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Asia Society Korea Center

**Asia Society Korea Center  
Special Panel Discussion:  
Future of East Asia**



August 18, 2015 – The Asia Society Korea Center, in partnership with the [East Asia Foundation](#), co-hosted a special panel discussion titled "Future of East Asia". The discussion explored how recent events in East Asia may affect the relationship with the U.S., and what needs to be done differently in order to achieve global prosperity and stability. The distinguished panelists gave high-level perspectives on the shifts in economics, culture, policy and security in the region. The event started with opening remarks from Asia Society Korea Center Honorary Chairman **Dr. Hong-Koo Lee**, before moderator **John Delury**, Senior Fellow at the Center on U.S.-China Relations at Asia Society and Associate Professor of International Studies at Yonsei University, introduced each of the panelists. Each participant gave a different perspective from the viewpoints of the U.S, Korea, China, Russia and North Korea before engaging in open discussion. Those in attendance, including Asia Society members, the local diplomatic community, students and the media, were then invited to participate in a question and answer session with the panelists. (Continued on Page 6)

**Panelists**



**Shen Dingli**  
Professor of International Relations  
Fudan University



**Orville Schell**  
Arthur Ross Director on U.S.-China Relations  
Asia Society



**Sung-Joo Han**  
Former Foreign Minister  
Republic of Korea



**Jin Canrong**  
Professor of International Relations  
Renmin University



**Andrei Lankov**  
Professor of History  
Kookmin University

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## Innovative Minds Series

Read the full Innovative Minds Series at <http://asiasociety.org/korea/news/innovative-minds>

### Part III: Be FUNNY Studios



From left: Chris Lee, HS Kim, Won Lee

In 2012, Gangnam Style became a global phenomenon, hitting the shores of countries worldwide. Although the song and video was all in Korean, it showed that if content is good enough, it can be successful in North America. Based in Seoul and Los Angeles, Be FUNNY Studios is a digital studio that delivers content that includes collaborations between popular stars in Hollywood and Asia. The studio, working closely with Will Ferrell's Funny or Die, produces media in both the local Asian-language and English. Co-founder of **Be FUNNY Studios**, Won Lee, spoke to Asia Society Korea Center via email to talk more about this innovative new project.

### Part IV: Bradley Buckwalter

**Bradley Buckwalter** first visited Korea over 20 years ago as a student to carry out volunteer work. He soon fell in love with the culture and has since established himself as one of the most successful foreign CEO's in the country. In 2013, he received the title of 'Honorary of Citizen of Seoul', one of only a handful of people to have been given the award. He has been former President of both Otis Elevator Korea and ADT Korea before having recently taken up his role as President and RMG of Tyco Fire Korea in May 2015. Bradley met up with Asia Society Korea Center to discuss life as head of a multinational company while also giving advice to those looking to move into business here in Korea.



Bradley Buckwalter

### Part V: Kay Song



Kay Song

**Kay Song** knew she was taking a huge gamble in leaving America almost 30 years ago as a young woman in search of a better life here in Korea. Fast forward to 2015 and she is now head of one of the most influential travel companies in the country; a company that Song built from scratch. During this time, Song has married and has two children while still managing to grow her business. Alongside this incredible achievement, she is well known for her contribution to society through her active charity work, in particular working closely with many children's organizations. The Asia Society Korea Center met up with Song to talk about her incredible journey and to hear what advice she has for both upcoming innovators and working moms.

### Part VI: Mark Tetto, Investor and Venture Capitalist

**Mark Tetto** is one of the brightest young investors and venture capitalists here in Korea. Having joined Samsung Electronics in 2010 in order to help build Samsung's new corporate development and M&A practice, Mark went on to develop a strong interest in the Korean startup industry. Working with Changseong Ho and Jiwon Moon (founders of Viki.com), Mark went on to be a founding member of TheVentures Co, a micro-VC and business accelerator based in Korea, and CFO of Vingle. Mark continues to be active in investing and mentoring in the Korean startup sector and met up with Asia Society Korea Center to share his experiences with innovation and to give an insight into the industry in Korea.



