

JIN-HYUN PAIK

Candidate for
the International Court of Justice
for the term 2027–2036



Republic of Korea



Statement of H.E. CHO Hyun

Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea



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Minister of Foreign Affairs
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He is widely respected for his ability to address complex legal matters with clarity and fairness, as well as for his collegial spirit and openness to dialogue.

Since its establishment in 1945 as the principal judicial organ of the United Nations, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) has played a vital role in upholding the rule of law and facilitating the pacific settlement of disputes between States. Amid growing global uncertainty, the Court's role is more important than ever. The Republic of Korea, a steadfast supporter of multilateralism and international law, has consistently contributed to the work of international judicial bodies and stands ready to assume greater responsibilities in this shared endeavor.

In this regard, I am honored to announce that the Republic of Korea's National Group in the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) will nominate Judge Jin-Hyun Paik as a candidate for the 2026 election to the ICJ. This marks a historic milestone - the first-ever candidacy of a Korean jurist to the ICJ. It reflects not only Korea's strong support for the Court's mission but also our commitment to promoting broader geographic and legal representation within the Court.



Judge Paik is a globally respected jurist with a distinguished record in public international law. He served as a Judge on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) from 2009 to 2023, including as its President from 2017 to 2020. He has also acted as an arbitrator in inter-state disputes under the auspices of the PCA.

Throughout his career, Judge Paik has earned widespread recognition for his intellectual rigor, integrity, and judicial independence. He is widely respected for his ability to address complex legal matters with clarity and fairness, as well as for his collegial spirit and openness to dialogue. From my own interactions with Judge Paik, I have witnessed his academic depth and genuine enthusiasm for thoughtful, respectful discourse. I am confident that these qualities, combined with his extensive judicial experience, make him an exceptional candidate.

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The Republic of Korea reaffirms its unwavering support for the ICJ and the values of justice, peace, and international cooperation. I respectfully seek the support of Member States for Judge Paik’s candidacy in the 2026 election.

| Endorsements

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The Court will benefit from his in-depth knowledge of the law, his keen analytical mind, equanimity and sense of fairness.



H.E. Patrick ROBINSON

Jamaica | Former Judge of the ICJ

I had the privilege of working for several years with Judge Paik on a matter that required expertise in public international law. As a former member of the Court, I am in a position to say that he possesses to the highest degree all the qualifications for membership of the Court.

The Court will benefit from his in-depth knowledge of the law, his keen analytical mind, equanimity and sense of fairness. His contribution to the jurisprudence of the Court will be immense.

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I had the privilege of witnessing his exceptional intellectual and analytical acumen firsthand.



H.E. James KATEKA

Tanzania | Former Judge of ITLOS

Judge Paik is a distinguished scholar and jurist who has achieved remarkable recognition throughout his illustrious career. Having worked alongside him at ITLOS, I had the privilege of witnessing his exceptional intellectual and analytical acumen firsthand, both during the Tribunal's deliberations and in his role as President.

Judge Paik's leadership extended to his tenure as President of the Asian Society of International Law, where he made a lasting contribution to shaping an Asian perspective on international law. His commitment to advancing international legal discourse is further reflected in his election as a Titular Member of the Institut de Droit International. In light of his outstanding achievements and immense contributions to international law, I have no doubt that he will be an exemplary Judge at the ICJ.

A portrait of Judge and Professor JIN-HYUN PAIK, a middle-aged man with dark hair and glasses, wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and a red patterned tie. He is seated and looking slightly to his left with a gentle smile. The background is a blurred indoor setting with large windows.

Statement of
Judge and
Professor
JIN-HYUN PAIK

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I am deeply honored to be nominated as a candidate for election to the International Court of Justice for the 2027–2036 term.

Today, the international community’s demand for the Court is higher than ever with a wide range of cases from armed conflicts to climate change. So is the expectation of States for the role of the Court. For the Court to fulfill its mandate effectively under these circumstances, its members must be highly competent, independent, dedicated, and impartial.

