

SINCE **1972**



**IFES**

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The Institute for Far Eastern Studies of Kyungnam University

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The Institute for Far Eastern Studies  
Kyungnam University





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## Message from the President



The Institute for Far Eastern Studies (IFES) at Kyungnam University was established on September 1, 1972, in conjunction with the issuance of the historic July 4 South-North Joint Communiqué, marking its commitment to contributing to the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula. Over the past fifty years, despite challenges inherent in studying North Korea and unification within the Cold War framework, the IFES has consistently achieved significant milestones, underpinned by a deep understanding of the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asian issues.

Currently, we find ourselves amid a historic transformation. New crises emerging beyond traditional military and security concerns, spanning climate, food, energy, and technology, alongside a rapid reshaping of the global supply chain, and a downturn in the global economy have precipitated a significant reconfiguration of the international order. Amid intensifying strategic competition between the United States and China, North Korea is advancing its nuclear and missile capabilities and strengthening ties with China and Russia, and the prolonged Russian-Ukrainian conflict and the Israel-Hamas conflict further contribute to the heightened tension in the international landscape.

In the midst of these transformative shifts, the Institute for Far Eastern Studies at Kyungnam University, leveraging the research accomplishments of the past half-century, will persist in its efforts to spearhead research on peace and unification on the Korean Peninsula and nurture Korean Peninsula experts both domestically and internationally while expanding its research infrastructure. We seek your unwavering encouragement and support to propel the institute towards solidifying its position as a global think tank, preparing for a new 50-year leap forward.

President of Kyungnam University  
**Jae Kyu Park**

## Founding / Key Activities

The Institute for Far Eastern Studies at Kyungnam University was founded in 1972 with the aim of exploring theoretical approaches and policy alternatives on the establishment of peace in Northeast Asia and unification on the Korean Peninsula.

The IFES conducts in-depth research on international relations and Northeast Asian issues, with a focus on North Korea and unification, and is committed to consolidating peace on the Korean Peninsula and improving and developing inter-Korean relations.

### Key Activities

- In-depth research on North Korea, inter-Korean relations, peace and unification on the Korean Peninsula, East Asia and international relations
- Host and organize international conferences, Unification Strategy Forum, seminars, workshops, and lectures with participation from scholars both domestically and internationally
- Publication of academic books and journals (in Korean and foreign languages)
- Various research and educational support for Korean Peninsula and international affairs researchers and students
- Operate a specialized library to promote research on North Korea and unification issues



# History

## 1970

Commencement of research on communist countries, North Korea, and Northeast Asia



- 1972. 9. 1.**  
Founded Tonghan Institute of Kyungnam University (1973.3 Renamed The Institute for Far Eastern Studies)
- 1973. 4. 20.-21.**  
Held an international conference in Washington D.C. under the title "Korea and Its Surrounding Powers."
- 1977. 3.**  
Inaugural publication of "ASIAN PERSPECTIVE"

## 1980

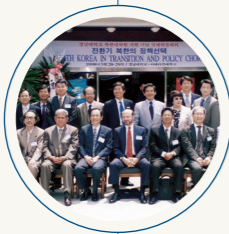
Diversification and expansion of international academic exchanges and research



- 1985. 1.**  
Inaugural publication of "KOREA AND WORLD POLITICS"
- 1989. 2.**  
Signed MOU for academic exchange with the Institute of Oriental Studies of the USSR Academy of Sciences (now the Russian Academy of Sciences)
- 1989. 10. 25.-27.**  
Hosted Korea's first international academic conference entitled "World Transition and Marxism"

## 1990

Leading the charge on post-Cold War historical change



- 1993. 4.**  
Signed MOU for academic exchange with Renmin University of China
- 1995. 10.**  
Launch of "Unification Strategy Forum"
- 1998. 8. 25.**  
Signed MOU for academic exchange with Kim Chaek University of Technology
- 1999. 5.**  
Opened "Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation Academy"