Mark Tetto

## Ambassador Interviews

Read the full Ambassador Interviews at [http:// asiasociety.org/korea/news/ambassador-interviews](http://asiasociety.org/korea/news/ambassador-interviews)

### Korea and Kuwait Enjoy a Healthy Relationship



**H.E. Jasem Albudaiwi, Ambassador of the State of Kuwait**

**Ambassador Jasem Albudaiwi** has been in Korea for 18 months, and although he has been lucky enough to avoid needing medical treatment during his time here, he has witnessed the huge advances that the Korean medical care system has recently made. From having an in depth annual health screen as a customer, to taking a hands on involvement in various hospital visits in his role as Ambassador, it is no wonder that H.E Jasem Albudaiwi wants to strength the medical cooperation between Korea and Kuwait. Asia Society Korea Center's contributing writer Matthew Fennell met up with the Ambassador to talk about this cooperation.

Ambassador Albudaiwi spoke about Korean President Park Geun-hye's visit to Kuwait in March, with the two countries signing a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on healthcare cooperation. Kuwait hopes for a quick launch of this medical cooperation program with Korea; within weeks of President Park's visit, the Kuwaiti National Assembly Speaker Marzouq Al-Ghanim came to Korea for more

discussion. As well as healthcare, Kuwait is ready to enhance bilateral ties further with South Korea in various fields including politics, education, trade, economics and energy.

### ASEAN Community and its Implication for Deepening Regional Integration



**H.E. Hae Moon Chung, Former Secretary-General of ASEAN-Korea Centre**

**Ambassador Hae Moon Chung**, former Secretary-General of ASEAN-Korea Centre and close supporter of the Asia Society Korea Center, was kind enough to write a detailed article outlining the future of ASEAN and the establishment of the ASEAN Community. In his piece, Ambassador Chung spoke about how 2015 is a defining year for ASEAN as it looks to be a sharper instrument for the realization of peoples' dreams while promoting more effective and responsive governance, better standards of living, strengthened environmental protection, further empowerment of women and greater opportunity for all. This fascinating insight from the Ambassador also highlights the launch of the ASEAN Community while talking about the major challenges that face ASEAN. The article concludes by giving a comprehensive overview of the Korea-ASEAN partnership.

### H.E. Clare Fearnley, New Zealand's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea



**H.E. Clare Fearnley, Ambassador of New Zealand**

Having lived in North Asia for almost five years and being a native Mandarin speaker, **Ambassador Clare Fearnley** is no stranger to the region. In February this year, Ambassador Fearnley took up her role as New Zealand's Ambassador to the Republic of Korea. The Asia Society Korea Center caught up with Ambassador Fearnley to discuss how she has adjusted to Korean life and culture while becoming acquainted with the customs and language over the past six months.

## Special Panel Discussion

### Future of East Asia



From left: John Delury, Shen Dingli, Orville Schell, Sung-joo Han, Jin Canrong, Andrei Lankov

(Continued from Page 1) August 18, 2015 – The Asia Society Korea Center, in partnership with the [East Asia Foundation](#), co-hosted a special panel discussion titled "Future of East Asia". The discussion explored how recent events in East Asia may affect the relationship with the U.S., and what needs to be done differently in order to achieve global prosperity and stability. The distinguished panelists gave high-level perspectives on the shifts in economics, culture, policy and security in the region. The event started with opening remarks from Asia Society Korea Center Honorary Chairman **Dr. Hong-Koo Lee**, before moderator **John Delury**, Senior Fellow at the Center on U.S.-China Relations at Asia Society and Associate Professor of International Studies at Yonsei University, introduced each of the panelists. Each participant gave a different perspective from the viewpoints of the U.S, Korea, China, Russia and North Korea before engaging in open discussion. Those in attendance, including Asia Society members, the local diplomatic community, students and the media, were then invited to participate in a question and answer session with the panelists.

**Orville Schell**, Arthur Ross Director at the Center on U.S.-China Relations at Asia Society kicked off proceedings by talking about how at the heart of what is happening with the U.S and East Asia is the relationship between the U.S and China. In fact, the entire world is affected by U.S-China relations – relations that are currently engulfed with mistrust. Schell spoke about the U.S disappointment at Chinese congress and their attitudes towards the media and academia among others. Although there is little grounds for optimism, the one thing that the two countries do agree upon is on the issue of climate change. Schell believes that this area provides an interesting opportunity to build common interest and relations.

