



연세대학교 아프리카연구원  
INSTITUTE OF AFRICAN STUDIES, YONSEI UNIVERSITY



# ANNUAL REPORT 2025

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Institute of African Studies  
Yonsei University





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*Africa today holds the keys  
to unlocking so many solutions  
to current global challenges that  
humanity and our planet are facing,  
including climate change and  
the UN Sustainable Development Goals.*

”

*H.E. Ban Ki-moon  
8th Secretary-General of the United Nations*

On December 19, 2025, H.E. Ban Ki-moon, the 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations, was appointed as Honorary Director of the Institute of African Studies (IAS) at Yonsei University. His appointment marks a significant milestone for the Institute as it seeks to expand its global engagement and strengthen its role as a leading platform for research and dialogue on Africa.

With decades of experience in international diplomacy and global governance, H.E. Ban Ki-moon has consistently emphasized the importance of sustainable development, multilateral cooperation, and global partnerships—values that closely align with the mission of the Institute of African Studies. As Honorary Director, he is expected to provide strategic guidance and international visibility to the Institute’s initiatives related to Africa–Korea cooperation, academic exchange, and policy research.

His appointment is also expected to further reinforce the Institute’s efforts to foster interdisciplinary research and build global networks connecting scholars, policymakers, and practitioners working on Africa-related issues. Through his leadership, the Institute aims to deepen its contribution to advancing knowledge on Africa while promoting collaborative solutions to shared global challenges.

# MESSAGE from the Honorary Director, H.E. Ban Ki-moon



Africa today plays an indispensable role in addressing global challenges and advancing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Without meaningful engagement with the continent's distinctive challenges and opportunities, it is difficult to speak credibly of building a truly sustainable and inclusive world. Africa must, therefore, be recognized as a key partner in shaping our shared future.

In this context, collaboration within higher education and solidarity with African countries are essential to nurturing the knowledge, innovation, and sense of shared responsibility required to further the progress of humanity. Through academic partnerships, joint research, and the exchange of students and scholars, we can respond to common challenges and contribute to a more just, peaceful, and sustainable future for all.

As a crucial part of Yonsei University, the Institute of African Studies draws upon Yonsei's longstanding commitment to global engagement and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, serving as a platform that brings together academia, the public sector, and civil society for sustainable development. It promotes comprehensive research and educational initiatives on African countries, builds networks with

African partners and diplomatic missions, and fosters equitable partnerships spanning the humanities, social sciences, engineering, medicine, and emerging technologies. In doing so, Yonsei University plays a significant role in advancing a Korea–Africa higher education partnership that contributes to the flourishing of both the African continent and the wider human community.

The Institute of African Studies has long served as a venue for constructive dialogue and meaningful cooperation. As Honorary Director, I am pleased to support its continued efforts to strengthen a forward-looking Korea–Africa partnership grounded in mutual respect, trust, and shared responsibility.

**Ban Ki-moon**  
8th Secretary-General of the United Nations  
Honorary Director, Institute of African Studies, Yonsei University

# OUR VISION & APPROACH

Yonsei University opened the Institute of African Studies in November 2023 as a way to recognize Africa's geopolitical importance and to establish active exchange and cooperation. It's the only independent research institute in Korea specializing in Africa, extending Yonsei University's core strategy to realize the SDGs.

## VISION

Empowering Yonsei & Empowering Africa

**Building Legacy, Furthering Humanity**

### Growth Cooperative System

Engage in medium to long-term cooperation with African countries, universities, and institutions across various fields through interdisciplinary research on Africa and research networks with African universities

### Share Human Resources

Cultivate outstanding researchers and pragmatic professionals by fostering multidisciplinary research in diplomacy, economics, politics, religion, architecture, medicine, history, engineering, and more

### Connect Partnership

- Conduct grounded, interdisciplinary research through international development cooperation in Africa
- Establish a research and talent exchange platform connecting Korea and Africa
- Realize the Yonsei spirit & social responsibility of the Yonsei University community

## APPROACH

Fusion, Practice, Innovation, and Connection  
→ "A Networking Hub for Innovation with Africa"

### 01 Interdisciplinary Research

Higher Education, Politics, Healthcare, Entrepreneurship, Economics, ICT, Engineering, Administration, Regional and Cultural Studies

### 02 Using Advanced Technology

AI, Aerospace, National Defense, Greenfield Economic Development, Management/Administration Deep - Tech sectors

### 03 Last-Mile Oriented Research

Conduct research applicable to last-mile field implementation by utilizing ODA projects and local networks

### 04 Establishing a Networking Hub

Various open innovations across healthcare, public sector, academia, embassies, investors, legal and accounting fields

# DIRECTOR'S GREETING

Prof. Samuel Y. Pang  
Director  
Institute of African Studies



When you hear the word “Africa,” what comes to mind?

For the Institute of African Studies, Africa is not defined by past images. It is a continent at the center of global change. As the world’s youngest and one of its fastest-growing regions, Africa’s rising population, expanding economies, and growing voice in global affairs are reshaping conversations about development and the future. The Institute of African Studies was founded with this understanding. We are working to better understand Africa today and to build meaningful connections between Korea and the African continent.

The Institute of African Studies (IAS) at Yonsei University was established in November 2023 in recognition of Africa’s growing importance. Guided by Yonsei’s founding spirit of “truth and freedom,” the Institute promotes rigorous research while encouraging open dialogue and strong partnerships between Korea and Africa. From the beginning, our goal has been clear: to create knowledge, build trust, and support long-term cooperation.

In 2025, we brought our vision into practice through academic and educational initiatives. The African Studies Seminar series fostered continued scholarly dialogue on Africa’s role in today’s world. We also introduced a general undergraduate course featuring African ambassadors as guest speakers and hosted the Conversation with Ambassadors, creating meaningful spaces for open dialogue and exchange. At the same time, we continued research on Africa and pursued cooperation with institutions on the African continent, strengthening both academic and institutional partnerships.

