



Moon Jae-in

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



**A Nation of the People,
A Just Republic of Korea**

I will become a president for everyone

I will be a president who communicates with others.
I will exert my authority in a humble and modest manner.
I will build a country stronger than it has ever been.

The opportunities will be equitable, the process will be fair
and the result will be just.

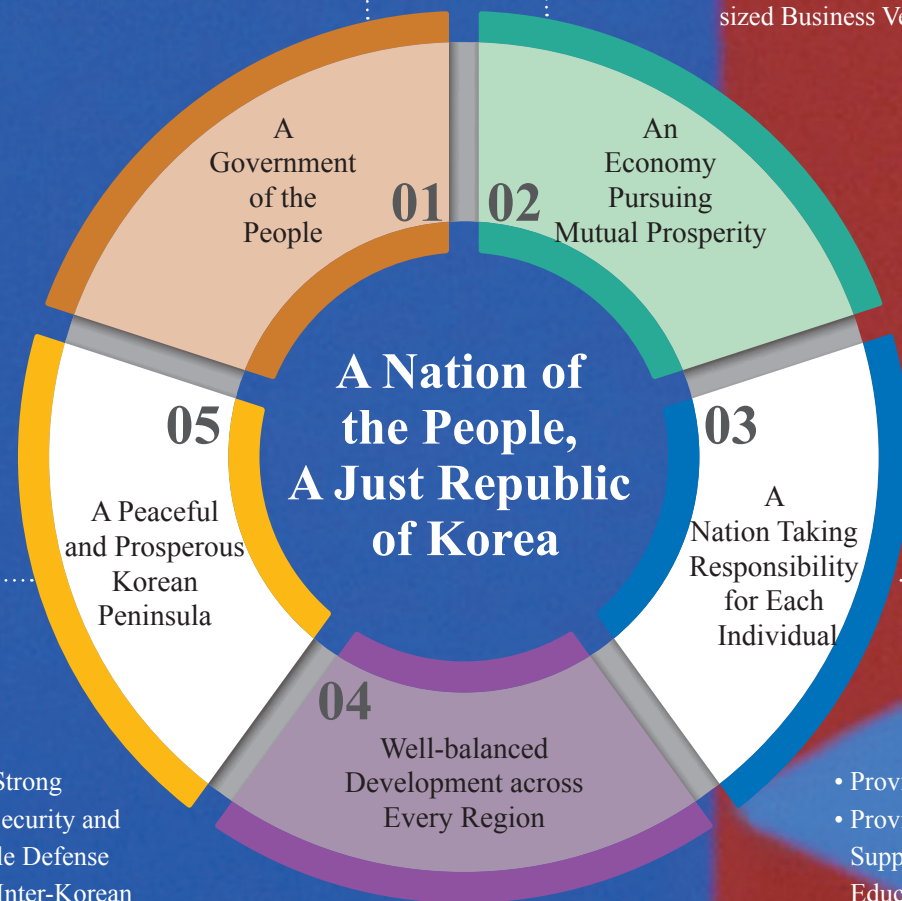
May 10, 2017, Inaugural Address by President Moon Jae-in



Five-year Plan for the Administration of State Affairs

- Realizing a Democracy by Popular Sovereignty
- Promoting Unity via Communication with the People-a “Gwanghwamun” President
- Creating a Transparent and Capable Government
- Reforming Law Enforcement Authorities Democratically

- Fostering a Job-creating Economy for Income-driven Growth
- Making a Vibrant and Fair Economy
- Creating an Economy for the Working and Middle Classes
- Preparing for the Fourth Industrial Revolution by Supporting the Advancement of Science and Technology
- Promoting Innovative Growth and Startups Led by Small and Medium-sized Business Ventures



- Ensuring Strong National Security and Dependable Defense
- Fostering Inter-Korean Reconciliation and Cooperation as well as Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula
- Reinforcing International Cooperation through Diplomacy

- Promoting Autonomy and Decentralization To Realize Grassroots Democracy
- Ensuring Well-balanced National Development for Mutual Prosperity
- Developing Rural Communities Where People Want To Live

- Providing Inclusive Welfare
- Providing Full Government Support for Childcare and Education
- Creating a Safe Society To Protect the Public
- Fostering a Fair Society that Respects Labor and Promotes Gender Equality
- Building a Country Where Liberty, Creativity and Culture Thrive



A New
Republic of Korea,
A Properly
Functioning Country



A New Era Ushered in by the Candlelight Rallies

In the autumn of 2016, the scale of candlelight rallies calling for the ouster of President Park Geun-hye continuously grew across the country as time passed. Popular distrust of her Administration began with an influence-peddling scandal and suspicions over back-room string-pulling by an *eminence grise*. Finally, the National Assembly passed a bill of impeachment on December 9, and the Constitutional Court upheld the impeachment on March 10, 2017. The candlelight spread by the people brought about an unprecedented result: the dismissal of President Park Geun-hye. The removal from office of the President led to a snap presidential election on May 9, 2017, and presidential candidate Moon Jae-in of the Democratic Party of Korea was elected President to serve in the 19th presidential term of the Republic of Korea.





