

TAEJAE FUTURE CONSENSUS INSTITUTE WHITE PAPER 2024



Taejae Future Consensus Institute is a non-profit public policy institute founded in 2015 through private funding by Chang-Gul Cho, the honorary chairman of Hanssem.

Our mission is to formulate and promote innovative policy solutions for building a prosperous and sustainable future for humanity.

To that end, we work with leading experts and institutions from around the world to develop concrete and actionable policy alternatives on a range of issues that require immediate and concerted efforts from the international community.

We share our ideas with policymakers and ordinary citizens in and outside Korea through seminars, forums, policy reports, and active engagement with news outlets and social network platforms.

We produce evidence-based and non-partisan work independent of any political party, ideology, and special interest.



Investigate diverse avenues of easing tensions and encouraging cooperation among major powers



Promote swift and pragmatic action on global sustainability issues such as climate change, nuclear war, and terrorism



Examine how digital technology can transform modern society as well as opportunities and risks associated with it



Explore how the values, norms, and cultures of the East and the West can complement each other and together contribute to the betterment of humanity

Chair

KIM Doh-Yeon	(former) President, POSTECH (former) Minister of Education, Science and Technology, Republic of Korea
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Sister Organizations



2015	•	Dec	Yeosijae (Future Consensus Institute) founded Lee Hun-Jae inaugurated as Board Chair
2017	•	Aug	Lee Kwang-Jae inaugurated as President
		Nov	2017 Future Consensus Forum "The Butterfly Project"
2018	•	Nov	2018 Future Consensus Forum "New Civilized City" (Beijing) 2018 Future Consensus Forum "The Butterfly Project" (Seoul)
2019	•	Mar	2019 Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference: "ROK-China CEO Dialogue" and "A Sustainable Future for Rural Asia and Cities"
		Jul	2019 Future Consensus Dialogue "Korea-US-Japan Cooperation for Sustainable Prosperity and Future"
		Nov	2019 Next Civilized City Forum "New Civilized City" (Beijing) "Humanity in Crisis and a Quest for New Civilization" Roundtable
2020	•	May	Global Future Dialogue Series (9 sessions through May 2021)
2021	•	Feb	Kim Doh-Yeon inaugurated as Board Chair
		Nov	Kim Sung-Hwan inaugurated as President
2022	•	May	Democracy and Culture Foundation Roundtable "Reimagining the Building Blocks of Democracy: The Power of the Executive"
		Sep	2022 Athens Democracy Forum: "Aristotle-Confucius Dialogue" and "Lunch Symposium: Preventing Nuclear War and Securing the Future"
		Nov	2022 Asia Economic Community Forum: "ASEAN Cooperation" and "Northeast Asian Regional Cooperation Index"
2023	•	Mar	Institute name changed to Taejae Future Consensus Institute
		April	Taejae AI Forum Series ① "The Age of AI: The Future of Universities"
		Jul	Taejae AI Forum Series ② "Digital Age: A Pathway to Sustainability"
		Oct	Taejae Future Education Forum: "Reinventing Education in the Age of AI"
2024	•	April	Taejae AI Forum Series ③ "The Age of AI and the Future of Global Security"
		Jun	Taejae AI Forum Series ④ "The Age of AI: The Future of Healthcare"
		Oct	Taejae Future Education Forum: "The Future of Education: The Disappearing and the Emerging"

The Global Order and Cooperation — United States

Throughout 2024, the United States and China have struggled to make notable progress in improving bilateral relations. It can be attributed to a range of factors, both international and national. On the global stage, the deepening mistrust and antagonism between the world's two most powerful states are making it increasingly difficult to find common ground on critical issues such as nuclear weapons, climate change, and emerging technologies. Domestically, economic woes like rising inflation and an economic slowdown are heightening public unease in both countries. Furthermore, the United States is seeing anti-China sentiments gain traction nation-wide and political forces aiming to exploit this sentiment are anticipated to push for a more hardline approach toward China in the near term. The uncertainties surrounding the U.S. presidential election are also likely to have made both Washington and Beijing unwilling to make any further concessions.

Against this backdrop, the Taejae Future Consensus Institute has identified nuclear security and emerging technologies as the two most urgent issues that the United States and China need to address in unison. In partnership with leading experts in and outside of Korea, we have sought to develop policy solutions to reduce tensions, minimize misunderstandings and miscalculations, and expand potential areas of cooperation between the United States and China.

