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Ambassador Series

Interview With H.E. Daniel Wolvén, Ambassador of Sweden to the Republic of Korea



Interview with H.E. Daniel Wolvén, Ambassador of Sweden to the Republic of Korea

September 29, 2023 — Asia Society Korea recently had the privilege of interviewing H.E. Daniel Wolvén of Sweden at his splendid residence in Seoul. A long-time collaborator with our organization, the ambassador has participated in various initiatives like our Monthly Lecture series. We were delighted to hear from the ambassador himself about the significance of serving in Korea during this pivotal moment in history, as well as about the surprising connection shared between our nations through the global phenomenon of K-Pop. Watch the full interview to hear more about his latest activities in forging stronger ties between Sweden and Korea.

ABOUT H.E. DANIEL WOLVÉN, AMBASSADOR OF SWEDEN TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



H.E. Daniel Wolvén is a career diplomat with nearly twenty years of experience in the Swedish Diplomatic Service. He most recently served as Head of the Office for Foreign Affairs and the Security Policy Council at the Swedish Prime Minister's Office, in which capacity he advised the Swedish Prime Minister on a wide range of foreign and security policy issues. He has occupied several different positions both in Stockholm and abroad, including in the Swedish Foreign Ministry's United Nations and Africa Departments, as well as at the Swedish Embassies in Kinshasa, Paris, and New Delhi.

In 2001, he received a Master of Arts in Political Science at the University of Lund, Sweden. Prior to that, he obtained a Bachelor of Arts at Columbia University, New York.

Interview With H.E. Nurgali Arystanov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Korea



Interview with H.E. Nurgali Arystanov, Ambassador of Kazakhstan to the Republic of Korea

October 23, 2023 — Asia Society Korea had the opportunity to engage with the newly-appointed Kazakh Ambassador to Seoul H.E. **Nurgali Arystanov**, who commenced his diplomatic tenure just two months ago. Despite his recent arrival, the ambassador has already been making a significant impact on the diplomatic scene. The interview, conducted at the Kazakh Embassy, covered a wide spectrum of topics, ranging from cultural connections to economic prospects, and even his diplomatic agenda. Watch the video for fresh insights into the exciting diplomatic initiatives taking shape between Kazakhstan and South Korea.

ABOUT H.E. NURGALI ARYSTANOV, AMBASSADOR OF KAZAKHSTAN TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



H.E. **Nurgali Arystanov** began his diplomatic career in 1999, serving at Kazakh embassies in Pakistan, India, and the United States. At the Foreign Service Headquarters, he oversaw Kazakhstan's collaborations with Asian and American countries in his role as Director General for the Asia Pacific and later the Americas.

Ambassador Arystanov earned his bachelor's degree at Al Farabi Kazakh State National University and completed his master's program at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Interview With H.E. Kais Darragi, Ambassador of Tunisia to the Republic of Korea



Interview with H.E. Kais Darragi, Ambassador of Tunisia to the Republic of Korea

November 27, 2023 — Explore the heart of Tunisian culture with H.E. Kais Darragi, Ambassador of Tunisia to the Republic of Korea, as he uncovers shared values in democracy and human rights between Tunisia and South Korea. From youth diplomacy to TaeKwonDiplomacy, Ambassador Darragi underscores the bonds between Korean and Tunisia. Moreover, we discover a wealth of hidden gems in Tunisia, extending well beyond the country's renowned beaches and UNESCO sites. Lastly, tune in to listen to Ambassador Darragi's diplomatic wisdom - a resonating message inspiring young minds shaping the future of global affairs.

ABOUT H.E. KAIS DARRAGI, AMBASSADOR OF TUNISIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

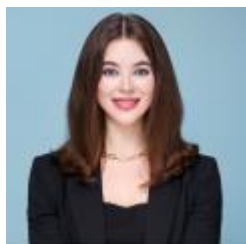


H.E. Kais Darragi has been the Ambassador of Tunisia to the Republic of Korea since 2023. Prior to his current appointment, the ambassador worked in Japan, the US, and the UK. He served as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary at the Tunisian Embassy to Japan from 2015 to 2018, as the Deputy Chief of Mission to Washington from 2012 to 2015, and as First Secretary and Counsellor at the Tunisian Embassy in London from 1999 to 2000.

The ambassador earned his master's degree in English Literature and Civilization at the University of La-Manouba in Tunisia in 1989, and after completing a one-year diplomatic training program at the National School of Administration in 1991, he also earned a certificate in Diplomatic Studies from Oxford in 1994. He is fluent in Arabic, French, English, and Japanese.

