

M.A. theses between Iranian and South Korean universities

### Members of the Working Group

To date, the following universities have joined South Korea Working Group:

- Amirkabir University of Technology
- Isfahan University of Art
- University of Applied Science and Technology
- University of Tehran
- Sharif University of Technology
- Arak University
- University of Zanjan
- University of Birjand
- Shahrekord University
- Iran's Aerospace Research Institute
- Tarbiat Modarres University
- Ayatollah Haeri University of Meybod

### Characteristics of South Korea

Within the past half a century, South Korea has evolved from a poor and turbulent country to a democratic, industrially-developed and prosperous community. The country is known to have the world's 13th great economy, and this period of rapid economic growth in South Korea has been referred to as 'Miracle on the Han River'. South Korea is a top exporter in such arenas as shipbuilding, vehicle manufacturing, and steel production. In addition, producing smartphones and LED televisions in this country has resulted in a technological revolution worldwide.

According to Bloomberg Innovation Index 2017, South Korea has won the title of the most innovative country in the world. (The said index, topped by South Korea in 2017, scores countries using

seven criteria, including research and development intensity, manufacturing value added, productivity, high-tech density, tertiary efficiency, researcher concentration, and patent activity). Furthermore, South Korea topped such sub-indices as research and development intensity, manufacturing value added, and patent activity; and it obtained the second rank in tertiary efficiency.

South Korea's amazing development is but a fruit of the country's unquestionable commitment to providing high-quality tertiary education. The main reason for 'Miracle on the Han River' has been South Korea's admirable approach to education and investment therein.

### Higher Education in South Korea

In South Korea, higher education is offered at three levels, i.e. B.A., M.A., and Ph.D.; and its higher education system is similar to Bologna Process. Around 81% of South Korean universities are run by the private sector, and only 19% of them are public ones. The list published by Nature Publishing Group is indicative of a significant growth in South Korean universities' qualitative outputs in science fronts. South Korean universities endeavor diligently to play a key role in higher education at international levels. Thanks to such endeavors, they have managed to gain a satisfactory position in university rankings and the like. One of the prominent strengths of South Korea's system of higher education is its close relations with the industry sector; and one may daresay the main reason behind the country's fast-paced progress is this very close and consolidated bondage between university and industry. Great South Korean companies, like Samsung and LG, enjoy close relations

with the higher education system in the country. Especially, the research and development departments of such companies cooperate closely with domestic and international centers of higher education. South Korean universities have adopted various planning strategies for developing higher education internationally. Such strategies include scientific plans and projects, extramural research and cooperation, and international curricula.

University of Isfahan President's Visit to  
Pusan National University, 2016



Korea-Iran Business Networking, Busan,  
South Korea, June 2016



Focal Point to Iran-Korea  
International Scientific Collaboration

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Introduction

Having regards to University of Isfahan’s broad cooperation with South Korean universities and scientific centers, the Center for International Scientific Cooperation of the Iranian Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology (MSRT) introduced University of Isfahan as South Korea Focal Point to other Iranian universities through Notice No. 22/2691, dated December 16th, 2017.

This way, University of Isfahan was assigned the responsibility of introducing the activities of South Korean universities and higher education and research centers, including educational and research opportunities, to the Iranian academic community. In line with this mission, University of Isfahan works toward arranging the visit plans of delegates from South Korea to interested Iranian universities and scientific centers and announcing the scheduled visits.

Working Group’s Goals and Objectives

- Developing international scientific cooperation with South Korean universities and scientific centers
- Introducing the potentials of mutual cooperation among Iranian and South Korean Universities
- Drafting a cooperation document on academic and scientific ties between the two countries and following up on implementing the provisions thereof
- Directing the Korea Focal Point’s responsibilities toward policy-making, monitor-

ing, supporting, and evaluating universities as well as research and technology centers’ international scientific activities

- Utilizing the potentials of universities as well as research and technology centers in developing international scientific cooperation between the two countries
- Identifying the operational and executive stages and determining the priorities in international scientific cooperation based on goals, objectives, needs, and facilities.

Working Group’s Mission

- Following up on the aforementioned goals and objectives for realizing the plans
- Formulating short-term and long-term cooperation plans and dynamicizing them proportionally to the progresses made
- Implementing the provisions of short-term and long-term cooperation plans
- Launching the National Working Group’s system for coordinating and following up on scientific cooperation with South Korea
- Setting up and equipping South Korea’s Office in University of Isfahan
- Collaborating with regards to establishing Iran’s Office in South Korea
- Informing faculty members and Ph.D. students of incentive policies concerning expansion of scientific collaborations with South Korea

Activities

- A. Formulating Short-term Plans
- A-1. Launching South Korea Focal Point’s website and continuously updating it

- A-2. Forming the first internal working group
- A-3. Holding the Working Group’s first gathering to be attended by members from different universities
- A-5. Introducing South Korean universities to Iranians and vice versa
- A-6. Drafting the internal Bylaw of the Working Group
- A-8. Holding coordination meetings with universities active in collaborating with South Korean universities
- B. Formulating Long-term Plans
- B-1. Drafting documents for scientific and content-oriented collaborations
- B-2. Holding joint scientific meetings in various fields of science
- B-3. Defining joint research projects between Iranian and South Korean scientific centers and following up on their implementation
- C. Arranging Iranian scientific groups’ visits to South Korea and vice versa
- D. Monitoring the implementation of memorandums of understanding (MOUs)
- E. Taking necessary actions with regard to introducing opportunities for exchanging professors and students between the two countries
- F. Paving the grounds for publishing joint papers and books co-authored by Iranian and South Korean academics
- G. Paving the grounds for setting up courses for learning Persian and Korean languages
- H. Launching a consultation system for advising on how Iranian faculty members can interact and cooperate with South Korean universities
- I. Planning for holding educational workshops, seminars, and conferences on areas deemed necessary by Iranian and South Korean universities
- J. Paving the way for writing joint Ph.D. dissertations and

First Iran-South Korea Economic Forum, “International Conference on the Cooperation Platform for Iran and Korea in the Post-sanctions Era”, Isfahan, Iran, April 2016



Second Meeting of Iran-Korea Economic Cooperation Forum, Busan, South Korea, July 2016



His Excellency Mr. Kim Seung Ho, South Korea Ambassador in Iran, University of Isfahan, February, 2016



List of 20 South Korean High-ranking Universities Based on International and Domestic Rankings

ranking	World Rank	University
1	85	(1) Seoul National University / 서울대학교
2	172	(1) Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology KAIST
3	222	(1) Yonsei University / 연세대학교
4	240	(1) Korea University / 고려대학교
5	384	Hanyang University / 한양대학교
6	413	(1) Sungkyunkwan University / 성균관대학교
7	463	Pohang University of Science & Technology / 포항공과대학교
8	517	(1) Kyungpook (Kyungbook) National University / 경북대학교
9	536	Pusan National University (Miryang) / 부산대학교
10	583	(1) Kyung Hee University / 경희대학교
11	599	Chung Ang University / 중앙대학교
12	659	Konkuk University / 건국대학교
13	700	(1) Chonbuk National University (Iksan National College) / 전북대학교
14	764	Ewha Womens University / 이화여자대학교
15	787	Gwangju Institute of Science & Technology / 광주과학기술원
16	793	Ajou University / 아주대학교
17	854	Sogang University / 서강대학교
18	869	Inha University / 인하대학교
19	871	Kangwon National University (Samcheok National University) / 강원대학교
20	911	University of Ulsan / 울산대학교



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