Peaceful, Democratic Candlelight Rallies

Candlelight rallies in Korea in late 2016 through early 2017 were recorded as one of the most peaceful and orderly civic protests in the history of the world. Staged on streets in Seoul and major cities across the country, candlelight rallies were participated in by millions of citizens with no one being arrested or injured.

A total of approximately 2,400 organizations took part in 23 such rallies between October 29, 2016 and April 29, 2017, and voluntary donations amounted to as much as US\$3.5 million.

A President Reaching Out to the Public First

On May 10, 2017, President Moon Jae-in took the oath of office to begin his presidency. He mingled with the crowds of citizens to shake their hands and take photos with them, showing his determination to put communication with the people before the protocols of authority.

In his inauguration speech, he declared that he would end the culture of the imperial presidency and come out of Cheong Wa Dae as soon as preparations were completed to usher in the era of the Gwanghwamun president (i.e. a president with an office in central Seoul where people can easily meet him) and that he would become a president who communicates with the people frequently. Opening Cheong Wa Dae (the grounds surrounding the presidential office and residence) to the public and styling himself as the Gwanghwamun president is President Moon's unique move to divest himself of the protocols of authority, which has never been seen before in the history of Korean politics. It illustrates well how determined he is to become a president who will frequently engage in communication with the people by staying closer to them.

During his visit to a children's rehabilitation hospital, President Moon Jae-in was shown to kneel down and listen attentively to what the children with disabilities, their mothers and the medical staff had to say. At the ceremony commemorating the May 18 Democratization Movement in Gwangju, he walked up to and comforted the representative of bereaved families with a warm hug after she finished reading her eulogy to her father. All these point to the servant leadership style of President Moon, for which Koreans aspire—a president who will heed their voices with a humble attitude.

President Moon Jae-in is working to lower the barriers of authoritarianism within Cheong Wa Dae to promote the free flow of communication and governance through cooperation. President Moon uses an office in the Yeomin-gwan building of the presidential compound with his secretaries, instead of an office at the main building that was used by previous presidents for their routine work. He also continues his unconventional moves for promoting communication by showing up at the Cheong Wa Dae Press Center to announce his appointments to key posts in person and briefing the press corps on the reasons behind his picks.



Early Life of Moon Jae-in



Son of a Refugee

President Moon Jae-in was born into a farming family on the southeastern island of Geoje on January 24, 1953. His parents were refugees who had left North Korea's northeastern port of Heungnam to seek shelter during the Korean War and settled in Geoje. Around the time he entered elementary school, the Moon family moved to Yeong-do island, Busan. Despite the financial difficulties of his family, he was admitted to the prestigious Gyeongnam Middle School and Gyeongnam High School and graduated with excellence. When he passed the entrance examination to Gyeongnam Middle School, his

father, who was taciturn most of the time, did not conceal how proud he was and took his son to the Gukje Market in Busan, also called the Nampodong International Market, to buy him his school uniform.

Poverty prevented him from doing many things he wanted to do, yet it also helped him stand on his own feet. In addition, memories of his childhood spent in poverty taught him lifelong lessons and served as an opportunity to make up his mind not to turn away from those in need but to give them a helping hand.

Moon Jae-in as a Gyeongnam High School Student (back row, middle)



Turbulent Adolescence

He graduated from middle and high schools in Busan, the second largest city in Korea. He was a young student who loved reading books and was very warm-hearted, as exemplified by his carrying of a disabled friend on his back on a school field trip. After entering university, he became a leader of the student democratization movement against Park Chung-hee's dictatorial regime. He ended up being arrested and released with a suspended jail term, but was then forcibly conscripted into the special forces. After finishing his military service, he devoted himself to the democratization movement again while preparing

for the bar exam. He wound up being arrested and detained. It was in a detention facility at a police station where he heard the news that he had passed the bar exam.

