-Hoon, former Director of the Center for Global Governance. This *Issue Brief* examined South Korea’s policy response to cyber threats from the DPRK, prompting more active efforts to increase the nation’s digital protection and ultimately calling for increased efforts in this regard.
The Nuclear Policy and Technology Program (NPTP) aims to produce balanced policy options to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free Korean Peninsula, promote the peaceful use of nuclear energy, and suggest comprehensive solutions to current nuclear safety, security, and cooperation issues.

The NPTP began the year with a workshop titled “The Future of Nuclear Energy Cooperation: Lessons, Challenges, and Opportunities Presented by the U.S.-ROK Relationship” in cooperation with the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) and Korea Nuclear Policy Society (KNPS). The workshop invited discussion on issues such as the development of event notification reporting (ENR) in Korea, nuclear nonproliferation, ROK-U.S. nuclear cooperation, and the future of nuclear security cooperation.

Following the revised deal in June on civil atomic energy cooperation between South Korea and the United States, Dr. Park Jiyoung, the NPTP chair, published an Issue Brief, “Was the ROK-U.S. Civil Nuclear Cooperation Agreement a Successful Consensus?” This Issue Brief reviewed the results of these negotiations involved and impending challenges for South Korea.

In April, the NPTP announced the International Convention on Nuclear Security (ICNS) in Washington DC, a culmination of a 2-year project with the Partnership for Global Security and the Stanley Foundation. In a roll-out event titled “Nuclear Security Beyond the Summits,” the organizers of the proposed convention presented their views on why such a convention is needed. Overall, the importance of the proposed ICNS is that it establishes an effective and sustainable international mechanism that allows for continuous improvement and adaptation to the global nuclear security regime after the end of the Nuclear Security Summit process.

A roundtable with Professors Gareth Evans and Ramesh Thakur titled “Challenges in Armed Control Policymaking and the 2015 NPT Review Conference” addressed the challenges that policymakers face in addressing arms control. Another roundtable was held in August, with Dr. Matthew Kroenig and Dr. Ashley Tellis under the title “Conceptualizing Multipolar Nuclear Order and Its Application to Northeast Asia.” This roundtable investigated Asia’s evolving nuclear environment, geopolitical implications, responses from the United States, and the impact on international nonproliferation.
The Science and Technology Policy Program (STPP) aims to promote the understanding of science and technology issues from socioeconomic aspects and develop policy options for improved R&D and S&T activities.

In 2015, Dr. Park Jiyoung, the STPP Chair, advised on future outlooks in science and technology for the Korea Institute of S&T Evaluation and Planning (KISTEP), the Ministry of Science, ICT, and Future Planning, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy, and the Ministry of Public Safety and Security, among various other institutions. She also continued to share ideas and insights with the space community and security sector by participating in conferences such as “Connecting Space with International Security and Stability” organized by Wilton Park.

Upcoming in 2016, the STPP anticipates releasing a report early in the year on emerging technology trends and the implications on possible economic, social, and security threats. This report is based on the idea that emerging technologies will bring about critical changes to social, economic, and security frameworks; the possession of technology is likely to affect the economic and social gap, consequently contributing to the creation of a new order and paradigm. Ultimately, the report aims to give policy recommendations based on a thorough review of South Korea’s status on technology development, its current challenges, and future prospects.
The Climate Change and Sustainable Development Program (CCSDP) examines mitigation and adaptation strategies for societies in a future of uncertain environmental change in the Anthropocene. By seeking out pathways to sustainable development through innovative, substantive research as well as global cooperation, the CCSDP contributes to the formulation of policy that aims at green growth and diplomacy. Traversing a wide range of disciplines, the CCSDP benefits and contributes to the wide range of topics and expertise in not only the Global Governance Center, but also the Asan Institute as a whole. The increasingly irreversible changes caused by ecosystem overexploitation have social, economic, legal, and political consequences. To meet these challenges, the CCSDP contributes to the design of a comprehensive response based on equally holistic research and analysis.

The CCSDP published a number of notable works in 2015. This included the contribution of a chapter in the Asan Report “Identifying South Korea’s Regional Partners.” In cooperation with the Quantitative Methods Program, the CCSDP published another Asan Report titled “A Quantitative Assessment of South Korea’s Options for the INDC in 2030” in September. In October, Dr. Choi and Research Associate Lee Soohyun published an Issue Brief on South Korea’s INDC titled “Not Good Enough: South Korea’s 2030 Carbon Mitigation Target and the INDC,” a critical assessment of the South Korean INDC and its mitigation goals following the 21st Conference of the Parties (COP 21).

