

## Biography of the Minister of Health and Welfare



Rhyu, Simin

Minister of Health and Welfare  
Republic of Korea

Simin Rhyu was sworn in as the Republic of Korea's 44th Minister of Health and Welfare on February 10, 2006. In his ministerial capacity, he leads national efforts to protect and promote the health and well-being of all Koreans.

During his first year in office, Minister Rhyu oversaw numerous national projects, including an expansion of the social safety net to ameliorate income polarization and a campaign to address the effects of the nation's low fertility rate and aging population. He also accelerated the promotion of the healthcare industry as a future growth engine and presided over national projects aimed at strengthening public health and safety standards by implementing major programs such as a lifetime health management initiative and anti-smoking campaign. Lastly, he oversaw the reform of welfare service delivery systems to enhance the efficacy of health and welfare services.

Under his watch, the Ministry of Health and Welfare spearheaded a major reform of the National Pension Scheme to ensure the scheme's financial sustainability. Also, in response to the nation's rapidly aging population and low birth rate, the Ministry established the legal and institutional framework necessary for implementing a long-term care insurance system.

Previously, as a two-term member of the National Assembly, Minister Rhyu served on a variety of parliamentary committees, including the Special Committee for the National Pension Scheme, the Committee for Finance and Economy, the Committee on Legislation and the Judiciary, and the Committee for Welfare and Health.

After receiving a bachelor's degree in economics from Seoul National University in Korea in 1991 and a master's degree in economics from Johannes Gutenberg-Universität Mainz in Germany in 1997, he was extensively involved in the news media sector, variously serving as a columnist, as chief editor for a newspaper and news magazine, and as an anchor for TV news programs. In addition to having published numerous articles, essays and books, he also previously served as an adjunct professor of social science at Sung-Kong-Hoe University.

He is married and has two children. He often goes on fishing trips with his family and enjoys soccer.