I am confident that the expertise and experience I have gained as both a scholar and practitioner of international law over the past four decades would be a significant asset to the Court’s work in the years ahead.

| Outstanding Expertise in International Law

I have been a Professor of Public International Law for over 35 years, researching and publishing on a broad spectrum of topics. In 2015 I was elected an Associate Member and in 2021 a Titular Member of the Institut de Droit International, which is widely recognized as one of the most authoritative academies of international law.



As a scholar, I have collaborated closely with experts in other disciplines as well. This interdisciplinary approach has deepened my understanding of global affairs and allowed me to contextualize legal disputes within broader geopolitical frameworks, enhancing my ability to approach the peaceful settlement of international disputes with an even more comprehensive perspective.



| Extensive Experience as Judge and Arbitrator



I had the privilege of serving as a Judge on the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS) for over fourteen years, including three years as its President. I have also dealt with inter-state disputes at the Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) as an arbitrator. During my tenure, I successfully resolved numerous challenging disputes, restoring amicable relations between the parties involved and promoting lasting peace.

In my capacity as a judge and arbitrator, I have always stood firmly in applying and interpreting the law in a rigorous manner, while collaborating with colleagues to find broad-based solutions to contentious issues, keeping an open mind and being willing to be persuaded by different views. I believe this balance — upholding legal principles and fostering collegiality — has been a key factor in the successful resolution of complex and sensitive disputes.





| Building Bridges through International Law

One area to which I am particularly committed is the capacity-building of developing countries in international law and dispute settlement. I am particularly proud that, as President of ITLOS, I was able to initiate and implement a high-level annual Legal Advisers' Workshop.

Moreover, it is a source of great satisfaction for me that during my tenure as President of the Asian Society of International Law (2015–2017), I worked hard to expand the Society's membership to include Central and West Asia, fostering greater engagement with international law across the entire region. It is still my firm belief that enhancing access to legal knowledge and training across different regions and generations will make a difference in our collective endeavors towards peace and justice.

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If elected,
I would bring to the Court my expertise,
experience, and commitment to the
highest standards of intellectual rigor.

I would listen attentively to the parties
and participants in the proceedings,
and apply international law with the
utmost conscientiousness and fairness.

Guided by a spirit of collegiality,
I would collaborate with distinguished
colleagues to ensure that the Court's
decisions are worthy of the greatest
respect.

Above all,
I will remain independent
and impartial in all my actions.

JIN-HYUN PAIK

Candidate of the Republic of Korea
for the International Court of Justice
for the Term 2027–2036



| Curriculum Vitae

Education

- 2019 Dr. iur. h.c., University of Hamburg, Germany
- 1989 Ph.D., University of Cambridge, Faculty of Law, UK (International Law)
- 1983 LL.M., Columbia University, School of Law, USA
- 1980 LL.B., Seoul National University, College of Law, Korea

Judicial and Arbitral Experience

- 2009–2023 Judge, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
- 2019–2023 President, Special Chamber in the Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary between Mauritius and Maldives in the Indian Ocean
- 2017–2020 President, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
- 2014–2017 Member, Special Chamber in the Dispute concerning delimitation of the maritime boundary between Ghana and Côte d'Ivoire in the Atlantic Ocean
- 2015–2020 Arbitrator, Arbitral Tribunal (at PCA) in The 'Enrica Lexie' Incident (Italy v. India)
- 2016–Present President, Arbitral Tribunal (at PCA) in the Dispute concerning Coastal State Rights in the Black Sea, Sea of Azov, and Kerch Strait (Ukraine v. The Russian Federation)

University Positions

1997–2023	Professor of Public International Law, Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), Seoul National University (SNU), Korea
2010–2012	Dean, GSIS, Seoul National University, Korea
2008–2010	Director, Institute of International Affairs (IIA), SNU, Korea
2006–2008	Director, SNU-KIEP European Union (EU) Center, SNU, Korea
2003, 2005–2007	Associate Dean, GSIS, Seoul National University, Korea
1990–1997	Professor of Public International Law, Korea National Diplomatic Academy (formerly, Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security), Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Korea

