

Press Release

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한국대학교육협의회
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KCUE Holding the 2024 Summer University Presidents' Seminar

Under the theme <The challenge for the Mutual Growth of Universities and Local Communities>

- The Korean Council for University Education (KCUE) announced on June 19 that it will hold the Summer University Presidents' Seminar under the theme "The challenge for the Mutual Growth of Universities and Local Communities" at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Incheon, located in Jung-gu, from June 19 (Wednesday) to June 20 (Thursday). The seminar will be attended by the presidents of 135 universities out of the 197 member universities nationwide.
- Chairman of the KCUE Park Sang-gue (President of Chung-Ang University) stated in his opening remarks, "The university community is facing a crisis while also being challenged by the demands of the times." He also mentioned that the crisis in the university community is due to the 'sharp decline in the school-age population caused by the demographic cliff,' and the 'continuously increasing fixed expenditures due to annual inflation over the past 15 years,' and, despite this, the 'decrease in university revenue resulting from tuition freezes and reductions, which has led universities to face financial limitations.' He emphasized that universities are making constant efforts to endure this challenging period.
- He added that in the era of the Fourth Industrial Revolution and digital transformation, with the growing demand for talent in new innovative technologies such as the Internet of Things (IoT), artificial intelligence (AI), robotics, and big data solutions, our universities are facing a need for change and innovation in all aspects of university management, including educational conditions, curricula, and teaching methods. He also emphasized that universities are being called upon to play a key role in overcoming the crisis

of regional extinction due to low birth rates and aging populations, and to serve as a driving force for regional innovation through collaboration between local governments, industries, and academia.

- He emphasized that the role of universities is to contribute to the transformation and development of all areas of the local community, including culture, economy, and industry, by leading the way in nurturing the key talents of future society and developing new technologies.
 - He also emphasized that local governments must play the role of a connecting link in the networking between regional universities, businesses, research institutes, and related organizations. He stressed the importance of supporting efforts to improve and establish living conditions in local areas, in order to enhance and solidify the sustainable growth potential of local communities, encouraging collaboration among all parties.
- Additionally, Chairman Park emphasized that the time has come for universities and local governments to work together as an organic community, focusing on communication, collaboration, and sharing, rather than competition, in order to create common values and synergies for regional innovation. He stated that in this era, both universities and local governments must reflect on and seek solutions together, growing collectively. He also expressed his intention to continue engaging in constructive discussions moving forward.
- Meanwhile, on the first day, June 19 (Monday), there were sessions for a 'Topic Presentation' and 'Dialogue with the Ministry of Education,' during which in-depth discussions were held on the broader framework of the Regional Innovation System & Education (RISE) and the roles of universities and local governments.
- **<Topic Presentation>** President Oh Deok-seong (Woosong University) gave a presentation on the broader framework of the RISE system, while President Yang O-bong (Jeongbuk National University) discussed the role of universities, and Kim Dong-hyun, Director of Education Support Policy Division (Gwangju Metropolitan City), spoke on the role of local governments. Focused discussions were held on university-local government collaboration strategies ahead of the full implementation of the system in 2025.
 - **<Dialogue with the Ministry of Education>** Vice Minister of Education Oh

Seok-hwan and the Director of Office of Human Capital Policy, along with other officials, participated as panelists to exchange views with university presidents on a wide range of higher education policies, including university finance, university evaluation, regulations, and innovation.

- On the second day, June 20 (Thursday), the final day of the 2024 Summer University Presidents' Seminar, presentations continued under the broader theme of 'Discussions on Strategies to Expand the Role and Function of Universities.' within the RISE system. Lee Jang-han, Director of Student Affairs at Chung-Ang University, presented on 'Collaboration Strategies between Universities and Local Governments to Strengthen College Students' Mental and Psychological Health'; Kim Byeong-tae, Researcher at the Gyeongbuk Research Institute, gave a presentation on 'Challenges for Expanding the Lifelong Education Function of Universities under the RISE System'; and Bae Soon-min, Director at the KT Responsible AI Center, delivered a presentation on 'University Education and Ethics in the Age of AI.'