The Global Order and Cooperation — China

In 2024, the global order faces a number of critical challenges. The prolonged rivalry between the United States and China, shifts in global economic structure, the acceleration of the digital revolution, and the deepening sustainability crisis are all intricately intertwined, further heightening uncertainty in international affairs.

China plays a pivotal role in shaping these transformations. The country's state-led economic system, strategy of technological self-reliance, and expanding role in global governance serve as key driving forces behind changes in the global order. The international community must closely monitor China's development model and formulate strategic responses to ensure that China's contributions are aligned with the advancement of global governance.

In this context, the Taejae Future Consensus Institute has conducted research on China's policy direction and the challenges faced under Xi Jinping's leadership, as well as the causes behind the U.S.-China conflict and the potential for cooperation. Our research seeks to identify the opportunities and challenges surrounding China, forecast the country's future policy trajectory, and derive insights into the evolving dynamics of global competition and cooperation.

Sustainability

Excessive consumption and rapid growth in the world's population have led to a global ecological crisis spanning resource depletion, environmental pollution, the destruction of ecosystems, and climate change. To ensure a sustainable future for humanity, the international community must demonstrate a strong commitment to finding innovative breakthroughs. However, international conferences to date have mostly resulted in non-binding agreements based on broad principles. There is an urgent need to address the lack of public awareness on the urgency and severity of the ecological crisis, the fragmented state of international environmental treaties, and the ineffectiveness of current global environmental governance.

The Taejae Future Consensus Institute has endeavored to explore fundamental solutions based around four key themes: the severity of climate change, Earth System Governance, U.S.-China climate cooperation, and climate finance. In particular, we have carefully examined the concept of Earth System Governance, which reflects the complexity and interconnectedness of Earth's systems based on planetary integrity. As we move forward, we aim to build on this concept and propose ways to reform global environmental governance frameworks to overcome these sustainability challenges.

Southeast Asia Cooperation & Development

The global political and economic landscape is shifting due to the U.S.'s hardline policy toward China, the restructuring of global value chains, and accelerating economic decoupling between the two nations. In response, the Taejae Future Consensus Institute has focused on Southeast Asia as a key partner for addressing South Korea's challenges. Our research aims to build "a Harmonious and Prosperous Society in Southeast Asia," where economic stability, social well-being, sustainability, innovation, and cultural integration coexist. We are working to support ASEAN integration while exploring strategies for South Korea's diplomatic diversification and sustainable growth.

We have established the Korea-Southeast Asia Cooperation Master Plan to achieve our key research goals of "Leading Digital Society through Joint Digital Infrastructure Development" and "Fostering and Relocating Sustainable Future Industries." As part of this initiative, we have proposed 'Quick-Win' projects targeting Indonesia and Laos, along with the development of compact yet robust cities centered around digital infrastructure. For industrial strategy, we have identified 11 future industries that include both essential industries for driving digital innovation and specialized sectors that reflect Southeast Asia's unique characteristics. We are also exploring ways to enhance cooperation between Korea and Southeast Asia through a NASA-inspired Smart Governance model and the Eminent Persons Group.

Future Industry & Competitiveness

The intensifying competition for technological hegemony between the United States and China, the restructuring of global supply chains, and the rapid advancement of artificial intelligence are transforming the industrial structure and economic landscape of the Korean Peninsula. In response to these shifts, the Taejae Future Consensus Institute is looking beyond conventional industrial development strategies with a view to identifying and nurturing industries that will be essential in the future. Our research focuses on three key areas: Future-Creation Industries, which do not yet exist but will become indispensable in the future; Globally Essential Industries, which have the potential to position Korea as a leading nation in the digital era; and Identity-Based Industries, which leverage the unique characteristics of the Korean Peninsula. Taejae aims to transform the Korean Peninsula into a world-class society of the future through these initiatives. The strategy includes restructuring the Korean industrial ecosystem to align with global trends, and stronger cooperation with emerging markets including Southeast Asia.

To this end, we have identified several key future industries—namely robotics, drones, digital media, digital finance, satellites, green energy, carbon-neutral advanced manufacturing, advanced food technology, healthcare, education, and new-value entertainment—as part of the Korea-Southeast Asia Cooperation Master Plan. We have also revised and refined our future industry development strategy for the Korean Peninsula in response to advancement in AI technology and increasing geopolitical risks, with the goal of preemptively identifying core industries that will be irreplaceable by 2050.

