

JIHOON RIM

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

New York University, Stern School of Business

New York, NY

Adjunct Professor

2019-Present

Visiting Professor of Management Practice, Department of Management & Organizations (*full-time*) 2020-2021

- Developed and teach two of the most highly regarded MBA elective courses: Managing a High-Tech Company, The CEO Perspective (course evaluation: 4.93/5.0), Founding a Startup (4.93/5.0)
- Teach Technology and Entrepreneurship at TRIUM, a global EMBA run by NYU Stern, LSE, and HEC Paris.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Kakao Corp.

Seoul, Korea

Kakao is a publicly traded technology company valued at \$50+ billion dollars, best known for its mobile messenger Kakao Talk.

Executive Advisor

2018-2020

CEO and Board Member

2015-2018

- Hired as CEO when the company was in crisis: Revenue, operating income, and stock price were all declining. During tenure, successfully turned around the company and expanded its business into finance, contents and mobility by disrupting the market and delivering products praised by users. Kakao currently is recognized as the best mobile and AI platform in Korea.
- Financial Performance: Revenue (USD 932M, 1.464B, 1.972B from 2015 to 2017), Operating Profit (USD 88M, 116M, 165M from 2015 to 2017)
- Key Metric (Monthly Active Users out of South Korea's population of 51M): Kakao Talk (38M→43M), Kakao Taxi (3M→10M, No. of daily requests: 240K→2.9M), Kakao Pay (5M→30M), Kakao Bank (Launch→10M), Kakao Page (Max daily transaction: \$200K→1M), Melon Music (Paying subscriber 3.8M→5M)

Kakao Ventures (*formerly named KCube Ventures*)

Seoul, Korea

Founder and CEO

2012-2015

- Founded an early-stage venture capital best known for investing in people; the firm invested in startups at pre-revenue and pre-product stage. The inaugural \$10M fund got liquidated in 2021 and returned more than \$1B (100X+, 10-year IRR 68%) to the investors, being recognized as the best performed VC fund ever in South Korea. The firm was ranked 8th by CBInsights in the category "the most active corporate venture capital in the world" in 2017 after being acquired by Kakao Corp. in 2015.

Softbank Ventures Asia (*VC arm of Softbank Corp.*)

Seoul, Korea

Principal

2007-2012

Boston Consulting Group

Seoul, Korea

Associate Consultant

2006-2007

Naver Corp. (*No.1 search engine in Korea*)

Seoul, Korea

Associate (*alternative military service*)

2005-2006

Accenture

Seoul, Korea

Analyst (*alternative military service*)

2003-2005

AWARDS

The AIS Leadership Excellence Award, Association for Information Systems, 2017

No.1 in 2017 Korea's Best CEO, Insight Korea (*Korean news organization*), 2017

2018 Korea's Top 10 Hero, Maeil Broadcasting Network (*Korea's largest business news media organization*), 2018

Top 10 Next Generation Leader, Sisa Journal (*Korean news organization*), 2018

EDUCATION

Baruch College, Zicklin School of Business, City University of New York New York, NY
Doctor of Business Administration 2018-2022

- Dissertation: “How Innovation Occurs in the Software Industry: A Qualitative Study on Innovation Management”

Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology Daejeon, Korea
B.S., Industrial Engineering 1999-2004

- Recipient of the “KAIST Industrial Engineering Best Graduate Award”

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

Harvard College Project for Asian & International Relations Conference, Speaker, 2022 Spring
Boston Consulting Group, Masterclass session, 2021 Spring
Wharton Technology Club & Wharton Korea Club, Fireside Chat, 2021 Spring
NYU Stern Fubon Center, Managing Innovation, 2020 Fall
Rutgers Business School AIS Workshop, AI & Innovation, 2020 Spring
Harvard Asia Business Conference, HBS, Keynote, 2020 Spring
NYU Stern Digital Innovation Conference, Platform Strategy, Plenary Talk, 2019 Fall
NYU Stern TechCon, Startups & Tech Investment Session, 2019 Fall
NYU Stern Strategic Venture Society, Fireside Chat, 2019 Fall
UC San Diego, School of Global Policy and Strategy, Managing Innovation, 2019 Fall
The Korea Society (think tank in NYC), Fireside Chat, 2019 Fall
Korean Startup Summit NYC (Korean government run program), Keynote, 2019 Fall
NYU Stern Tech MBA, Speaker Session, 2019 Summer
New Jersey Korean American Chamber of Commerce, Startup Conference, Keynote, 2019 Summer
Korean Inter-MBA Mixer, Keynote, 2019 Spring
Korean American Scientists and Engineers Association, NRC Conference, Keynote, 2019 Spring
Case Western University, Weatherhead School of Management, Innovation, 2019 Spring
ECAL Lausanne (Switzerland), Empowerment Summit, Artificial Intelligence, 2018 Fall
Boston University, Questrom School of Business, Executive Education, 2018 Summer
International Conference on Information Systems, Keynote, 2017
Wall Street Journal, DLive, Plenary Talk, 2017