Political Challenge of BI Movement in Korea
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**BI Movement and Politics**

**Questions that BI Movement faces**

First, is it possible for BI to build Utopia without the role of Politics?

- Impossible.

Second, then how can we combine BI movement and politics?

- Suggesting BI as a practical solution for socioeconomic problems
- Intervening other political issues based on BI philosophy
Today’s Discussion

Part 1. Political Challenges of BI Movement in Korea
Part 2. Political Challenges of BI Party
Part 1. Political Challenges of BI Movement in Korea
Period Division of BI Movement in Korea

1st era for Introduction of BI to Korea, accumulation of theories, forming subjects of the movement
- Led by progressive researchers and extra-parliamentary parties
- Discussed actively only in non-formal sector

2nd era for BI becoming a main agenda in institutional politics
- Major Parties accepted BI agenda and proposed bills at Congress
- Local governments implemented various pilot programs and modified policies

2000

1st era

2016

2nd era

Now
1st era of BI Movement

The 16th BIEN Congress hosted by BIKN on July 2016, Seoul

Socialist Party members requiring basic income, Mayday 2009
“Basic income for Everyone”
What happened in 2016

- Looming of Job Destruction by AI
  - ‘4th Industrial Revolution’ discourse spread
    (The Davos Forum)
  - AlphaGo won Lee Se-Dol at the Baduk match
- Referendum on BI was held in Switzerland
- The 16th BIEN Congress was held in Seoul
- Seongnam-si began giving Youth-BI (Youth Dividend)
2nd era of BI Movement

Gyeonggi-do (Governor, Lee Jae-Myung) started to give ‘Youth BI’ to 24 year-olds in 2019

Yong Hye-In, the executive representative of BI Party, succeeded to enter the National Assembly in 2020
How has BI emerged as main agenda in politics

First, ‘Welfare politics’ has made the ground for BI since 2000’s

- Welfare system in Korea selective so that resources are concentrated on poor class. Middle class is very discontent with it
- In 2010, left wings won the Local Election on a ‘free school meals’ pledge. Since then, political movements have become active. (for free education, child allowance, basic pension)
- BI was suggested as ‘Policy that completes Universal welfare’
How has BI emerged as main agenda in politics

Second, Synergy from ‘reviving local economy’ approach combined with local currency

- Korea has a high proportion of self-employed people. Supports for BI had grown when local government distributed local currencies for BI that increased profits of local business.
How has BI emerged as main agenda in politics

Third, **Stimulus check** payment in response to COVID-19

- Under the absence of a labor protection and welfare safety net, COVID-19 caused critical damage to precariats and self-employed people.
- While there’s no room to select those eligible for relief, the Moon Jae-In government accepted civil society’s demand for ‘Universal Stimulus Check’ and paid it for the whole nation.
- Public opinion that supports BI has increased since the implementation of ‘Universal Stimulus Check’.
- The central government paid ‘Universal Stimulus Check’ only once. However, individual local governments provided ‘Universal Stimulus Check’ several times during the COVID-19 period.
Opinion parties agreed on a joint pledge of ‘free school meals’ ahead of the local elections in the June 2010

In May 2020, the government decided to pay ‘Universal Stimulus Check’ as a countermeasure against COVID-19
2020-22 Ups and Downs of BI Politics

Distribution-friendly parliament was formed in General Election 2020

However, even with this advantages Government and ruling party failed to make overall reforms

- The center-liberal (Democratic Party) and the progressive oppositions won (180/300 seats)
- BIP got into Parliament (Congress member, Yong Hye-In)
- Bills related to basic income were proposed (BI bill, Carbon tax bill)

- Resistance of Financial Officials who prioritize National Debt Management
- Supporters fled because of rising in real estate prices
The 20th Presidential Election 2022
Election that distribution pledges poured including BI

- Ruling party (Democratic) candidate, Lee Jae-Myung pledged ‘Basic Society’ and ‘BI 1,00,000 KRW per year’
- BIP candidate, Oh Jun-Ho pledged ‘BI 650,000 KRW per month’
The 20th Presidential Election 2022

The conservative right-wing government elected as a reaction of the former government’s failure to reform

BI political groups should prepare for the 3rd term BI politics. It needs to persuade that BI is the solution to social problems which people are concerned with.
Part 2. Political Challenge of the BIP
Forming and growing up of the BIP

Promoting the party by running important election after getting into Parliament
• Seoul Mayor Election 2021, Presidential and Local Election 2022

Increase of attention and support for Yong Hye-In and BIP from Citizens and growth in new membership
• About 20,000 currently, dozens of new members every week

How is BIP’s campaign so effective?
<table>
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<tr>
<th>BI as a countermeasure against climate crisis</th>
<th>BI as a solution to real estate inequality</th>
<th>BI for just industry transformation</th>
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<tr>
<td>'BI and Carbon Tax Acts' that implement carbon tax and pay the revenue to all citizens</td>
<td>Henry George's Land Tax that distribute the revenue to all as universal housing allowances</td>
<td>Large scale of public investment for innovation and industrial transition that distribute benefits to all citizens</td>
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BIP's campaign 1.
Misson-Oriented B1

‘BI with Carbon Tax’ Yong Hye-In, Congress member of BIP delivering speech at campaign

‘BI with Land Tax’ Oh Jun-Ho, BIP presidential candidate explaining the pledge
BIP’s campaign 2.

Efforts to form a broad political alliances based on the basic income agenda

- Form BI policy alliance for Presidential and Local Election — 2022
- ‘BI Political Joint Action (2021)’, ‘BI Joint Declaration (2022)’
- Collaborate with BI movement organizations (ex. Agrarian BI, Senior BI)
- Co-proposing an Agrarian BI bill
- Call for make BI publicized with 5 Parliament parties
- Proposing Publicizing BI Bill
BIP’s campaign 3.

‘Dignity and Equality for Everyone’
According to the spirit of establishment,
fight against the conservative and vested interests

Activities to reveal the truth of a disaster caused by bureaucratic insensitivity to safety

After Oct 29, 2022 Itaewon disaster, participate in Parliamentary audit committee

Criticize the Minister of Economy and Finance that passive at fiscal expenditure during COVID-19

Call for paying UBI until the end of the pandemic

Propose windfall Tax Bill

Propose to retrieve excess profits from oil refiners and banks and use it at social welfare
Yong Hye-In, Congress member of BIP requiring parliamentary Investigation on Itaewon disaster

Yong Hye-In, Congress member of BIP proposing windfall bill to retrieve excess profits from oil refiners and banks
Tentative Conclusion

Getting support from the public would be possible by suggesting BI as a **mission-oriented solution to the social problems**

BI politics to overcome the barriers of politics of vested interests must continue to **form broad political alliance**

BI politics would get support of the public when they **determinedly fight against vested interests/bureaucrats** for the safety/welfare of the public
Thank You

Thank you for your attention