

## Shin Kak-Soo

Professor, Korean National Diplomatic Academy



### Basic Data

Ambassador Shin Kak-Soo was born on January 16<sup>th</sup>, 1955 in Young-dong County, Choongbook Province, Korea. He is married with one son and one daughter, and a catholic.

### Education

Ambassador Shin graduated from the College of Law at Seoul National University (SNU) in February 1977. He then earned a master's degree (LLM) in international law from the Graduate School of Law at SNU in February 1979. In 1983 he studied Japanese at the International Center of Japan's Keio University, and moved to the Department of Law at Tokyo University, majoring in international law in 1984. In August 1991 he earned a S.J.D from the Graduate School of Law at SNU.

### Diplomatic Career

In May 1975 Ambassador Shin passed the High Diplomatic Service Examination, and in January 1977 he joined the ministry of foreign affairs. Ambassador Shin started his work at the international legal affairs division and treaties division in the treaties bureau as assistant director from 1977 to 1985.

In January 1986 Ambassador Shin was assigned as first secretary to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Japan for three years, and in March 1989 he came back as deputy director of the Japan division at the Asian and Pacific affairs bureau. In February 1990 he was appointed advisor to the vice-minister for foreign affairs, and in August 1993 he was promoted to director of the Japan division at the Asian and Pacific affairs bureau. Ambassador Shin served as advisor to the foreign minister for the year of 1995. He was then transferred to the Korean Mission to the United Nations in 1996 and worked there as counselor for three years. Following this, Ambassador Shin was assigned to the Korean Embassy to the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka as minister-counselor for two years.

In February 2001 he became deputy director-general for the East Asia Study Group at the Asian Pacific affairs bureau, and in January 2002 he was named director-general of the treaties Bureau. After two years of service as legal advisor, he was appointed as deputy permanent representative at the Korean Mission to the United Nations in March 2004.

In February 2006, Ambassador Shin was appointed as ambassador to the State of Israel. After two and half years of service in Israel, he came back to take up the post of second vice-minister in charge of functional affairs in the foreign ministry in July 2008. In November 2009, he was promoted to first vice-minister taking charge of regional affairs. He completed his service as first vice-minister in February 2011. Three months later he came back as ambassador to Japan, and served there for two years until May 2013.

#### **Other Positions**

Ambassador Shin taught cadets international law and military criminal law as instructor in the department of law at the Korea Military Academy from 1979 to 1982. He also held the position of instructor in the department of diplomacy at Sogang University in Seoul, Republic of Korea from 1981 to 1982. From 1991 to 1993, Ambassador Shin researched as a visiting fellow at the Asia-Pacific Research Center of Stanford University in the United States. He also served as director of the Global Green Growth Institute, making contributions during its initial stage of creation in 2010. Ambassador Shin actively participated in joint programs on promotion and dissemination of international humanitarian law in East Asia that were organized by the ICRC. He was briefly a visiting scholar at the School of International Studies of the Peking University before being assigned to ambassador to Japan in 2011. He joined the Korean National Diplomatic Academy as a professor in charge of its International Law Center in November 2013. Since December 2013, he has also been affiliated at the Institute of Japanese Studies at the Seoul National University as a special research fellow.

#### **Membership**

Ambassador Shin is a Korean member of the Permanent Court of Arbitration. Ambassador Shin is a member of the Korean Society of International Law and the Korean Society of International Humanitarian Law. He is also a board member of the Community Chest of Korea and an advisor to the Citizen's Alliance for North Korean Human Rights.

#### **Publications**

Ambassador Shin has written many articles on various issues in international law, Asian Affairs, international organizations and North Korea in academic journals. He also contributed many articles to newspapers and periodicals.