

# Korea National Foresight

*History of Applying Futures Studies and  
Foresight to Korea National Planning*

Kyungmoo Heo

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# Introduction

## Background and Purpose

### Background

#### Unprecedented escalation of complexity and ambiguity

- **Ongoing challenges** (ex. climate change and the S&T transformation) becomes a matter to the entire civilization.
- Rapid but erratic transitions made a **future more uncertain and indeterminate**

#### Simple adjustment is no longer valid

- Its **unconditional pursuit of the western industrialization model** is no long valid to resolve the pending issues.
- **Traditional solution models** including statistical extrapolation already **lost their effectiveness**.
- Societal demands of **paradigm changes** are growing more than ever before

#### Interest in futures of Korea Society

- **A quantitative increase** of futures research and relevant organizations in both public and private.
- **Futures research** including futures studies and foresight becomes as a good alternative in Korea.

# Introduction

## Background and Purpose

### Purpose

#### **Futures research as an enabler to build a Korea-own development model**

- Korea, one of the fastest developing countries in the world, faces growing needs of its **own planning model**.
- Korea is now being pushed to **play a role as a creative leader** by international societies rather than just the 'fast follower' to other developed countries.

#### **Applicable best practice for other developing countries**

- Application of Korea's unique case in foresight can **be a good and potential strategic planning tool for their national development and modernization**.
- **Insight** of the Korean-own preferred future as well as its alternatives and the **capability** to form a global strategy, agenda and vision will **be a generic and feasible solution to the world**.

