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Jae-Nam Lee

*Korea University, isjnlee@korea.ac.kr*

Seung-Weon Yoo

*Korea University Business School*

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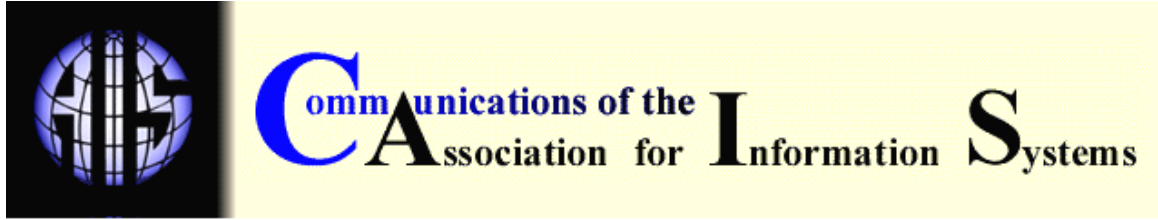
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## THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE IN KOREA: A FOCUS ON LEADING UNIVERSITIES

Jae-Nam Lee  
Korea University Business School  
[isjnlee@korea.ac.kr](mailto:isjnlee@korea.ac.kr)

Seung-Weon Yoo  
Korea University Business School

### ABSTRACT

Information Systems (IS) as an academic discipline is in different stages of evolution across countries because of different environmental and situational factors. In spite of this, most previous studies on IS have been focused mainly in western countries, while scant attention has been given to understanding its status in non-western countries especially in the Pacific Asia Region (PAR). To address this shortcoming, and as a part of the Pacific Asia multi-country case study called IS-in-PA, this study explores the status of IS as an academic discipline in Korea by analyzing the characteristics of IS programs and IS research across 10 leading Korean universities. In order to do this, in-depth interviews and intensive secondary data gathering and analysis based on the case study approach were conducted. The results of this study offer a basic understanding of the unique aspects of IS as a discipline in Korean universities, thereby enabling more effective AIS initiatives to enhance the IS discipline in Pacific Asia, in general, and Korea, in particular. This can also serve as an early groundwork for other researchers seeking to understand the current situation and emerging trends in IS as a discipline in Korea.

**Keywords:** Information Systems, IS discipline, Korean universities, AIS-in-PA, case study

### I. INTRODUCTION

As the role and importance of information systems (IS) have increased in our society, IS in the academic context has begun to be considered as an independent academic discipline with distinct cultures, beliefs, and norms. However, IS as an academic discipline is in different stages of evolution across regions and countries. In addition, the evolutionary path of IS has been highly varied in different regions and countries, because there are different environmental and situational factors, such as pressure from the industry, academic politics, financial pressure, and so on, which are present in individual countries.

In spite of this fact, most of the previous studies to date on IS as a discipline have been focused in western countries. Scant attention has been given to understanding the status of IS discipline in non-western countries especially in the Pacific Asia Region (PAR). Therefore, IS activities in the PAR are under-represented in the world IS community, though there is an increasing number

of Asian IS institutes and scholars who are making their unique contributions to the global IS community.

As a part of the Pacific Asia multi-country case study called IS-in-PA (see Appendix I) and with the aim of addressing the aforementioned gap, this study explores the status of IS as a discipline in Korea by analyzing the characteristics of IS programs and IS research across 10 leading Korean universities as identified by the *Joongang Daily Newspaper*. Specifically, this study seeks (1) to understand the main influences on IS as a discipline in Korean universities; (2) to evaluate the strengths and weaknesses of the presence of IS in Korean universities; and (3) to recognize emerging IS trends in Korean universities. To achieve these objectives, in-depth interviews, and intensive secondary data gathering and analysis based on the case study approach were conducted.

The results of this study offer a basic understanding of the unique aspects of IS as a discipline in Korean universities, thereby enabling more effective AIS initiatives to develop and enhance the IS discipline in the PAR, in general, and Korea, in particular. Furthermore, a basic understanding of the past and current status of the Korean IS discipline can be used as an input to take advantage of future opportunities and to minimize the existing threats to the IS community worldwide.

## II. THE SITUATION OF THE KOREAN EDUCATION SECTOR

In order to understand the trend of IS as a discipline, it is first necessary to look into the overall higher-education sector in Korea. Over past decades, the higher education sector in Korea has grown dramatically in terms of the number of universities (411 institutions) and students (3.2 million), with the government's growth-oriented policies [Lee 2005b]. As a result, 81.3 percent of high school graduates attend colleges and universities in Korea. Moreover, Korea ranks first in the world by more than 4 percent [Park 2005] in relation to the ratio of the number of students enrolled in colleges and universities to the total population.

Recently, however, the situation has changed completely. Korean universities began to face both market and economic crises. Colleges and universities in Korea have depended mainly on student tuition fees in their financial management. In particular, private universities depend on tuition revenues for around 90 percent of their finances. Most colleges and universities, even Seoul National University ([www.seoul.ac.kr](http://www.seoul.ac.kr)), which is the nation's most prestigious university, have not been able to reach the required student quota in their graduate programs. It is very critical for colleges and universities to achieve their respective student quotas in undergraduate and graduate programs, because the wages and promotions of their professors are strongly dependent on the number of newly enrolled students. This decrease in the number of students is caused by the falling birth-rate and the presence of many institutes in Korea.

The primary plan aimed at overcoming this undesirable situation requires each university to develop competitiveness by enhancing further its strong areas and restructuring its weak areas. Accordingly, with the support of the Korean Government, public and private universities are encouraged to cut on their student quota, to optimize their academic structure, to set up university-industry collaboration, and to conduct mergers and acquisition between universities [Park 2005]. In addition, having a higher research capability is perceived as another recommended way not only to upgrade the quality and prestige of universities and colleges but also to attract more talented students [Lee 2005a].

Considering this situation, we cannot say that the future of IS as a discipline is promising in Korea. However, the restructuring trend in Korea's education sector can either be an opportunity or threat to emerging disciplines in the process of their evolution. Along with financial and restructuring pressure, the degree of professionalism and maturity of IS as a discipline can be considered as important driving forces to establish the identity of IS as a discipline and its stature in academic institutes [Sherer 2002].

### III. UNDERSTANDING THE IS DISCIPLINE IN KOREA

In Korea, IS began to be considered as a field of academic study in the mid-1980s. It has had a number of different labels, such as information systems, management information systems, management of information systems, information management, information technology, and so on. Among them, the most dominant name in Korea is “management information systems,”; it is generally located under the College of Business Administration as one of the majors or one of the departments. Unlike in other countries [e.g., Sherer 2002], the term “computer” has not been accepted by IS scholars in Korea, because they believe that it brings up the idea of computer science which focuses on algorithms and system software. Traditionally, management and IS scholars in Korea believe that IS should be in a business school, while computer science should be in an engineering school.

There exist two major ways to understand the departmental location of IS in Korea. One is as a major, and the other one is as a department under a business school. Interestingly, the former has been mainly adopted by top-tier schools, while the latter has been considered by second-tier schools. This trend can be explained from two different perspectives. The first perspective is related to the power governance structure between Management and IS as disciplines. IS is traditionally treated as a subset of the management area and is, as such, not allowed to be established as a separate department. Since the Management faculty has stronger governance power and decision-making authority in most top-tier schools, IS tends to be included as one of the majors in a business school instead. The typical examples are Korea University ([www.korea.ac.kr](http://www.korea.ac.kr)) and Yonsei University ([www.yonsei.ac.kr](http://www.yonsei.ac.kr)), which are two well-known private schools in Korea.