There were two CCSDP signature events in 2015. The first was in contributing to the planning process of the 7th Water Forum held in Daegu and Gyeonbuk in April. The CCSDP participated as a Member of the Design Group of the Thematic Process under Session 4.2, “Effective Governance: Enhanced Political Decisions, Stakeholder Participation and Technical Information,” and co-authored the “Implementation Roadmap: Effective Governance.” The second key event in 2015 was the involvement of Dr. Choi Hyeonjung, Program Chair of the CCSDP, in a feasibility study for a pilot project in Vietnam in coordination with the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA) and the Government of Vietnam. Dr. Choi also serves as Co-Project Manager in this pilot, which is expected to continue into July 2016.
In 2015, the Public Opinion Studies Program continued its research on South Korean public opinion. Through timely publications including Asan Reports and Issue Briefs, and media interviews, members of the program helped to establish the global narrative on Korea using informed data analysis.

Major publications in 2015 focused on how South Koreans view neighboring countries, including the United States, China, Japan, and North Korea. The extensive polling conducted by the program on issues related to these relationships were used to create reports investigating the most important aspects of each bilateral relationship. These reports covered not only the immediate issues within each relationship, but also revealed how the Korean public perceives the future of those relationships. This is all vital information for policymakers focusing on the region.

Analyses from the program’s experts appeared in various media outlets. Its reports and data were also widely cited as journalists sought to add a quantitative angle to their reporting. Public opinion data was largely missing from the coverage of Korea before the Public Opinion Studies Program filled this gap. This has made the program’s work indispensable to analysts and observers of the region.

In 2016, the Program will pursue unique projects on a range of issues all aimed at increasing the understanding of the Korean public, how they view themselves and the world, and how that opinion influences policy both now and in the future.
This year the Quantitative Methods Program focused its effort on publishing its research on regional cooperation and policies on climate change and basic pension. In an *Asan Report* titled “Identifying South Korea’s Regional Partners: On the Environment, Family Values, Politics, and Society” the Program investigated which countries in East Asia share common visions with South Korea as potential security partners. With power shifting to Asia, countries in the region are adjusting their foreign policies to cope with the fast-changing external environment. As South Korea globalizes, it is important to determine partner countries to leverage international influence. To this end, a Multi-Dimensional Scaling modeling technique was applied to data from the World Values Survey, enabling us to identify potential partner countries via simple scatter diagrams. South Korea can collaborate with these countries on many regional and global diplomatic fronts such as environment and security.

In December 2015, the Paris Climate summit saw the largest gathering of world leaders tackling climate change and they have set ambitious goals to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 °C. In its Intended Nationally Determined Contributions (INDC) submitted to the UNFCCC, South Korea has pledged to cut CO2 emissions by 37.0% below the business-as-usual (BAU) level by 2030. With the launch of South Korea’s ETS (Emissions Trading System) in January 2015, the second largest after the EU ETS, the program examined the economic impacts of meeting South Korea’s mitigation target under several scenarios. Some involve meeting its target either independently or by cooperating with countries such as China or Mexico.

Finally, last summer the Korean Senior Citizens’ Association announced its willingness to raise the minimum age of pension entitlement from the current 65 to 70. Given that South Korea has already entered into an aging society with spending expected to increase, the Association’s unilateral decision to share some of the financial burdens voluntarily was publicly praised. The Program conducted a study to determine how much the government can save under two different scenarios noted by the Korean Senior Citizens’ Association. One scenario is to raise the current minimum age of entitlement by one year every 2 years requiring 10 years in total to reach 70. The other scenario is to raise the age in a similar manner, but every 4 years requiring 20 years in total to reach 70. The Program successfully compiled its work into an *Issue Brief* titled “The Effects on Increasing the Official Age of Elderly on the Basic Pension Budget.”
The year 2015 was a pivotal year for the Risk Information and Social Policy Program as Dr. Go was selected as the first Korean Munich Young Leader for the 2015 Munich Security Conference in February. The prestigious Munich Young Leaders program selects 25 outstanding young leaders from governments, elected bodies, think tanks, the media, and the private sector each year.

In March, Dr. Go attended meetings in Williamsburg, VA and Boston, MA. The former was jointly organized by the Woodrow Wilson School of Princeton University, MacArthur Foundation, and the Asan Institute for Policy Studies. The meeting in Boston was jointly organized by the Asan Institute and Harvard University’s Belfer Center. The meetings brought together the best strategic minds to discuss regional cooperation for peace and prosperity in the Korean Peninsula.