# Current State of Korea

## Foresight bodies in Korea (1/2)

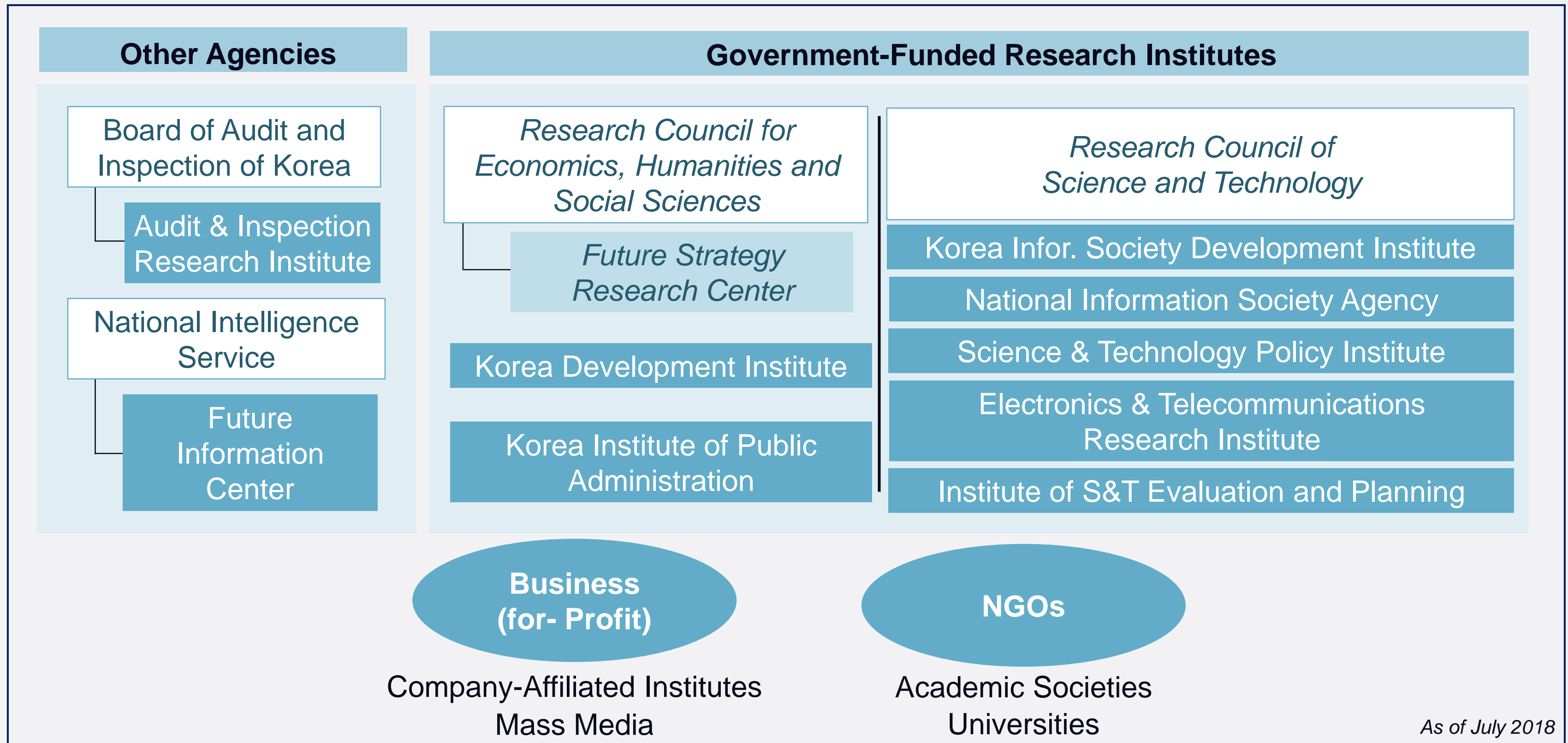
As of July 2018

### KOREA GOVERNMENT



# Current State of Korea

## Foresight Bodies in Korea (2/2)



As of July 2018

### Limits of Korean Futures Research Activities

#### Foresight as a 'panacea' to a national strategy planning

- It took almost **50 years** to establish the formal and designated futures research institute since the birth of futures studies in 1968 by Dr. Hanhbeen Lee in Korea
- Person in charge of national visioning and planning **merely changed its title to foresight**
- Its application of foresight has been used as a mere '**cliché**' for **plethora plans** rather than identifying what it really means and how it needs to be incorporated in the Korean context.

#### Foresight as an alternative of 'developmental studies'

- A **dilution of futures research** with the national strategy planning for modernization and economic growth
- Unconditional pursuit of the western development model **deteriorated the principle of foresight.**

# Futures Studies in Korea

## Emergence of Korea's Futures Studies (1968-1981)

Time	Event in Korea	Details
Emergence of Korea's Futures Studies (1968-1981)		
1968	The Year 2000 Committee	- Established by Dr. Hahnbeen Lee (then changed to the KSFS)
1969	Korean Society for Futures Studies (KSFS)	- Introduced futures studies : its basic concepts and methods - Established relationship with global futurist groups
1971	KSFS Project : Korea in the Year 2000	- First national futures research report - Relayed from Herman Kahn's interim report 'The Year 2000 in Korea' - Foresighted the future of Korea with an application of the Delphi studies & technological forecasting
1962 – 1981	Korea Five-Year Economic Development Plans	- Implemented 4 times in every 5 years - After 1981, it changed its name to 'Korea Five-Year Social and Economic Development Plans'.



# Futures Studies in Korea

## Diversity in Futures Studies (1982-1996)

Time	Event in Korea	Details
<b>Diversity in Futures Studies (1982-1996)</b>		
1977-1999	University of Hawaii : a series of lectures of futures studies	- Lectured by Dr. Jim Dator for the Korean visiting scholars and government officials in Hawaii
1985	Korea Development Institute's Long-term National Strategy Program	- The most influential state-owned think tank in Korea - Implemented foresight to build a national foresight model - Established the Future Industry Task force in 1986
1987	Korea Future Making Institution	- Focused on rational forecasting and foresight - Set up a long-term vision (later became Hanbeck Foundation)
1988	Korean Association for Futures Studies	- Focused on social science and participated in various international futures conferences - Became an institutional member of the World Futures Studies Federation in 1989
1995	Korea Futures Studies Institute	- Developed and distributed futures knowledge - Presented alternative futures using micro & macro methods - Formed a future knowledge database