Student Program

Participants of 2023 Asia Society Korea Youth



Alissa Yanik-Woods (Australia)

"I am hoping to collaborate with stakeholders to meaningfully incorporate youth voices into participatory processes and policymaking, assisting youth to become the present as much as they are the future."

Alissa is studying a dual Bachelor of Laws and International Relations in Australia, specializing in foreign policy and international law. With experience living in South Korea, France, and Thailand, Alissa has worked with overseas firms in corporate law and has collaborated with universities in countries such as Japan on climate action. She has also worked with the United Nations Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs in peace and security in Southeast Asia.



Edwynna Kurniawan (Indonesia)

"I aim to highlight issues relating to education and advocate for equity in quality education. I want to collaborate with future leaders to raise awareness on issues in Asia-Pacific."

Edwynna is a master's student (MIS) studying Development Cooperation at Ewha Womans University as an Ewha Global Partnership Program (EGPP) scholar. She has just graduated with a bachelor's degree (BA) from the same university with a double major in International Studies and International Development Cooperation and a minor in Global Korean Studies.



François de Navacelle (France)

"From this program, I hope to extend my understanding of Asia beyond China and to understand the challenges faced by young generations on this continent."

François is a French national, currently studying economics at the Yenching Academy of Peking University. He previously studied Law at the University of Paris Pantheon Assas and Politics, Philosophy, and Economics at King's College London. He decided to pursue his education in China in order to study development theory from the perspective of a developing country.



Ignacio Barroso Gómez (Spain)

"Not only do I seek to expand my knowledge through the shared discussion with the other participants, but also the professional mentorship this program can offer to me."

Ignacio recently graduated from Rey Juan Carlos University in Madrid, Spain, with a Bachelor's in International Relations. Part of this academic training was at the National Chengchi University and National Chengkung University, Taiwan, gaining valuable insight into East-Asian geopolitics and culture.

Through this program, I aspire to broaden my global perspective, collaborate with diverse young leaders, and contribute fresh ideas in order to co-create innovative solutions to tackle global issues.



Jevon Dixon (Jamaica)

"Through this program, I aspire to broaden my global perspective, collaborate with diverse young leaders, and contribute fresh ideas in order to co-create innovative solutions to tackle global issues."

Jevon, also known as Jaewon Tan, is a Ph.D. student in International Relations at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea. He holds a BSc and MSc in Politics and International Cooperation from the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, a BA in Political Science from the Université des Antilles in France, and an MA in International Politics from the Bordeaux Institute of Political Studies in France. His primary research focuses on maritime piracy in Southeast Asia, particularly in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore.



Zumaro Zumaro (Indonesia)

"I aspire to gain intensive diplomatic training, professional experience, and collaborative work with experts on pressing global issues."

Zumaro is a PhD candidate in Advanced Nuclear Engineering at Pohang University of Science and Technology. His expertise encompasses Nuclear Physics, Nuclear Thermodynamics, and Video Editing. Proficient in English, Indonesian, Malay, Polish, and Korean, he is also avidly learning French and Russian.

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Session 1 | Redefining Education: The Pandemic's Impact on E-Learning and the Digital Divide



October 16, 2023 — The 2023 season of Asia Society Korea Youth (ASK-Y) launched its first session, “COVID-19's Impact on Youth and Education: The E-Learning Shift and Digital Divide,” hosted by Executive Director **Yvonne Kim**.

Moderated by **Jevon Dixon**, a doctoral candidate in international relations at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, the session featured presentations that explored various perspectives on e-learning and the digital divide with a focus on how the phenomenon affects the youth. The discourse of the first ASK-Y session covered the influences of AI on the backdrop of the decline of globalization and population, as well as the development of cyber warfare and its implication on digitalization and e-learning.

The “Study Group Agenda” was started by **Alissa Yanik-Woods**, a Bachelor of Law and international relations at Bond University, who discussed the impact of a lack of education on mental health and future job prospects in the context of war.

The second presentation, held by **Edwynna Kurniawan**, a master’s candidate in development cooperation at Ewha University, focused on teachers’ rights as an essential element of a balanced and empowering education, inspired by the current discourse in South Korea, the UK, and Australia.

The “Study Group Agenda” proceeded with a presentation by **Ignacio Barroso Gómez**, a recent graduate of international relations from Rey Juan Carlos University, looking at the strengths and weaknesses of e-learning approaches in the context of war and focusing on the mental health aspects of the topic.

