



WORLD KNOWLEDGE FORUM 2025 HIGHLIGHTS

SINCE 2000

World Knowledge Forum
Secretariat

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NEW
ORDER

INVEST
THE FUTURE

AI
TRANSITION

INDUSTRIAL
ODYSSEY

CULTURE
&
HUMAN

ABOUT WORLD KNOWLEDGE FORUM

Following the 1997 Asian financial crisis, the World Knowledge Forum (WKF) was founded in October 2000 after two years of preparation, with the ambition to transform Korea into a knowledge-driven nation. Since then, the World Knowledge Forum served as a platform for active discussions, with the aim of reducing knowledge gaps through knowledge-sharing to promote balanced global economic growth and prosperity. A total of approximately 6,303 global speakers and 69,509 audience members have participated since the first forum in 2000, held under the theme 'Shaping the New Millennium with Knowledge'. The WKF has now become one of the biggest knowledge-sharing events in the world..

Main speakers we had at past WKF include state leaders such as George W. Bush, the 43rd President of the United States; Theresa May, the 76th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; Nicolas Sarkozy, the 23rd President of France; and Gerhard Schröder, the 7th Chancellor of Germany; presidents of international organizations such as Jim Yong Kim, the 12th President of the World Bank; founders and corporate leaders such as Bill Gates, Co-founder of Microsoft Corporation; Larry Ellison, Chairman and CEO of Oracle Corporation; John L. Hennessy, Chairman of Alphabet; and George Soros, Chairman of Soros Fund Management; and scholars such as Larry Summers, Paul Krugman, Michael Porter, and Gregory Mankiw.

The 2025 World Knowledge Forum gathered approximately 4,000 speakers and attendees in Seoul under the theme "New Odyssey: Navigating the Great Transition".

The forum's opening ceremony commenced with a congratulatory address by Kim Min-seok, Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea, followed by a keynote speech by Justin Trudeau, the 23rd Prime Minister of Canada.

Global luminaries from various fields—geopolitics, economics and management, AI, industry, and culture—illuminated the World Knowledge Forum. Among them were Jared Diamond, Professor Emeritus at UCLA; James Robinson, Professor at the University of Chicago; Anna Lembke, Professor at Stanford University, alongside Charles Michel, former President of the European Council; Ibrahim Mahlab, former Prime Minister of the Egypt; Robert F. Smith, Chairman of Vista Equity Partners; Kurt Björklund, Chairman of Permira; and Chad Wolf, Executive Vice President of the American First Policy Institute(AFPI), shared their insights.





INVITATION

I invite you to join the World Knowledge Forum 2026

With gracious support and enthusiasm from many knowledge seekers around the world, the World Knowledge Forum has grown into one of the most prominent knowledge hubs in the world. Each year, the World Knowledge Forum continues to enhance its content and address numerous global agendas, featuring approximately 250 speakers and 4,000 audience members.

To meet the encouragement and expectations of those who anticipate the World Knowledge Forum every September, we will once again set the stage for the best speakers and themes to look ahead for 2026.

The World Knowledge Forum 2026 is scheduled to take place from September 8th through 10th, 2026, and we will develop comprehensive action plans for critical global issues at hand. In-depth discussions on geopolitics, business, and social issues will be conducted at the World Knowledge Forum 2026.

Chairman of Maekyung Media Group
Executive Chairman of the World Knowledge Forum

Chang Dae-whan, PhD

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Daewhan Chang".

Brand Identity of the World Knowledge Forum

The new logo of the World Knowledge Forum embodies the idea of encompassing diverse fields of knowledge from the highest heights to the deepest depths, not only in Asia but across the entire world.

WORLD KNOWLEDGE FORUM

2026

September 8 - 10, 2026
Seoul, Korea



WORLD KNOWLEDGE FORUM IN NUMBERS

2000~2025

(unit=ea)

*Up to 2025

[Source = World Knowledge Forum Secretariat]



69,509

For 26 years, distinguished participants from around the world—representing political, academic, corporate, and other diverse fields—have gathered for the “knowledge-sharing feast” at the annual World Knowledge Forum.