## 2000

New era of reconciliation and cooperation



- 2000. 5.**  
National Research Foundation of Korea selects "Asian Perspective" as the best international academic journal of social sciences in South Korea (for four consecutive years since 1996)
- 2005. 12.**  
Selected as a key research institute for the Advanced Research Center Program by the National Research Foundation of Korea
- 2006. 6. 29.**  
Signed an academic exchange agreement with North Korea's National Reunification Institute

## 2010

Expansion of international conference and strategic dialogue



- 2015. 6-11.**  
Hosted the 2015 Korea Global Forum (KGF)
- 2017. 9. 8.**  
1st Peace Forum held jointly by Kyungnam University, Soka University of Japan, and Chinese Culture University of Taiwan
- 2018. 5-11.**  
Hosted the 2018 Korea Global Forum (KGF)
- 2018. 11. 15.**  
Awarded the Grand Prize of the 14th DMZ Peace Prize in 2018

## 2020

New leap forward into the next 50 years

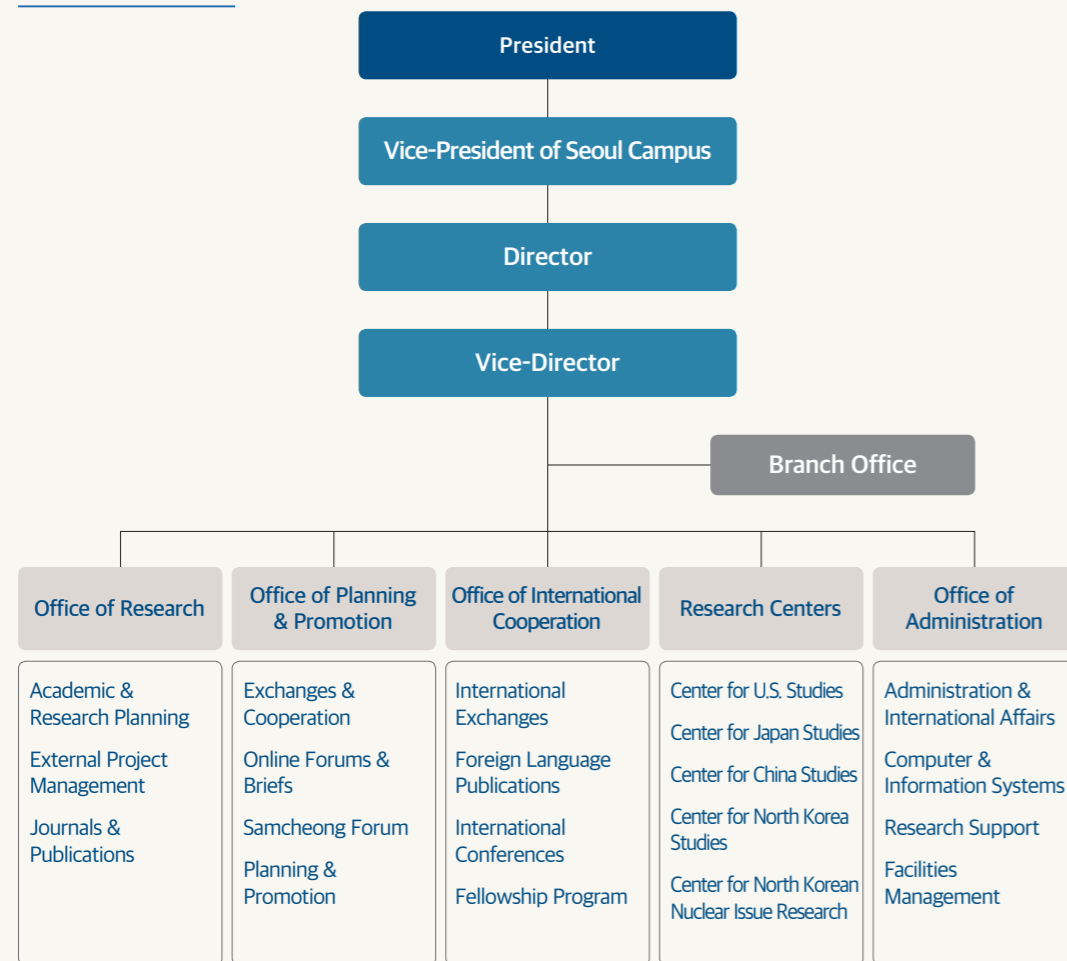


- 2020. 3. 31.**  
Selected as the leading organization of the Academic Exchange Support Program for North Korean and Unification Studies, Nurturing overseas experts on the Korean Peninsula
- 2022. 8. 18.**  
Hosted an international conference in Celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the Establishment of IFES
- 2023. 3.**  
Opened "IFES North Korea Nuclear Academy"