Next to take the stage was **Sung-joo Han**, Global Council member at Asia Society and former Foreign Minister of Korea. Han talked about how at present, Korea is uncomfortable with the battle for power between the U.S and China, giving its administration a policy dilemma. Han gave the example of the upcoming Victory Day Parade in China, where China expects President Park Geun-Hye to visit while the U.S has said that it would be disappointed if Park were to attend. Moving forward, Korea wants cooperation in the region however remains apprehensive about the power distribution between China and Russia on one side and the U.S and Japan on the other.

Giving the views from within China were **Jin Canrong**, Professor for International Relations at Renmin University and **Shen Dingli**, Professor of International Relations at Fudan University. Professor Jin argued that although China is experiencing an economic slowdown, security problems with Japan, strained relations with the U.S and a lack of dialogue with Kim Jong Un, the status quo of the region is ok and that all of these tensions are under control. Moving forward, Jin believes that the future of East Asia is open but four players will have a big say in what direction it takes: China, the U.S, Japan and Korea. Professor Shen then spoke about the hot topics of economic instability within China and the security issues that we see in the South China Sea.

**Andrei Lankov**, Professor of History at Kookmin University, was in agreement that Russia and North Korea will play marginal roles in the future of East Asia. Although Russian relations with the U.S are extremely bad, Russia also has a deep mistrust of China. Looking to the future, Russia will focus most of its efforts on domestic issues and will not have too much international involvement other than the protection of its oil markets. North Korea is another important non-player who will continue to play bigger powers against each other in order to gain leverage, politically or financially.



## Monthly Luncheon Series

# How We Should Lead: Advice to the Next Generation of Diplomats



*The Right Honourable Charles Joseph "Joe" Clark*

May 14, 2015 - The Asia Society Korea Center continued its 2015 Monthly Luncheon Series in May with former Canadian Prime Minister and Secretary of State for External Affairs (Foreign Minister), the **Right Honourable Charles Joseph "Joe" Clark** as guest speaker. The focus of his talk was "How we should lead: advice to the next generation of diplomats". Mr. Clark started his talk by emphasizing the strong Korea-Canadian relationship which started back in the 19th century and which has grown in strength ever since. 25,000 Canadians fought in the Korean War with more than 500 losing their lives. He also noted that 170,000 Koreans are now naturalized Canadians and some of Canada's most distinguished citizens. The completion of the free trade agreement and the movement of immigrants between the two countries makes the distance across the Pacific Ocean seem much smaller than what it actually is.

In the next part of the lecture Mr. Clark explained about his role as Vice Chairman of the Global Leadership Foundation, a global network of former presidents, prime ministers and

other high ranking officials who give political advice to leaders and politicians of developing countries. Mr. Clarke talked about how he applies his experience from working in Canada's government to help promote democracy and encourage development in countries from Haiti to Nigeria, Ghana and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

The main part of the lecture talked about the role of "middle powers" in the 21st century, an identity that both Canada and Korea have taken on. Mr. Clarke explained how a middle power is, "in its most basic form, a state which is neither a great power nor a small power", and can refer to the likes of Australia, Malaysia, Indonesia, Korea, Canada and many others countries. Going forward, leadership should be less from the top and more from beside. The US and China are both big powers but significant middle powers matter too and can in some situations, matter more in issues such as mediation, moderation and compromising.

## Foreign Policy of the Rouhani Government



*H.E. Hassan Taherian, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran*

May 19, 2015 – **H.E. Hassan Taherian**, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Korea, was the guest speaker at the Asia Society Korea Center's May Monthly Luncheon at the Lotte Hotel, Seoul. Ambassador Taherian, who worked in Seoul from 1980 to 1985 as charge d'affaires, talked about the "Foreign Policy of the Rouhani government". The Ambassador highlighted that the Iranian government "has a positive view towards Korea and supports the expansion of the bilateral relationship with a hope that Korean companies can be more active in Iranian market through joint venture and direct investments". In relation to the nuclear issues, Ambassador Taherian explained how Iran has been negotiating with China, France, Russia, the UK and the US, plus Germany (P5+1) to reach an agreement. The Ambassador said, "There has been a lot of mistrust between the US, the West and Iran in the past, making negotiations difficult, however this is starting to change and we made big progress at the recent talks in Lausanne". It was emphasized how Iran can guarantee the peaceful use of nuclear technology in return for having all sanctions on them lifted. The Ambassador said, "The use of nuclear weapons has no place in the weaponry doctrine of Iran and therefore the country can accept all terms while being open and transparent".