6,303

The World Knowledge Forum features global speakers from the fields of politics, economics, and industry, including George W. Bush, the 43rd President of the United States; David Cameron, the 56th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom; Gerhard Schröder, the 7th Chancellor of Germany; Nicolas Sarkozy, the 23rd President of France; and Justin Trudeau, the 23rd Prime Minister of Canada as well as Bill Gates, Co-founder of Microsoft Corporation; Sam Altman, CEO of OpenAI; Donald Trump Jr., Executive Vice President at The Trump Organization and Daron Acemoglu, professor at MIT.



1988

Every year, the World Knowledge Forum covers a variety of topics encompassing economy, industry, politics, culture, art, future, and climate change.



86

Participants and speakers are joining the World Knowledge Forum from countries in various regions including Asia, North America, South America, and Europe, and so forth.



SOCIAL PLATFORMS
The World Knowledge Forum is extending its reach beyond the conference halls through YouTube and Instagram. With over 15K Instagram followers and 6.24M YouTube views, it transforms complex global issues into engaging, accessible content—bringing knowledge to people anytime, anywhere.

MILESTONES OF THE WORLD KNOWLEDGE FORUM

2000~2025

2000

Shaping the New Millennium with Knowledge

World Knowledge Forum Launched

2001

Drawing the Roadmap for Knowledge Economy and Global Prosperity

World Knowledge Corps Launched

2002

Knowledge in a World of Risk: A Compass Towards New Prosperity

2003

Creating a New World Order and Economy

2004

Partnership for Renewed Growth

World Knowledge Forum Expands Beyond Korea

2005

Creativity and Collaboration: Foundation for the New Era

2006

Creative Economy

2007

Wealth Creation & Asia

World Bank Recognized World Knowledge Forum

2008

Collabonomics & Greater Asia

Open Sessions Launched at World Knowledge Forum

2009

One Asia: New Economic Order & Recovery

One Asia Momentum Launched

2010

One Asia Momentum, G20 Leadership & Creatinnovation

2011

The New Economic Crisis: Reforming Global Leadership & Asia's challenge

2012

The Great Breakthrough: New Solutions for Global Crisis

2013

The One Asia Metamorphosis

2014

Invigorating the Global Economy

2015

Mapping the Zeitgeist

Plenary Session Moved to angchung Arena

2016

Aiming for Great Instauration

Asia Business Awards Launched

2017

Inflection Point: Towards New Prosperity

2018

Collective Intelligence: Overcoming Global Pandemonium

2019

Knowledge Revolution 5.0: Perspicacity Towards Prosperity for All

2020

Pandonomics Perspective: Shaping New Global Symbiosis

World Knowledge Forum Expands Beyond Korea

2021

Terra Incognita: Redesigning the Global Architecture

2022

Supercompensation : Restoring Global Prosperity & Freedom

2023

Techno Big Bang: Humanity on the Shoulders of Giants

2024

Journey Towards Coexistence

Marks the 25th Anniversary

2025

New Odyssey: Navigating the Great Transition

MAIN SPEAKERS FROM THE PREVIOUS YEARS



George W. Bush
The 43rd President of the United States



Bill Gates
Co-founder of Microsoft Corporation



Justin Trudeau
The 23rd Prime Minister of Canada



Sam Altman
CEO of OpenAI



Hillary Rodham Clinton
The 67th United States Secretary of State



Steve Wozniak
Co-founder of Apple



David Rubenstein
Co-founder & Co-CEO of the Carlyle Group



Nathan Belcharchzyk
Co-founder of Airbnb



Eric Yuan
Founder & CEO of Zoom



Jack Welch
Chairman of General Electric



Charles Michel
The 3rd President of the European Council



Tony Blair
The 73rd Prime Minister of the United Kingdom



David Cameron
The 56th Prime Minister of the United Kingdom



Nicolas Sarkozy
The 23rd President of France



Gerhard Schröder
The 7th Chancellor of Germany



Colin Powell
The 65th United States Secretary of State



Mike Pompeo
The 70th United States Secretary of State



Janet L. Yellen
The 78th United States Secretary of the Treasury



Alan Greenspan
The 13th Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board



Wang Jia Rui
Vice Chairman of the 12th National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference



