



Democracy and Independence of EMBs
- Korean Experience -

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NEC, Republic of Korea



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I . Korea in "Democracy Index 2010"

- **Full Democracy**
- **Ranked the 20th in the world**
- **Ranked the 1st in Asia**

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III. NEC and Measures for Independence

1. Status : Independent Constitutional Agency

- The 5th constitutional agency
- EC as a part of executive branch (1948)
 - reestablished as a constitutional body (1963)

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III. NEC and Measures for Independence

1. Status : Independent Constitutional Agency

• Composition

- : check & balance among legislature, executive, and judicial branches
 - 3 members appointed by the President
 - 3 members selected by the National Assembly
 - 3 members designated by the Supreme Court

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III. NEC and Measures for Independence

1. Status : Independent Constitutional Agency

- **Independence and impartiality of election commissioners:** prevent party affiliation and intervention in politics
- Chairperson (a Supreme Court justice) elected by commissioners
- Standing commissioner (minister level) serves full-time and supervises the secretariat

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III. NEC and Measures for Independence

2. Composition : Nationwide Permanent Body

- NEC, 16 Si/Do ECs, 251 Gu/Si/Gun ECs
- **Secretariat of NEC:** secretary general (minister level), deputy secretary general, 2 offices, 7 bureaus, 25 divisions
- Commissioners with 6 years of term of office vs. secretariat officials under merit system
- Occupational expertise and independence of the secretariat from commissioners

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III. NEC and Measures for Independence

3. Powers and Responsibilities of NEC

- Fair management of elections
 - public elections
 - private elections : elections for schools, apartment houses, district-redevelopment cooperatives, etc.
- Political parties and funds affairs
- Power to enforce and investigate election law/ political fund law violations
- Democratic civic/political education

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IV. Conclusion

- **Korea's experience of governmental type EMB**
- **Independence: not given but to be achieved**
- **EMB leadership's role in achieving the independence**

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Need for Association of World Election Bodies

- **Need for an Association of World Election Bodies**

- to establish global standards for democratic elections
- to recommend each country to adopt such standards

- **Global Conference of EMB Leaders in Seoul in 2013**

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Thank You

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