The second perspective is to interpret this phenomenon by way of schools' survival strategy, which seems to be the case in most second-tier universities. Though the first perspective is still important, universities in this category recognize the importance of getting and sustaining their competitive advantage over competing universities, by providing more intensive and specialized education programs such as information systems and electronic commerce, in order to attract more students. For example, two universities, Kookmin University<sup>1</sup> ([www.kookmin.ac.kr](http://www.kookmin.ac.kr)) and Dongguk University<sup>2</sup> ([www.dongguk.ac.kr](http://www.dongguk.ac.kr)), were the first to establish separate IS departments, under the College of Business Administration, in 1984. They have the longest IS academic history, and the largest number of IS students and faculty members in Korea. However, an interesting recent new trend is that most of the second-tier universities are trying to disband their independent IS departments and to incorporate IS departments into their business schools as one of majors. The main reasons for this new trend are the declining IT boom and perceptions of IS as a relatively immature discipline compared with other well-established disciplines like economics and computer science. Therefore, it is an easy and acceptable way for universities to cut their student quota and to optimize their academic structure under strong financial and restructuring pressure.

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<sup>1</sup> This university is in the process of restructuring. Its business school is going to become independent as of March 2006, but it is not decided yet whether or not the IS department should be disbanded and incorporated as a major in the business school.

<sup>2</sup> The independent IS department at Dongguk University was disbanded shortly after this data was collected. As a way of restructuring, the IS department was incorporated as one of majors in the College of Business Administration.

## IV. THE RESEARCH APPROACH

### THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK GUIDING THIS STUDY

In order to have a consistent viewpoint in doing multiple case studies in different PAR countries, the theoretical framework used in the Australian multi-state case study was adopted in the current study. The theoretical framework adopted in this study is based on two constructs, degree of professionalization as a discipline and maturity as a scientific field, which are derived from Whitley's theory of scientific change [1984a, 1984b]. The degree of professionalization of the discipline is expected to increase as the impact of local contingencies decreases. Where a discipline is not highly professionalized, local contingencies such as political, financial, and restructuring pressure have high impact on the discipline. Therefore, the degree of IS professionalization can be evidenced by the extent of variation in the nature of its structure and research among PAR countries at present and over time. The maturity of the discipline has been determined in terms of three conditions to establish a distinct scientific field: (1) scientific reputations both become socially prestigious and "control critical rewards," i.e., those in the discipline have the potential for prestige and power through prominence in that discipline; (2) the standards of research competence and skills become established; and (3) a unique symbol system is developed that allows the exclusion of outsiders and unambiguous communication among initiates within the discipline. The status of the IS discipline in Korea is assessed in terms of the degree of professionalization and maturity.

### CASE STUDY PROTOCOL

Since this study is one of the IS-in-PA projects, and similar studies were conducted in other Asian countries at the same time, it was strongly desirable to have a research protocol among these projects. The objectives of the protocol are to facilitate (1) comparability across countries; (2) consistency across individual case studies; and (3) efficiency in the conduct of the case studies, with the potential for data gathering and some analysis delegated to research assistants or other junior researchers. The protocol draws heavily on the approach suggested by Yin [2003] which incorporates some of the ideas of Walsham [1995]. In particular, this protocol seeks an interpretive approach directed at what Walsham calls "rich insight."

### SAMPLING FRAME AND DATA GATHERING

The primary source of the sampling frame in this study was a list of Korea's university rankings as of 2005 and as reported in the *Joongang Daily Newspaper* ([news.joins.com](http://news.joins.com)). Among universities in the list, those which do not have any formal IS programs were removed from the sample, such as Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH: [www.postech.ac.kr](http://www.postech.ac.kr)). Then the leading 10 universities were selected from the list, as the sample of this study. The first reason why they were selected is that since they, as academic leading institutes, are typical research schools supported by the Korean Government, exploring the status of their IS discipline is crucial not only to understand the presence of IS in Korea but also to predict the future trend of the Korean IS discipline. The second reason is that the second-tier universities in Korea, which had stuck to their unique approach to provide more specialized IS education programs, are tending to give up their approach and to follow the approach that has been mainly adopted by the top-tier universities. Therefore, the major future trend and direction of IS the discipline in Korea can be seen by investigating the current status of IS programs and research across the 10 Korean universities.

In this study, based on the 10 leading universities, the status of IS education in Korea was reviewed purely from the business school's point of view. It means that any IS group which had started as an independent IS school (e.g., Graduate School of Information in Yonsei University and the College of Information and Communications in Hanyang University) is not included in this study. As shown in Table 1, the 10 universities include: Ewha Womans University, Hanyang University, Inha University, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST), Korea University, Kyunghee University, Seoul National University, Sogang University, Sungkyunkwan

University, and Yonsei University. The main campuses of most universities selected in this study are located in Seoul, except for Inha University and KAIST, which are in Incheon and in Daejeon respectively.

Based on the evidence derived from the interviews conducted, and supplemented by documentation and other archival evidence, this study tried to understand the current state of the IS discipline in Korea. Thus, interviews were the principal form of data gathering. Wherever available, existing secondary data such as documentation and archival materials were gathered to supplement the interview data and to provide some triangulation of observations. The interviews were semi-structured, with emphasis on the factors relating to the emergence of IS, broad perceptions of the interviewees on the state of IS in their universities, points of differentiation, and distinctive features of IS in Korea. Each interview lasted for about one or two hours. When face-to-face interviews were impractical, interviews via telephone and/or email were conducted. Finally, in order to have consistency across data from the 10 universities, they were collected as of February 2005.

## V. ANALYSIS OF THE UNIVERSITIES SELECTED IN THIS STUDY

### BASIC INFORMATION ON THE UNIVERSITIES IN THIS STUDY

The basic information about the selected 10 leading universities in Korea is displayed in Table 1, including the year when the universities were founded, the number of overall students and faculty members, the number of campuses, the location of their main campuses, and their Web sites. Of these 10 universities, Sungkyunkwan University ([www.skku.ac.kr](http://www.skku.ac.kr)) has the longest history, being founded more than 600 years ago. It was founded in 1398 as the first national education institute, and has played a role not only in developing the Korean alphabet but also in teaching Confucianism as the underlying social philosophy of the modern Korean society. Then the university was reformed as a modern university in 1895. In terms of the number of enrolled students, Yonsei University is the largest. Its total number of students is 36,451, consisting of 26,142 undergraduates and 10,309 postgraduates. For the number of faculty members, Seoul National University, which is the only public school in the list, ranks first, with 1,883 full-time assistant, associate, and full professors. Among the 10 universities in Table 1, KAIST ([kgsn.kaist.ac.kr](http://kgsn.kaist.ac.kr)) is a university which specializes in the engineering area. The university does not have IS related programs for undergraduate students at the Daejeon campus, but has well-known MIS programs for postgraduate students at the Seoul campus, under the name of the Graduate School of Management ([www.kaistgsm.ac.kr](http://www.kaistgsm.ac.kr)). Also, KAIST shows the best IS research performance among Korean Universities [Huang and Hsu 2005]. Most universities in this study have more than one campus, in Seoul and other cities, and most of their main campuses are located in Seoul. KAIST has a main campus in Daejeon, while Sogang ([www.sogang.ac.kr](http://www.sogang.ac.kr)) and Inha ([www.inha.ac.kr](http://www.inha.ac.kr)) Universities have only one campus, in Seoul and Incheon, respectively. Finally, Ewha Womans University ([www.ewha.ac.kr](http://www.ewha.ac.kr)) is only for women and has been a key institution for women's education from the dawn of Korea.