## Organization

- Office of Research, Office of Planning & Promotion, Office of International Cooperation, Office of Administration
- Center for U.S. Studies, Center for Japan Studies, Center for China Studies, Center for North Korea Studies, Center for North Korean Nuclear Issue Research
- Researchers: Professors (13 people), Visiting Chair Professors (9 people), Visiting Professors (7 people), Research Fellows of Partner University (10 people), Visiting Scholar (1 person), Visiting Research Fellows (12 people), Research Associates (3 people)
- Research and Administrative Support Departments: Administration & International Affairs, Computer & Information Systems, Research Support, Facilities Management, Library

### organization chart



## Researchers

### Professors

Jeong Jin Park, Vice-President of Seoul Campus - North Korean Politics and Unification  
 Kwan-Sei Lee, Director - North Korean Politics and Unification, Inter-Korean Relations  
 Dean Ouellette, Vice Director/Director of International Cooperation - North Korean Tourism  
 Jin Goo Cho, Director of Research / Director of Center for Japan Studies - East Asian International Politics, Japan  
 Hyung-Jong Lee, Director of Planning & Promotion - North Korean Society and Culture  
 Sang Man Lee, Director of Center for China Studies - International Relations in Northeast Asia, Chinese Political Economy  
 Byong-Chul Lee, Director of North Korean Nuclear Issue Research Center - Nuclear Non-Proliferation, Nuclear Strategy, Korea-US Relations  
 Eul Chul Lim, Director of Center for North Korea Studies - North Korean Political Economy, North Korean Development Cooperation  
 Jaewook Chung, Director of Center for U.S. Studies - Military Alliance, International Security  
 Sang Bum Kim, Professor - North Korean Politics and Diplomacy  
 Seohwa Park, Professor - North Korean Law, Constitutional Law  
 Miri Moon, Professor - Global Media and Communications  
 Young Joon Choi, Professor - Inter-Korean Relations and Unification

### Visiting Chair Professors

In-Duk Kang, Former Minister of Unification  
 Tae-Hwan Kwak, Former President of Korea Institute for National Unification  
 Gwang Oon Kim, Former Senior Researcher at National Institute of Korean History  
 Young-Sun Song, Former Member of the National Assembly  
 Ho-Young Ahn, Former ROK Ambassador to the United States, Former President of University of North Korean Studies  
 Su-Hoon Lee, Former ROK Ambassador to Japan  
 Doo-Eum Chung, Former Professor at Zhejiang University of China  
 Byoung-Jae Cho, Former Chancellor of the Korea National Diplomatic Academy  
 Yoshitaka Kawamoto, Youngkwangsa CEO

### Visiting Professors

Gi Won Kwon, Head of Legislation & Government Relations Consulting Center at DR & AJU  
 Seung Nam Shin, Former Vice President for Foreign Affairs at Seoul University  
 Seiman Goda, Emeritus Professor at Kanagawa University of Japan  
 Masao Okonogi, Emeritus Professor at Keio University of Japan  
 Yoon-Ho Cha, Former Member of Presidential Council on Nation Branding

### Research Fellows of Partner University (University of North Korean Studies)

Moo-Jin Yang, President - Inter-Korean Relations, North Korean Politics, Unification  
 Jeong Min Park, Vice President - North Korea-Russia Relations, International Economy  
 Woo Young Lee, Professor - North Korean Society and Culture  
 Kab-Woo Koo, Professor - Peace Studies, Inter-Korean Relations  
 Moon-Soo Yang, Professor - North Korean Economy, Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation  
 Jong-Dae Shin, Professor - Inter-Korean Relations, Korean Politics  
 Sung-Kyung Kim, Professor - North Korean Society and Culture  
 Jung Kim, Professor - Comparative Political Economy  
 Youngsoo Yu, Professor - International Politics, Human Rights  
 Dong Yub Kim, Professor - Military and Security

