

Understanding higher education policies in South Korea: guiding perspectives, historical contexts and policy problems of new government



30 March 2023

00:45:11 Akiyoshi Yonezawa: My impression is that South Korean higher education policy has changed drastically with the change of presidency. At the same time, the interpretation as development stages, economy and innovation drive is also convincing. How can we understand this as a comprehensive landscape?

00:49:08 Pola Lem: In recent months, some prominent universities have abandoned South Korea's tuition fee freeze, which has been in place for 14 years. It looks like more institutions are set to follow. Do you believe the government should drop its policy, given universities appear to have stopped following it already? Thanks

00:49:09 Gertrude Cotter: Are the Arts and Humanities well supported?

00:49:14 Konstantin Dulin: Thank you for the super fascinating talk!

Could you elaborate more on the financial markets' role in Korean higher education funding? Which role do university endowments play? Are there universities that issue bonds?

00:51:38 Saumen Chattopadhyay: I am trying to understand the HE policy landscape in SK. (i) are the privately funded HEIs allowed to make profit? (ii) how is research funded? what is the extent of it in total funding for HE? (iii) Does the extent and nature of regulation vary across the HEIs? (iv) faculty regulation? scope for autonomy?

00:54:02 Conor O'Reilly: One of the biggest challenges facing Korean higher ed is the decreasing population - this essentially means there are less students enrolling in universities, which is causing a number of challenges. This situation is exacerbated by the competition from students traveling overseas, and hierarchy of the major Seoul universities. To what extent can these policy developments address the problems facing universities?

00:55:45 Soyoung Lee: Thanks for your presentation! I wonder if there are any problems caused by the political focus on 'developing workers' and human resources through university education, which has been emphasised since the economic development in the country.

00:59:48 Simon Marginson: Questions from Futao Huang -

00:59:51 Simon Marginson: First, are there any gaps between the ideal of HE policy and social changes in Korea in recent years? or unintended outcomes of HE policies such as unexpected benefits, unexpected drawback or perverse results? if any, how did your government close the gaps?

Second, how environmental changes, such as the pandemic, neo-nationalism, and the changing geopolitics, have affected the formation of and changes in Korean HE policies? Finally, can you talk a little more about the new directions for HE policies in Korea?

01:02:37 Futao Huang: Neo-nationalism

01:03:26 Futao Huang: <https://www.press.jhu.edu/books/title/12609/neo-nationalism-and-universities>

01:06:09 Gertrude Cotter: apologies I can't speak just now but I am listening

01:09:07 Tiffany MacLennan: That's a good question Saumen

01:11:40 CGHE Webinars: Thank you for joining us today. A recording of this session will be posted on the CGHE site: <https://www.researchcghe.org/events/cghe-seminar/understanding-higher-education-policies-in-south-korea-guiding-perspectives-historical-contexts-and-policy-problems-of-new-government/>

01:12:00 CGHE Webinars: Our next webinar, "Big Data in Practice: Women (and Men) in Global Science", will take place on Tuesday from 2pm (UK). You can register here: <https://www.researchcghe.org/events/cghe-seminar/big-data-in-practice-women-and-men-in-global-science/>

01:14:36 Jennifer Park: Thank you so much for the presentation. I could see there have been many changes in SK HE since I left Korea. Sorry to log off early but have another meeting! Thank again.

01:15:45 Gertrude Cotter: thank you

01:17:00 Monika Metykova: Thanks you very much!

01:18:30 Gertrude Cotter: thanks for that

01:19:12 Akiyoshi Yonezawa: Thank you very much!

01:19:18 Beatrice Zuaro: Thank you!

01:19:30 Bernard Lee: Thank you very much!

01:19:43 Saumen Chattopadhyay: Thank you all

01:20:03 Conor O'Reilly: Thanks very much. Very informative with plenty of food for thought! 감사합니다