### ADMINISTRATIVE PLACEMENT OF IS GROUPS

Table 2 displays the home faculty of IS groups, the administrative entity with which IS academics in each university are affiliated, the number of undergraduates, postgraduates, and full-time faculty members in the administrative entity, and the type of IS presence. Across the 10 Korean universities, there is a consistent structure in terms of both the home faculty and the administrative entity of the IS groups. As mentioned previously, from the business school's point of view, a general trend in Korea is that the IS discipline is considered as one of the major fields of study in business schools, and is, as such, located under the College of Business Administration (with other variants for this title), as a major in most top-tier schools, or as a separate department in non-top-tier schools. Because the selected universities in this study are in the top-tier in Korea, the IS discipline is under their business schools without exception. For more information, a list that displays the location of IS in 69 universities in Korea was developed, as



shown in Appendix II. The list includes 14 public and 55 private universities. Out of the 69 Korean universities, 53 universities have the IS discipline in their business schools while the IS discipline in the rest of universities is located under the social science school (13), engineering school (1) and others (2). It may support the fact that a referent discipline (e.g., management) that provides underlying theories for a particular new field (e.g., IS) should be its academic home [Sherer 2002].

Table 1. Profile of the Universities Selected in This Study

University (Alphabetic order)	Year when the University was founded	Number of Students / Faculty Members*	Number of Campuses (Locations)	Main Campus Address	Website
Ewha Womans University	1886	20,657 / 857	1 campus (Seoul)	Daehyun-dong, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul	<a href="http://www.ewha.ac.kr">www.ewha.ac.kr</a>
Hanyang University	1939	25,065 / 980	2 campuses (Seoul, Asan)	Haengdang-dong, Seongdong-gu, Seoul	<a href="http://www.hanyang.ac.kr">www.hanyang.ac.kr</a>
Inha University	1952	19,899 / 662	1 campus (Incheon)	Younghyun-dong, Nam-gu, Incheon	<a href="http://www.inha.ac.kr">www.inha.ac.kr</a>
KAIST	1971	7,491 / 408	2 campuses (Seoul, Daejeon)	Guseong-dong, Yuseong-gu, Daejeon	<a href="http://www.kaist.ac.kr">www.kaist.ac.kr</a>
Korea University	1905	34,607 / 1,264	2 campuses (Seoul, Seochang)	Anam-dong, Seongbuk- gu, Seoul	<a href="http://www.korea.ac.kr">www.korea.ac.kr</a>
Kyunghee University	1949	29,080 / 1,111	3 campuses (Seoul, Suwon, Kwangnung)	Hoegi-dong, Dongdaemun-gu, Seoul	<a href="http://www.kyunghee.ac.kr">www.kyunghee.ac.kr</a>
Seoul National University	1946	30,781 / 1,883	3 campuses (Seoul, Yeongeon, Swon)	Sillim-dong, Gwanak- gu, Seoul	<a href="http://www.seoul.ac.kr">www.seoul.ac.kr</a>
Sogang University	1948	10,437 / 300	1 campus (Seoul)	Shinsoo-dong, Mapo- gu, Seoul	<a href="http://www.sogang.ac.kr">www.sogang.ac.kr</a>
Sungkyunkwan University	1398	22,403 / 1,074	2 campuses (Seoul, Swon)	Myeongnyun-dong, Jongno-gu, Seoul	<a href="http://www.skku.ac.kr">www.skku.ac.kr</a>
Yonsei University	1885	36,451 / 1,566	2 campuses (Seoul, Wonju)	Sinchon-dong, Seodaemun-gu, Seoul	<a href="http://www.yonsei.ac.kr">www.yonsei.ac.kr</a>

\* The number of students includes both enrolled undergraduate and postgraduate students, and the number of faculty members includes full-time members only. This is as of February 2005.

The type of IS presence, however, shows some variability across universities. Four of the 10 universities have the IS discipline as a major in business schools. KAIST and Inha University call it "IS" or "MIS" major, while Ewha Womans University and Kyunghee University

([www.hyunghee.ac.kr](http://www.hyunghee.ac.kr)) name it as “e-commerce” major and “e-business” major, respectively. According to the curriculums of both Ewha Womans University and Kyunghee University, they provide more Internet commerce-related specific courses (e.g., e-business model and strategy, e-business methodology, data mining for e-business), in addition to basic IS courses (e.g., introduction to MIS, IS strategy, system analysis and design, electronic commerce). The IS discipline, at least in the four universities, is regarded as on an equal level to the other majors in business schools such as accounting, finance, management, marketing, etc. The rationale for this structure is to offer more attractive and “fashionable” programs to students by reflecting the change in market needs and requirements.

Table 2. Administrative Placement of IS Groups

University (Alphabetic order)	Home Faculty Name	Administrative Entity				
		Name	No. of Under-graduate Students	No. of Post-graduate Students	No. of Full-time Faculty Members	IS Presence
Ewha Womans University	College of Business Administration	Division of Business Administration	> 640	> 232	31	E-commerce major
Hanyang University	School of Business	Division of Business Administration	> 1,305	> 250	35	Basic IS courses are provided.
Inha University	College of Business Administration	Faculty of Business Administration.	> 1,177	> 83	34	IS major
KAIST	Graduate School of Management	Graduate School of Management	NA*	> 224	53	IS Major
Korea University	College of Business Administration	College of Business Administration	> 1,812	> 290	58	Basic IS courses are provided.
Kyunghee University**	College of Business Administration	School of Business	> 960	> 130	35	E-business major
Seoul National University	College of Business Administration	College of Business Administration	> 1,103	> 558	43	Basic IS courses are provided.
Sogang University	College of Business Administration	School of Business	> 1,321	> 320	37	Basic IS courses are provided.
Sungkyunkwan University	School of Business Administration	School of Business Administration	> 1,363	> 150	40	Basic IS courses are provided.
Yonsei University	School of Business	School of Business	> 1,700	> 360	52	Basic IS courses are provided.

\* KAIST has IS related programs only for postgraduate students in Seoul campus

\*\* After this data was collected, Kyunghee University decided to integrate the business school in Suwon campus into the business school in Seoul campus as of November 2005 as a restructuring effort.

On the other hand, the remaining six universities, Hanyang University ([www.hanyang.ac.kr](http://www.hanyang.ac.kr)), Korea University, Seoul National University, Sogang University, Sungkyunkwan University, and Yonsei University do not have any specific majors in their business schools. They unified all



discipline groups in business schools into one, without any separate majors. It means that they offer diverse courses related to management, marketing, accounting, finance, and IS, but these are all under a unitary curriculum. They do not consider a change to the organizational structure of their business schools, and they simply hire IS faculty members whenever necessary. They believe that it is the best way to minimize the conflict among different discipline groups in business schools, and to manage available internal and external resources more efficiently. Also, the most popular minor fields and electives of IS students are in the management discipline. Therefore, the approach can be mainly adopted by universities that prefer internal effectiveness and/or efficiency over adaptation to market needs and changes.

### RELATIVE SIZE OF IS PRESENCE

As for the total size of enrolled undergraduate students in the College of Business Administration across the 10 universities, Korea University (about 1,812) and Yonsei University (about 1,700) rank as the first and the second, respectively, as shown in Table 2. Sungkyunkwan University and Hanyang University follow them. For enrolled postgraduate students in the College of Business Administration, Seoul National University has a total student number of around 560, and Sogang University's total student number is about 320, ranking as the first and the second, respectively. With respect to the total number of full-time faculty members in the business schools, Korea University has 58 academics, while KAIST has 53 faculty members.