In June, Dr. Go was invited to participate in the 556th Slazburg Global Seminar. The session gathered human rights activists, representatives from international organizations and national governments, think tankers, and academics, to jointly formulate policy recommendations for the international community on how to improve the dire human rights situation in North Korea. As a follow up, the Salzburg Global Seminar published a report titled “International Responses to Crimes against Humanity: The Challenge of North Korea” with the combined efforts of the seminar participants.

In November, the Program helped the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) organize two sessions on North Korean human rights at the 8th Assembly for World Movement for Democracy. Over 450 democracy activists, practitioners, and scholars worldwide gathered for two days of meetings and workshops in Seoul.

This year, the Program primarily focused on North Korean issues, but it did not neglect its other main research goal of contributing to the public debate and understanding of domestic social issues. Dr. Go published an edited volume titled Understanding the Swedish Welfare Model, which put together foremost experts on welfare policy from both Korea and Sweden.

In 2016, the Program will continue its research into North Korean security and human rights issues, with special focus on contingency and regional cooperation.
The American Politics and Policy Program (AP3) was established in 2012 to promote research and programs that educate the general public and advise leaders on important policy matters related to the United States while informing the American policymaking community about the significance of South Korea and East Asia.

In 2015, the AP3 worked to build on its reputation as the foremost leading authority on research and information related to the United States. Its output included a report reviewing key policy developments in the United States during 2014, as well as Issue Briefs related to the 2015 State of the Union, expanded drilling in the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf, the Iranian nuclear deal and its implications for North Korea, and President Park’s visit to Washington and Beijing, among others. AP3 collaborated with the Public Opinion Studies Program to better understand and disseminate key findings of Korean public opinion.

AP3 also shared opinions with a number of experts and scholars from the United States, including Amb. Stephen Sestanovich, Director Bruce Stokes, Dr. David Gordon, Dr. Thomas Wright, Dr. Johanes Urpelainen, Christopher Griffin, and Dr. Thomas Karako. Through research and meetings, the program deepens its expertise by focusing on areas of strategic importance and relevance to the interests of the United States, South Korea, and regional neighbors. As a locus for information and analysis, AP3 aims to continue its coverage of a broad range of issues and topics, including policy issue tracking, U.S. foreign policy concerning trade, U.S. fiscal policy, energy geopolitics, and elections.
The ASEAN and Oceania Studies Program (AOSP) has focused on the broader strategic environment in which regional countries operate, producing several Issue Briefs on South China Sea disputes in 2015. An Issue Brief titled “U.S.-China-ASEAN’s South China Sea Disputes” was published in July focusing on the strategic positions of the U.S., China, and ASEAN concerning China’s controversial reclamation and construction works in the South China Sea. Dr. Lee predicted that China would continue the South China Sea reclamation and construction works despite protests from the U.S. and ASEAN countries, since the latter do not have an effective tool to deter Chinese actions. Later in October, a follow-up Issue Brief titled “Indo-Pacific: a New Strategic Sphere” was published when the U.S. launched a military operation to guarantee the South China Sea’s freedom of navigation.

Middle power diplomacy and Australia were also important issues for AOSP in 2015. In May, Dr. Lee published an Issue Brief titled, “Is MIKTA Middle Power Diplomacy?” In the Issue Brief, Dr. Lee analyzed the relation between the concept of middle power diplomacy and the concept of MIKTA. In September, the program published another Issue Brief titled “Korea-Australia 2+2 Meeting: A New Model for Korean Diplomacy and Defense,” anticipating the second bilateral meeting. Dr. Lee suggested that both governments should focus on how the two countries can produce regional security as a common good, instead of emphasizing bilateral security assurance.

In 2015, AOSP also organized two major events: Asan Conference on “The Emergence of the Indo-Pacific,” and “Asan-Australia-New Zealand Strategic Dialogue.” The first conference was an opportunity to introduce Indo-Pacific as a new concept to Korean experts. Dr. Hahn Chaibong chaired the session and Professor Paul Johnson (Vice Chancellor at the University of Western Australia), Ambassadors Vikram Doraiswami (Ambassador of India to the Republic of Korea), Bill Paterson (Ambassador of Australia to the Republic of Korea), Mark Lippert (Ambassador of the U.S. to the Republic of Korea), and Chun Yungwoo (Senior Advisor at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies) participated as panelists.