# Futures Studies in Korea

## Globalization and Alternative Futures (1997-2012)

Time	Event in Korea	Details
<b>Globalization and Alternative Futures (1997-2012)</b>		
2003	Millennium Project Corporation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Started as the 'Korea 2050' futures research club</li> <li>- Under leadership of Ms. Youngsook Park, produces various future foresight reports</li> </ul>
2004	Book : 'Toward Another Future Foresight and Future Strategy'	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The first book written about futures studies and foresight</li> <li>- Included its definition, methodologies &amp; overseas case studies</li> <li>- Introduced national foresight bodies of Korea &amp; recommendation</li> </ul>
2007	Korea Institute of Public Administration (KIPA)'s Future Strategy Research Department	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- led by Dr. Yongseok Seo, expanded its research horizon to the global level</li> <li>- focused on humanities and sociology sides of futures studies</li> </ul>
2009	Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI)'s Future Research Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Implemented a science and technology-based forecasting</li> <li>- Developed futures knowledge platform, research processes and methodologies</li> <li>- Conducted risk assessments along with horizontal scanning</li> </ul>

# Futures Studies in Korea

## Renaissance of Future Studies and Foresight (2013-Present) (1/2)

Time	Event in Korea	Details
<b>Renaissance of Future Studies and Foresight (2013-Present)</b>		
2013	Korea Advanced Institute for Science and Technology(KAIST)'s Moon Soul Graduate School of Future Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Established by Dr. Kwanghyung Lee, as the first authorized academic institute which opens master and doctoral degree programs in futures studies</li> <li>- Aims at training a future expert needed by society against the coming era of uncertainty</li> </ul>
2013	The KAIST's Research Center for Future Strategy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Supports and enhances the KAIST's futures research function</li> <li>- Provides the national roadmap of various futures</li> </ul>
2013	Electronics and Telecommunication Research Institute's Future Research Creative Laboratory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Market analysis, business development along with global mega trend and feasibility studies on the S&amp;T</li> </ul>
2013	Ministry of Science, ICT and Future Planning's Future Preparation Committee	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Published a series of reports about 'Korea After 10 Years' (a) Future Issue Analysis Report in 2015, (b) Growth Strategy in New Normal Era in 2016, (c) Time to See the Quality of Life in 2016, (d) Demand and Consumption in the Era of the 4th Industrialization in 2017, (e) Searching Future Jobs in 2017</li> </ul>

# Futures Studies in Korea

## Renaissance of Future Studies and Foresight (2013-Present) (2/2)

Time	Event in Korea	Details
Renaissance of Future Studies and Foresight (2013-Present)		
2014	National Information Society Agency's Future Strategy Center	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Specializes its function in the data-driven foresight</li> <li>- Aims at taking the leading position in governance based on an evidence-based futures strategy</li> </ul>
2016	Korea Association for Futures Studies (KAFS)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Established as the first academic society backed by the KAIST and students, researchers, politicians, journalist, etc.</li> <li>- Holds various academic and participatory venues to expand a base of futures studies</li> </ul>
2018	National Assembly Futures Institute (NAFI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The world first futures research institute enacted and built by the formal legislative body</li> <li>- Aims at implement futures studies while overcoming limits of administration-led future researches and achieving its sustainability and autonomy of operations</li> </ul>

### Limits of Korean Futures Studies

#### Limits of an administration-led futures studies

- A **lack of continuity and sustainability** due to the 5-year-term of presidency
- Prevailing ‘ministry selfishness’ also known as the ‘**a partition-based individual research**’
- A lack of a ‘check-and-balance’ organization against **a unilateral power of the administration’s** foresight function.
- Limits on bringing institutional passage to **deliver opinions of the public** and a cooperative venue for **facilitating a participation and dialogue** between politicians, officials and researchers

#### Lack in practical results and synergy through futures studies and foresight

- A **gap** between futures research output and policy implementation
- While a number of futures studies organizations are increasing, there are **still doubts as to whether they will have a practical impact** on national future plan.

# Futures Studies in Korea

## Aspiration and Desires

< Organizational Chart & Team >

### Establishing a dedicated institution of futures research

#### Exclusive

Application of essence of futures studies beyond just 'planning'

#### Permanent

Operation sustainability by enabling topic diversity and differentiation with other existing organization

#### Neutral

Neutrality and bipartisan for political and financial independency

#### Overarching

Inter-ministerial cooperation & policy-connected outcome to build authority and implementation power

#### Participatory

Participation of both public and stakeholder

Thank you



# Current State of Korea

## Foresight Agencies in Korea

< Organizational Chart & Team >