Donald Trump Jr.
Executive Vice President at The Trump Organization



Jared Diamond
Professor Emeritus at UCLA



George Soros
Chairman of Soros Fund Management



Larry Ellison
Chairman & CTO of Oracle Corporation



Robert F. Smith
Chairman of Vista Equity Partners



Jerry Yang
Founder of Yahoo



Steve Chen
Co-founder of YouTube



Robin Li
Chairman & CEO of Baidu



Jim Rogers
Chairman of Beeland Interests



Thomas Piketty
Professor at Paris School of Economics



François Hollande
The 24th President of France



Yukio Hatoyama
The 93rd Prime Minister of Japan



Enrico Letta
The 55th Prime Minister of Italy



Hun Sen
President of the Senate of Cambodia



Larry Summers
The 71st United States Secretary of the Treasury



Paul Krugman
Professor at City University of New York



Bob Woodward
Pulitzer Prize-Winning Journalist



Niall Ferguson
Professor at Harvard University



Gregory Mankiw
Professor at Harvard University



John Bolton
The 27th National Security Advisor of the United States

WORLD KNOWLEDGE FORUM 2025

Theme | NEW ODYSSEY: Navigating the Great Transition

Date | September 9 - 11, 2025

Venue | Jangchung Arena • The Shilla Seoul



TRACKS

01

NEW ORDER

In this era of upheaval, we are redrawing the new order. Changes in leadership, the reshaping of the security landscape, and competition for technological supremacy are intersecting. We discuss changes in the new international business environment and shifts in the geopolitical paradigm.

02

INVEST THE FUTURE

The flow of capital changes the future. Global investment trends, financial innovation, and the macro economy determine the fate of nations and companies. The future investment strategies of gurus are revealed.

03

AI TRANSITION

Artificial intelligence (AI) is now steering humanity's course. From generative AI to AGI, AI is set to reshape future industries. Here's a look at the future that AI will transform.

04

INDUSTRIAL ODYSSEY

Traditional manufacturing industries are advancing further. With the development of AI, geopolitical shifts, and changes in supply chains, the DNA of industry is being transformed. We present the challenges and success strategies of major industries.

05

CULTURE & HUMAN

Cultural imagination evolves faster than technology. With the evolution of AI tools, culture spreads and is consumed at an even faster pace. Here, we present the recipes of cultural content.

MAIN SPEAKERS AT THE WORLD KNOWLEDGE FORUM 2025



The 2025 World Knowledge Forum brought together an exceptionally diverse range of distinguished figures. In particular, as global interest in culture, artificial intelligence, and industry has grown, the Forum invited speakers at the forefront of these trends. Their insightful and substantive lectures made this year's Forum especially meaningful. We would like to express our deepest gratitude to all the speakers who shared their wisdom, and to every participant who joined us with a genuine desire to learn.



Justin Trudeau

The 23rd Prime Minister of Canada



Jared Diamond

*Author of "Guns, Germs, and Steel"
Professor at UCLA*



Charles Michel

Former President of the European Council



Robert F. Smith

Chairman of Vista Equity Partners



James Robinson

2024 Nobel Laureate in Economics



ZHANG Ya-Qin

Dean of the Institute for AI Industry at Tsinghua University



Nazir Razak

*Former Chairman of CIMB
Chairman of Ikhlas Capital*



Ashishkumar Chauhan

CEO of the National Stock Exchange of India



Anne Corona

CEO of the Enterprise Clients Group at Aon



Marisa Chearavanont

Special Advisor to CP Group

MAIN SPEAKERS AT THE WORLD KNOWLEDGE FORUM 2025

The World Knowledge Forum now serves as a vital bridge connecting global businesses beyond Asia. At the same time, it remains a precious meeting ground for those seeking to explore new markets and opportunities. With people who are endlessly eager to learn, there is nothing to fear. May the speakers of this year—and those who came before—along with every participant, gather once again in 2026 to share the knowledge they have honed.