Overall, the size of the business school for the leading Korean universities in terms of undergraduate and postgraduate students, and full time faculty members is roughly aligned with the size of the universities. That is, larger universities tend to have a stronger management presence than smaller universities. However, IS presence in the universities shows different patterns. The indication of the size of IS presence in terms of the number of IS faculty members, and IS undergraduate and postgraduate students in each university is given in Table 3. It seems that there is no relativity between the size of business schools and the size of IS presence.

KAIST has eight IS faculty members among 53 in the Graduate School of Management, representing about 15 percent, which is the highest of the 10 universities. As the second ranker, Hanyang University shows around 14 percent. In contrast, Korea University and Yonsei University, which rank first and the second in terms of the number of enrolled students and full-time faculty members in the College of Business Administration had only four (6.89 percent) and five (9.61 percent) IS academics, respectively, as of February 2005. The two universities have a relatively small number of IS academics as compared to their number of students and total number of business school's faculty members.

For the number of undergraduate students, it is difficult to compare the size of IS undergraduate students across universities, since most of them have a unitary major in business schools and one of them, KAIST, does not have an IS major for undergraduate students, as mentioned earlier. Although Ewha Womans University, Inha University, and Kyunghee University have their IS-related majors for undergraduate students, their total number of enrolled students is very small. This is because students in Korea prefer studying the overall aspects of business administration rather than studying a particular major under business administration in their undergraduate studies.

Regarding the number of postgraduate students, the range of the number of enrolled students, which excludes MBA students but includes both full- and part-time IS master and PhD students, is from 10 to 60 across the universities. Students who major in IS in their postgraduate studies are consistently small in number, regardless of the overall size of the universities, business schools, and staff. The first possible reason is that the business school has the overall quota of postgraduate students, and then proportionately assigns students to each major without any consideration of the change in market needs. The second reason is that the popularity of IS or IS-related majors in Korea has been declining especially since the dot.com crash of the beginning of the 2000s. Finally, with the multi-disciplinary nature of IS, its importance has extensively pervaded all other management disciplines, as it became a key issue in the business area.

Accordingly, IS seems to have become a general basic discipline, tightly coupled with, and easily covered by, other disciplines in the business school, rather than a specialized discipline, at least in Korea.

Table 3. Relative Size of IS Presence\*

University	No of IS Academics	% of IS Academics in Business Schools	Number of IS Major Students	
			Undergraduate****	Postgraduate*****
Ewha Womans University	4	12.90	> 10	> 20
Hanyang University	5	14.28	NA	> 25
Inha University	4	11.76	> 100	> 10
KAIST	8	15.10	NA	> 44
Korea University	4**	6.67	NA	> 20
Kyunghee University	4***	11.43	> 150	> 25
Seoul National University	4	9.30	NA	> 60
Sogang University	3	8.11	NA	> 45
Sungkyunkwan University	4	10.00	NA	> 25
Yonsei University	5	9.61	NA	> 26

\* All numbers in this table are as of February 2005.

\*\* Four more IS faculty members (two on March 2006 and two on Sept. 2006 respectively) will join the Korea University Business School.

\*\*\* Due to the restructuring effort of this university, two more IS faculty members will join the business school in Seoul Campus from the business school in Suwon campus at the beginning of 2006.

\*\*\*\* Most universities have a unitary major for undergraduates in their business schools.

\*\*\*\*\* The number does not include MBA students, but includes full- and part-time IS master and PhD students.

## FEATURES OF IS AND IS-RELATED CURRICULUMS

Korean universities offer diverse IS courses and programs for undergraduate and postgraduate students. Table 4 shows the main IS courses currently offered by the universities. Basically, excluding KAIST, all universities have undergraduate programs with or without IS-related majors in their business schools. As postgraduate programs, the full-time master and PhD programs require a thesis, while the part-time program does not. Specifically, there exist two different tracks for postgraduate studies in Korea: One is a research-oriented program, and the other one is a course-oriented one. A student in a research-oriented program is asked to get the required credits first and then to write a thesis to complete the program, while the requirement for a student in a course-oriented program is to obtain a certain amount of credits before graduation. Another difference between the two tracks is that while the research-oriented program is generally for full-time students, the course-oriented program is mainly for part-time students working in industry.

Table 4. IS-Related Programs/Courses

University	Undergraduate Courses/Programs	Postgraduate Courses/Programs	
		Research-oriented	Course-oriented
Ewha Womans University	BBA (E-commerce Major)	Master (No IS Major) PhD (IS Major)	MBA, Executive MBA
Hanyang University	BBA (No IS Major)	Master (IS Major) PhD (IS Major)	Techno MBA, Executive MBA, e-Business CEO
Inha University	BBA (IS Major)	Master (IS Major) PhD (IS Major)	Advanced MBA, Executive MBA, Medical MBA, Korea-China EMBA,
KAIST	NA	Master (IS Major) PhD (IS Major)	Techno MBA, MIS MBA, Telecom MBA, Finance MBA, Executive MBA, Info & Mgt EMBA, Knowledge CEO EMBA, Telecom & Media EMBA, Venture EMBA, Consultant EMBA, Other Special Programs
Korea University	BBA (No IS Major)	Master (IS Major) PhD (IS Major)	MBA, Executive MBA, MIBA, Global China EMBA, Other Special Programs
Kyunghee University	BBA (E-business Major)	Master (E-business Major) PhD (E-business Major)	MBA, Executive MBA, China Business Mgt.
Seoul National University	BBA (IS Major)	Master (IS Major) PhD (IS Major)	MBA, Executive MBA, Government Enterprise Executive Program, Other Special Programs
Sogang University	BBA (No IS Major)	Master (IS Major)	MBA,

		PhD (IS Major)	EMBA, Catholic Advanced Management Program
Sungkyunkwan University	BBA (No IS Major)	PhD (No IS Major)	MBA, iMBA
Yonsei University	BBA (No IS Major)	Master (IS Major) PhD (IS Major)	MBA, Global MBA, Executive MBA

For the research-oriented postgraduate program, most universities have master and PhD programs with IS as a major, but there are two exceptional cases: Ewha Womans University and Sungkyunkwan University. Ewha Womans University has its research-oriented master program with a unitary major, but IS as a major is available for PhD students. In the case of Sungkyunkwan University, the research-oriented masters program is not provided, which is substituted by a course-oriented MBA program, while the PhD program is offered as a unitary major.

Regarding the course-oriented program, all universities offer a wide range of regular programs for industry workers, such as MBA, advanced MBA, iMBA, EMBA, and so on. Furthermore, all universities provide special programs in cooperation with industrial companies. These special programs include curriculums tailored for particular companies in private or public sectors. Examples are: EMBA for Hyundai Motor Company in KAIST, MBA for Korea Telecom (KT) Corporation in Korea University, EMBA for Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO) in Seoul National University, and MBA for Samsung in Sungkyunkwan University. Another type of special program is focused on country studies. Especially due to the rise of China as a major market player, some China-focused course-oriented programs are provided. For example, the Global China Business EMBA program in Korea University and the Korea-China EMBA program in Inha University are both under this category. Among the universities, KAIST provides the most diverse course-oriented programs and other customized programs for industrial workers and companies.

The common feature of most course-oriented programs is not to have IS majors but to include IS as a core part of their programs. With the strong emphasis on course-oriented programs, universities generally pursue strong connections with external organizations in order to get more income and donations, to enhance their reputation, to conduct more applied research, and to increase the opportunities for employment of their graduates. Thus, having good course-oriented programs is very crucial for the universities, especially private ones. The focus on course-oriented programs in universities can be seen as a distinctive feature of the Korean education sector in reference to IS as a discipline.