In addition, we were deeply honored to welcome H.E. Ban Ki-moon, the 8th Secretary-General of the United Nations, as Honorary Director of IAS. His lifelong dedication to global cooperation and sustainable development brings great meaning to our work. His leadership reminds us that progress begins with dialogue, respect, and shared responsibility.

Our journey in 2025 was one of building foundations. Beginning in 2026, we aim to take the next step. We will move toward more practical and action-based cooperation—expanding joint research, academic exchange, and partnerships with African universities, governments, and institutions. As the world continues to change, including through new technologies, we remain committed to ensuring that Africa and the broader Global South are included in shaping the future.

IAS will continue to grow—not only as a research institute on Africa, but as a true partner working together with Africa to build shared knowledge and shared futures.

We warmly invite scholars, students, and partners to join us in this next chapter.

# IAS PEOPLE

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A multidisciplinary group of experts from the humanities, social sciences, as well as the life sciences, medicine, and engineering, explores multi-dimensional research and solutions with real-world applications

## LEADERSHIP



**Prof. Sam Youl Lee**

Associate Director

Public Policy & Management  
Yonsei University



**Prof. Samuel Y. Pang**

Director

Theology  
Yonsei University



**Prof. Heon Joo Jung**

Professor

Public Policy & Management  
Yonsei University



## ORGANIZATION

Steering Committee

Honorary Director

Director

Associate Director

Advisory Committee

5 Specialized Research Centers

Center for Development Cooperation

Center for Global Health

Center for Creative Exchange

Center for Civil-Social Development

Center for Science, Technology, and Innovation

## STEERING COMMITTEE



**Prof. Shinki An**

College of Medicine, Yonsei Univ.  
Chairman, IGEE



**Prof. So Yoon Kim**

Graduate School of Public Health, Yonsei Univ.  
Public Health ODA



**Prof. Kiwon Song**

Dept. of Biochemistry, Yonsei Univ.  
Cell Cycle  
Science Communication



**Prof. Han Joo Lee**

Dept. of Education, Yonsei Univ.  
Global Education Cooperation



**Prof. Sang Kook Lee**

Dept. of Cultural Anthropology, Yonsei Univ.  
Refugees / Migration



**Prof. Keungoui Kim**

Underwood International College, Yonsei Univ.  
Technology Innovation Policy



**Prof. Inbok Rhee**

Dept. of Political Science and  
International Studies, Yonsei Univ.  
African Politics

# MAJOR ACTIVITIES in 2025

In 2025, the Institute of African Studies (IAS) at Yonsei University continued to expand its academic programs, institutional partnerships, and policy engagement related to Africa.

The Institute strengthened its global network through a series of institutional collaborations and exchanges. IAS signed Memoranda of Understanding with Yonhap News Agency, the Korea-Africa Foundation, and the Korea Institute for Development and Economic Cooperation (KAIDEC). IAS also hosted a visit from the Rwandan Minister of Health and the Vice Minister of Education and held meetings with the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa.

IAS further contributed to expanding Yonsei University's partnerships with African institutions by facilitating Memoranda of Understanding between Yonsei University and the University of South Africa (UNISA) and the University of Rwanda, strengthening academic collaboration between Korea and Africa.

IAS organized several academic events addressing key issues in African studies and global development, including the conference "Remembering the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda: Reflections for Future Generations" and an academic seminar on "U.S.—China Strategic Competition and Development Cooperation in Africa." The Institute also participated in major academic gatherings such as the 2025 Korean Public Administration Summer Conference and the Annual KAPA International Conference.

In addition, IAS contributed to international development initiatives through a WIPO-supported project on appropriate technology alternatives to brick firing in Uganda and participated in a comprehensive ODA assessment conducted by the Office for Government Policy Coordination, accompanied by an official business trip to Uganda.

In January 2026, IAS further expanded its field-based research and international engagement through a research field trip to South Africa and an official delegation visit to Rwanda, involving Yonsei University leadership. These initiatives contributed to deepening academic inquiry and strengthening institutional partnerships across the African continent.



Presidential Palace Museum - Kigali, Rwanda

2026

- JAN Field Research Trip to the Republic of South Africa  
Official Visit to the Republic of Rwanda
- DEC Academic Seminar  
: U.S. - China Strategic Competition and Development Cooperation in Africa
- NOV Conversation with Ambassadors
- SEP Launching New Liberal Arts Courses for Fall 2025  
Yonsei University 140th Anniversary Conference  
MOU between Yonsei University and the University of South Africa (UNISA)  
MOU between Yonsei University and the University of Rwanda
- JUL Comprehensive ODA Assessment by the Office for Government Policy Coordination  
& Official Business Trip to Uganda
- JUN 2025 Korean Public Administration Summer Conference  
& Annual KAPA International Conference  
[WIPO] Business Plan for the Implementation of Appropriate Technology Alternative  
to Brick Firing in Uganda
- MAY MOU with KAIDEC  
Meeting with South African Embassy
- APR Remembering the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda  
: Reflections for Future Generations (Conference)
- MAR MOU signed with the Korea-Africa Foundation  
GEEF Global Burden of Disease
- FEB MOU signed with Yonhap News Agency  
Visit of the Rwandan Minister of Health and Vice Minister of Education

2025

# KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

## PARTNERSHIPS

### MOU Signed with Yonhap News Agency

On February 26, 2025, the Institute of African Studies (IAS) at Yonsei University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Yonhap News Agency.