### Chair Professors of Partner University (University of North Korean Studies)

Chang Hee Kang, Former Speaker of the National Assembly  
 Kun Goh (Former Prime Minister of the ROK)  
 Kyung Seo Park, Chairman of the Korean Red Cross  
 Du Wan Pong, Former Member of the National Assembly  
 Bong-gil Shin, President of the Korean Council on Foreign Relations

## Key Academic Exchange Partners



Japan

- General Research Institute of Matsuyama University
- Center for Asian Studies of Kanagawa University
- Institute for Korean Studies of Waseda University
- The Economic Research Institute for Northeast Asia (ERINA)

**62** Partner institutions  
across **17** countries,  
including South Korea

### Key Overseas Partners (United States, Japan, China, Russia)



United States

- Institute of East Asian Studies, American University
- Korean Studies Program, Fairleigh Dickinson University
- The Hatfield School of Government, Portland State University
- Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars



Russia

- Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Science
- The Institute of USA and Canada, Russian Academy of Social Science
- The Vladivostok Institute of International Relations of the Countries of the Asia-Pacific Region, Far Eastern Federal University



China

- Northeast Asian Studies College of Jilin University
- Jilin Academy of Social Sciences
- North Korea-China Exchange Center of Dalian University
- Center of Northeast Asian Studies at Northeast Normal University
- Center for Korean Studies at Fudan University (Korean Studies Institute)
- East Asia History and Culture Research Center at Beihua University
- School of Northeast Asian Studies at Shandong University
- Shanghai Institutes for International Studies
- Shanghai University of Political Science and Law

- Yanbian University of Science & Technology
- School of Economics and Management at Yanbian University
- Institute for Northeast International Politics at Yanbian University
- Northeast Studies Institute at Yanbian University
- North Korean Peninsula at Eastern Liaoning University
- China Association for International Friendly Contact
- China Reform Forum
- National Institute of International Strategy Chinese Academy of Social Sciences

## Academic Activities

### International Conferences

Since the 1970s, even in the midst of the challenging Cold War era, the Institute for Far Eastern Studies at Kyungnam University has been at the forefront of hosting international conferences spanning a wide spectrum of topics. The institute has held a total of 200 international conferences, delving into various topics, including the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula and unification, by actively expanding exchanges with scholars, experts, and organizations not only from the United States, China, Japan, and Russia but also from around the world, which have laid a solid foundation for fostering international academic exchange and research.



Hosted an international conference in Washington D.C. under the title "Korea and Its Surrounding Powers" (1973.4.20.-21)



Hosted Korea's first international academic conference entitled "World Transition and Marxism" (1989.10.25.-27.)



"The 65th Anniversary of the Korean War Armistice Agreement, Peace and Prosperity on the Korean Peninsula" Korea Global Forum 2018: Seoul Conference (2018.6.27.)

Hosted over  
**200**  
international  
conferences

### Conferences / Seminars

In addition to actively hosting international conferences, the IFES has collaborated with domestic universities, media organizations, and public institutions to present research and policy alternatives on North Korea and unification issues. Through a variety of channels, including forums, seminars, workshops, academies, and polls, the IFES has assiduously worked to raise awareness about current issues on the Korean Peninsula and to explore and propose effective plans and policy options.



#### Unification Strategy Forum

Launched in 1995, the Unification Strategy Forum was established to evaluate unification, foreign affairs, and security policies and propose viable alternatives. Since its inception, former and current officials, as well as academic experts, have engaged in discussions on key issues, deliberating on policy alternatives and charting the course forward for inter-Korean relations.

- ▲ "Unification and Security Policy: Reflecting on the Past, Envisioning the Future" The 1st Unification Strategy Forum (1995.10.19.)
- ▼ "North Korea: Assessment of 2022 and Outlook for 2023" The 71st Unification Strategy Forum (2023.1.10.)