In August, Amb Chun Youngwoo, Dr. Jang Ji-Hyang, Dr. Choi Hyeonjung, and Dr. Lee Jaehyoon visited Australia (Australian National University and Australian Strategic Policy Institute) and Asia-NZ Foundation of New Zealand to engage in strategic dialogue. This year’s strategic dialogue focused on 1) the Korean Peninsula, 2) Northeast Asia’s strategic environment, especially China-U.S. relations, 3) ISIS and counter-terrorism and 4) the South China Sea dispute.
In 2015, the China Policy Program actively hosted numerous events to facilitate discussion. In October, the China Policy Program hosted the annual Asan Chunghae Forum, a closed, two-day workshop focused on fostering discussion between Korean and Chinese young experts by providing a relaxed, informal setting for open dialogue and scholarly exchange. This year, 31 scholars gathered at SEAMARQ Hotel, a newly opened 6-star hotel in Gangneung, to discuss whether an epistemic community exists between China and Korea.

The Program also hosted a roundtable featuring Professor Wang Jisi, Dean of the Institute of International Strategic Studies and Professor at the School of International Studies at Peking University. The Chinese delegation included Professors Yu Tiejun and Gui Yongtao, both Associate Professors at the School of International Studies at Peking University. They discussed China’s foreign policy strategy and China–ROK relations.

The Program also hosted numerous events at its Washington DC office. In September, the program hosted an Asan Seminar titled “China–Korea Cooperation on Global Governance: Priorities for the G20 China Summit in 2016.” The program also hosted the Asan Book Launch of Assessing China’s Power (edited by Chung Jae Ho). The book was a compilation of manuscripts by top scholars who participated in the Asan China Conference 2014.
The Middle East and North Africa Program (MENA) provides timely analysis of the major trends and developments unfolding across the region as well as their implications for the Korean Peninsula. The Program conducts research on four distinct trends: 1) democratization & state-building; 2) market liberalization & oil; 3) civil society & Islam; and 4) regional security & terrorism.

In 2015, the MENA Program hosted various events with multiple Middle East experts throughout the year. Leaders of foreign government such as Dr. Riad Malki, Foreign Minister of the State of Palestine and Dr. Mustafa A.G. Abushagur, Former Deputy Prime Minister of Libya visited the Institute to engage in strategic dialogue.

Experts including Joseph Kéchichian, Senior Fellow at King Faisal Center for Research and Islamic Studies, Saudi Arabia, Dr. Mostafa Zahrani, Director-General of the Institute for International and Political Studies in Iran, and Dan Schueftan, Director, National Security Studies Center at the University of Haifa, Israel were invited to exchange their expertise with the program.

The Program also produced numerous publications in collaboration with top Middle East experts in 2015. Some of the major publications include, Dr. Jang’s and Mr. Lee’s Issue Brief titled “2015 Paris Terror and ISIS,” Dr. Joseph Kéchichian’s Asan Report, titled “Succession Challenges in the Arab Gulf Monarchies,” and another Asan Report co-authored with the National University of Singapore titled “Globalization and the Ties that Bind: Korea and the Gulf.”
In 2015, the Korean Studies Program continued to contribute to advancing scholarship on Korean culture and intellectual thought in East Asia. In collaboration with JoongAng Sunday the Korean Studies Program successfully published *The Great Exploration of Korean Culture*, which introduces elements of traditional and contemporary Korean culture and society from the humanities perspective. The book covers themes ranging from traditional Korean architecture, arts, scholarly practices, and everyday customs.

The Korean Studies Program also hosted a roundtable with Dr. Lee Jong-Won, Director of Waseda University’s Institute for Korean Studies on September 15. Prof. Lee shared his thoughts on Japan’s foreign policy, national security, and its policy toward the Korean Peninsula.
Since 2015, the Humanities Program has been hosting the “Asan Book Review Meeting” with eminent social scientists and humanities scholars in Korea, providing a forum for interdisciplinary discourse. During this meeting, highly distinguished scholars in different fields gather with a book to read every other month and discuss a variety of related thematic issues, breaking barriers of their respective fields of study.

On March 15, the Humanities Program also hosted a special lecture titled “What to Fear and What to Hope for from Democracy Today?” by John Dunn, Emeritus Professor of Political Theory, King’s College, Cambridge. Professor Dunn discussed the capacities of the contemporary representative democratic state to handle the political needs of modern populations, underlining some of its more important limitations, and showed why its principal political merit must still leave the responsibility for meeting those needs in the hands of the citizens themselves.
III. Asan Academy
Thirty current or recent graduates of four-year college or graduate schools are selected biannually as Asan Young Fellows. They live and share the same routine activities throughout their studies in Korea and also learn to bond and appreciate the value of community through monthly volunteer work and community outreach activities.