Selected Academic Affiliations and Leadership Roles

2015–Present	Member, Institut de Droit International
2015–2017	President, Asian Society of International Law (AsianSIL)
2010–2017	Member, Executive Council, Asian Society of International Law
2010–Present	President, Sea Lanes of Communication (SLOC) Study Group, Korea
2008–2011	President, Korean Council on the United Nations System (KACUNS)
2006–2015	Director, Haesung Institute for Ethics in International Affairs, Korea

Visiting Professor and Fellowships

2014–Present	Distinguished Fellow, Law of the Sea Institute, University of California Berkeley, USA
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2013	Guest Scholar, Max Planck Institute for Comparative Public Law and International Law, Heidelberg, Germany
2003–2004	Visiting Professor, Johns Hopkins University's Paul Nitze School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), USA
2003	Visiting Fellow, Stanford University's Hoover Institution, USA
2000	Visiting Fellow, RAND Corporation, Santa Monica, USA
1985	Doctoral Scholarship Fellow, Hague Academy of International Law, Netherlands

Teaching Experience

Since 1989, Judge Paik has delivered regular and special lectures on a wide range of international law topics at universities and academic institutions around the world, including:

Hague Academy of International Law

(Special Course 2023; Advanced Course 2024)

Rhodes Academy of Oceans Law and Policy (2011–2024)

Faroe Academy on the Continental Shelf (2014, 2016, 2023)

Xiamen Academy of International Law (2018)

International Maritime Law Institute (2016, 2018, 2022, 2023)

IFLOS Summer Academy (2014, 2018)

Seoul Academy of International Law (2016–2024)

Yeosu Academy of the Law of the Sea (2014–2024)

UN Audiovisual Library of International Law, and

UN Regional Course in International Law (2010)

Judge Paik has also delivered keynote speeches and presented papers at numerous international conferences and seminars on various aspects of international law worldwide.

**Selected
Experience in
International
Negotiations**

1995	Legal Adviser to the Korean Delegation to the Assembly of International Seabed Authority (ISA)
1994–2008	Member, Council for Security Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific (CSCAP), Maritime Cooperation Working Group
1993–1995	Member of the Korean Delegation to the 6th Committee of the United Nations General Assembly (48th–50th sessions)
1993–1994	Legal Adviser to the Korean Delegation to the UN Secretary General's informal consultations on the Law of the Sea (5th–8th sessions)
1992–1997	Legal Adviser to the Korean Delegation to the negotiations for Fishery Agreements with China, Japan, and for the Central Bering Sea
1992	Member of the Korean Delegation to the UN Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operation
1991–1992	Chairman, Asian Group of the G-77, Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea
1990–1994	Legal Adviser to the Korean Delegation to the Preparatory Commission for the International Seabed Authority and International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (8th–12th sessions)
1990–1993	Legal Adviser to the Korean Delegation to the negotiations for Mutual Legal Assistance Treaties/Extradition Treaties with Canada, United States, Brazil, Thailand, Indonesia, and Australia

**Selected
Advisory
and Other
Professional
Experience**

- 2023–Present Chairman of the Board, Haesung Institute for Ethics in International Affairs, Korea
- 2017–2020 Chairman of the Board of Trustees, International Foundation for the Law of the Sea (IFLOS)
- 2012–Present Member, International Advisory Panel, Center for International Law, Singapore
- 2000–2002 Member, Advisory Committee to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Korea
- 1999–2000 Member, Advisory Committee to the National Security Council, Korea
- 1994–1997 Member, Presidential Commission on Policy Planning, Korea
- 1989–Present Member of the New York Bar

**Capacity-
Building
Activities**

Over the past two decades, Judge Paik has actively initiated, organized, and participated in capacity-building projects focused on international law and dispute settlement for academics, lawyers, and government officials from developing countries. These initiatives include the UN Regional Course in International Law, the ITLOS Legal Advisers' Workshop, and various projects supported by KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency).