Moon Jae-in as a Member of the Special Forces





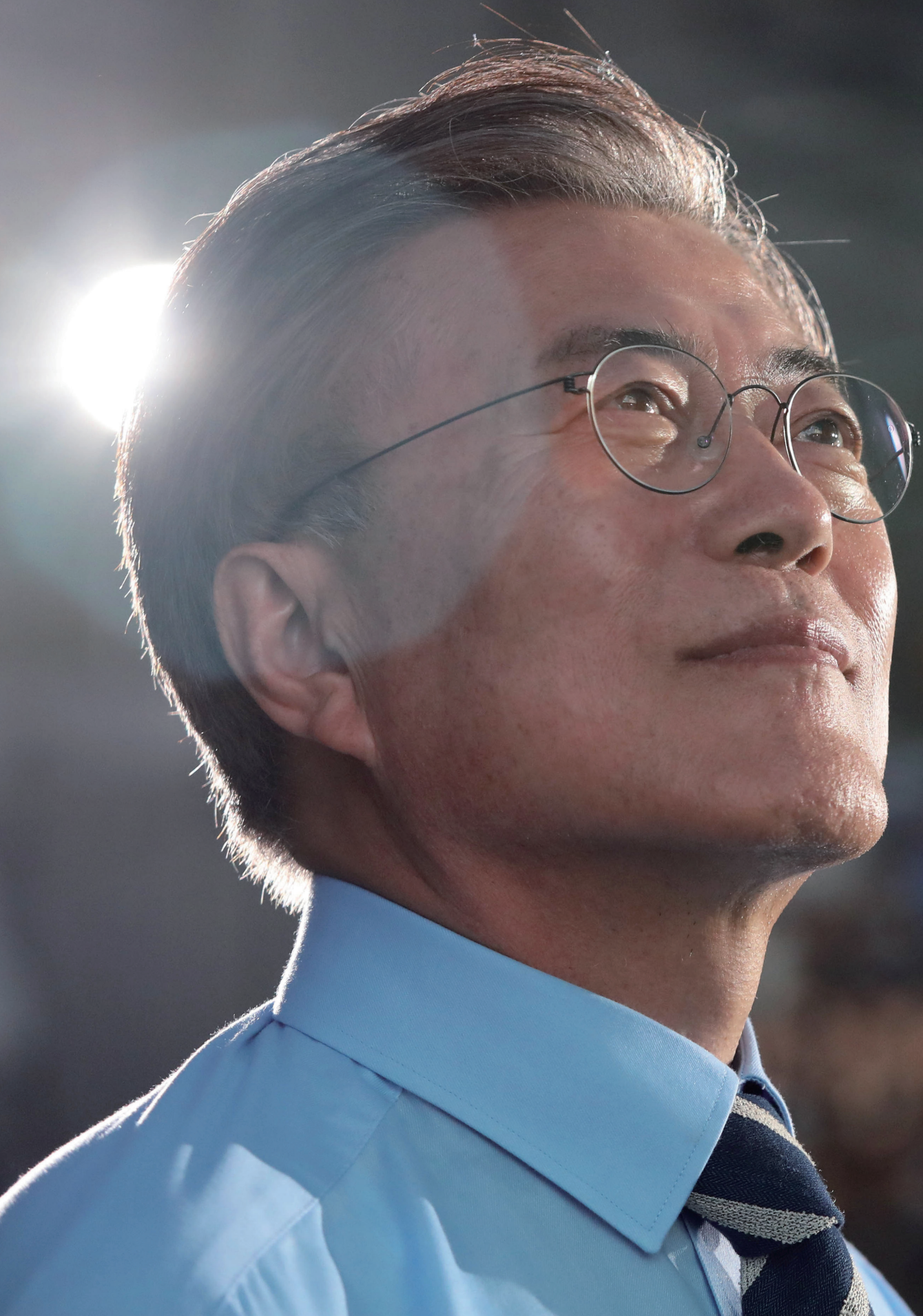
Human Rights Attorney

In 1982, he graduated second from the Judicial Research and Training Institute, but was disqualified from becoming a judge due to his involvement in the protest against the Yushin constitution of 1972, which was enacted to provide the basis for dictatorial rule. There was a job offer with favorable terms from a major law firm, but he turned it down believing that a lawyer has to help those suffering through no fault of their own. He went back to Busan to start his career as a lawyer, and he first met the future President Roh Moo-hyun there.

He did not intend to work as a human rights lawyer from the outset. At that time, however, there were many cases involving student and labor movements. He did not turn his face away from workers who finally came to seek help from him after suffering oppression. Relating to what they had to say in all sincerity, he did his best to defend them. Many people who were involved in student movements at that time recall meeting him often to the extent that they got bored of seeing him.