During their internship period, Asan Young Fellows are exposed to the world of international policymaking, undertake research projects, and have the opportunity to build lasting networks to aid them in their future endeavors.

The Asan Academy was founded in 2012 by the Asan Institute for Policy Studies in conjunction with the Asan Nanum Foundation in order to foster leadership of Korea’s next generation.

The program offers a twenty-week, in-depth liberal arts education combining Korea’s Confucian system of scholarship (Seowon) and the University of Oxford’s renowned “Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE)” curriculum, followed by a twenty-week overseas internship at leading think tanks and nonprofit organizations in either Washington, DC or Beijing.
At the conclusion of the program, Asan Young Fellows submit a policy related thesis that they develop throughout their time as fellows on topics of their choosing. They are then offered an opportunity to participate in the Asan Alumni Program which provides activities such as international exchange, educational outreach to continue their literary engagement, lectures on liberal arts, the Asan Academy annual reunion, as well as other alumni group activities.

The Asan Academy currently has 179 graduates. Among them, a total of 58 graduates are employed with leading enterprises such as Bank of Korea, Google Korea, Hyundai Heavy Industries Co., Ltd., the Korea Federation of Women’s Science & Technology Association (KOFWST), Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), the Munhwa Broadcasting Corporation (MBC), the Chosun Ilbo, and the Dong-A Ilbo. Asan Academy alumni have also gone on to further studies in pursuit of academic careers.
IV. The Asan Forum
Building on the prior success of *The Asan Forum* in online format, the Asan Institute launched the hardcopy version in July 2015. The journal is dedicated to the debate and analysis of issues that affect Asia and beyond. Under the leadership of its Editor-in-Chief, Professor Gilbert Rozman, *The Asan Forum* brings together scholars and policy experts from across the region and disciplines, seeking a diversity of views to harness the intellectual synergy created when perspectives compete and, more importantly, complement one another.

In 2015, *The Asan Forum* included 134 articles by 81 contributors from across the globe. The most read articles of the year were “The Strategic Alignment between Russia and China: Myths and Reality” by Alexander Korolev, and “Country Reports: Korea” prepared by Han Minjeong.

The special topics addressed in the six issues of 2015 in *The Asan Forum* were “Assessing the First Two Years of the Abe Administration,” “Middle Power and EU Pivots to Asia,” “South Korea’s Foreign Policy Options,” “Rethinking ASEAN in Light of the South China Sea Tensions,” “Assessing Xi Jinping’s Impact Following Three Years at the Helm,” and “Sino-Russian Relations and Their Impact on Countries in between.”
Editorial Board Members

Stephen Blank  Senior Fellow, American Foreign Policy Council
Victor Cha  Professor, Georgetown University
Choi Kang  Vice President, The Asan Institute for Policy Studies
Chu Shulong  Professor, Tsinghua University
Thomas J. Christensen  Professor, Princeton University
L. Gordon Flake  CEO, Perth USAsia Centre
Evelyn Goh  Shedden Professorship, Australian National University
Michael J. Green  Senior Vice President for Asia, Center for Strategic & International Studies
Hahn Chaibong  President, The Asan Institute for Policy Studies
Linda Jakobson  Director, Lowy Institute for International Policy
Joseph C. Liow  Professor and Associate Dean, Nanyang Technological University
Alexander Lukin  Vice Rector, Diplomatic Academy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation
Mo Jongryn  Professor, Yonsei University
C. Raja Mohan  Distinguished Fellow and Head, Observer Research Foundation
Michishita Narushige  Associate Professor, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies
William H. Overholt  Senior Research Fellow, Harvard University
Gary Samore  Executive Director for Research, Harvard University

Scott Synder  Senior Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations
Soeya Yoshihide  Professor, Keio University
Togo Kazuhiko  Director, Kyoto Sangyo University
Dan Twining  Senior Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States
Wang Jisi  Professor and Dean, Peking University
Wang Yizhou  Professor and Vice Dean, Peking University
Zhu Feng  Professor, Peking University

Staff

Gilbert Rozman  Editor-in-Chief
J. James Kim  Associate Manager
Han Minjeong  Assistant Manager, Korea Country Report Contributor
Kildong Kim  Assistant Editor
Soo Kim  Assistant Editor
Han Inseok  Web Manager
Choi Sunghan  Infographics
Jiaxin Dong  China Country Report Contributor
Olga Puzanova  Russia Country Report Contributor
V. Events
Events

In 2015, the Asan Institute for Policy Studies hosted hundreds of events featuring world-renowned intellectuals from various governments, think tanks, academia, and the media. Through the insights shared at these events, the Asan Institute sought to promote the development of innovative policy options to tackle domestic, regional and international challenges. The Asan Institute invited leading scholars from around the world to engage the general public in order to shape a more peaceful and prosperous future. The following section provides brief descriptions of each of the Institute’s major event formats.

