

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

- Develop and teach two of the most highly regarded MBA elective courses: Managing a High-Tech Company, The CEO Perspective (course evaluation: 4.94/5.0), 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

Jihoon Rim Foundation Austin, Texas
The foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization with a primary mission to support college students.
Founder and Board Director 2022-Present

Kakao Corp. Seoul, Korea
Kakao is a publicly traded technology company valued at USD 20+ billion, best known for its mobile messenger Kakao Talk.
Executive Adviser 2018-2020
CEO and Board Director 2015-2018

- Hired as CEO during a company crisis: Revenue, operating income, and stock price were all declining. During tenure, successfully turned around the company expanding its business into finance, content, and mobility. Disrupted the market by delivering products that were highly praised by customers. As a result, Kakao has been 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 as KCube Ventures*) Seoul, Korea
Board Director 2012-2018
Founder and CEO 2012-2015

- Founded an early-stage venture capital that became best known for investing in people; the firm focused on investing in startups at the pre-revenue and pre-product stages. The inaugural \$10M fund was liquidated in 2021 and returned more than \$1B (100X+, 10-year IRR ~70%) to the investors, making it the best-performing VC fund ever in South Korea.

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

LITIGATION SUPPORT/EXPERT WITNESS EXPERIENCE

- Advise the U.S. Federal Trade Commission in antitrust matter involving a technology company. (2022-Present)

EDUCATION

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

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

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

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

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 Leaders, Sisa Journal (*Korean news organization*), 2018

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

KSEA YGNITE, Fireside Chat, 2023 Spring

TRIUM EMBA, Speaker Series, 2022 Spring

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