## FEATURES OF IS RESEARCH

Across the 10 universities, there is a remarkable diversity of IS research areas. Table 5 summarizes the major areas of IS research in the universities and their organizational approaches to promote their research. The common research interests across universities are 1) Internet and e-business issues (e-business model and strategy, virtual communities, ubiquitous computing, etc.); 2) knowledge management issues (knowledge management system, knowledge sharing and coordination, etc.); 3) customer relationship management issues (data warehouse and mining, customer behavior and satisfaction, etc.); and 4) IT strategy and innovation issues (IT innovation and valuation, IT investment and planning, process innovation and improvement, etc.). Although research areas appear to reflect the specific interests and skills of the academic members of each university, the four common areas are not only traditional topics of IS research but also closely related to recent matters of concern in Korean organizations. This means that in

Korea, academic research areas are strongly influenced by the needs of the professional business community.

As shown in Table 5, almost all universities simultaneously focus on both managerial and technical IS research issues. However, some of them lean somewhat more on the side of managerial research, while some place more emphasis on IS technical issues. For example, we can say that the main research areas of Kyunghee University, Seoul National University, and Sungkyunkwan University are on the technical side. In contrast, the universities which are focused more on managerial research issues are KAIST, Sogang University and Yonsei University. The research focuses of each university are mainly based on the educational background of individual faculty members as well as the specific interests of its academic research institutes.

Table 5. IS Research Areas and Groupings

University	Areas of IS Research Focus	IS Research Groups	
		Name	Level
<b>Ewha Womans University</b>	E-Business Model and Strategy, E-Transformation, Knowledge Management; Knowledge-based Systems; Knowledge Engineering, Intelligent Systems and Enterprise, Decision Support Systems, IT Innovation and Valuation, IS Adoption and Implementation	Center for Research and Education	Only one Research Institute in the Management School
<b>Hanyang University</b>	E-Commerce, E-Business Strategy, Ubiquitous Computing, Digital Market Analysis, IT Business Strategy and Planning, Knowledge Management, Knowledge Management Systems, Telecommunication Policy and Management, Decision Analysis and Optimization, Decision Support Systems, Data Warehouse and Mining, Intelligent Agent and Information Systems, Human Computer Interaction, System Analysis and Design	The Institute of Business Research	Only one Research Institute in the Management School
<b>Inha University</b>	Successful Venture of E-Business, IT Innovation, Collaboration Strategy and it Effect in B2B, Supply Chain Management, Customer Relationship Management,	Management Research Institute	Only one Research Institute in the Management School

	<p>Integration Strategy of CRM and SCM,                  Knowledge Management,                  Ethical Issues in IT,                  Collaborative Computing,                  Web Engineering,                  Web-based IS Development and Methodology,                  Database Modeling and Hypermedia Design,                  Workflow Analysis,                  Software Process Improvement</p>		
<b>KAIST</b>	<p>E-Commerce,                  E-business Strategy and Technologies,                  IT Strategy and Planning,                  IT Investment Management,                  IT Architecture,                  IS Security and Audit                  IS Implementation Methodology,                  Knowledge Management,                  Customer Relationship Management,                  Business Process Reengineering,                  Decision Support Systems,                  Information Economics,                  Intelligent Information Systems,                  Accounting and Finance Information Systems,                  Data Warehouse and Mining,                  Distribution Processing</p>	<p>Knowledge management                  Research Center(IS);                  Center for Knowledge                  based e-Government(IS);                  Business Process                  Management Center(IS);                  Center for                  Telecommunications                  Management &amp;                  Policy(IS);                  Center for Corporate                  Social Management;                  Center for Fair Trade and                  Consumer Protection;                  Financial Engineering                  Research Center</p>	<p>Four IS focused                  Research Centers out                  of Seven in the                  Graduate School of                  Management</p>
<b>Korea                  University</b>	<p>E-Commerce, E-Business Strategy,                  B2B Commerce,                  IT Innovation and Strategy,                  IT Investment Management,                  IT/IS Outsourcing,                  Knowledge Management,                  Decision Support Systems                  S/W Process Assessment and Improvement,                  S/W Product Evaluation,                  Software Metrics,                  Data Warehouse and Mining,                  Object-Oriented Paradigm,                  Multi Database</p>	<p>Center for Information                  and Communications                  Strategy (CICS) in the                  Institute of Business                  Research and Education</p>	<p>An Independent IS-                  related Research                  Center under the                  Business Research                  Institute</p>



<b>Kyunghee University</b>	E-Commerce, E-Business Strategy, E-Business Model Development and Evaluation, E-CRM, Peer-to-Peer Systems, Data Mining, Mobile Contents Recommendation Systems, Agent-based E-Commerce Negotiation Protocol, Case-based Project Planning Systems,	Center for Information and Communications Strategy in the Research Institute of Social Science	An Independent IS-related Research Center under the Social Science Research Institute
<b>Seoul National University</b>	E-Commerce, Internet Resource Allocation and Pricing, Virtual Communities, IT Strategy and Planning, Systems Analysis and Design, Knowledge Sharing and Coordination, Group Support Systems, Data Mining, Geographic Information Systems, Semantic Interoperability and Metadata Management in Interorganizational IS, Ontology and Semantic Web, Heterogeneous Database Management, Intelligent Agents for Information Resource Management	Institute of Information and Operations Management	An Independent IS-related Research institute in the Management School
<b>Sogang University</b>	E-Commerce, E-Business, Business Reengineering, IS Strategy and Planning, IS Implementation, IT Process Improvement, IT Contract Management IT/IS Outsourcing, Service Level Agreement, Research Methodologies, Data Mining, Customer Relations Management, Simulation of Human Learning, Heuristic Optimization	Center for Outsourcing in the Institute for Business Research	An Independent IS-related Research Center in the Management School
<b>Sungkyunkwan University</b>	E-Business, E-Learning, IT Architecture, IS Auditing,	Institute of Management Research, Information and Management Research	Two Research Institutes in the Management School

	Wireless Internet, Supply Chain Management, Management of Information Process, Decision Support Systems, Expert Systems, Fuzzy Logic, Neural Network, Case-based Reasoning, Internet Theory, Accounting Decision Making, Strategic Planning, Managerial Forecasting	Consortium	
<b>Yonsei University</b>	E-Commerce, E-Business, Ubiquitous Computing, Knowledge Creation and Sharing in E-Commerce, Virtual Reality and Communities, Interface Design in E-Commerce, Information and Communications, IT Investment and Organizational Performance, IT Infrastructure and Strategy, IT Impact on Business Processes and Users' Behaviors, IT-enabled Supply Chain Management, Technology and Innovation, Interorganizational Systems and Cooperation, Development of Constructs for IS Research Media Richness, Data Modeling	Center of Information Systems in the Business Research Institute	An Independent IS-related Research Center under the Business Research Institute

Concerning the organizational approaches to encourage and promote IS research in Korean universities, there seems to be a consistent pattern. All universities have established formal research institutes called "Management Research Institute" or "The Institute of Business Research" in their business schools, and have tried to foster broad cross-discipline collaborations between IS and other business majors. Specifically, among the universities, half of them have IS-focused research groups under their business research institutes, and the rest of them have only management research institutes without any subordinate research groups. KAIST, Korea University, Seoul National University, Sogang University, and Yonsei University have subordinate IS research groups under their respective management research institutes, while Kyunghee University has an IS research group under its social science research institute. In terms of the number of IS-related research groups, nine universities have only one or two research centers in the business school or university level, but, interestingly, KAIST has seven research centers in the Graduate School of Management. Among the seven research centers, four - Knowledge Management Research Center, Center for Knowledge-Based e-Government, Business Process Management Center, Center for Telecommunications Management and Policy - are closely

associated with IS research. The major role of the research center or institute is to provide a place where faculty and industry experts work together to develop knowledge, techniques, and tools that are meaningful for organizations.