Asan Conferences are one-to-two day events open to the public that convene political leaders, policy professionals, and experts for focused discussion on a broad regional or topical theme. Participants are organized into thematic panels and deliver presentations that provide a basis for further discussion. Distinguished discussants offer their own insight into panel presentations and help conference participants draw linkages among disparate topics. At the end of the conference, panelists discuss policy recommendations that arise from their collective conversations.

Asan Conference titled “Post WWII Reconciliation and Cooperation” on June 17, 2015

Amb. Mark Lippert speaking at the Asan Conference titled “The Emergence of the Indo-Pacific” on November 5, 2015
Asan Country and Region Briefs offer visiting groups to the Asan Institute lectures by Asan Institute President Dr. Hahm Chaibong and other Asan experts on topics ranging from Korean history to Northeast Asian international relations. In 2015, groups visiting from abroad included U.S. National War College (Mar. 26), Institut des hautes études de défense nationale (May 15), University of Virginia (June 1), Mansfield Center, University of Montana (June 22), Belgium Conférence Olivaint (July 6), Capstone Delegation (Aug. 3), Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat Young Ambassadors Program (Aug. 5), Business Executives for National Security (Sep. 3), American Jewish Committee Delegation (Oct. 16), and Chatham House (Nov. 10).

Asan Strategic Dialogues are closed meetings that bring together policymakers acting in their capacity as private citizens as well as prominent 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 an environment 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. Such backchannel dialogues have proved to be vital in sustaining bilateral and multilateral cooperation.
Asan Roundtables

Asan Roundtables are meetings in which guests of the Asan Institute share their perspectives on issues being addressed in their independent research or by their respective organizations. Roundtables offer guests a venue to consult on these issues with Asan Institute experts as well as opportunities for Asan programs to further their own research. In 2015, roundtables on China-Korea cooperation, global governance, missile and nuclear threats on the Korean Peninsula, Korea-Japan relations, American politics, democracy, and energy market dynamics were discussed.

U.S. Navy Admiral Cecil Haney speaking during a roundtable on June 22, 2015

Asan experts and distinguished guests gathered to listen to Prof. Francis Fukuyama’s presentation titled “American Politics and Democratic Decay” on May 7, 2015
Asan Dosirak Series brings visiting foreign scholars and policy officials together with the public for an hour and a half of open discussion. Named after the Korean word for “lunch box,” the Asan Dosirak Series allows for a more conversational and free-flowing discussion between speakers and participants. Asan Institute Dosirak events in 2015 covered issues ranging from the changing global order, Asian policy in the next U.S. administration, and China’s search for security.

Asan Special Lecture Series offers the public the opportunity to listen to presentations from world-renowned public intellectuals. These lectures offer unparalleled opportunities for audience members—who frequently include students, government officials, and members of the Korean policymaking community—to listen to the world’s leading thinkers. Special lectures in 2015 included a visit on March 13 by Professor John Dunn, Emeritus Professor of Political Theory at Cambridge to discuss the role of democracy in society. U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken also visited the Institute on October 7 to discuss about U.S. policy toward Asia and the denuclearization of North Korea. On November 24, U.S. Congressman Mike Kelly discussed about the U.S.-ROK Alliance and the three pillars (excellence, confidence, and care) of commitment.

“We in the United States share President Park’s vision for peaceful reunification—a unified peninsula free of nuclear weapons where all its people enjoy the same social, economic, and political freedoms that have propelled the Republic of Korea to such extraordinary heights.”