When quizzed on the cooperation between Iran and North Korea, the Ambassador stated that the two countries have no particular special relationship with very few trade connections. Although acknowledging Tehran's ties with Pyongyang during the 1980s, when the North provided some military assistance to Iran during the Iran-Iraq War, there is "absolutely no missile cooperation with North Korea as Iran is very different from the perspective of technology and its purpose." However, Ambassador Taherian did explain how Iran has built up good relations with China which developed after the Western sanctions were placed upon the country; China took advantage of this through an increase in construction, business and general involvement with Iran.

## Articles and Interviews

Read the full articles at <http://asiasociety.org/korea/news/rok-n-seoul>

### North Korean Leader Avoids Yet Another World Leader



By Steven Borowiec

May 6, 2015 - Last week's announcement that leader Kim Jong Un will not make the trip to Moscow this week should come as no surprise to anyone who follows North Korea.

Kim had been invited to an event to mark the seventieth anniversary of the Soviet Union's World War II victory. North Korea had never issued a statement confirming Kim's attendance, but Kremlin officials told reporters they expected Kim to be present. Again last week it was the Kremlin who ruled out Kim's participation, chalking the cancellation up to unspecified "internal matters" in North Korea.

The possibility of the trip was full of juicy intrigue. How might Kim behave outside of his bubble, around real grownups who have no reason to fear him? How would the young leader, who did nothing to earn his throne other than be born, be treated by national leaders who presumably don't see him as an equal? Would Kim head out on the town, popping bottles alongside the other shady millionaires that party in Moscow?

Despite the risks of losing face on a large stage, Kim also had plenty to gain from attending the event in Moscow. Pyongyang has incentive to develop new partners and ease reliance on China.

North Korean officials are quietly ashamed of just how much they depend on trade with and support from their neighbour, while officials in Beijing are believed to be losing patience with North Korea's nuclear program and volatility. Not only is North Korea increasingly isolated on the global stage, it is growing more estranged from its only significant ally. In his more than two years in power, Kim has never met Chinese President Xi Jinping, or any other world leader. And with North Korea's reputation as a state with a dangerous nuclear weapons program and shameful human rights record, new friends are hard to come by. Russia had stepped forward as a partner keen to increase cooperation, with the two countries even declaring 2015 a "Year of Friendship". They've pledged cooperation on a number of energy projects, but it's not clear how much progress will actually be made.

Steven Borowiec

### Gwangju Uprising: A divided country within a divided peninsular



By Matthew Fennell

May 18th 2015 marks the 35th anniversary of the Gwangju uprising, a pivotal moment in Korean history and in the movement for democracy. The Korean Peninsula had already been divided into two countries after the Korean War, and in the years following this witnessed a further division of ideology within South Korea. The Gwangju Uprising had a lasting impact on South Korean politics and history, with divisions of opinion still prominent today.

After Park Chung-hee took power through a military coup d'état in 1961, Korea went through huge economic reform and many credit Park for laying the foundations for Korea's rise to global prominence. This rapid economic growth came at a price with many Koreans, and those who fought for democratization, believing that his authoritarian rule was unjustified, and that he hindered South Korea's transition to democracy. After Park was assassinated in 1979, Korean politics was left in a

state of instability and in December that year, South Korean army General Chun Doo-hwan took control of the government through another coup d'état.

By May 1980, Chun Doo-hwan, already lacking in popularity due to his snatch of power through military coup, was faced with nationwide democratization movements demanding the end of martial law, democratization, minimum wage demands, and freedom of press. This came to a head on May 18 when the Gwangju Democratization Movement took over the city and held it by force of arms against the military for 10 days. During the battle to take back Gwangju from the protestors, hundreds of civilians were brutally massacred, beaten and tortured by the military. Official figures put the death toll at 200, with another 1,000 protestors injured, but according to other estimates between one and two thousand actually died. Chun was officially inaugurated into office 4 months later on September 1st 1980 as the 11th President of South Korea. Throughout his presidency many citizens were happy with the economic growth of the country while there was much hatred and anger towards his regime from students and democracy groups.