The MOU will enable both parties to expand their networks and collaborate on various projects related to Africa. Furthermore, in April 2025, Prof. Samuel Y. Pang, Director of the Institute of African Studies (IAS) at Yonsei University, participated in the Global Forum on Solutions for Forced Displacement in Africa, co-hosted by Yonhap News Agency and UNHCR. As a moderator, Director Pang led discussions on the role of Korean media in dismantling Western-centric narratives on Africa. IAS at Yonsei actively engages with the media to increase the public's understanding of Africa.



## PARTNERSHIPS

### MOU Signed with the Korea-Africa Foundation



On March 10, 2025, IAS signed an MOU with the Korea-Africa Foundation to make collaborative efforts in facilitating exchange between Korea and Africa.

Building on the MOU, the President of the Korea-Africa Foundation, Amb. Kim Young Chae, delivered a special lecture during the 10th week of the liberal arts course "African Insights and Real-World Diplomacy," organized by IAS in October 2025, under the title "Can the Korean Development Model be an Answer to African Countries?"

## PARTNERSHIPS

### MOU with KAIDEC

On May 26, 2025, IAS signed an MOU with the Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation (KAIDEC).

The agreement aims to promote mutual collaboration in the field of international development through joint research, academic exchange, and cooperative initiatives.

Through this partnership, IAS seeks to strengthen its global engagement and expand collaboration with academic and research institutions.



## PARTNERSHIPS

# MOU signed between Yonsei University and the University of South Africa (UNISA)

On September 24, 2025, IAS signed an MOU with the University of South Africa (UNISA) to promote academic cooperation and sustainable development.

The agreement aims to strengthen collaboration through joint research, the exchange of expertise, and capacity-building activities such as workshops and conferences. This partnership is expected to serve as a foundation for long-term cooperation in higher education and development studies.



## PARTNERSHIPS

# MOU signed between Yonsei University and the University of Rwanda



On September 24, 2025, IAS participated in the signing of an MOU between Yonsei University and the University of Rwanda to promote academic cooperation and exchange.

The agreement aims to strengthen collaboration through joint research, academic and administrative exchanges, and online and in-person learning initiatives.

Prof. Samuel Y. Pang, Director of IAS, and Prof. Sam Youl Lee, Associate Director of IAS, took part in the signing ceremony, underscoring the institute's role in advancing research and partnerships with African institutions.



## PARTNERSHIPS

### Meeting with the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Rwanda

From February 19 to 21, 2025, the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Rwanda visited Yonsei University and IAS to discuss strengthening cooperation in healthcare, higher education, and research.

The Minister of Health presented Rwanda's national health transformation strategy, including the "4x4" initiative to expand the health workforce, the development of residency and fellowship programs, and the establishment of the Rwanda Life Sciences Park and vaccine ecosystem. Discussions explored collaboration in medical education, advanced technology, and joint research.

The Vice Minister of Education introduced Rwanda's higher education development plan, highlighting the rapid growth in university enrollment and global academic partnerships. Both sides discussed faculty and student exchanges, joint research projects, and the possibility of establishing a Rwanda–Yonsei academic hub.

The visit provided an important opportunity to strengthen long-term institutional cooperation between Rwanda and Yonsei University.



## PARTNERSHIPS

### Meeting with the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa



On May 26, 2025, H.E. Ms. Sindiswa Ntombolimo MQUQU, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa and Mr. Thulani Nyembe, Counsellor, visited IAS at Yonsei University.

During the meeting, IAS and the South African Embassy confirmed their mutual willingness to strengthen cooperation and explored potential avenues for future collaboration.

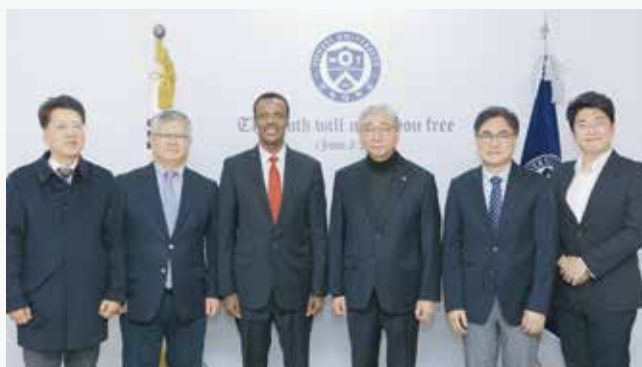
IAS introduced its vision and ongoing initiatives, highlighting Yonsei University's broader engagement with Africa. Director Pang underscored IAS's commitment to advancing Yonsei–South Africa relations, while the Ambassador emphasized the importance of sharing African perspectives and expressed appreciation for the platform provided by IAS and its past engagements. She also reaffirmed the Embassy's strong interest in working closely with IAS at Yonsei University.

## PARTNERSHIPS

### Meeting with the Embassy of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia

On December 19, 2025, H.E. Dessie Dalkie Dukamo, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia and Mr. Aschalew Tassew, First Secretary, visited IAS at Yonsei University.

During their visit, they met with Prof. Dong-Sup Yoon, President of Yonsei University, and the Director of IAS also joined the meeting. The delegation and university leadership held a cordial tea time, during which they exchanged views on strengthening academic cooperation and fostering closer ties between Ethiopia and Yonsei University. The meeting provided a valuable opportunity to discuss potential areas of collaboration in research, education, and institutional partnerships.



AFRICAN STUDIES SEMINAR 1

# 2025 1st African Studies Seminar - Prof. Dohyeong Kim

## "IT-based Research on Public Health in Africa"

On July 17, 2025, Institute of African Studies (IAS) at Yonsei University launched the 2025 African Studies Seminar Series to promote the exchange of knowledge and discussions on various topics related to Africa.

IAS invited Prof. Dohyeong Kim from the University of Texas at Dallas as the lecturer for the first seminar of the series. Under the theme 'IT-based Research on Public Health in Africa,' Prof. Kim introduced case studies in which IT and data-driven research contributed to improving public health systems in African countries.



