

Unveiling the Transformative Outcomes of Convergence and Open-Sharing System Initiative that Nurture Talent by Breaking Down Barriers

- Consortia of 13 high-tech fields including bio-health, secondary cell, and next-generation semiconductor participate to share best practices and ways for further proliferation.

The Ministry of Education, led by Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Lee Ju-Ho, in collaboration with the Korea Research Foundation under the chairmanship of Lee Kwang-bok, is set to host a forum showcasing the outcomes of the "High-tech Convergence and Open Sharing System" Project from January 17 to January 19 at Nest Hotel in Incheon.

The primary goal of the High-tech Convergence and Open Sharing System Project is to nurture talents in cutting-edge fields such as semiconductors as artificial intelligence on a national scale. This is achieved through the promotion of inter-disciplinary approaches, openness, and collaboration among universities. The project establishes university alliances based on specific fields, facilitating the joint utilization of distributed resources (faculty, facilities, etc.) between metropolitan and non-metropolitan universities. It also focuses on the development and implementation of high-tech inter-disciplinary curricula. Notably, a total of 13 high-tech alliances (consortia) have been carefully selected and supported since 2021.

During this upcoming event, over 400 participants, including faculty, staff, and students from 53 universities associated with the 13 consortia, will present their accomplishments in 2023. Topics of discussion will encompass the successful operation of inter-disciplinary and modular curricula, the adoption of flexible academic systems, and the exploration of future business development

directions.

< Outcomes of 2023 Projects and Best Practices of Each Consortium >

Convergence (Inter-disciplinary) Modular Curricula	Flexible Academic System	Collaboration of Domestic & International Industries	Outcomes Sharing and Proliferation
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Approximately 130,000 students complete courses in inter-disciplinary high-tech fields and 6,000 students complete small-scale degree programs (micro-degree) * Based on eight alliances (2021-) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Introducing specialized bachelor's to generalist bachelor's and bachelor's to master's programs ▶ Credit to co-curricular activities, self-designed credit system, etc. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 190 "WE-Meet" Projects in 13 fields → 2,300 students and 180 companies participate 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ 2nd CO-Week Academy (Jul. 2023) → 70 excellent courses, 2,300 students attended
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ AI + other fields (economics, education, etc.) inter-disciplinary curricula 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Energy New Industry Gyeongnam National University of Information and Technology-Busan University linked curriculum, no-exam transfer system introduced 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ "SEA:ME" program to foster future automotive talent in cooperation with Volkswagen Korea 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ "88 Robot Day" for university students, elementary, middle and high school students, and others (Aug. 2023)

The keynote lecture will feature presentations by both students and professors who actively took part in the project. Jeong Ye-jin, a student from the University of Seoul and a dedicated COSS* Supporters from 2022 to 2023, will showcase examples of project promotion and educational programs activities aimed at engaging current students.

*COSS (Convergence and Open Sharing System)

Professor In-Young Song from Korea University, a key contributor to the operation of the Energy New Industry Alliance, will delve into the subject of transforming university curricula to cultivate inter-disciplinary talents for the future society. Additionally, Professor Song will share insights into related business achievements and address the future challenges in this context.

Following the keynote lecture, the 13 alliances will convene to exchange their best practices and engage in discussions about strategies to further develop and expand their accomplishments in the future.

< Best practices of COSS Supporters >

- ▶ Guiding current students to participate in COSS courses and small-scale degree programs (micro-degree), interviewing those who have completed the courses
- ▶ Planning and promoting curricula and co-curricular programs such as basic coding education for non-science students from the perspective of current students



"In its fourth year, the 'High-tech Convergence and Open Sharing System' project is catalyzing notable transformations within the university landscape. Initiatives include collaborative efforts between metropolitan universities, the convergence of diverse disciplines and fields, and enhanced cooperation with the industry." stated Shim Min-cheol, Director General of the Human Capital Policy Planning Bureau of the Ministry of Education. He added, "Our commitment remains steadfast in supporting students aspiring to enter high-tech fields, fostering their growth into talented individuals through an innovative university education."

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