Anna Lembke
*Author of "Dopamine Nation"
Professor at Stanford University*



Kurt Björklund
Chairman of Permira



Martin Eberhard
Co-founder of Tesla



Shin Hak-Cheol
Vice Chairman of LG Chem



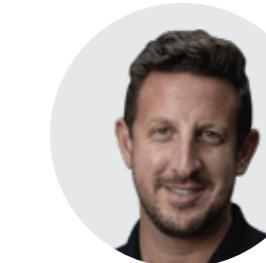
Ian Horrocks
Professor at Oxford University



Chad Wolf
*Executive Vice President of America
First Policy Institute (AFPI)*



Dmytro Kuleba
*Former Minister of Foreign
Affairs of Ukraine*



Zack Kass
*AI advisor, Former Head of
Go-to-Market at OpenAI*



Joseph Torigian
Professor at American University



John Mearsheimer
Professor at the University of Chicago



Cody Keenan
*Former White House Director
of Speechwriting*



Martin Kon
President & COO of Cohere



Herbert Diess
*Chairman of
Infineon Technologies*



Edward Lee
Chef



Jim Moran
Head of Moran Global Strategies



Chris Stewart
*Founder of Skyline Capital
Former U.S. Congressman*



Subodh Kulkarni
CEO of Rigetti Computing



Shirakawa Masaaki
Former Governor of the Bank of Japan



Hal Brands
*Professor at
Johns Hopkins University*



Sanford Panitch
*President of Sony Pictures
Motion Picture Group*









WORLD KNOWLEDGE FORUM 2025

01 WORLD KNOWLEDGE FORUM WITH APEC

The 2025 World Knowledge Forum collaborated with the 2025 Gyeongju APEC Summit in Korea. It contributed to the global promotion of both Korea and the city of Gyeongju. Notably, the APEC sessions held in Seoul featured distinguished speakers such as Justin Trudeau, the 23rd Prime Minister of Canada; John Mearsheimer and James Robinson, professors at the University of Chicago; and Robin Niblett, Distinguished Fellow at Chatham House. They shared deep insights into APEC's growth and the ongoing restructuring of the global economic order. The APEC Night dinner, held in commemoration of the summit, further served as a 'plataform' for international networking and exchange.



02 FREE OPEN SESSION AT THE ARENA

The World Knowledge Forum hosts free open sessions at Jangchung Arena in Seoul (with over 2,000 seats). Students and professionals can attend lectures by world-renowned scholars at no cost, take part in bestseller signing sessions, and engage directly with the speakers. In 2025, attendees had the opportunity to meet distinguished figures including Jared Diamond, Professor at UCLA; Anna Lembke, Professor at Stanford University; along with Cody Keenan, acclaimed author and former speechwriter for the U.S. President Barack Obama. Further insights were provided by Richard Teng, CEO of Binance, the world's largest cryptocurrency exchange; Professor Kim Jungsang at Duke University, former CTO of quantum computing pioneer IonQ; and Subodh Kulkarni, CEO of Rigetti Computing.

03 AI TRANSLATION SYSTEM

Starting in 2025, the World Knowledge Forum introduced an artificial intelligence translation system for all sessions. This reduces delays and minimizes errors associated with human simultaneous interpretation, delivering real-time subtitles on large LED back screens. The system enables attendees to access translations of lectures in their preferred language, either through stage displays or on their personal smartphones. Supporting more than 100 languages, it now ensures that participants from around the world can seamlessly engage with the sessions.

MAEKYUNG MEDIA GROUP

Maeil Business presents new visions to the government, the public and businesses as a Knowledge Powerhouse. By doing so, Maeil Business proudly does its part in building the foundation for Korea's knowledge based economy.

매일경제

Maeil Business is a leading business publication in Korea widely read by businessmen and corporate subscribers. Maeil Business provides the most diverse array of topics related to economy, finance, real estate, stocks, and bonds with keen insights and professional expertise. By providing timely and accurate economic news, along with campaigns such as "Vision Korea," Maeil Business presents new visions to the government, the people, and businesses. By doing so, Maeil Business proudly exercises its role in laying the solid foundation for Korea's knowledge-based economy.

MBN

MBN is a channel providing a variety of programs ranging from news to entertainment. With 21 years of experience as a 24-hour news channel, MBN offers premium content in various fields to viewers. Acknowledged for its quick and accurate news reporting, MBN was selected as the Nation's best news channel for 4 consecutive years. Through its commitment to "Listen, Agree, Care & Solve," MBN's dedication to excellence on every level makes this broadcast network a leader in its field.

For more information on registration and event details, visit the

World Knowledge Forum Website

www.wkforum.org

For video contents the World Knowledge Forum, visit the

World Knowledge Forum YouTube Channel (Korean)

www.youtube.com/wkforumkorea



World Knowledge Forum YouTube Channel (English)

www.youtube.com/wkforum



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