### KEY FIGURES WHO HAVE INFLUENCED IS IN KOREAN UNIVERSITIES

Through the interviews with IS academics in 10 Korean universities, some senior academics who had made significant contributions to IS as a discipline in Korea in terms of research, teaching, and academic and social services were recognized. Interestingly, most of the interviewees cited only a few individuals as key figures who have influenced the IS discipline in Korea. All figures nominated by the interviewees are currently working in Korean universities, while Korean scholars working outside Korea are not cited at all. This indicates that Korean academics have a consensus about who are the key Korean figures in the field of IS. Since all interviewees did not want to disclose who nominated whom, only the names of the nominated individuals, without their nominators, are provided here.

First, two prominent active researchers were nominated: Kun-Chang Lee ([ci2s.skku.ac.kr](http://ci2s.skku.ac.kr)) of Sungkyunkwan University and Jinwoo Kim ([hci.yonsei.ac.kr](http://hci.yonsei.ac.kr)) of Yonsei University. They have published numerous and high-quality research papers in both domestic and international journals. Second, as persons who have made significant contributions to the Korea Society of Management Information Systems (KMIS: [www.kmis.or.kr](http://www.kmis.or.kr)), two senior academics were also identified. They are Jae-Kyu Lee ([www.mysmu.edu/faculty/jklee/](http://www.mysmu.edu/faculty/jklee/)) of both KAIST and Singapore Management School, and Joon S. Kim ([eclass.yonsei.ac.kr/jskim/](http://eclass.yonsei.ac.kr/jskim/)) of Yonsei University. The main reason why they were nominated as significant influences is their international prominence and leadership as Korean IS researchers. Finally, John J. Lee was nominated as the most influential individual because of his devoted public services and activities for the Korean Government. He is currently the president of the Korea Information Strategy Development Institute (KISDI: [www.kisdi.re.kr](http://www.kisdi.re.kr)) and will be the incoming president of KMIS.

## VI. FINDINGS, IMPLICATIONS, AND LIMITATIONS

### SUMMARY OF FINDINGS

Due to the strong restructuring pressure in the Korean education sector, universities have been trying to find a way to achieve and sustain their competitiveness by specializing further in their strong areas and restructuring their weak areas. Thus, the IS discipline is drawn into the whirlpool. The academic home of IS as a discipline in Korea is mainly influenced by both the power governance structure between management and IS disciplines, and the school's survival strategy. In general, the second-tier universities that consider IS as a key program to attract more students have established separate IS departments, while the IS faculty is located within the business schools of most top-tier universities, as a subordinate major, because of the stronger governance power of the management faculty.

Accordingly, most of the 10 leading universities selected in this study have the IS discipline under the College of Business Administration as a track of the unitary major, and not as an independent major or department. It is indirect evidence that the size of the IS discipline in universities in terms of the number of full-time IS students and faculty members cannot be large, whereas the size of business schools is closely related to the size of the universities. Interestingly, however, Korean universities offer diverse course-oriented postgraduate programs for part-time students working in industry, since this is a key source of income and donation, enables applied research to be done, and enhances a university's social reputation and connection. This implies that universities have more, and bigger, course-oriented postgraduate programs than research-oriented ones.

With regard to IS research areas, the four common fields of interests across universities are Internet and e-business issues, knowledge management issues, customer relationship management issues, and IT strategy and innovation issues, which are the greatest concerns of

both Korean organizations and the government. This stems from the fact that Korea is one of the few countries in the world where e-commerce and knowledge management are taken seriously in all levels of the society. After the foreign exchange crisis in Korea, knowledge became a key issue in private and public areas when a national knowledge economy was envisioned [Yogesh 2003]. Also, broadband covers all commercial buildings and 90 percent of households, and the mobile penetration rate is around 85 percent in Korea. In addition, how to increase customer satisfaction and loyalty is becoming a major concern of most Korean companies. This simply means that IS academic research areas are strongly associated with the needs of the professional business community in Korea.

### **THEORETICAL INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS**

According to Whitley's [1984a, 1984b] theory of scientific change, two constructs, as mentioned earlier, professionalization as a discipline and maturity as a scientific field, can be used to evaluate whether a discipline is in its early stage or not. When a discipline is not so professionalized, the impact of local contingencies is very high. The results of data analysis collected from the Korean universities show that IS research areas are closely dictated by Korean local community interests. Furthermore, course-oriented postgraduate programs specifically tailored for industry workers are seen as a distinct feature of Korean universities. Thus, it can be said that the IS discipline in Korea is not highly professionalized.

Korean scholars seem to agree that the IS discipline should be in a business school as a major rather than as a separate department. This only means that IS as a discipline in Korea is not in its mature stage yet. First, though some senior IS academics are tenured and are recognized by their universities and business schools as IS professors with their academic achievements and internal and external community services, it is not easy for IS faculty to have their own voice, because the IS discipline still belongs to a business school in most cases. Second, regarding the necessity of standards of research competence and skills, it can be said that in Korean universities seeking to do applied research and provide industry-tailored education programs, these standards of research competence could not be easily established. Finally, a unique symbol system that allows the exclusion of outsiders and unambiguous communication among initiates within the discipline cannot be built without organizational independence of the IS discipline, as in the case of Korean universities. To sum it all up, IS in Korean universities does not meet Whitley's three conditions in the establishment of a distinct scientific field.

### **IMPLICATIONS**

The results of this study provide some valuable implications. First, it may be the first study to investigate and understand the status of IS as an academic discipline in Korea and the overall situation of the Korean education sector. Second, in the process of collecting and analyzing data from the Korean universities, this study adopted a holistic viewpoint to explore the status of IS as a discipline in Korea including the type of IS presence and structure, IS programs for undergraduate and postgraduate students, and IS research conducted by the faculty. This can serve as early groundwork for other researchers seeking to understand the situation and trend of IS as a discipline in Korea. Also, considering the situation that IS activities in non-western countries is under-represented in the world IS community, this study provides a starting point to better understand the unique aspects of the IS discipline in Korea, which can lead to more unified and effective AIS initiatives in growing and improving IS as a discipline in the PAR.

### **LIMITATIONS**

While the findings provide some valuable implications, this study has limitations as well. The most obvious limitation is that the data used in this study were derived from only 10 universities in Korea. These universities are regarded as top-tier universities that have different features of IS as a discipline as compared to second- and third-tier universities in Korea. Therefore, the replication of this study across more diverse universities in Korea is needed so that the findings can be generalized. It is also important to note that the overall structure and trend of the IS discipline in

Korea is rapidly changing because of the continuous restructuring efforts of Korean universities. Thus, the snapshot of the current status provided in this study may not fully cover the dynamic nature of this restructuring endeavor of Korean universities. Thus, longitudinal work to investigate the in-depth status of the IS discipline in Korea will provide more interesting results. Finally, the focus of this study was IS education in business schools. So, this study did not include any IS education which has evolved from computer science and some schools which have started as independent IS schools. This might have limited the view of IS scope.