AFRICAN STUDIES SEMINAR 2

# 2025 2nd African Studies Seminar - Joonhwa Cho, Ph.D.

## "Korea's Diplomacy toward Africa in the Trump 2.0 Era: Prospects and Challenges,"



On August 12, 2025, IAS hosted the 2nd African Studies Seminar featuring Dr. Joonhwa Cho, a research fellow at the Asia-Africa Center, Seoul National University Asia Center.

Under the theme 'Korea's Diplomacy toward Africa in the Trump 2.0 Era: Prospects and Challenges,' Dr. Cho discussed the need for Korea to prepare a detailed, long-term strategy for cooperating with Africa and deepen Africa-focused research amidst the rise of new players like China and the Middle Eastern states.



### AFRICAN STUDIES SEMINAR 3

## 2025 3rd African Studies Seminar - Dr. Kelechi A. Kalu "South Korea-Africa Relations : From Development and Security Perspectives"

On August 26, 2025, IAS hosted the 3rd African Studies Seminar featuring Dr. Kelechi A. Kalu, Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Riverside.

Titled 'Africa-South Korea Relations from Development and Security Perspectives,' the lecture highlighted the role of national security interests in shaping the development policies of donor countries, including Korea. Dr. Kalu also emphasized the potential of universities in leading cooperation between Korea and African countries by actively engaging the youth.



### AFRICAN STUDIES SEMINAR 4

## 2025 4th African Studies Seminar - Prof. Dong-Seok Kim "Africa in the Midst of U.S.-China Competition"



On November 17, 2025, IAS hosted the 4th African Experts Seminar inviting Professor Dong-Seok Kim from the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security, Korea National Diplomatic Academy. Under the theme 'Africa in the Midst of U.S.-China Competition,' Professor Kim analyzed the geopolitical dynamics where African nations pursue a balanced diplomatic strategy to maximize benefits between China's long-standing infrastructure influence and the U.S.'s renewed engagement for resource security following the re-election of Donald Trump.

### AFRICAN STUDIES SEMINAR 5

## 2025 5th African Studies Seminar x African Insights and Real-World Diplomacy

On November 27, 2025, IAS hosted the 5th African Studies Seminar as part of the undergraduate course "African Insights and Real-World Diplomacy." The seminar brought together faculty experts and students to examine contemporary diplomatic and governance issues shaping Africa's engagement with global powers and emerging technologies.

The session centered on two thematic presentations. Prof. Jiyoung Kim (Soongsil University) analyzed U.S.-China diplomacy and development cooperation in Africa, highlighting how aid has been used as a strategic instrument driven by security, economic, and commercial interests, and pointing to the likelihood of sustained competition between the two powers on the continent. Prof. Hanna Zoo (Hallym University) addressed the formation of AI governance norms in Africa, emphasizing the African Union's AI strategy, national priorities for applying AI to socioeconomic development, and the growing role of international organizations in supporting responsible and inclusive AI ecosystems.

Through these academic lectures and discussions, the seminar aimed to deepen students' understanding of Africa's evolving position in global diplomacy and development cooperation, underscoring Africa's increasing potential not only as a recipient of international initiatives but also as an active shaper of global norms.



## ACADEMIC EVENTS

# GEEF 2025, Global Burden of Disease

On March 14, 2025, Prof. Samuel Y. Pang, Director of the Institute of African Studies (IAS) at Yonsei University, participated as a panelist in the session titled "Burden of Disease in Africa: Call for Action" at GEEF 2025, held under the overall theme "Time for Action: Bridging Divides for a Sustainable Future."

The session was moderated by Prof. Jae Il Shin (Yonsei University College of Medicine) and brought together distinguished speakers including Awoke M. Temesgen (Ethiopian Public Health Institute), Akinkunmi Paul Okekunle (Seoul National University), Maegan Dirac (University of Washington), Justin Maeda (Africa CDC), and Sarah Soyeon Oh (Yonsei University).

In the discussion, Prof. Pang highlighted the role of Yonsei University and IAS in promoting collaborative research, academic partnerships, and practical solutions for addressing the growing burden of disease in Sub-Saharan Africa, emphasizing the importance of sustained global engagement and knowledge-sharing.



## ACADEMIC EVENTS

# Remembering the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda : Reflections for Future Generations

On April 8, 2025, in collaboration with the Embassy of Rwanda in Seoul, IAS hosted a conference to commemorate the 31st anniversary of the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda. Titled "Remembering the 1994 Genocide Against the Tutsi in Rwanda: Reflections for Future Generations," the conference featured presentations from professors in Korea and Rwanda specializing in theology, political science, literature, and peace studies. They explored the historical and social implications of the genocide, emphasizing their relevance for future generations. Through this event, IAS fostered greater awareness and a deeper understanding of the genocide among Yonsei students.



## ACADEMIC EVENTS

# Global Forum on Solutions for Forced Displacement in Africa



On April 24, 2025, Director Pang participated in the Global Forum on Solutions for Forced Displacement in Africa, co-hosted by Yonhap News Agency and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

As a moderator, Director Pang led discussions on the role of Korean media in dismantling Western-centric narratives on Africa, highlighting IAS's ongoing efforts to engage with the media and enhance public understanding of the continent.

ACADEMIC EVENTS

## 2025 Korean Public Administration Summer Conference and Annual KAPA International Conference

From June 18 to 20, 2025, IAS delivered a presentation at the 2025 Korean Public Administration Summer Conference to share progress on its research project "Comprehensive Evaluation of ROK's ODA Projects."

Commissioned by the Office for Government Policy Coordination of the Republic of Korea, the project aims to assess the relevance and appropriateness of Korea's current ODA projects and their evaluation systems, with the ultimate goal of developing comprehensive guidelines for Korea's ODA evaluation framework.