**Politician
Moon Jae-in**



Awakening to Politics

It was his father who first helped the young Moon Jae-in open his eyes to politics. In his childhood, he could find delight in reading thanks to his father who used to buy him books on his return home after finishing selling things. During his middle and high school years, he avidly read all the books he could lay his hands on one after another. In the process, he developed his own perspective on society. When a college student in the neighborhood visited his house, his father gave him detailed explanations about social affairs. During their conversations, Moon picked up much knowledge, which served as the foundation to develop a critical consciousness of the irrationality in society and analytical thinking later on.

The Participatory Government

Moon Jae-in was appointed Senior Secretary to the President for Civil Affairs after Roh Moo-hyun was elected President in 2003. Although he was a human rights lawyer who played a role as a critic of those in power and had no experience in running state or administrative affairs, he accepted the offer after being persuaded by President Roh and First Lady Kwon Yang-sook.

After working hard as Senior Secretary to the President for Civil Affairs for some time, he served as Chief of Staff for President Roh Moo-hyun until both left Cheong Wa Dae together. For the five years of the Participatory Government, Moon held fast to the position that any provocative acts detrimental to peace on the Korean Peninsula must not be tolerated. However, he also took the lead in paving the way for cooperation and peaceful exchanges between the two Koreas, working as the Chairperson of the Promotion Committee for the South-North Summit.

Cheong Wa Dae Chief of Staff Moon Jae-in Calling on Former President Kim Dae-jung



Elected President by Largest Margin in History

The sudden passing of President Roh Moo-hyun in May 2009 sent shock waves through the entire public, Moon Jae-in included. He took the role of a chief mourner and oversaw the overall procedures from the announcement of death to presiding over meetings for preparations for the funeral. President Roh had been a friend to him, a comrade and the person who led him into politics.

Moon was elected a National Assemblyman in the election for the 19th National Assembly, representing Sasang-gu District, Busan. He ran in the 18th presidential election as the sole candidate representing the entire opposition. From 2015 to January 2016, he was the Chairperson of the New Politics Alliance for Democracy, and he retained that position when the party name was changed to the Democratic Party of Korea. In November 2016, he took the initiative in efforts to impeach former President Park Geun-hye and spoke for and stayed together with the people who took part in the candlelight protests from the beginning to the end, lamenting that the country was not functioning properly. A snap presidential election was held following the dismissal of President Park. He ran for the presidency as the candidate of the Democratic Party, declaring that he would uphold the will of the people and help create a new Republic of Korea. On the strength of full support from the public, he won by the widest margin in Korean presidential election history and was elected President for the 19th term.



President of the All New Republic of Korea

Moon Jae-in desires to be the president who unifies the people for the first time in history. Breaking the wall of regional division and going beyond political ideology, he intends to become president of all the people, and bring together a Republic of Korea that has experienced unprecedented political upheavals. He dreams of achieving denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula and of South and North Korea becoming partners that can prosper together. Since changing the world is only possible with support from the people, he is dedicated to communicating and making changes. President Moon is opening the door to a new era when the people become the true master of the country, the new Republic of Korea.

“ We need to create a community that embodies respect and unity where each and every one of the people lives in harmony. The Republic of Korea will be changed by the people.”

From the statement dated March 24, 2017 announcing his candidacy for the 19th presidential election



Five Policy Goals of the Moon Jae-in Administration

VISION

A Nation of the People, a Just Republic of Korea

“A Nation of the People” signifies the embodiment of the new Administration, which carries on the spirit of the democratic candlelight rallies that reaffirmed the fact that the people are the rightful owners of the nation, and that runs state affairs in accordance with the constitutional spirit of popular sovereignty.

“A Nation of the People” pursues two objectives. The first is to transform the administration of state affairs so that the people’s will can be reflected in policies and individuals can participate in the entire process of running state affairs to formulate policies together. The second is to seek out collaborative governance and politics of unity serving all the people rather than any one class or section of the people by creating a government for everyone and politics driven by the people, not a government for the powers that be and politics centered on the elite.

“A Just Republic of Korea” sets a goal of eradicating unfair privileges and foul play, respecting principles and common sense, guaranteeing fair opportunities for everyone and addressing discrimination and disparities. “Equitable opportunities,” “fair processes” and “just results” are the core value of the Moon Jae-in Administration and the essence of governing philosophy to create a “Just Republic of Korea.”



GOALS

A Government of the People

“A Government of the People” sets its sight on establishing a new government system to realize popular sovereignty in institutions and everyday life. It pursues a government for everyone, not for a person in power, by putting down the privileges of the President who is domineering, revamping the administrative system that has collapsed due to the privatization of state power and carrying out democratic reforms in law-enforcement agencies. At the same time, it intends to usher in an era of a “Gwanghwamun President,” a President on an open plaza who connects with the people to further promote national unity.