Books (English and Korean)

Governing Ocean Resources: New Challenges and Emerging Regimes, Jin-Hyun Paik and others (eds.), Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2013

Regions, Institutions and the Law of the Sea, Jin-Hyun Paik and Harry N. Scheiber (eds.), Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2013

Asian Approaches to International Law and the Legacy of Colonialism, Jin-Hyun Paik and others (eds.), Routledge, 2012

Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime at a Crossroads and Korea, Jin-Hyun Paik (ed.), Oreum Publishing House, 2010 (in Korean)

Ocean Affairs in Northeast Asia and Prospects for Korea-China Cooperation, Jin-Hyun Paik and Jiao Yongke (eds.), Seoul Press, 1994

Exploring Maritime Cooperation in Northeast Asia: Possibility and Prospects, Jin-Hyun Paik and Others (eds.), Seoul Press, 1993

Articles (English and Korean)

“International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea as a Judicial Guardian of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea”, C. Cheng (ed), New Trends in International Law: Festschrift in Honor of Judge Hisashi Owada, Brill/Nijhoff, 2024

“The Contribution of the Institut de Droit International to the Regulation of Spaces: Law of the Sea”, M. Koehn and I. van der Heijden (eds), Justitia et Pace: 1873–2023, A. Pedone-Paris, 2023

“Tacit Agreements”, Max Planck Encyclopedia of Public International Law, Oxford University Press, 2020

“Disputes involving Scientific and Technical Matters and the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea”, T. Heidar (ed), New Knowledge and Changing Circumstances in the Law of the Sea, Brill/Nijhoff, 2020

“The Gray Area in the Bay of Bengal Case”, M. H. Nordquist, J. N. Moore, and R. Long (eds), International Marine Economy: Law and Policy, Brill/Nijhoff, 2017

“The Origin of the Principle of Natural Prolongation: North Sea Continental Shelf Cases Revisited”, Lilian del Castillo (ed), Law of the Sea, From Grotius to the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea, Brill/Nijhoff, 2015

“Rise of International Adjudication and its Impact on International Dispute Settlement”, J.H. Paik and others (eds.), Asian Approaches to International Law and the Legacy of Colonialism, Routledge, 2012

“Role of Proportionality in Maritime Delimitation: State of Jurisprudence”, H.P. Hestermeyer and Others (eds.), Coexistence, Cooperation and Solidarity, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, 2012

“Progress and Limitations of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty”, J.H. Paik (ed.), Nuclear Non-Proliferation Regime at a Crossroads and Korea, Oreum Publishing House, 2010 (in Korean)

“Assessing the UNCLOS Regime: with Particular Reference to the Law of the Sea Institutions”, Korean Journal of International Law, Vol. 50, No. 3, 2005 (in Korean)

“Implementing Mechanism of the Kyoto Protocol to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change”, Journal of International and Area Studies, Vol. 12, No. 4, 2003 (in Korean)

“Domestic Legal Effect of Treaties: Comparative Analysis of Theories, Practice and Policy”, Korean Journal of International Law, Vol. 45, No. 1, 2000 (in Korean)

“Science and Technology in Environmental Diplomacy”,
Journal of International and Area Studies, Vol. 7, No. 2,
1998 (in Korean)

“Legal Aspect of United Nations Peacekeeping: with
Particular Reference to Domestic Law and Practice of
Korea”, Seoul International Law Journal, Vol. 3, No. 2,
1996

“Can the United Nations Make Peace?: UN Peacemaking
in International Law and Relations”, Kyung-Won Kim (ed.),
The Rise of East Asia and the United Nations, 1995

“Law and Practice of Environment-related Trade Measures:
with Particular Reference to the Interpretation and
Application of Multilateral Trade Rules”, Korean Journal of
International Law, Vol. 40, No. 1, 1995 (in Korean)

“East Asia and the Law of the Sea”, D. Rothwell and J.
Crawford (eds.), The Law of the Sea in the Asian-Pacific
Region: Developments and Prospects, Martinus Nijhoff
Publishers, 1994

“Rethinking Collective Security in the Post-Cold War
World”, J.Y.Ra (ed.), The New World Order and the Role of
the United Nations, 1994

“Relation between User States and Coastal States with
Respect to International Navigation”, E. Miles and T.
Kuribayashi (eds.), The Law of the Sea in the 1990s: A
Framework for Further International Cooperation, University
of Hawaii Press, 1992

“A Single Boundary for the Continental Shelf and the EEZ”,
Korean Journal of Comparative Law, Vol. 17, 1989

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