

Governing AI for Innovation and Trust

Korea's Approach through the AI Basic Act

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AI

Korea's Journey toward AI Governance

From Innovation Policy to Institutional Governance

PEOPLE-CENTERED AI
TRUSTED SOCIETY
A BRIGHTER TOMORROW

1. Innovation

(2019~)



Building the foundation for AI competitiveness

- 2019 National AI Strategy
- R&D, data and computing infrastructure
- Talent development and education
- Support for startups and industry
- Expand AI adoption in industry and the public sector

Policy Focus

Driving innovation and economic growth

2. Trust

(2020~)



People-centered and responsible AI

- 2020 National AI Ethics Principles
- Human-centered AI
- Fairness, transparency and accountability
- Addressing bias and discrimination
- Growing public awareness and demand for trustworthy AI

Policy Focus

Building trust and protecting people's rights

3. Institutionalization

(2023~)



A comprehensive national framework

- Rapid spread of generative AI
- Cross-sectoral impact of AI
- Need for whole-of-government coordination
- Integration of promotion and protection
- Enactment of the AI Basic Act

Policy Focus

From principles to a legal and institutional governance framework

INNOVATION → TRUST → INSTITUTIONALIZATION

Korea's AI Basic Act

A National Framework for Innovation and Trust

TRUSTED AI
INCLUSIVE GROWTH
A STRONGER TOMORROW



1. Governance

National coordination for a coherent AI strategy

Art. 6 AI Basic Plan

- Government to establish a 3-year AI Basic Plan
- Covers technology, industry, talent, use, ethics, transparency and safety
- Central and local governments to consider the plan in their policies

Art. 7 National AI Strategy Committee

- Presided over by the President
- Deliberates and coordinates major AI policies
- Ensures a whole-of-government approach

A whole-of-government governance structure



2. Innovation

A supportive ecosystem for AI development and adoption

- R&D and innovation support
- AI computing infrastructure and data
- Standardization and interoperability
- AI adoption in industry and the public sector
- Support for SMEs and startups
- Talent development and education
- International cooperation

Enabling a dynamic and competitive AI ecosystem



3. Trust & Safety

Protecting people and building trust

Art. 31 Transparency

Disclosure of AI use and labeling of generative AI

Art. 32 AI Safety

Safety measures for large-scale AI systems

Art. 34 High-impact AI

Risk management, explainability, user protection, human oversight, and documentation

Art. 35 Fundamental Rights Impact Assessment

Assess and mitigate impacts on fundamental rights

Proportionate and risk-based safeguards

From Principles to Practice

And the Role of Government in the AI Era

PEOPLE
POLICY
PRACTICE
A BETTER TOMORROW



From Principles to Practice

Turning legal principles into real-world impact



Guidelines & technical standards

Provide practical guidance for implementation



Government support

Help businesses, especially SMEs and startups



Proportionate and adaptive governance

Match regulatory measures to risks



Public-private collaboration

Encourage voluntary initiatives and industry practice



Continuous review

Monitor impacts and adapt to technological change

Effective governance requires more than laws—
it needs support, clarity and collaboration.



The Role of Government in the AI Era

Rule-maker, Enabler and Responsible User



Rule-maker

Set rules and safeguards to protect
people's safety and rights.



Enabler

Support R&D, talent, data, infrastructure
and a vibrant AI ecosystem.



Responsible User

Use AI in public administration and services
and lead by example.

A government that regulates, enables and uses AI responsibly
can build greater public trust.