François de Navacelle, a master’s candidate in economics at Yenching Academy of Peking University, dug deeper into the digital divide and its implications for education and mental health while introducing the relevance of colonial heritage in francophone Africa.

Jevon Dixon then presented on strengthening capacity building through international cooperation to span the digital divide with a comparative look at case studies from developed and developing countries.

The “Study Group Agenda” closed with **Zumaro Zumaro**, a doctoral candidate in advanced nuclear engineering at Pohang University of Science and Technology. The presentation discussed the potential and challenges posed by e-learning in remote, electricity-scarce areas.

The discourse of the first ASK-Y session covered the influences of AI on the backdrop of the decline of globalization and population, as well as the development of cyber warfare and its implication on digitalization and e-learning.

Session 2 | War and Peace in the Digital Era



October 30, 2023 — Session 2 of Asia Society Korea Youth (ASK-Y) ventured into the landscapes of contemporary global conflicts using a unique role-play format. Guided by the host, Executive Director **Yvonne Kim**, the cohorts examined the nuances of these complex conflicts, offering fresh insights, and raising vital questions.

Russia-Ukraine Conflict: **Alissa Yanik-Woods**, a Bachelor of Law and international relations at Bond University, and **Jevon Dixon**, a doctoral candidate in international relations at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, explored the intricacies of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. A following Q&A session sparked a thought-provoking discussion on Ukraine's ability to defend itself through advanced technology.

Korean War: Representing North Korea, **Zumaro Zumaro**, a doctoral candidate in advanced nuclear engineering at Pohang University of Science and Technology, joined **François de Navacelle**, a master's candidate in economics at Yenching Academy of Peking University, representing South Korea. Their presentations delved into possible triggers, ideological struggles, and the concept of sovereignty in the context of the Korean War.

Myanmar Civil War: **Ignacio Barroso Gómez**, a recent graduate in international relations from Rey Juan Carlos University, and **Edwynna Kurniawan**, a master's candidate in development cooperation at Ewha University, engaged in a dialogue exploring themes related to governance structures, democracy, and legitimacy.

The session concluded with an open discussion, contemplating the tragedies of war and the autonomy of nations in our digitized age, questioning whether they can defend themselves without the intervention of more potent world powers.



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to promote Asia awareness to the
world BECOME A MEMBER NOW!**

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Session 3 | Innovative Pathways: Examining Sustainable Development Through Technological Advancements



November 13, 2023 — In the third installment of Asia Society Korea Youth (ASK-Y), sustainable development discourse took center stage. Guided by Professor **Daniel Pinkston** and moderated by **Zumaro Zumaro**, participants delved into intricate environmental issues, explored innovative solutions, and posed significant questions.

Professor Daniel Pinkston, hailing from Troy University, covered the foundational aspects of environmental challenges such as economic goods division and excludability. This comprehensive overview extended to natural environments, domestic politics, and international relations, accompanied by insights into challenges and valuable data sources for participants.

The professor's exploration of global implications turned the spotlight on negative externalities, transboundary issues, and their far-reaching political reverberations. Specific damages to ecosystems, including world water resources and the consequences of deforestation, were scrutinized, offering a detailed understanding of the environmental landscape. Professor Pinkston further elucidated success factors in environmental management, unveiling five key determinants ranging from NGO efforts to considerations for developing countries and leader consensus.

The session delved into country-specific approaches, illustrating unilateral, bi-, and multilateral strategies with real-world examples like the Montreal, Kyoto, and Paris agreements. A deeper dive into global commitments and agreements, from UN conventions and summits to the 2015 commitment to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Paris Agreement, showcased the evolving landscape of international cooperation. Professor Pinkston brought the presentation to a thoughtful close by reflecting on the dilemmas associated with development, emphasizing the crucial role of "good governance."

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Dr. Daniel A. Pinkston is a lecturer in international relations with Troy University. Previously he was the Northeast Asia Deputy Project Director for the International Crisis Group in Seoul, and the director of the East Asia Nonproliferation Program at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies.

Session 4 | Climate Action: Exploring Sustainability as a Multifactor Paradigm



November 27, 2023 — In the fourth session of Asia Society Korea Youth (ASK-Y), participants looked at the expansive discourse of sustainability through a social lens. Under the guidance of H.E. **Michelle Winthrop**, the Ambassador of Ireland to the Republic of Korea, and moderated by **Edwyna Kurniawan**, they dove into climate action, the importance of gender equality, and youth empowerment.