- Antony Blinken
U.S. Deputy Secretary of State
Asan Plenum is a yearly gathering of the world’s leading think tanks in Seoul to discuss the pressing challenges the world faces today. The Plenum aims to positively influence the policymaking process and enable the global community to better address these challenges. The theme of this year’s Plenum is “Is the U.S. Back?”
American decline has emerged as a powerful discourse in recent years. A decade of war, a protracted financial crisis, and the return of multipolarity were all seen as eroding American global leadership. This also raised doubts about the American commitment to its partners and allies around the world, including in East Asia. But, today we are once again witnessing resurgence in American power backed by groundbreaking revolutions in energy, finance, and military affairs. At the same time, transnational threats such as terrorism, cyber-warfare, and nuclear proliferation continue to call for global leadership. How does the “return of the U.S.” affect regional balance of power in different parts of the world? Can it overcome the strategic distrust that presently dominates interactions between great and small power alike?
The Asan Institute for Policy Studies celebrated its 7th anniversary on February 11, 2015. The event opened with a special video of distinguished guests including Senator John McCain, Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se, and former Minister Han Sung-joo. The speakers praised the Institute for its cutting-edge research and on how quickly it established itself as the epicenter for policy discussion in Northeast Asia. Dr. MJ Chung, the founder and honorary chairman, expressed his gratitude for the staff’s dedication and promised that the Institute would contribute to international peace for decades to come.
VI. Asan in the Media
In 2015, the Asan Institute for Policy Studies received widespread attention from domestic and international news agencies. Over 2000 items on Institute events and research were produced by major news agencies—a 30 percent increase from the previous year. Asan Institute experts were cited in over 500 news articles and appeared in 141 television interviews by domestic and foreign media agencies.


On October 7th, Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited the Asan Institute to deliver a special lecture titled “New Frontiers for Northeast Asia.” During the special lecture, 46 correspondents representing 37 major news outlets attended the special lecture and produced 111 articles.

The Asan Plenum 2015, held from April 28-29, received media coverage in 200 articles and interviews from 50 domestic and international outlets. 69 correspondents from 41 separate media agencies attended the Plenum to interview participants and cover the event.
VII. Publications
Publications

One of the primary goals of the Asan Institute is the production and publication of rigorous, timely, and policy-relevant research. The Asan Institute's publications are essential resources for government, academia, the media, and the general public. Publications produced by the Asan Institute can be downloaded in PDF format at http://en.asaninst.org. Additionally, Asan books can be purchased online and offline. The following are some brief descriptions of the Asan Institute's major publications.

**Issue Briefs** are time-sensitive overviews and rapid analyses of current events. *Issue Briefs* are written by Asan’s own experts as well as outside scholars. In 2015, the Asan Institute published 21 briefs covering a wide range of international and domestic affairs. Topics ranged from the Japanese hostage crisis, public opinion on LGBT issues, cyber-warfare, environmental policies, global governance, nuclear diplomacy, Northeast Asia multilateral cooperation, the creation of the Indo-Pacific, and bilateral summits. Every year, *Issue Briefs* are compiled into a book as part of a series.

**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. *Asan Reports* in 2015 include “North Korea’s Epic Economic Failure in International Perspective,” “Globalization and the Ties that Bind: Korea and the Gulf,” and “Eight Priorities for Korean Foreign and Defense Policy.”
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. Books in 2015 include Understanding the Swedish Welfare Model (edited by Go Myong-Hyun), The Great Exploration of Korean Culture (edited by Kim Seog Gun, Ahn Sung Kyoo, Yi Seung Ryul, and Kim Jong Rok), and Pax Americana 3.0 (edited by the Asan Institute and Oh Jung Geon).

Proceedings are published transcripts and summaries produced after the completion of a major research project or following 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.


Asan-Palgrave Conference Series are books compiled after conferences hosted by the Asan Institute for Policy Studies and published in partnership with Palgrave Macmillan. With three new books this year, the Asan Institute has successfully published nine books to date in this series. The three books published were Assessing China’s Power (edited by Chung Jae Ho), Asia’s Alliance Triangle: US-Japan-South Korea Relations at a Tumultuous Time (edited by Gilbert Rozman), and Transitional Justice in Unified Korea (edited by Baek Buhm-Suk and Ruti G. Teitel).
VIII. Finance
VIII. Finance

Total Expenditures 11,693,840,046 KRW

- Research & Conferences 6,206,023,512
- Salaries 3,680,780,497
- Publications 375,991,560
- Others 1,431,044,477
Leadership

Chung Mong Joon
Founder & Honorary Chairman

Hahn Chaibong
President

Chun Yungwoo
Senior Advisor

Choi Kang
Vice President, Research

Kim Seog Gun
Vice President, Asan Academy

Research Staff

Bong Youngshik
Senior Research Fellow, Ph.D.
Center for Regional Studies

Jang Ji-Hyang
Senior Research Fellow, Ph.D.
Center for Regional Studies

Kim Chong Woo
Senior Research Fellow, Ph.D.
Center for Public Opinion and Quantitative Research

