

**TAEJAE  
FUTURE CONSENSUS INSTITUTE  
WHITE PAPER  
2023**

**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

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



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



## Global Governance

The escalating US-China rivalry has significantly weakened the international community's ability to respond to global challenges such as nuclear security and sustainability. On the one hand, the ever-worsening climate crisis poses a grave threat to human survival and has the effect of amplifying the impact of other related issues such as food, health, and refugees. On the other hand, brand new security threats are arising from ongoing armed conflicts like the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Hamas war and from the rapid advancement of emerging technologies, namely artificial intelligence (AI).

To effectively counter these threats, mutual consensus and cooperation between the United States and China are essential. US President Joe Biden and Chinese President Xi Jinping met in San Francisco in November 2023 and agreed to work together on various issues of common interest ranging from military and emerging technologies to climate and fentanyl. Ever since, however, there has been very little progress as to how to respond to these existential threats quickly and in unison. We identified nuclear security, climate change, and the North Korean nuclear issue as the three most urgent challenges to be addressed, and sought to find ways to facilitate US-China dialogue in these areas through collaboration with leading media and research institutions in and outside Korea.

## Transformation of China

China seeks to build a new international order. Now all eyes are on whether China has the strategic acumen to reduce tensions with the United States and achieve sustainable development. At the same time, there is a growing interest in whether China will be able to escape the middle-income trap and become a new paragon of economic growth and global leadership.

Given these developments, we focused primarily on assessing the extent to which China's transformation over the coming years could afford South Korea important strategic opportunities. Additionally, we analyzed China's mid- to long-term national development strategy and urban policy with a view to reevaluating Korea's role and strengths in the increasingly complex landscape of Northeast Asia. We also sought to strengthen ties with leading Chinese think tanks and institutions to identify areas of common interest between the United States and China and to explore a new model of global leadership that draws upon various East Asian civilizations.

## Korea's Future Competitiveness

Digital transformation, propelled by geopolitical changes and the development of AI technology, is opening up new frontiers for economic development, both national and regional. It raises the importance of early discovery of promising industries that can not only compete in the global market, but ensure high levels of quality of life, as well. In recent years, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has emerged as an alternative hub of global supply chains and a new axis of global growth. Accordingly, we decided to expand the scope of our research from the Korean Peninsula to ASEAN-Korea relations. We built an analytical framework through extensive surveys and other studies to develop strategies for strengthening cooperation between ASEAN and Korea.

## Vital National Capabilities

The emergence of generative AI models like ChatGPT is bringing revolutionary changes to society as a whole. We decided to investigate the changes brought on by the advancement of AI technology in addition to our existing research that looks to develop an ideal model in each of the seven core sectors (think tanks, universities, corporations, media, government, political parties, and defense) that is optimized for the digital age.

We also held a series of seminars that examined expected risk factors in each sector and explored ways to address them. In particular, we looked into the transformative potential of blockchain technology for governance and the trajectory of change in human values that will form the foundation of future governance. Two public forums were held based on the proposals derived from these seminars. Additionally, we established and ran a political party in the form of a DAO (decentralized autonomous organization), a blockchain-based experimental organization, with the participation of the general public. Based on that experience, we are currently building a global discussion platform with the aim of creating a diverse and vocal community around our mission. This project will be the main focus of our work in the coming year.

## <The Age of AI: The Future of Universities> Forum

April 26, 2023



The forum addressed the question of how to innovate higher education and develop new educational models in the era of digital transformation. Se-Jung Oh (former President, Seoul National University) delivered the keynote speech, while three panelists—Stephen Kosslyn (Founding President, Minerva University), Sung-Il Kim (Dean, College of Education, Korea University), and Jae-Young Chung (Director, Center for Future Education Research, Ewha Woman's University)—discussed the role of universities and the need for a paradigmatic shift in education in the age of AI. The panelists agreed that higher education in the digital age must foster creativity and problem-solving skills. They predicted that AI would be used to improve human cognitive abilities, and that accordingly, creative and critical thinking as well as knowledge of humanities will become even more important.

## <Digital Age: A Pathway to Sustainability> Forum

July 13, 2023



The forum explored the impact of digital technology on human civilization and its sustainability. The eighth UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon delivered the keynote address while Yong-Hak Kim (former President, Yonsei University), Irina Bokova (former Director-General, UNESCO), and Yoo-Hyun Park (Founder, DQ Institute) participated as panelists. In his keynote speech, former Secretary-General Ban underscored the need for a new institutional framework that could keep pace with technological advancement, and proposed the creation of an international organization to address AI-related risks and the limitations of the current sustainable development goals (SDGs). The panelists then discussed the disruptive impact of digital technologies on democracy and social cohesion as well as “digital ESG” to better align physical and digital realities.

## <2023 Athens Democracy Forum> Symposium

September 27-29, 2023



The 2023 Athens Democracy Forum, hosted by The New York Times' non-profit arm, the Democracy and Culture Foundation (DCF), brought together activists, journalists, and scholars from around the world to discuss how to strengthen democracy and the impact that AI technology could have on democratic societies. We co-hosted a symposium on "Education in the Age of AI" with Taejoo University and participated in the "Building Blocks of Democracy" session. We also connected with next-generation leaders there to explore opportunities to work together through our platform project.

## The 9th North Pavilion Dialogue

### <2023 Global Security Governance: Present and Prospects>

October 27, 2023



The forum was hosted by the Institute of International and Strategic Studies at Peking University to understand various global governance issues through the lens of stability and contact. Kim Sung-Hwan, President of Taejoo Future Consensus Institute, attended the forum as the sole South Korean representative. Joseph Nye (Professor, Harvard University), John Negroponte (former US Secretary of State), Andrey Kortunov (Secretary-General, Russian Council for International Affairs), and many other foreign policy experts were in attendance and agreed that we have the responsibility to build the right international system for future generations.



### **2023 Asia Economic Community Forum: Special Session 1 <Nuclear Arms Race and Emerging Security Challenges: Is US-China Cooperation on Nuclear Disarmament Feasible?>**

November 2, 2023

This was one of the three special sessions we organized at the 2023 Asia Economic Community Forum (AECF). The panel sought to zero in on issue areas where the United States and China could work together to reduce the threat of nuclear war. The panelists included Francesca Giovannini (Director, Managing the Atom Project, Belfer Center, Harvard University) and Tong Zhao (Senior Fellow, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace).

### **2023 Asia Economic Community Forum: Special Session 2 <Climate Crisis Roundtable: Technology, Economic and Institutional Approaches to Accelerate Carbon Neutrality and US-China Cooperation>**

November 3, 2023

We organized a special session on the climate crisis where experts from diverse disciplines (climate, resources, energy, technology, and law), including former ROK Ambassador for Climate Change Chan-Woo Kim, examined how the United States and China could reach consensus on the need to raise awareness about the climate crisis and establish a binding enforcement system.

### **Taejae Future Consensus Institute—Shanghai Institute of International Studies Joint Seminar**

December 22, 2023

We co-hosted the seminar with the Shanghai Institute of International Studies to develop concrete measures to promote dialogue and encourage confidence-building and arms control between the United States and China. The first session focused primarily on how to facilitate cooperation on sustainability. In the second session, the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula received much attention as a common challenge facing the United States and China in Northeast Asia.