National Capabilities

South Korea's remarkable rise from devastation to global prominence has been driven by a fast-follower strategy. However, the traditional development model is losing relevance amid the rapid pace of technological change. The Taejae Future Consensus Institute has been conducting research on seven key sectors (think tanks, universities, corporations, media, government, political parties, and defense) to help South Korea evolve into a first-class society that is capable of global leadership during this civilizational transition.

In 2024, we focused on the Digital Platform Project and launched Moiza—a global discussion platform designed to foster international collaboration and transform think tanks into dynamic hubs for knowledge sharing and policy innovation. By engaging global experts and activists, this project aims to position Korea as a leader in addressing global challenges.

<The Age of AI and the Future of Global Security> Forum

April 3, 2024



The forum was a part of the ongoing AI forum series that began in 2023. The discussions centered on exploring various cooperative measures to identify and mitigate potential global security threats that could arise from artificial intelligence (AI) technology. In his keynote address, the eighth UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon proposed the establishment of a global multilateral mechanism to manage AI-related safety measures and activities. Former Yonsei University President Yonghak Kim served as moderator and the panel included Kim Won-soo (Chair, International Advisory Board, Taejae Future Consensus Institute), Graham Webster (Editor-in-Chief, DigiChina Project, Stanford University), Lu Chuanying (Senior Research Fellow, Shanghai Institute for International Studies), and Yong-Won Yoo (military journalist). The panelists offered their insights on responsible state behavior regarding the military use of AI as well as the potential impact of artificial general intelligence (AGI) on humanity and how to respond to these challenges.

<The Age of AI: The Future of Healthcare> Forum

June 11, 2024



This forum explored AI-driven innovations to address challenges in healthcare, particularly those arising from population aging and shifting societal structures. Dr. Yoon-Cheol Hong (Seoul National University College of Medicine) highlighted the concept of “smart healthcare cities,” in which digital devices, networks of healthcare systems and community care combine seamlessly to bridge medical disparities. Panelists Sun Young Park (Lunit), Sungji Kang (Welt), and Dr. Gun Ho Rha (NAVER Healthcare Research Institute) discussed the role of AI in enhancing precision medicine, improving diagnostic accuracy, and reducing costs. This forum underscored the importance of integrating digital technologies into public healthcare and leveraging real-time data to build patient-centered, equitable and efficient healthcare services.

<An Age of Entanglement: The Future of Cities> Interview with Ian Goldin

September 9, 2024



In an era of hyperconnectivity and global crises, Ian Goldin, founding director of the Oxford Martin School, described modern society as deeply “entangled,” where challenges are interconnected and individual solutions are no longer viable. He emphasized the importance of fostering a renewed sense of community through innovative city models such as the “15-minute city” that promotes social cohesion and sustainability by enabling all citizens to access essential services within a short distance.

Goldin highlighted cities as key units for solving global problems and stressed the importance of diversity in urban design, calling for multidisciplinary collaboration between academia and think tanks to deliver practical solutions. Global governance rooted in cooperative problem-solving is essential for navigating the world’s current trajectory of interconnected risks.

Status of 2024 Seminar

HOST	DATE	TITLE	SPEAKER
Global Order and Cooperation -United States	2024-04-03	Forum < The Age of AI and the Future of Global Security >	Graham Webster (Editor-in-Chief, DigiChina Project, Stanford University), Lu Chuanying (Senior Research Fellow of Shanghai Institutes for International Studies) Yong-Won Yoo (Former Military Journalist of the Chosunilbo) Kim Won-soo (Chair of International Advisory Board, Taejae FCI)
Future Industry & Competitiveness	2024-01-23	Technology trends and key implications seen through CES 2024	Young-Sup Joo (Distinguished Professor, Seoul National University)
National Capabilities	2024-04-23	Seminar < AI and the Civilizational Revolution >	Yong-Hak Kim (Former President of Yonsei University)
	2024-04-29	Seminar < AI and human capabilities >	Jae-In Kim (Professor, Kyung Hee University)
	2024-08-27	Seminar < The Personhood of AI and Human Responsibility >	Jung-won Lee (Professor, University of Seoul)
	2024-06-11	Forum < The age of AI: The Future of Healthcare >	Yoon-Cheol Hong (Professor, Seoul National University College of Medicine) Sun-young Park (Lunit Business Strategy Director) Sung-ji Kang (Welt CEO) Gun-ho Rha (Head of the NAVER Healthcare Research Institute)