Lee Jaehyon
Senior Research Fellow, Ph.D.
Center for Regional Studies
Director, External Relations Department

Mo Jongryn
Senior Research Fellow, Ph.D.
Center for Global Governance

Park Jiyoun
Senior Research Fellow, Ph.D.
Center for Global Governance

Choi Hyeonjung
Research Fellow, Ph.D.
Center for Global Governance

Leif-Eric Easley
Research Fellow, Ph.D.
Center for Foreign Policy and National Security

Go Myong-Hyun
Research Fellow, Ph.D.
Center for Public Opinion and Quantitative Research

J. James Kim
Research Fellow, Ph.D.
Center for Regional Studies

Kim Hankwon
Research Fellow, Ph.D.
Center for Regional Studies

Kim Jiyoon
Research Fellow, Ph.D.
Center for Public Opinion and Quantitative Research

Shin Chang-Hoon
Research Fellow, Ph.D.
Center for Global Governance

Woo Jung-Yeop
Research Fellow, Ph.D.
Center for Foreign Policy and National Security

Jun Sang-in
Visiting Research Fellow, Ph.D.
Center for Korean Studies
Yi Seung Ryul  
Visiting Research Fellow, Ph.D.  
Center for Korean Studies

Kang Chungku  
Senior Research Associate,  
Center for Public Opinion and Quantitative Research

Ha Jeonghoon  
Research Associate, Office of the President

Ham Geon Hee  
Research Associate, Center for Public Opinion and Quantitative Research

Han Minjeong  
Research Associate, Center for Regional Studies

Jee Eunyoung  
Research Associate, Center for Regional Studies

Jeong Eun Kyung  
Research Associate, Center for Korean Studies

Kim Gi Bum  
Research Associate, Office of the Vice President for Research

Kim Yuri  
Research Associate, Center for Global Governance

Kweon Eun Yul  
Research Associate, Editorial Department

Lee Ji Hyung (John)  
Research Associate, Center for Foreign Policy and National Security

Lee Soo-hyun  
Research Associate, Center for Global Governance

Lee Sungwon  
Research Associate, Center for Foreign Policy and National Security

Rachel Leng  
Research Associate, Editorial Department

Moon Seokjoon  
Research Associate, Office of the President

Benjamin Forney  
Research Assistant, Center for Public Opinion and Quantitative Research

Jin Tak  
Research Assistant, Center for Regional Studies

Ahn Sung Kyoo  
Chief Editor, Editorial Department

Choi Booil  
Chief Editor, Publications Department

Kim Heesun  
Director, Communications Department

Kim Jungjin  
Director, Office of the President

Lee Hyoun-seok  
Director, Administrative Department

Lee Seunghye  
Director, Human Resources Department  
Director, Asan Academy

Eileen Block  
Senior Program Officer, External Relations Department
Lee Hyunmin  
Senior Associate, Administrative Department

Lee Seunghyuk  
Senior Program Officer, External Relations Department

Park In-young  
Senior Administrative Officer, Office of the President

Shawn Seiler  
Senior Program Officer, External Relations Department

Shin Chaemin  
Senior Administrative Officer, Office of the President

Yang Jintak  
Senior Administrative Officer, Human Resources Department

Choi Sung Han  
Program Officer, Communications Department

Choi Hwanhee  
Administrative Officer, Office of the President

Chung Roju  
Administrative Officer, Office of the Vice President

Han In Suk  
Program Officer, Communications Department

Han Yu Jin  
Program Officer, Administrative Department

Jang Hana  
Program Officer, Administrative Department

Jung Jooyoung  
Program Officer, External Relations Department

Kim Jiah  
Program Officer, Human Resources Department

Kim Kildong  
Program Officer, Publications Department

Kim Minjoo  
Program Officer, Asan Academy

Kim Myungchul  
Program Officer, Asan Academy

Kim Nuri  
Program Officer, Asan Academy

Lee Jin Ju  
Program Officer, Asan Academy

Lee Se Young  
Program Officer, Asan Academy

Park Hyuna  
Program Officer, Publications Department

Park Ji Hye  
Program Officer, Asan Academy

Park Ji Yeon  
Program Officer, Asan Academy

Park Joo-young  
Program Officer, Publications Department

Shirley Zhao  
Program Officer, External Relations Department

Yoon Jung-Wook  
Program Officer, Communications Department