Ambassador Winthrop underscored the need to assess the actions taken by countries in anticipation of the upcoming COP28 in the UAE. She emphasized the importance of bridging the gap between developed and developing states. Her Excellency also highlighted the significance of reviewing existing initiatives like loss and damage funding, while also stressing the human element—encouraging active listening and mutual understanding to comprehensively achieve our shared goals.

During her presentation, the ambassador delved into climate action and its connection to the SDGs, highlighting the necessity of establishing a foundation and framework for future generations. Specifically, she emphasized the importance of placing education and curricula on the agenda to leave a lasting impact on youth. Bridging generational conflicts and advocating for young people was deemed essential, given their agency in demanding change. Ambassador Winthrop stressed the significance of engaging and empowering women, recognizing the notable link between gender equality and climate action. She advocated for change on the micro, meso, and macro levels, illustrating the importance of using reusable utensils.

The session scrutinized the broad and multifaceted discourse of sustainability, with participants exploring various levels of action. It is crucial for the international community and participating states to implement climate discourse in international justice and focus on country-specific policies. Corporate governance and social responsibility remained relevant at the meso level, while cross-generational education and behavior changes were deemed fundamental at the micro level to "not only talk the talk but also walk the walk."

ABOUT THE SPEAKER



Ambassador H.E. Michelle Winthrop took up her role as Ireland's Ambassador to Korea in August 2022, with the aim of continuing to strengthen the economic, political, and cultural relations between Ireland and Korea and to support greater trade and investment links.

Session 5 | Climate Action: Exploring Sustainability as a Multifactor Paradigm



December 11, 2023 — In the fifth session of Asia Society Korea Youth (ASK-Y), the cohort engaged in a reflective examination of previous sessions. **Alissa Yanik-Woods** initiated the dialogue, emphasizing the transformative potential of education. Participants delved into the intricate interplay of education, conflict, and e-learning, emphasizing the digital divide and the imperative to safeguard teachers' rights. **François de Navacelle** provided a nuanced summary, elucidating the complex dynamics between technology and conflict in the digital era. Building upon prior discussions, he presented diverse perspectives on conflict, dissecting the intricacies of inevitability, tactics, and legal justifications.

Shifting focus to the critical theme of sustainability in the third and fourth sessions, participants highlighted invaluable mentorship opportunities that facilitated networking and offered insights into sustainable practices. **Ignacio Barroso Gómez** recapped the enlightening agenda with **Professor Daniel Pinkston**, addressing challenges and proposing action steps for a renewed approach to sustainable development. **Edwyna Kurniawan** shed light on the session featuring **H.E. Michelle Winthrop**, who captivated the cohort with an in-depth exploration of the imperative of sustainability. With COP28 on the horizon, her discourse on gender equality and individual responsibility underscored the contemporary urgency of sustainability.

The ASK-Y sessions were complemented by a thought-provoking podcast, where **Jevon Dixon** introduced Professor Mason Richey and delved into the expansive realm of diplomacy in the digital age while addressing both its opportunities and challenges. **Zumaro Zumaro** brought attention to the cutting-edge topic of quantum computing and its intersection with diplomacy, emphasizing its transformative potential for security cooperation and communication. This discussion underscored the urgency for informed data analysis, international collaboration, and the development of secure quantum computing infrastructure.

The sessions of ASK-Y 2023 showcase the strength of collaborative exploration and the pursuit of knowledge in shaping a more knowledgeable and interconnected global community.

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Monthly Lecture Series

Wine & Wisdom Series: History of Modern Korean Politics 101



September 19, 2023 — Asia Society Korea's Monthly Lecture series kicked off its fall season special, the "Wine and Wisdom Series," with an intimate gathering at LOTTE Hotel Seoul's Pierre's Bar. **Dr. Go Myong Hyun** from the Asan Institute for Policy Studies led an engaging Q&A session demystifying Korean politics, covering a spectrum of topics. From the significance of political parties in South Korea to the inner workings of the nation's alliances and the evolving role of the Korean presidency, the discussion fostered a deeper understanding of modern Korean politics against the backdrop of Korea's unique historical and cultural context. Attendees, which included Asia Society Korea's Honorary Ambassador Members, enriched the conversation with their curiosities, making the evening a true exchange of wisdom and ideas.