#### International Scholars Seminars

Since the 1970s, the IFES has been steadfast in inviting renowned international scholars to hold international scholars seminars to delve into critical issues of the time, facilitating the exchange of timely knowledge and information among scholarly circles.



Francis Fukuyama (Professor, Stanford University) (2015.5.6.)



Hans Modrow (Former Premier of Eastern Germany) (2018.9.17.)

#### Thematic National Seminars

On a frequent basis, the IFES has organized thematic seminars in collaboration with various domestic organizations, government agencies, and media outlets, focusing on North Korea, unification issues, and international relations.



Kyungnam University-Kyungnam Newspaper 70th Anniversary Talk Concert "The Reality of International Relations and the Future of the Korean Peninsula" (2016.10.11.)

#### Samcheong Forum

Embarking from 2023, the IFES has been holding the Samcheong Forum to broaden its research framework through discussions on the rapidly evolving international landscape, engaging academics, experts, and policymakers.



The 3rd Samcheong Forum (2023.11.24.)

## Journals & Publications

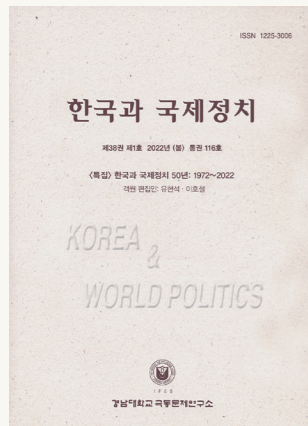
### ASIAN PERSPECTIVE (Inaugural publication in 1977)

Launched in 1997, Asian Perspective emerged as an academic journal focused on the political, economic, social, and cultural affairs of Northeast Asia.

In 1995, it entered into a co-publication agreement with Portland State University and in 1998 was named the best international academic journal in the social sciences by the Korea Research Foundation (now the National Research Foundation of Korea). In 2008, the journal achieved world-class status by securing a place on the Social Science Citation Index (SSCI). Since 2019, it has been published in collaboration with the prestigious Johns Hopkins University Press.



### KOREA AND WORLD POLITICS (Inaugural publication in 1985)



A professional academic journal specializing in the internal and external politics of North and South Korea, affairs in the periphery of the Korean Peninsula and unification strategy, and the political economy, diplomacy, and security of the United States, China, Russia, Japan, and other Asian countries.

It has demonstrated consistent qualitative progress, earning recognition as a listed journal by the National Research Foundation of Korea in 2004. The journal is steadfast in its commitment to actively contribute academic analysis and formation of theories that promote "peace and prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia."

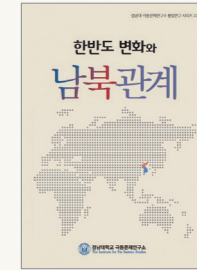
### Book & Research Series



Economic Policy during the Kim Jong-Un Era



North Korea-China Relations



Changes on the Korean Peninsula and Inter-Korean Relations

IFES Research Series is an ongoing publication that offers comprehensive insights into diverse topics related to the Korean Peninsula, including ▲international relations studies, exploring the evolving global political landscape and new political trends in complex international relations, and ▲North Korea and unification studies, covering the historical and current state of inter-Korean relations, along with challenges and opportunities for unification. Renowned experts in each field actively participate and contribute, thereby enriching knowledge and understanding through thorough research and in-depth analyses.

**Area of Research** International Relations / North Korea Studies / Third World Studies / Regional Studies / Unification Studies / Korean Studies / Translation & Sourcebook

### IFES Research Series: Total of 170 published

#### Research Reports



Starting in 2004, the IFES has been dedicated to publishing research reports that analyze and evaluate current issues and trends in North Korea and neighboring regions from various academic viewpoints.

**Total of 60 published**

#### Focus on Korean Peninsula



Focus on Korean Peninsula, published since 2009, has aimed to contribute to the establishment of effective policy through in-depth analyses of international relations between North Korea and the U.S., China, Japan, and Russia.

