

2025 KDI

JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC POLICY CONFERENCE

Population, Aging, and the Economy

JUNE 5, 2025

Namsan Room

The Ambassador Seoul - A Pullman Hotel

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Population, Aging, and the Economy

WORD OF INVITATION

Over the course of its development, Korea has experienced significant demographic shifts. Death rates in the country have steadily declined over the past century, contributing to longer and healthier lives for Koreans than ever before. At the same time, birthrates have also decreased, remaining below replacement level for several decades. These dual trends of declining birth and death rates have led to a negative population growth trajectory, a phenomenon unprecedented in Korea's history. It poses complex social and economic challenges such as lower economic growth, strained social insurance systems, and changes in family arrangements.

In response to these pressing issues, the KDI Journal of Economic Policy (KDI JEP) and the Korea Development Institute (KDI) have organized a forum to bring together leading domestic and international experts. This event will provide a platform for robust discussions on the underlying drivers and effects of Korea's demographic trends. The forum will feature a diverse set of academic papers and policy-oriented presentations spanning various fields, including labor economics, public economics, development economics, and macroeconomics.

Through these discussions, we aim to foster a deeper understanding of the demographic challenges Korea faces and to explore forward-looking policy directions for addressing them. We warmly invite you to join us in this critical dialogue.

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PROGRAM

12:30 - 13:30 Registration & Networking Lunch

13:40 - 13:50 **Opening Ceremony**

Opening Remarks Dongchul Cho President, KDI

Welcoming Remarks Kwanho Shin Editor-in-Chief, KDI JEP

13:50 - 15:50 **Session 1. Micro Perspectives**

Moderator Changkeun Lee, KDI School

Presentation **Marriage and Child Penalties: Evidence from South Korea**
MinSub Kim, KDI

Discussant Jisoo Hwang, Seoul National University

Presentation **Population Aging and Living Arrangement: Implication on Inequality**
Sang-Hyop Lee, University of Hawaii at Manoa

Discussant Jun Hyung Kim, KAIST

Presentation **Recent Socioeconomic Differentials in Marriage Rates in Korea and China:
A Comparative Study**

Discussant Minhee Chae, Nankai University
Eleanor Jawon Choi, Hanyang University

16:10 - 17:30 **Session 2. Macro Perspectives**

Moderator Munseob Lee, UC San Diego

Presentation **Addressing the Demographic Decline in South Korea**
Sewon Hur, Federal Reserve Bank of Dallas

Discussant Minsu Chang, Seoul National University

Presentation **Can Healthy Aging Boost Labor Supply? Evidence from Korea**
Andresa Lagerborg, IMF

Discussant Sangyup Choi, Yonsei University