## VII. GENERAL LEARNING FROM THE STUDY

Although the analysis done in this study did not cover all unique aspects of IS as a discipline, it is quite clear that this discipline is in its early stage of development in Korea. As Whitley [1984a, 1984b] pointed out, the independency of a particular discipline is highly influenced by its degree of professionalization and maturity. However, internal academic politics, and financial and practical pressure are other important driving forces for academic institutions, especially in Korea. Another interesting finding is that Korean universities provide a variety of course-oriented postgraduate programs to have stronger connections with organizations in the public and private sectors. It is crucial for them to enhance their reputation in Korea. At the same time, more universities, especially top rankers, are increasingly trying to offer more high-quality undergraduate and research-oriented postgraduate programs by acquiring internationally renowned certificates like AACSB (The Association of Advance Collegiate Schools of Business) and EQUIS (The European Quality Improvement System) internal accreditation to ensure and improve the quality of programs, research, and teaching in their universities. For example, Korea University Business School was awarded both AACSB and EQUIS accreditation, for the first time in Korea. They realize that obtaining a worldwide reputation and competing with top business schools in the world is the best way for survival.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

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*Editor's Note:* The following reference list contains hyperlinks to World Wide Web pages. Readers who have the ability to access the Web directly from their word processor or are reading the paper on the Web, can gain direct access to these linked references. Readers are warned, however, that:

1. These links existed as of the date of publication but are not guaranteed to be working thereafter.
2. The contents of Web pages may change over time. Where version information is provided in the References, different versions may not contain the information or the conclusions referenced.
3. The author(s) of the Web pages, not AIS, is (are) responsible for the accuracy of their content.
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**APPENDIX I. THE OVERARCHING STUDY:**

**THE STATE OF THE INFORMATION SYSTEMS ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE IN PACIFIC ASIA**

Figure A-1 depicts the main components of the study “The State of the Information Systems Academic Discipline in Pacific Asia”. The Pacific Asia study is motivated from a recognition that Information Systems as an academic discipline has evolved differentially around the world. The genesis of the study was a panel of the 6th Pacific Asia Conference on Information Systems (PACIS’02), Tokyo, Japan, ultimately resulting in formal project commencement in 2004 with AIS endorsement and seed funding.

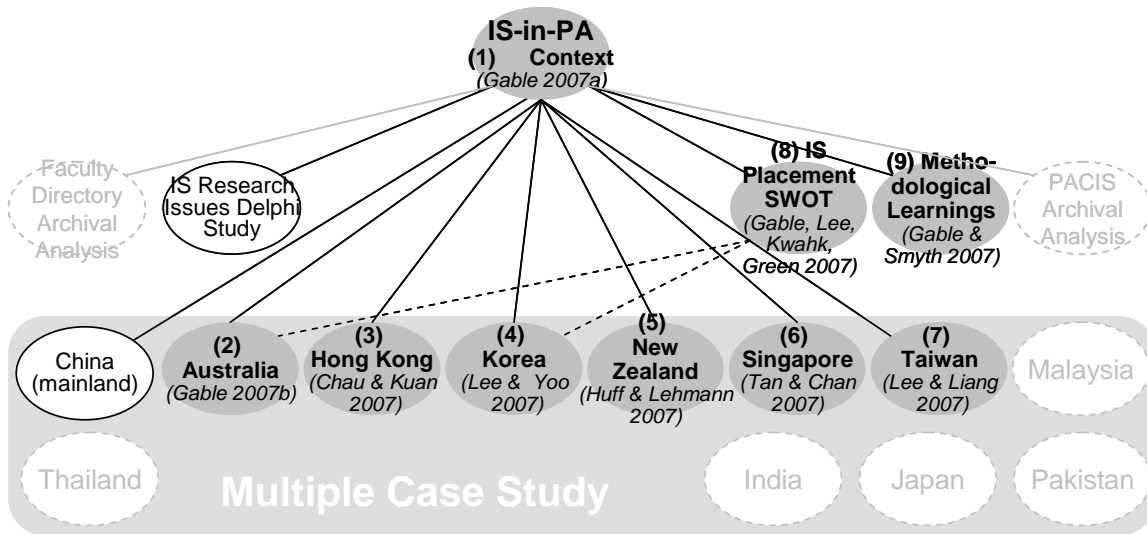


Figure A-1. The IS in Pacific Asia Region Sub-Studies

Principal of the several related sub-studies is a series of case studies across the States<sup>3</sup> of Pacific Asia. The overall study has from the outset been designed and executed with the expectation that it would be extended and repeated over time. It was decided early on to restrict the first iteration of the study to those areas in the region where IS is relatively more visible internationally – Australia, Hong Kong (China), Korea, New Zealand, Singapore and Taiwan.

Shaded ovals in Figure A-1 represent those components completed in the first execution, with results reported in this special issue of CAIS. Un-shaded ovals represent components in progress (i.e. Mainland China Case Study), and dashed ovals represent components soon to commence.

The largely exploratory and descriptive State case studies employed a common research framework (Ridley, 2006). The framework considers the current and past state of IS in Pacific Asia universities from the perspective of the development of a discipline. The framework was guided by Whitley’s Theory of Scientific Change (1984a, 1984b). It suggests that there is an inverse relationship between the impact of local contingencies and a discipline’s degree of professionalism and maturity.

Given the descriptive and exploratory character of the overall study, the team harbored no illusions regarding the ultimate completeness of issues to be identified, related evidence to be gathered, and analyses to be conducted. It was acknowledged that the study offers a mere starting point for ongoing monitoring of the state of IS in the Pacific Asia region. Regardless,

<sup>3</sup> The term “state” is used to refer to each of the national entities studied.

efforts were made to achieve some level of representativeness of the evidence and perspectives reported: (1) Selection of the Study Team – sought region-wide representation. This suggested state-based case reports. Senior and well known IS academics were approached. (2) Interviewees received an early draft of the state report in which their views were recounted. On the basis of feedback, changes were implemented by the state teams. (3) Selected 'within State' local experts were sent a copy of the draft state report for review, aims being to: minimize potential adverse reaction from perceived misrepresentation, try to ensure the report is as representative of the State as possible, enrich the report with further insights, and ensure the process of peer-review results in papers of strong academic standard. (4) All authors on all papers of the special issue reviewed the complete draft special issue.

**APPENDIX II - ADMINISTRATIVE PLACEMENT OF IS ACADEMIC GROUPS IN KOREAN UNIVERSITIES**

Type*	University	Location of Information Systems within the University				Generic Levels within the University			
		1st Level Down	2nd Level Down	3rd Level Down	4th Level Down	1st Level Down	2nd Level Down	3rd Level Down	4th Level Down
B	Ajou University	School of Business Administration	Division of E-business			School	Division	Dept	Discipline
Soc	Andong National University	College of Social Sciences	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	School	Dept	Discipline
B	Catholic University of Daegu	School of Business Administration	Dept of Management Information Systems			School	Dept	Discipline	
B	Catholic University of Korea	College of Humanities and Sciences	School of Business Administration	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline	College	School	Dept	Discipline
B	Changwon National University	College of Economics and Business	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Dept	Discipline	
B	Cheju National University	College of Economics and Commerce	Dept of Management Information System			College	Dept	Discipline	
B	Chonbuk National University,	College of Commerce	School of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	School	Division	Discipline
B	Chungang University,	College of Business Administration	Faculty of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Faculty	Dept	Discipline
B	Chungbuk National University	College of Commerce and Business Administration	Dept of Management Information Systems			College	School	Dept	Discipline
B	Chungnam National University	College of Economics and Management	Division of Business Administration	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline	College	Division	Dept	Discipline
B	Daegu University	College of Economics and Business Administration	Division of Management, Accounting, Insurance and Finance	Dept of Accounting and Information System		College	Division	Dept	Discipline
B	Dankook University	School of Business and Economics	Division of Business Administration	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline	School	Division	Dept	Discipline
B	Dong-a University	College of Business Administration	Division of Management Information Systems			College	Division	Discipline	
Soc	Dongduk Women's University	College of Social Sciences	School of Business and Economics	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline	College	School	Dept	Discipline
B	Dongguk University	College of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline			College	Discipline		
B	Dongseo University	Division of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline			Division	Discipline		