2024 Insights of Taejae Future Consensus Institute

DATE	TITLE	Author
2024-04-12	Forum < The Age of AI and the Future of Global Security >	Global Governance
2024-07-29	Forum < The Age of AI: The Future of Healthcare >	Solbee Ahn (Researcher)
2024-09-26	Age of Entanglement: Future of the Cities -A conversation with Oxford University Professor Ian Goldin	Anna Choi (Senior Research Fellow) Solbee Ahn (Researcher)

2024 <World Research Trend> List

DATE	TITLE	Author	Reference
2024-04-12	A Powerful Proposal for US Artificial Intelligence Strategy	Jihye Shin Senior Research Fellow	Gladstone AI Inc.
2024-04-19	2024 Outlook for US-China Climate Targets: Takeaways from China's Two Sessions and the Trump-Biden Climate Plan Gap	Giyeong Beon Research Associate	Carbon Brief
2024-05-03	Safeguarding Democratic Integrity in the Age of AI	Solbee Ahn Research Associate	Demos
2024-05-10	"Lavender": Chosen Reliance, Abandoned Control	Hyeyoon Jeong Research Associate	+972 Magazine
2024-05-17	"AI + Human," Triggering a Seismic Shift in the Creative Industry	Minjeong Kim Senior Research Fellow	SXSW 2024(South by Southwest 2024)
2024-05-24	The Climate finance conundrum and Global governance reform	Minjung Kim Research Fellow	2024 Spring Meetings of IMF and World Bank
2024-05-31	A New Growth Strategy for Developing Nations	Julia Yoon Research Fellow	Rodrik D, Stiglitz JE.
2024-06-07	Using AI in the Workplace: Opportunities, Risks and Policy Responses	Gyuhwan Lee Research Associate	OECD
2024-06-14	Why Russia Keeps Rattling the Nuclear Saber	Mathew Yeo Jie Sheng Associate Researcher	CSIS(Center for Strategic and International Studies)
2024-06-21	The Management of "Water for Shared Prosperity"	Minjung Kim Research Fellow	World Bank Group

2024-06-28	China's breakthrough strategy against the US and national reform strategy, 'New Quality Productive Forces'	Woojin Kim Research Associat	Strategic Implications and Core Principles of New Quality Productive Forces. (新质生产力的战略内涵与关键原则)
2024-07-05	Middleware: Fukuyama's Suggestion to Protect Democracy from Big Tech Companies	Solbee Ahn Research Associate	Stanford Cyber Policy Center
2024-07-12	China's Shrinking Population and Its Implications for Post-Urbanization Economic Growth	Ruoying Yu Research Associate	Alicia Garcia Herrero
2024-07-19	A New Era of North Korea-Russia Military Cooperation: Implications for Northeast Asian Security and Strategic Responses	Dokyung Jang Researcher	CSIS(Center for Strategic and International Studies)
2024-07-26	Solving Unsustainability through Space Resources	Minjung Kim Senior Researcher	European Space Agency
2024-08-09	Developing Countries Need AI More Than Developed Ones	Bokyoung Kim Researcher	World Bank
2024-08-23	Inbreeding of AI Models? Dangers of Recursive Learning and Model Collapse in Generative AI	Solbee Ahn Researcher	Nature
2024-09-06	The Intuitive Beliefs behind China's Nuclear Buildup	Daniel Schoolenberg Researcher	Tong Zhao
2024-09-20	Does China Prefer Harris or Trump?	Ruoying Yu Researcher	Foreign Affairs
2024-10-04	Space-Based Solar Power and Fusion Energy: Pivotal Technologies in US-China Hegemonic Competition	Julia Yoon Senior Researcher	SCSP (Special Competitive Studies Project)
2024-10-18	The United Nations' Proposal for Responsible Governance of AI: "AI cannot be left in the hands of individual countries and corporations"	Gyuhwan Lee Researcher	UN HLAB-AI (UN High-Level Advisory Body on AI)
2024-11-01	The Perils of AI-Driven Deception and Persuasion	Hyeyoon Jeong Researcher	HAI (Stanford Human-Centered Artificial Intelligence)
2024-11-15	China's ICBM Test Shows Confidence in US Deterrence	Mathew Yeo Jie Sheng Researcher	Bulletin of Atomic Scientist
2024-11-29	U.S. State Secretary-Nominee Warns: China's Manufacturing Dominance Poses Unprecedented Challenges	Woojin Kim Researcher	Marco Rubio
2024-12-13	AI and Democracy: The Future of Government	Solbee Ahn Researcher	EPTA (European Parliamentary Technology Assessment)