Image by Google

## Articles and Interviews

Read the full articles at <http://asiasociety.org/korea/news/rok-n-seoul>

### The MERS Impact: A Differing Tale of 2 Countries



Medical workers caring for a MERS patient in Korea  
Photo Credit: CNN

By Matthew Fennell

In May 2014, the United States reported two confirmed cases of the Middle East Respiratory Syndrome coronavirus (MERS); one year later in May 2015, South Korea reported its first MERS case. The cases in the United States affected healthcare providers who had lived and worked in Saudi Arabia. Both traveled to the U.S. from Saudi Arabia, where they are believed to have been infected. In Korea, a 68-year-old man was diagnosed after a 9-day business trip to the Middle East. Although we see similarities in the transmission of MERS to the two countries, the impact on the U.S. and Korea is vastly different.

Since the two reported cases in America, there have been no further outbreaks in the country whereas Korea has reported almost 200 additional cases with over 30 deaths. So why do we see such a difference in outcomes between the two nations? One could point to the fact that in

Korea, the first patient went undiagnosed for 9 days in which he visited 4 different hospitals infecting dozens whom he came in contact with. The two people who became sick with MERS in the U.S. after traveling from the Middle East, were immediately isolated after undergoing a comprehensive travel history report upon hospital admission.

The healthcare coverage of the United States and Korea has undoubtedly played a role in the spread of MERS. Korean Healthcare is universal, highly accessible and above all cheap. Walk down any major street and you can see hospitals, clinics, and drug stores on virtually every corner. Nearly all will accept national insurance and a visit to the doctor will typically cost less than \$10. This healthcare system promotes people to visit medical facilities even if it is for treatment of a common cold. Almost all MERS infections were spread not on the streets of Seoul but in the nation's hospitals, exaggerated by the large amounts of people visiting these hospitals.

Another reason for the varying impact of MERS is the different hospital culture between the two countries. Many Koreans flock to the best hospitals in the country to visit the top doctors that are on offer; this regularly leads to overcrowding in the waiting areas which in turn exposes ill patients to each other. In addition, family members often carry out much of the nursing duties on the wards, such as changing sheets or washing the patient, thus also exposing themselves to infections.

### Chilseok: The Traditional Korean Valentine's Day



By Matthew Fennell

August 20, 2015 – In a lot of Korean culture and customs we can see strong links to Buddhism, Shamanism and astrology; the traditional festival of **Chilseok** is one such example. Chilseok is a Korean traditional festival which falls on the seventh day of the seventh month of the Korean lunar calendar, this year falling on August 20. Traditionally, Chilseok is a time where the summer heat starts to pass away and the monsoon season begins; the rain that falls during this period is called Chilseok water. Behind this cooling of the heat and onset of the rain lies a story from Korean mythology that people still talk about today, a story of two lovers.

On opposite sides of the universe lived Jiknyeo, a young woman who was very good at weaving clothes and Gyeonwu, a young handsome herder of cattle. Jiknyeo was the daughter of the heavenly King and she was so beautiful that she was loved by all of the angels in heaven. One day as Jiknyeo was weaving, she looked out of the window and caught a glimpse of Gyeonwu who was living across the Milky Way. The two soon fell in love and with the blessing of the King they were united to marry and live together. The young couple were so in love that Jiknyeo stopped weaving clothes and no longer would Gyeonwu herd the sheep and cows. This upset the King very much and he decided that they should live apart from each other, separated by the Milky Way.

Only once a year were the couple permitted to meet each other, on the seventh day of the seventh month. On July 7th each year, although Jiknyeo and Gyeonwu were excited to meet each other, they couldn't cross the Milky Way. The crows and magpies of the universe saw the despair of the young couple and would come together to make a bridge so that they could meet and hug. After spending a short time together, the couple would realize that it would be another year before they could meet again and they would both cry. It is these tears which symbolizes the start of the monsoon season.

Traditionally at Chilseok, Koreans would take baths for good health and eat wheat flour noodles and grilled wheat cake. Although today these traditions are not as strong, the story of Jiknyeo and Gyeonwu remains common knowledge to all Koreans. So next time you see rain on the evening of Chilseok, remember that it is the tears of two young lovers separating with the realization that they have to wait one more year to meet again.

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## 2015 UPCOMING EVENTS

**Tuesday, September 22th**  
*Monthly Luncheon*

**Tuesday, October 20th**  
*Monthly Luncheon*

**Thursday, October 29th**  
*Networking Event*

**Tuesday, November 17th**  
*Monthly Luncheon*

**Thursday, November 19th**  
*Ramen Event*

**Thursday, December 3rd**  
*Holiday Dinner*

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