

## Dr. Il SaKong



Dr. Il SaKong is Chairman & CEO of the Institute for Global Economics, a private non-profit research institute based in Seoul.

Dr. SaKong served in the government of the Republic of Korea as Minister of Finance (1987-88), Senior Secretary to the President for Economic Affairs (1983-87), Senior Counselor to the Minister of Economic Planning Board (1982) and Senior Economist of the Council on Economic & Scientific Affairs for the President (1979-80). During his tenure at these key posts in the Korean government, Dr. SaKong played the leading role in framing and implementing Korea's most successful development strategy and economic policies of the 1980s.

He also served the Korean government as Ambassador for International Economy and Trade (2000-02), Member of the Council of National Economic Affairs for the President (2001-02), and Senior Member of the Council of National Economic Affairs for the President (2003-04).

Before joining the Korean government, Dr. SaKong was Senior Fellow, Research Director, and Vice-President at the Korea Development Institute (KDI), the leading national economic think-tank for the Korean government (1973-1982). Dr. SaKong also served as President of the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade (KIET), another national think-tank (1983).

Dr. SaKong was Special Consultant to the International Monetary Fund (1989-98). He was Chair of the ASEM Vision Group, established at the 1998 ASEM Summit in London. The Vision Group consisted of 26 representatives from ASEM member countries and the European Commission. It authored *For a Better Tomorrow: The Asia-Europe Partnership in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century* (1999). He also chaired the Emerging Markets Eminent Persons Group (EMEPPG) for reforming international financial architecture. The EMEPPG consisted of 11 members, mostly former finance ministers and central bank governors from major emerging market economies in Asia, Latin America and Africa. It published *Rebuilding the International Financial Architecture* (2001). In addition, he was a member of the Private Independent Experts for APEC, the Korea-U.S. Wisemen Council, the ASEM Task Force for Closer Economic Partnership Between Asia and Europe, and co-host of the Korea-U.S. 21<sup>st</sup> Century Council. Currently, Dr. SaKong is a member of the Board of Governors of the East-West Center after serving the center as a member of the International Advisory Panel.

Dr. SaKong graduated from Seoul National University (1964) and received his MBA (1966) and Ph.D. (1969) from the University of California at Los Angeles. Dr. SaKong taught economics at New York University (1969-73) and the University of Sheffield (1971-1972). Since September 2003, Dr. SaKong has been giving occasional special lectures at Korea University as a Distinguished Professor.

Dr. SaKong has written and edited many books and numerous articles in professional journals dealing with the Korean economy, major issues in economic development, and international finance and trade policy issues. They include: *Government, Business, and Entrepreneurship in Economic Development: The Korean Case*, Harvard University, 1980 (co-authored); *Korea in the World Economy*, Institute for International Economics in Washington, D.C., 1993; *The Korea-United States Economic Relationship*, Institute for International Economics in Washington, D.C., 1997 (co-edited); and *The World Doesn't Wait for Us*, Mael Business Newspaper, 2001.

Dr. SaKong has received various honors and prizes, including the Korean government's Order of Civil Service Merit "Blue Stripes" (1990), the Republic of China's Order of the Brilliant Star with Grand Cordon (1987), the Kingdom of Belgium's Order of the Crown (1986), the Korean government's Order of Civil Merit "Moran Medal" (1983), and Korea University's Grand Prize for Distinguished Policy Makers (2002).

Dr. SaKong makes frequent contributions to major Korean and international journalistic publications.

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