Type*	University	Location of Information Systems within the University				Generic Levels within the University			
		1st Level Down	2nd Level Down	3rd Level Down	4th Level Down	1st Level Down	2nd Level Down	3rd Level Down	4th Level Down
Soc	Duksung Women's University	College of Information Engineering	Internet Information Discipline			College	Discipline		
B	Ewha Womans University	College of Business Administration	Division of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Division	Discipline	
B	GyeongSang National University	College of Business Administration	Division of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Division	Discipline	
Soc	Hallym University	College of Business	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Dept	Discipline	
B	Hankuk Aviation University	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline			School	Dept	Discipline	
B	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies	College of Business and Economics	Division of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Division	Dept	Discipline
B	Hannam University	College of Economics and Business Administration	Dept of Management Information Systems			College	Division	Dept	Discipline
B	Hanshin University	College of Management and Trade	Dept of E-business			College	Division	Dept	Discipline
B	Hansung University	College of Social Sciences	Division of Management	Information Systems Discipline		College	Division	Discipline	
B	Hanyang University	College of Business	School of Business	Division of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline	College	School	Division	Discipline
B	Hongik University	College of Business Administration	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Dept	Discipline	
Soc	Hoseo University	College of Social Sciences	Division of Digital Business			College	Division	Discipline	
B	Inha University	College of Business Administration	Division of Business Administration.	Information Systems Discipline		College	Division	Discipline	
Soc	Inje University	College of Humanities and Social Sciences	School of Management	Information Systems Discipline		College	School	Dept	Discipline
Soc	Kangnung National University	College of Social Sciences	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Dept	Discipline	
B	Kangwon National University	College of Business Administration	Division of Business, Tourism, and Accounting	Information Systems Discipline		College	Division	Discipline	
B	Keimyung University	College of Business Administration	Dept of Management Information Systems			College	Dept	Discipline	
Soc	Kongju National University	College of Humanities and Social Sciences	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Division	Dept	Discipline
B	Konkuk University	College of Business Administration	School of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	School	Discipline	

Type*	University	Location of Information Systems within the University				Generic Levels within the University			
		1st Level Down	2nd Level Down	3rd Level Down	4th Level Down	1st Level Down	2nd Level Down	3rd Level Down	4th Level Down
B	Kookmin University	College of Economics and Business	Dept of Business IT			College	Dept	Discipline	
B	Korea Advanced Institute of Science & Technology (KAIST)	Graduate School of Management	Information Systems Discipline	(No IS unit for undergraduates)		College	Division	Dept	Discipline
B	Korea University	College of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline			College	Dept	Discipline	
Soc	Kunsan National University	College of Social Sciences	Faculty of Business Administration and Accounting	Information Systems Discipline		College	Faculty	Dept	Discipline
O	Kwangju Institute of Science & Technology	Dept of Information and Communications	Information Systems Discipline			Dept	Discipline		
B	Kwangju University	College of Management, Commerce and Social Welfare	Division of E-Business			College	Division	Dept	Discipline
B	Kwangwoon University	College of Business	School of Business Administration	Dept of Management Information Systems		College	School	Dept	Discipline
B	Kyunghee University	College of Business Administration	School of Business Administration*	e-business discipline		College	School	Dept	Discipline
B	Kyungpook National University	College of Commerce and Economics	School of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	School	Discipline	
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Soc	Paichai University	College of Business Administration	Dept of Electronic Commerce			College	Dept	Discipline	
B	Pohang University of Science & Technology	Dept of Industrial and Management Engineering	E-business related Discipline			Dept	Discipline		
B	Pusan National University	College of Business	Division of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Division	Dept	Discipline
O	Pusan University of Foreign Studies	College of Commerce and Business	Dept of e-business			College	Division	Dept	Discipline
B	Sejong University	College of Business Administration	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Faculty	Dept	Discipline

Type*	University	Location of Information Systems within the University				Generic Levels within the University			
		1st Level Down	2nd Level Down	3rd Level Down	4th Level Down	1st Level Down	2nd Level Down	3rd Level Down	4th Level Down
B	Semyung University	School of Business Administration and Trade	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		School	Dept	Discipline	
Soc	Seokyeong University	College of Social Sciences	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Division	Dept	Discipline
B	Seoul National University	College of Business Administration	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Dept	Discipline	
Soc	Seoul Women's University	College of Social Sciences	Division of Business Administration and Economics	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline	College	Division	Dept	Discipline
B	Silla University	College of Economics and Business Administration	Dept of E-business			College	Division	Dept	Discipline
B	Sogang University	College of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline			College	Division	Discipline	
B	Sookmyung Women's University	College of Economics and Business Administration	Division of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Division	Discipline	
B	Soongsil University	College of Business and Economics	Division of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Division	Dept	Discipline
B	Sungkyunkwan University	School of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline			School	Discipline		
Soc	Sungshin Women's University	College of Social Sciences	Dept of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	School	Dept	Discipline
B	University of Incheon	College of Economics and Business Administration	Division of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	Division	Discipline	
B	University of Seoul	College of Economics and Business Administration	School of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	School	Discipline	
B	University of Ulsan	College of Business Administration	School of Business Administration	Information Systems Discipline		College	School	Discipline	
Eng	Wonju University	School of Engineering	Dept of Information Management			School	Dept	Discipline	
B	Wonkwang University	College of Business and Economics	Division of Information and Electronic Commerce			College	Division	Dept	Discipline
B	Yeungnam University	College of Commerce and Economics	School of Management	Information Systems Discipline		College	School	Discipline	
B	Yonsei University	School of Business	Information Systems Discipline			College	School	Discipline	

\* B=Business; Soc=Social Science; O=Other, Eng=Engineering



## ABOUT THE AUTHORS

**Jae-Nam Lee** is an Assistant Professor in the Business School of Korea University in Seoul, Korea. He was formerly on the faculty of both the School of Business IT at Kookmin University in Seoul, Korea and the Department of Information Systems at the City University of Hong Kong. He holds M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in MIS from the Graduate School of Management of the Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST) in Seoul. His research interests are IT Outsourcing, Knowledge Management, e-Commerce, and IT deployment and impacts on organizational performance. His published research articles appear in *MIS Quarterly*, *Information Systems Research*, *Journal of MIS*, *Journal of the AIS*, *Communications of the AIS*, *IEEE Transactions on Engineering Management*, *European Journal of Information Systems*, *Communications of the ACM*, *Information & Management*, and others. He has presented several papers at the ICIS, HICSS, ECIS, DSI and IRMA Conferences, and serves on the editorial review boards of *Journal of the AIS*, *Communications of the AIS*, *Information & Management*, and *Journal of Global Information Management*.

**Seung-Weon Yoo** is an Associate Professor in the Business School of Korea University in Seoul, Korea. He was formerly on the faculty of both the School of Business at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology in Hong Kong and the School of Business at SungKyunKwan University in Seoul, Korea. He holds M.S. degree from the Graduate School of Business at Seoul National University and Ph.D. degree in Accounting from the Graduate School of Business and Information System of University of Wisconsin at Madison in the U.S. His research interests are performance evaluation, incentives and new development in managerial accounting area. His published research articles appear in *American Economic Review*, *Accounting Review*, and others.

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