ABOUT THE MODERATOR



Dr. Go Myong-Hyun is a senior research fellow at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies. Previously, Dr. Go was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research applies quantitative perspectives to traditional and non-traditional security issues, with a special focus on North Korea, sanctions enforcement, and security and strategic dimensions of technology. Dr. Go's latest publications include *Not Under Pressure: How Pressure Leaked of North Korea Sanctions* (2020) and *The Rise of Phantom Traders: Russian Oil Exports to North Korea* (2018). Dr. Go received a B.A. in Economics and an M.A. in Statistics from Columbia University in the City of New York, and a Ph.D. in policy analysis from the Pardee RAND Graduate School in Santa Monica, California.

Wine & Wisdom Series: History of Modern Korean Politics 101



November 13, 2023 — The latest installment of Asia Society Korea's fall season special "Wine and Wisdom Series" took place at LOTTE Hotel Seoul's Pierre's Bar. President of DFSB Kollektive **Bernie Cho** helmed an insightful Q&A, demystifying the K-Pop music industry and its evolving business model. From the genre's global evolution to its future as a dynamically engaged music business, the discussion deepened our comprehension of the Korean music industry and its technological ties. Bernie Cho also shared unique insights on recent K-Pop successes, including Lisa of BLACKPINK, PSY, and BTS, exploring their cultural impact and industry paradigm shifts. The evening also brought together Asia Society Korea's esteemed Honorary Ambassador Members with ASK-Y cohorts, fostering a stimulating exchange of perspectives across diverse backgrounds and generations.



ABOUT THE MODERATOR



Bernie Cho is the President of DFSB Kollektive, a Seoul-based Artist & Label Services agency that specializes in providing digital media, marketing, and distribution solutions to 600+ Korean Pop music artists. As more K-Pop acts aspire to go independent and international, DFSB Kollektive collaborates with artists and their management companies to devise customized strategies that directly connect them to their local and global fans.

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Webinar

Korea, Israel, and the Middle East: Navigating a Shifting Landscape



November 7, 2023 — Asia Society Korea's latest webinar examined the intricate dynamics of Korea's relations with Israel and the Middle East, particularly in light of recent events in the region. Moderated by Asia Society Korea's Senior Contributor **Mason Richey** from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, the distinguished panel of speakers included H.E. **Akiva Tor**, the Ambassador of Israel to the Republic of Korea, former Lieutenant General **In-Bum Chun**, and our own Asia 21 fellow and journalist **Sang Won Yoon**, with expertise in Middle East politics.

The discussion explored the aftermath of events in Israel and Palestine and their potential global and regional implications, while also shedding light on North Korean relations with Middle Eastern actors in the increasingly complex context of geopolitics.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR



Mason Richey is a senior contributing writer to Asia Society Korea and an associate professor of international politics at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Seoul, South Korea). Dr. Richey has also held positions as a POSCO Visiting Research Fellow at the East-West Center (Honolulu, HI) and a DAAD Scholar at the University of Potsdam. His research focuses on U.S. and European foreign and security policy as applied to the Asia-Pacific. Recent scholarly articles have appeared (inter alia) in *Pacific Review*, *Asian Security*, *Global Governance*, and *Foreign Policy Analysis*. Shorter analyses and opinion pieces have been published in *War on the Rocks*, *Le Monde*, the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, and *Forbes*, among other venues.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS



In-Bum Chun is a graduate of the Korea Military Academy (KMA) in 1977. He was selected as the aide to Lieutenant General Lee, Ki-Baek. In 1983 General Lee, as Chairman of the ROK Joint Chiefs of Staff, was a victim of the Rangoon bombing. Lieutenant General (Ret.) Chun was credited with saving General Lee's life and was awarded the National Security Medal (Kwang-Bok).



H.E. **Akiva J. Tor** was appointed as the Ambassador of Israel to the Republic of Korea in November 2020. Prior to his appointment to Korea, he started his career as Director at Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei in 1996. After joining Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he served as Deputy-Spokesman (1998 – 2000); and Deputy Director of the Department for Palestinian Affairs (2000 – 2002). He also served as World Jewish Affairs Adviser to the President of Israel for about three years since 2003; Israel Consul General in San Francisco and Pacific Northwest (2008 – 2012); and Head of Bureau for World Jewish Affairs and World Religions in MFA (2013 – 2020).



Sangwon Yoon is a journalist with more than a decade of experience reporting from the Middle East and Asia. A former United Nations Bureau Chief and State Department Correspondent at Bloomberg News, Sangwon has reported extensively on North Korea and Kim Jong Un's rise to power. She has also reported on the Arab Spring, Osama bin Laden's death, and the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for Reuters in Jerusalem and Al Jazeera English in Doha, Qatar.

