

GIST Professor Jaeyoung Lee of the School of Earth Sciences and Environmental Engineering was appointed as president of the Humboldt Club of Korea

- Serving for two years as president of the Korean Humboldt Society of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, a global academic foundation established by the German government in 1860... "Promoting the strengthening of the network of young Koreans and Germans"
- The Humboldt Network, a global network of 30,000 scholars supported by the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, has produced 61 Nobel Prize winners... Humboldt Association of Korea to host 'Humboldt Conference' in April 2026



▲ Professor Jaeyoung Lee of the School of Earth Sciences and Environmental Engineering

The Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST, President Kichul Lim) announced that Professor Jaeyoung Lee of the School of Earth Sciences and Environmental Engineering was appointed as the president of the Humboldt Club Korea of the Alexander von Humboldt Foundation, a world-class academic foundation in Germany.

President Lee's term of office is two years from May 11, 2024.

Alexander von Humboldt (1769-1859) was a German scientist who traveled the world researching biology and physical geography and left remarkable achievements. He dreamed of a world where scholars around the world could overcome barriers of language, culture, and ideology to collaborate, exchange, and explore academics.

The 'Alexander von Humboldt Foundation', founded in 1860 to inherit Humboldt's spirit, operates academic exchange programs for scholars around the world. The Humboldt Network includes over 30,000 people from 140 countries, including 61 Nobel Prize winners.

In 2015, the German Humboldt Foundation, together with the German Embassy in Korea and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD), held the 'Humboldt Colloquium' at Ewha Womans University under the theme of 'Research Beyond Borders'. On that day, 200 scholars representing Korea and Germany participated and presented their future vision.

The Humboldt Foundation selects 2,000 outstanding researchers from around the world every year through strict screening, and operates a program that allows them to visit Germany and conduct joint research.

The Humboldt Club Korea is an academic organization comprised of more than 400 Korean scholars who have received Humboldt Foundation research scholarships and Humboldt Academic Awards and are actively engaged in academic exchanges in all fields, including the humanities, education, law, literature, social sciences, and science and technology.

The Humboldt Club Korea includes Fellows from all disciplines who are engaged in continuous academic exchange through research stays at German universities and research institutes, and organizes regular Humboldt Forums and symposia based on the global Humboldt network to advance the field.

Jaeyoung Lee, the new president of Humboldt Club Korea, said, "Korea and Germany are strong partners and are committed to win-win cooperation in all fields. The 'Humboldt Conference' to be held by GIST in conjunction with the German Humboldt Foundation in April 2026 will provide a venue for communication and discussion between German and Korean scholars. In the future, the Humboldt Club of Korea will promote the role of strengthening the network of young German and Korean people."

Since receiving his Ph.D. from the Max Planck Institute in Berlin, Germany, in 2001, Professor Lee has been focusing on 'Scale-up Science' research on chemical energy conversion and storage, and has produced excellent results in the field of electrocatalysts that can be utilized in industry.

He has published 300 papers in top international journals and has been awarded the Tajima Prize of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (2012), the Researcher Award of the Japan Chemical Society (2011), the Humboldt Foundation Mid-Career Researcher Award (2011), the Innox Prize (2018), and the Prime Minister's Medal (2024) for his outstanding contributions to the promotion of science and technology.

Professor Lee currently serves as the chairman of the National Research Foundation of Korea's Overseas Research Center-Global Cooperation Hub Center Council, and is contributing to Korea-Germany science and technology cooperation as the director (vice president) of the Academy of Korea-Germany Network (ADeKo).