**Total of 50 published**

#### Online Publications

(IFES BRIEF, IFES FORUM)



IFES BRIEF (in Korean) and IFES FORUM (in English), two online publications, provide insightful analyses of current issues at home and abroad, presenting a diverse range of perspectives and views.

\* Available on the website and through mailing services



## Education

### IFES Academy



Opening of the Academy of Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation (1999.5.7)



Opening of the North Korea Nuclear Academy (2023.3.23)

In 1999, the Academy of Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation was founded with the aim of training working-level professionals for the forthcoming era of extensive inter-Korean exchange and cooperation. Recognizing shifts in inter-Korean relations and the evolving internal and external landscape, the academy was expanded to become the Academy of Korean Unification Economy in 2013.

In 2023, the IFES North Korea Nuclear Academy was launched with the aim of deepening understanding of North Korea's nuclear program and offering training to cultivate non-governmental experts in the field.

### Total of 2,500 students completed the course

### Field Training on Unification / Hanma Unification Leadership



2023 Field Training on Unification and Hanma Unification Leadership (2023.10.13)

Annually, Field Training on Unification and Hanma Unification Leadership is held for Kyungnam students to enhance their understanding of North Korea's social and economic situation and overall inter-Korean relations. These programs include various activities such as special lectures by experts, viewing North Korean videos, talk concerts featuring high-ranking North Korean defectors, and field trips to sites associated with division and unification, aiming to provide university students with the opportunity to elevate their awareness of unification and North Korea.

## Academic Exchange Support Program for North Korean and Unification Studies

Starting in 2020, the Academic Exchange Support Program for North Korean and Unification Studies has actively developed and supported diverse research programs to expand the community of overseas researchers with an objective and comprehensive understanding of the Korean Peninsula, and to identify and foster Korean Peninsula experts overseas.

### Fellowship

Lasting around six months, the program extends invitations to researchers with expertise and experience in academia, journalism, and government from overseas to come to Korea to conduct research and cultivate academic networks in the field of North Korea and unification.

**2020.9. - 2023.12. / Total of 31 fellows from 10 countries**

#### Major Programs

- Presentations - Track research progress, review research findings, and provide feedback on points for improvement
- Special Lectures - Special lectures on diverse topics, including North Korean politics, economy, society, human rights, inter-Korean relations
- Field Trips and Workshops - Visits to sites and institutions relevant to division and Korean history
- Follow-up - Research support for fellows who have completed the program (seminars, publications, etc.)

### Overseas Policy-Academic Research Support Program

By supporting overseas research on North Korea and unification conducted by national institutions, think tanks, and researchers located outside Korea, the IFES aims to foster consensus-building on the Korean Peninsula and issues related to North Korea and unification in other countries while expanding the space for exchanges between domestic and foreign researchers.

**2022.4. - 2023.12/ / Total of 12 projects supported from 8 countries**

#### Major Programs

- Research Briefings - Public research briefings for feedback and review of research findings
- Workshops and Meetings - Support academic exchanges with domestic and international experts
- Follow-up - Support publications, host seminars

※ The "MOU-UNKS North Korean Studies Scholarship" was operated from September 2020 to December 2021, supporting young researchers from overseas to reside in Korea and pursue degrees related to North Korea and unification studies. During this period, six students from five countries were selected to participate in the program.

## Library

The Institute for Far Eastern Studies at Kyungnam University Library is a specialized library established to facilitate research by offering pertinent information and materials to researchers on unification and North Korea issues, both domestically and internationally.

- 40,000+ books on social sciences with a focus on unification, diplomacy, security, and international relations
- 10,000+ periodicals, covering topics ranging from domestic and international politics to unification, society, and culture
- 20,000+ North Korean special collections, including Rodong Sinmun, Economic Research, periodicals published in North Korea, recent books, and North Korean films
- Digital archive search system for special collections

**60,000+ Books / 10,000+ Periodicals**  
**20,000+ North Korean special collections**

The library uses over 20,000 volumes of North Korean original materials for academic research and education, and it is consistently growing its collection. In addition, through the digital archive search system exclusively used for special collections, the numerous periodicals, books, audio-visual materials published in North Korea can be easily searched and used.



North Korean Materials Room

IFES Library



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