An Economy Pursuing Mutual Prosperity

“An Economy Pursuing Mutual Prosperity” aims at being an economy in which the fruits of growth are equitably distributed to the population. Income-driven growth is a core principle of this goal. It also aims to restore a virtuous cycle in which increased household income boosts consumption, which in turn increases investments and production. In particular, job creation is regarded as a major task of the economy in that jobs provide the best welfare and also facilitate growth. Furthermore, active support will be provided for the advancement of science and technology and future growth industries to take the lead in the Fourth Industrial Revolution. In addition, a dynamic venture ecosystem will be created to nurture creative startups and innovative entrepreneurs.



A Nation Taking Responsibility for Each Individual

“A Nation Taking Responsibility for Each Individual” is intended to address socioeconomic inequalities, help people maintain a decent living and strengthen solidarity among people. State accountability in welfare, childcare, education, safety and the environment will be enhanced, through which an improvement in the quality of life will be sought. Efforts will be made to create a fair, discrimination-free society where labor is respected and gender equality is guaranteed as well as to achieve genuine social cohesion, thereby making it possible for all people to coexist harmoniously instead of engaging in unlimited competition and making a living on their own. By swiftly responding to progress in the knowledge-based information society, it aims for a nation of culture where individuals' rights are guaranteed, creativity is exercised and happiness for all is realized.

Well-balanced Development across Every Region

“Well-balanced Development across Every Region” is the goal that well captures the nature of the Moon Jae-in Administration. Bridging the gap between the capital and the other regions is an overriding national objective. What has to be carried out first to this end is to realize autonomy, decentralization and balanced development. To further promote autonomy and decentralization, functions of the central Government will be transferred to local governments and finances allocated to local governments will be increased. In addition, citizen autonomy will be further enhanced to realize grassroots democracy. For balanced development, the foundation for self-sustaining growth will be laid by maximizing the potential of each region to address socioeconomic disparities between the central region and local regions as well as between local regions.

A Peaceful and Prosperous Korean Peninsula

Given the situation surrounding the Republic of Korea, “A Peaceful and Prosperous Korean Peninsula” is the most important goal that the nation has to pursue in international relations. To attain this goal, it is necessary to establish a powerful, well-functioning security and defense system that can safeguard the territory and reassure the people. In addition, efforts for a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula have to be exerted by employing various measures, including sanctions and negotiations. At the same time, inter-Korean exchanges should be promoted to make the Korean Peninsula more prosperous. Furthermore, it is also necessary to reinforce international cooperation through diplomacy that promotes national interests.



Moon Jae-in

President of the Republic of Korea

Date of Birth
January 24, 1953
Place of Birth
Geoje Island, Gyeongsangnam-do Province, Korea
Marital Status
Married to Kim Jung-sook with a son, a daughter and two grandsons

Education

1980 LL.B., Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea
1971 Graduated from Kyungnam High School, Busan, Korea

Professional Career

2017 President of the Republic of Korea
2017 Presidential candidate of the Democratic Party of Korea for the 19th presidential election
2015 Chairperson of the Democratic Party of Korea
2014 Member of Interim Committee of the New Politics Alliance for Democracy
Chairperson of the Nuclear Plant Special Countermeasure Committee
2013 Standing Advisor of the Democratic United Party
2012 Candidate of the Democratic United Party for the 18th presidential election
Member of the 19th National Assembly from Sasang-gu, Busan
2011 Standing Co-representative for Innovation and Integration
2010 Chairperson of the Roh Moo-hyun Foundation
2007 Chief of Staff to the President of the Republic of Korea
Chairperson of the Promotion Committee for the 2nd South-North Summit
2005 Senior Secretary to the President for Civil Affairs
2004 Senior Secretary to the President for the Civic and Social Agenda
2003 Senior Secretary to the President for Civil Affairs
1982 Opened a law office specializing in human rights and civil society with Roh Moo-hyun, who became the President of Korea for the 16th term

Publication

2011 *Mun Jae-inui Unmyeong* (Moon Jae-in's Destiny)
2012 *Sarami Meonjeoda* (People Come First)
2012 *Moon Jae-ini Deurimnida* (Presented to You by Moon Jae-in)
2013 *Ggeuchi Sijagida* (The End is the Beginning)
2017 *Daehanmingugi Munneunda* (Questions from the Republic of Korea)
2017 *Unmeyong-eseo Huimang-euro* (From Destiny to Hope)



<http://www.president.go.kr>

<http://twitter.com/TheBlueHouseKR>

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<http://youtube.com/TheBlueHouseKR>

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