ACADEMIC EVENTS

## [WIPO] Business Plan for the Implementation of Appropriate Technology Alternative to Brick Firing in Uganda

In 2025, IAS implemented the International Intellectual Property Sharing Program (Appropriate Technology Development for Brick Manufacturing in Uganda), supported by the Korea Invention Promotion Association, in collaboration with the Nakawa Vocational Training College (NVTC) in Kampala. The project aimed to address productivity limitations and environmental challenges, such as deforestation and air pollution, associated with traditional fired brick production by promoting environmentally friendly, non-fired Compressed Earth Block (CEB) technologies.

To this end, the project conducted baseline research on Uganda's brick industry and market conditions, carried out field-based needs assessments, and developed an appropriate technology strategy based on patent information analysis. Reflecting local environmental conditions, including energy availability and soil characteristics, two core technologies—a hydraulic brick molding machine and a brick mixing machine with a screening function—were designed and localized. In addition, plans for on-site installation, commissioning, user manuals, and operation and maintenance training were established, laying the foundation for improved brick quality and productivity, reduced environmental impact, and strengthened local technical capacity for sustainable dissemination.



# Comprehensive ODA Assessment by the Office for Government Policy Coordination & Official Visit to the Republic of Uganda

## Comprehensive ODA Assessment by the Office for Government Policy Coordination (OPC)



IAS conducted the 2025 ODA Comprehensive Diagnostic Study for Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Uganda, commissioned by the Office for Government Policy Coordination (OPC) of the Republic of Korea. Implemented throughout 2025, the study aimed to comprehensively assess Country Partnership Strategies (CPS), ODA implementation systems, and the performance of key development cooperation projects. Through in-depth country-level analyses and comparative reviews of advanced donor countries and international organizations, the study identified structural limitations in Korea's ODA performance management framework and proposed policy recommendations for improvement. In particular, contribution analyses of representative projects examined Korea's development cooperation outcomes in areas such as regional development, education, and health and sanitation. The findings of this study are expected to serve as an important policy reference for enhancing CPS alignment and strengthening recipient country-centered, integrated ODA performance management systems. The study also contributes to reinforcing strategic coherence and evidence-based policymaking in Korea's overall development cooperation framework.

## Official Visit to the Republic of Uganda

Furthermore, from July 27 to August 2, 2025, IAS conducted an official visit to Uganda as part of the "2025 ODA Comprehensive Diagnostic Study (Vietnam, Bangladesh, and Uganda)" commissioned by the Office for Government Policy Coordination (OPC) of the Republic of Korea. The mission aimed to comprehensively assess Uganda's ODA implementation system, the performance of key development cooperation projects, and the broader institutional and policy environment. The delegation consisted of Associate Director Sam Youl Lee of the Institute of African Studies, along with KOICA Young Professionals (YPs) Ms. Yoonjae Ko and Ms. Gahyun Park.

During the mission, the delegation visited Baitambogwe Health Center III (HCIII) to review the implementation status and sustainability of the Busoga Sexual and Reproductive, Maternal, and Adolescent Health program. The team also visited Lagana Vocational Training Institute to examine the operational status of Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programs, their alignment with industry demand, and youth employment outcomes.

In addition, meetings were held with the Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Denmark, the World Bank Country Office, representatives of KOFIH (National Cancer Center project site), and officials from the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Uganda to discuss cooperation strategies, performance management systems, and policy coordination mechanisms. Further consultations were conducted with representatives from the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Embassy of Sweden, the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ), the Austrian Development Agency (ADA), and other development partners to review country strategies, priority sectors, and opportunities for enhanced donor coordination.

This field mission provided critical insights into the strategic alignment and effectiveness of Korea's ODA portfolio in Uganda and contributed to the development of policy recommendations for strengthening recipient country-centered and integrated ODA performance management systems.



Lagana Vocational Training Institute



World Bank Group



UCI - Global Oncology Research Centre

## Launching New Liberal Arts Courses for Fall 2025 : African Insights and Real-World Diplomacy



In Fall 2025, the Institute of African Studies at Yonsei University, in collaboration with Prof. Samuel Y. Pang (Institute of African Studies) and Prof. Inbok Rhee (Department of Political Science and International Studies at Yonsei University), launched a new liberal arts course titled "African Insights and Real-World Diplomacy."

Due to high demand, the course venue was moved to the Grand Auditorium of Baekyang Hall and expanded into a public lecture series. This innovative course features distinguished African ambassadors as guest speakers, providing both students and the broader public with a rare opportunity to engage directly with the realities of Africa and the practice of diplomacy.



- H.E. Bakuramutsa Nkubito MANZI, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda
- H.E. Togolani Edriss MAVURA, Ambassador of the United Republic of Tanzania
- H.E. Dessie Dalkie DUKAMO, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- Mr. Sherif Gamil Said Fayed, the First Secretary of the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt in the Republic of Korea
- H.E. Amb. Kim Young Chae, President of the Korea-Africa Foundation, Former Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Libya and Nigeria
- H.E. Sindiswa Ntombolimo MQUQU, Ambassador of the Republic of South Africa to the Republic of Korea
- H.E. Dr. Park Jongdae, Former Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Uganda and South Africa, a visiting professor of Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies and Korea Development Institute (KDI)
- H.E. Emmy Jerono KIPSOI, Ambassador of the Republic of Kenya

## Yonsei University 140th Anniversary Conference

From September 24 to 26, 2025, Yonsei University hosted its 140th Anniversary Conference, titled "1885–2025 Yonsei University: Pioneering the Future of Christian Higher Education," across the Sinchon Campus and the International Campus. Organized by IAS, the conference was held under the guiding vision of carrying forward the devotion of the founders as a responsibility for the common good. The event brought together more than 100 higher education leaders from 30 countries across Asia, Africa, and Latin America, along with over 60 speakers and approximately 200 participants from Korea and abroad, to explore pathways for global cooperation in higher education. Spanning three days, the conference consisted of several major programs: Flourishing of Life: Life Sciences; Progress of Humanity: Artificial Intelligence and Technology; Inheriting and Realizing the Legacy: Social Engagement and Transformation; and the Songdo Forum, among others. The conference concluded with the reading of the Songdo Declaration, which articulated core themes including human dignity amid scientific and technological advancement, higher education as a form of witness, global solidarity and shared responsibility, and a collective vision looking toward the year 2035.



