

## Commendation

Dr. Cha-Yol Koo was born in the city of Jinju, South Gyeongsang Province, South Korea on March 2, 1953. After graduating from Seoul High School in 1972, he enrolled in the Business Administration Department of Korea University, graduating in 1979. Later, he completed the London Business School in 1999.

He joined LG International (now LX International) in 1978 and spent the next fifteen years working in international business in various locations around the world, including New York, Singapore, and Japan. By 1994, he had risen to prominence as a leader driving Korea's economic sphere from a global perspective, serving as the head of the international division at LG Investment & Securities (now NH Investment & Securities).

He joined LG Cable (now LS Cable & System) in 2001, where as Vice President, CEO and Chairman he oversaw the purchase of major US cable maker Superior Essex (SPSX), growing LS Cable & System into one of the top three cable manufacturers in the world. He served as Chairman of the LS Group for nine years from 2013, leading the evolution of the group into a global enterprise operating across 25 countries and 100 locations, making significant contributions to strengthening Korean industry's competitiveness on the global stage.

In 2021, he was appointed the 31st Chairman of the Korea International Trade Association (KITA). In this role, he actively promoted regulatory reform proposals and collaboration with the government through "trade-focused management". In particular, he dedicated himself to improving economic cooperation between Japan and Korea from the perspective of the business community, and made significant contributions to restoring economic trust between the two nations by establishing the "Japan-Korea Exchange Special Committee" and maintaining continuous dialogue with Japan's political and business circles.

Additionally, in his roles as co-chair of the National Intellectual Property Committee, which is chaired by the Prime Minister of Korea, and as president of the Korea Invention Promotion Association, he has continuously worked to improve the country's patent system and establish an intellectual property ecosystem. Through these efforts, he has left a remarkable legacy by strengthening Korea's intellectual foundation. Furthermore, by serving as a bridge between the private sector and the government, he has contributed significantly to creating a sustainable economic environment for future generations.

In the field of academia, education, and the arts, he served as the 33rd president of the Korea University Alumni Association for three years from 2019. During this time he dedicated himself to supporting his alma mater, strengthening the unity of over 350,000 alumni and nurturing the younger generations. He continues to contribute to this cause as Chairman of the Korea University Development Committee. In recognition of his achievements, he was awarded an honorary Doctor of Philosophy degree in 2023. Since 2022, he has also served as the organizing committee chairman for Korea's largest art fair, KIAF. In 2025, he was appointed Chairman of the Board of the Seoul Arts Center, Korea's premier large-scale arts facility, a role in which he demonstrates his leadership in bridging artistic development and society. Additionally, as chairman of the nonprofit organization Song Gang Foundation, which was established to enrich and bring value to society through discoverig and supportting talented individuals in the fields of culture, the arts, and sports, and as editor-in-chief of the quarterly magazine Bobodam, he has continually endeavored to nurture the next generation of cultural, artistic, and athletic talent and promote their efforts to society.

Waseda University and Korea University established an academic exchange agreement in 1973, building on their tradition of regular soccer matches, which began in 1962. Since then, the two universities have expanded their collaboration to include academic, athletic, and cultural activities, and in 2002, the alumni associations of both universities signed an exchange agreement enabling further exchanges at various levels, including among students, faculty, staff, and alumni. While serving as president of the Korea University Alumni Association, Dr. Koo consistently supported Korea University students in continuing their studies despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. Furthermore, he has worked diligently to revitalize alumni association activities at both universities. Through mutual visits and the hosting of forums, he strengthened the relationship between the two universities and fostered friendship between Japan and Korea. His leadership during this period provided a major impetus for building a friendly and substantive relationship between the two alumni associations.

In this way, Dr. Koo has demonstrated outstanding leadership and a comprehensive, international perspective in various fields across South Korea's industrial, academic, and cultural sectors, and he is particularly notable for his immense achievements in promoting mutual understanding and development, both within Korea and around the globe. He has done so by helping to deepen economic cooperation and interpersonal exchange between Japan and Korea, even during periods of political tension between the two nations. His efforts have also laid a solid foundation for academic and student exchanges between Japan and Korea, from which our university has greatly benefited.

Furthermore, Dr. Koo, as President of the Korea University Alumni Association, has made significant contributions to Korea University's education and research, as well as to the further development of friendly relations and academic exchanges between Korea University and Waseda University, based on his profound understanding of the academic field. His contributions to the internationalization of our university are commendable.

Dr. Cha-Yol Koo, the 33rd president of the Korea University Alumni Association, is most fittingly receiving an honorary doctorate.

Here, the President, Trustees, Audator, and the entire faculty and staff of Waseda University have unanimously decided to confer the degree of honorary doctor on Cha-Yol Koo.

*Vivat universitas scientiarum! Laudate quem universitas honorabit!*

October 18, 2025

Waseda University