## Conversation with Ambassadors

### AI DIVIDE : From Technological Inequality to Shared Prosperity

On November 18, 2025, IAS hosted the "Conversation with Ambassadors" event under the theme "AI Divide: From Technological Inequality to Shared Prosperity." The event brought ambassadors from 13 African countries, policymakers, and industry leaders together to discuss how AI can support sustainable development.

**Prof. Il Im**, Associate Director of the AI Future Innovation Center at Yonsei University, introduced the institute's vision for collaboration with Africa. He highlighted efforts such as building GPU infrastructure, developing medical big data platforms, and supporting research programs, while emphasizing future cooperation with African universities and industries to build a global AI ecosystem.

**Prof. Sam Youl Lee** of Yonsei University addressed the growing AI divide in education, pointing to challenges such as population growth, teacher shortages, unequal digital access, and gaps in AI literacy. He stressed the need for teacher training, affordable devices, localized AI learning tools, and stronger data governance.

**Mr. Chul Park**, Vice President at Hyundai Motor Group, presented the company's vision for Africa, focusing on green hydrogen, infrastructure development, and EV supply chains. He also introduced Hyundai's broader efforts in future mobility, including robotics and autonomous vehicles, as well as partnerships for talent development.

Representatives from **Lunit**, including **Mr. Kihwan Kim** and **Ms. Soheun Lee**, showcased AI-powered cancer diagnostics such as Lunit INSIGHT and Lunit SCOPE. They highlighted WHO-recognized TB screening projects and successful deployments across multiple countries, emphasizing AI's role in improving early diagnosis and healthcare access.

Finally, **Mr. Sung Dong Cho** of **Boditech Med** presented the company's work across 44 African countries, focusing on point-of-care diagnostic solutions for cancer, infectious diseases, and maternal health. He introduced a collaborative model with Yonsei University aimed at technology transfer, local manufacturing, and sustainable healthcare development in Africa.

#### [ African Diplomatic Corps in Korea ]

- H.E. Dessie Dalkie DUKAMO, Ambassador of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia
- H.E. Mrs. Amira Agarib, Ambassador of the Republic of Sudan
- H.E. Bakuramutsa NKUBITO MANZI, Ambassador of the Republic of Rwanda
- H.E. Kais DARRAGI, Ambassador of the Republic of Tunisia
- H.E. Amb. Paul Sobba Massaquoi, Ambassador of the Republic of Sierra Leone
- H.E. Sianga Kivuila Samuel Abilio, Ambassador of the Republic of Angola
- H.E. Kojo CHOI, Ambassador of the Republic of Ghana
- Amb. Jacqueline KENANI, Deputy Head of the Embassy of the Republic of Kenya
- Mr. Koffi Philippe MALAN, Minister-Counsellor of the Embassy of the Republic of Côte d'Ivoire
- Mrs. Wray Mulendema HAMWEENE, Minister-Counsellor (Deputy Head of Mission) of the Embassy of the Republic of Zambia
- Mr./Ms. Sumda Usman Mamman, Minister of the Embassy of the Federal Republic of Nigeria
- Mr. Sherif Gamil Said Fayed, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Arab Republic of Egypt
- Ms. Khantše Sekatawa, First Secretary of the Embassy of the Republic of South Africa

#### [ Speakers ]

- Prof. IL IM
  - Department of Business Administration, School of Business, Yonsei University
  - Director of the AI Future Innovation Center at the Institute for AI and Social Innovation
- Prof. Sam Youl Lee
  - Professor of the Department of Public Policy and Management, Yonsei University
- Mr. Chul Park
  - Vice President, Head of New Business Strategy Group at Hyundai Motor Company
- Mr. Kihwan Kim
  - Head of Cancer Screening Group, Lunit Inc.
- Ms. Soheun Lee
  - Sr. Manager, Lunit Inc.
- Mr. Sung Dong Cho
  - CBSO (Chief Business Development & Strategy Officer), Boditech Med, Inc.





## Field Research Trip to the Republic of South Africa



University of South Africa (UNISA), Pretoria

From January 9 to 17, 2026, the Institute of African Studies (IAS) at Yonsei University conducted a field research trip to Johannesburg and Cape Town, South Africa. This visit aimed to critically reflect on anti-apartheid resistance and its implications for the country's contemporary socio-political, economic, and cultural challenges, drawing on the perspectives of Achille Mbembe, Itumeleng Mosala, Steve Biko, Frantz Fanon, and related thinkers.

Upon arrival, a pre-orientation session was held to prepare participants for the academic program and site engagements. A central activity of the visit was a Seminar & Forum at the University of South Africa (UNISA) in Pretoria, focusing on anti-apartheid resistance, Black Consciousness, and Mosala's Black theological hermeneutics. Prof. Samuel Y. Pang, Director of the Institute, delivered a presentation examining the historical development of Black theology and its continuing relevance.

The event was successfully held with active participation and contributed to strengthening institutional collaboration under the Yonsei–UNISA MoU framework for faculty and student exchanges.

The research trip also sought to apply Mbembe's concept of necropolitics to analyze how sovereignty and structural violence continue to shape post-apartheid "death-worlds," while integrating Mosala's Marxist critique of class within racial struggle, Biko's emphasis on psychological liberation, and Fanon's warnings regarding the unfinished project of decolonization.

To contextualize these theoretical frameworks, the delegation visited major anti-apartheid sites, including the Union Buildings, Soweto, District Six, Mandela memorial sites, and Regina Mundi Church, Soweto. Interviews and discussions with scholars and local partners, particularly professors at the University of South Africa (UNISA), further addressed contemporary issues such as gender-based violence, inequality, and unemployment.



Regina Mundi Church, Soweto



Hector Pieterse Memorial, Johannesburg

Mandela's House, Johannesburg

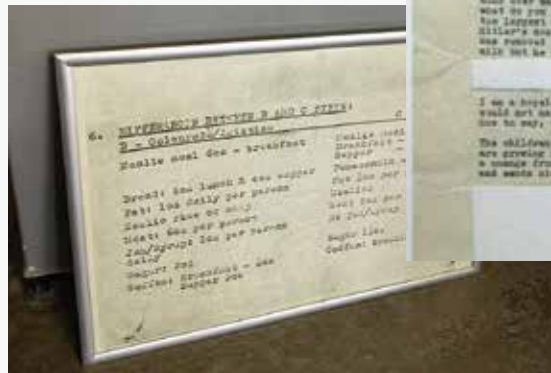
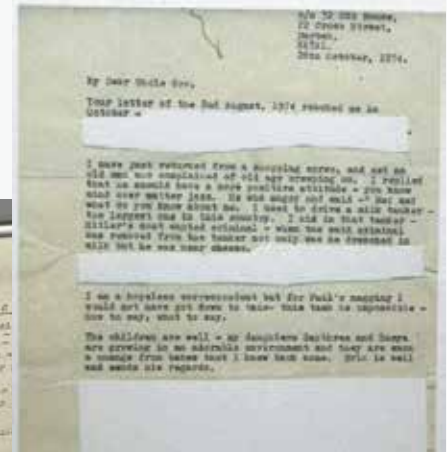
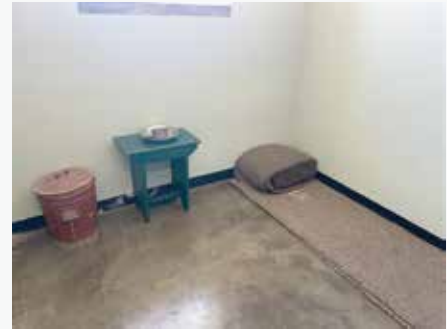
As part of the subsequent program, the delegation visited Robben Island and the District Six Museum in Cape Town. The visits were conducted in line with the objectives of the field research, aiming to gain a deeper understanding of how institutionalized racial discrimination and forced segregation under apartheid shaped structural inequality and affected individuals and communities.

Robben Island, historically known as a political prison, was a site where anti-apartheid leaders and activists were detained under harsh and discriminatory conditions. The delegation learned how prisoners were subjected to unequal treatment based on race, including differences in food rations, labor assignments, and living conditions. They also visited the prison cell where Nelson Mandela was held for 18 years, reflecting on the profound historical transformation of the site—from a symbol of oppression to one of reconciliation and democratic resilience.

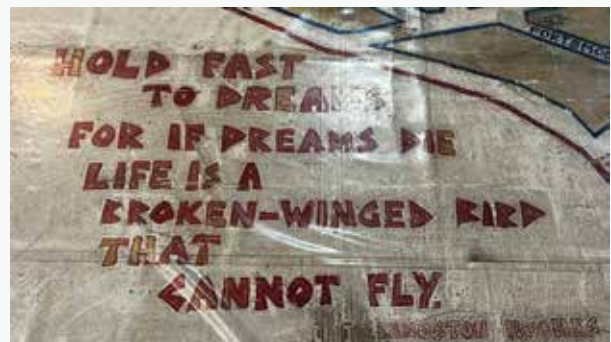
The visit to the District Six Museum further illuminated the impact of apartheid's forced removal policies. Once a vibrant, multiracial community, District Six was declared a "white area" in the 1950s, resulting in the forced displacement of more than 60,000 residents and the destruction of established communities.

Through archival materials and personal testimonies, the museum illustrates how urban space was restructured by state power and racial legislation.

Together, these visits provided critical historical context for understanding how structural discrimination continues to shape social, educational, and health disparities. They offered a meaningful opportunity to connect historical memory with contemporary discussions on equity, partnership, and sustainable development.



Robben Island, Cape Town



District Six Museum, Cape Town

# Official Visit to the Republic of Rwanda



Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Rwanda

On January 27, 2025, the Yonsei University delegation, including members of the university leadership and the Director and Associate Director of the Institute of African Studies, visited the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Rwanda, the Ministry of Education of Rwanda, the Presidential Palace Museum, and the University of Rwanda.

The delegation first visited the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Rwanda, where discussions were held on strengthening academic and educational cooperation between Yonsei University and Rwanda. The meeting also provided an opportunity to exchange views on Yonsei University's engagement strategy in Africa and explore possible avenues for expanding university-level partnerships and collaborative initiatives. The delegation then visited the Ministry of Education of Rwanda to discuss the expansion of educational cooperation between Yonsei University and the Rwandan government.



Ministry of Education, Rwanda

Conversations focused on potential collaboration in higher education, including student exchange programs, scholarship initiatives, joint research projects, and the development of academic partnerships.



Both sides also discussed Rwanda's vision of strengthening its role as an educational hub in East Africa and the potential role of international academic partnerships in achieving this goal. The delegation also visited the Presidential Palace Museum to gain a deeper understanding of Rwanda's historical and political development. This visit provided valuable context for future collaboration and enhanced mutual understanding of Rwanda's national development trajectory. The day concluded with a visit to the University of Rwanda, where meetings were held with university representatives to discuss potential academic partnerships. Topics included faculty collaboration, joint research initiatives, and student exchange programs, as well as opportunities to build broader academic networks with higher education institutions in Rwanda.



Presidential Palace Museum



University of Rwanda





Carnegie Mellon University, Rwanda

On January 28, 2026, the Yonsei University delegation visited Carnegie Mellon University Africa, CHUK (University Teaching Hospital of Kigali), IRCAD, the Ministry of Health of Rwanda, and the Rwanda Military Hospital, engaging in a series of meetings focused on strengthening collaboration in technology education, healthcare, and medical training.

The delegation began the day with a visit to Carnegie Mellon University Africa, where discussions centered on innovation-driven education and the development of highly skilled professionals in the fields of information and communication technology. The meeting provided an opportunity to exchange perspectives on advanced engineering education, digital transformation, and the role of international academic collaboration in supporting technological development in Africa. Both sides explored potential avenues for cooperation in education and research, particularly in areas related to emerging technologies and interdisciplinary training.



CHUK (University Teaching Hospital of Kigali)

The delegation then visited CHUK (University Teaching Hospital of Kigali), Rwanda's largest public teaching hospital and a key institution for clinical education and medical training. During the visit, the delegation toured the hospital's facilities and gained insight into the country's healthcare delivery system and medical education framework. Discussions focused on the challenges and opportunities facing Rwanda's healthcare sector, as well as potential collaboration in medical education, clinical training, and knowledge exchange between medical institutions.

The visit to IRCAD provided an opportunity to learn about advanced surgical training programs and medical technology education in Rwanda. The delegation observed the facilities dedicated to minimally invasive surgery training and discussed possibilities for cooperation in medical research, surgical education, and capacity building in healthcare technologies.

The delegation also held a meeting with officials from the Ministry of Health of Rwanda, where discussions focused on Rwanda's national healthcare development strategy and its long-term vision of strengthening healthcare infrastructure and human resource capacity. In particular, the meeting addressed opportunities for collaboration in medical education, hospital development and management, healthcare workforce training, and international research partnerships. Both sides recognized the importance of academic and institutional collaboration in advancing Rwanda's goal of becoming a regional healthcare hub in East Africa.

The day concluded with a visit to the Rwanda Military Hospital, where the delegation was introduced to the hospital's clinical services, medical training programs, and healthcare delivery systems. Discussions explored potential areas for collaboration in clinical training, medical education, and healthcare system development, with particular emphasis on strengthening institutional partnerships and sharing best practices in hospital management and patient care.



IRCAD Africa



Minister of Health, Rwanda



Rwanda Military Hospital



King Faisal Hospital, Rwanda

delegation shared insights into the university's educational and research initiatives and emphasized the importance of strengthening partnerships between Korean and African institutions.

Overall, the visit served as an important opportunity to deepen Yonsei University's engagement with Rwanda and to explore concrete avenues for collaboration in higher education, healthcare, and human resource development. Through meetings with government institutions, universities, and major medical centers, the delegation gained valuable insight into Rwanda's national development priorities and its efforts to strengthen its role as a regional hub for education, technology, and healthcare.

The visit also helped establish a foundation for long-term institutional partnerships between Yonsei University and key Rwandan stakeholders. In particular, the discussions highlighted the potential for collaboration in areas such as academic exchange, joint research, medical education, and hospital development. By strengthening dialogue and mutual understanding between the institutions involved, the visit contributed to identifying shared goals and opportunities for future cooperation.

Ultimately, the visit marked a meaningful step toward expanding Yonsei University's global partnerships in Africa while supporting Rwanda's broader efforts to develop its higher education and healthcare systems. It also reaffirmed Yonsei University's commitment to fostering mutually beneficial international collaboration and contributing to sustainable development through education, research, and institutional cooperation.

In particular, the visit created momentum for further dialogue and concrete initiatives between Yonsei University and Rwandan institutions. It is expected that the relationships established during this visit will contribute to the development of sustainable academic and medical partnerships in the years ahead.

On January 30, 2026, the delegation visited King Faisal Hospital in Rwanda, one of the country's leading tertiary referral hospitals, and participated in a public lecture at the University of Rwanda – College of Medicine and Health Sciences (UR-CMHS).

During the visit to King Faisal Hospital, the delegation met with hospital leadership and toured key medical facilities to better understand the hospital's healthcare services, clinical operations, and training programs. As one of Rwanda's most advanced medical institutions, the hospital plays an important role in providing specialized healthcare services and training medical professionals in the country. Discussions focused on potential collaboration in hospital development and management, clinical training programs, and medical education partnerships. The delegation also explored possibilities for knowledge exchange and institutional cooperation that could contribute to strengthening Rwanda's healthcare system and improving access to high-quality medical services.

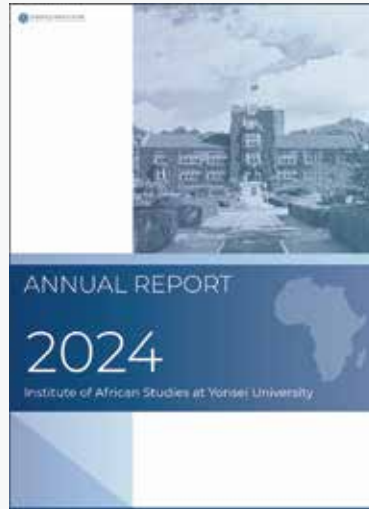
Following the hospital visit, the delegation attended a public lecture hosted by the University of Rwanda – College of Medicine and Health Sciences (UR-CMHS). The lecture brought together students, faculty members, and academic leaders to discuss the importance of international academic cooperation and knowledge exchange in addressing global health and development challenges. During the session, the Yonsei University



UR-CMHS public lecture

# PAST PUBLICATIONS

## Annual Reports



*Annual Report 2024*

## Seasonal Newsletters



*2025 Spring*



*2025 Summer*



*2025 Winter*



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