Events

Insights From Navy Wardroom With Mark Tetto



September 13, 2023 — On September 13, Asia Society Korea hosted a special event in collaboration with the Republic of Korea Navy at the Gyeryongdae Navy Headquarters. The event, known as the “Navy Wardroom,” is a lecture series aimed at enhancing the professional skills and knowledge of its personnel in a wide range of fields.

Since 2020, the Navy has been inviting experts from various domains including society, culture, policy, and technology to share their insights. The latest installment featured Asia Society Korea's Board Member **Mark Tetto** as a guest speaker, who spoke on “The Importance of Korea's History and Spiritual Strength from a Foreigner's Perspective.” He emphasized the profound history and beauty of Korea while highlighting the power of culture. Underscoring the essential role of the military in preserving the values of freedom and democracy, he urged the servicemen and women to embrace their role as protectors of the seas.

Adding significant meaning to the event, Mark Tetto donated the entire honorarium from his lecture to the “Sea Love Navy Scholarship Foundation.”

Fifteen Years of Global Impact: Asia Society Korea's Grand Gala

December 7, 2023 — In a spectacular conclusion to a year-long celebration of its 15th anniversary, Asia Society Korea hosted an unforgettable year-end dinner on December 7th at SIGNIEL SEOUL. Over 170 distinguished guests, including 45 ambassadors and Asia 21 fellows from 25 countries, as well as foreign dignitaries, corporate members, board members, and global Asia Society members, gathered to partake in a truly global evening that reflected on the organization's achievements and looked ahead to the future.



The event commenced with a warm welcome from Asia Society Korea's Chairman and founder, **Mr. Shin Dong Bin**, who set the tone for an evening of camaraderie and reflection. **Debra Eisenman**, Chief Operating Officer and Executive Vice President of Asia Society Global, delivered a heartfelt toast, emphasizing the organization's commitment to fostering dialogue and understanding in Asia. The program then featured remarks from Asia 21 alumni **Natalie Ching Jorge**, offering insights into the impact of Asia Society's programs on emerging leaders.

The highlight of the evening was the keynote address delivered by H.E. **Philip S. Goldberg**, the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Korea. Ambassador Goldberg spoke about the pivotal role of Asia Society Korea in promoting cultural exchange and strengthening international relations. The anniversary event also featured the Ambassador of the Year awards ceremony, where H.E. **Michelle Winthrop**, Ambassador of Ireland to the Republic of Korea, and H.E. **Daniel Wolvén**, Ambassador of Sweden to the Republic of Korea, were honored for their dedicated commitment to the Korea Center.

Chairman Shin Dong Bin also took a moment to acknowledge the exceptional contributions of Vice Chairman **H. S. Cho** of Hyosung Group, presenting him with a well-deserved appreciation award for his longstanding engagement with Asia Society Korea.



The evening reached an emotional crescendo with a captivating performance by the children of Beautiful Mind Charity, a non-profit that has earned a Special Consultative Status from the United Nations Economic and Social Council for their dedication to cultural diplomacy and music education for individuals with disabilities and underprivileged children. Introduced by board member **Young Joon Kim**, the young musicians displayed their talent through a piano quintet rendition of Vivaldi's Winter and a string ensemble performance of Karl Jenkins' Palladio.



The event, hosted by Executive Director **Yvonne Kim**, was a testament to Asia Society Korea's perseverance in leading international conversations and intellectual pursuits. As the night concluded, the air was filled not only with the stirring melodies of the Beautiful Mind Charity performance but also with a sense of accomplishment and unity. Despite the challenges faced globally, Asia Society Korea and its esteemed guests found solace in each other's company, reaffirming the organization's mission to be at the forefront of global dialogue and thought.

The annual year-end dinner at SIGNIEL SEOUL served as a reminder of the enduring impact of Asia Society Korea and its commitment to fostering understanding, dialogue, and cultural exchange in the Asia-Pacific region. Generous contributions from the Asia 21 Korea Chapter towards the Summit added an extra layer of significance, ensuring the evening resonates as a beacon of collaboration and shared purpose. As the organization looks ahead to a new year, the echoes of this celebratory night will undoubtedly resonate in the hearts of all those who attended.



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to promote Asia awareness to the
world **BECOME A MEMBER NOW!****

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The Glitch



#12 Cultural Crossfire: The New Geopolitical Reality

By David Tizzard, Asia Society Korea Senior Contributor and Michelle Yaeri Kang, Senior Program and Content Officer

September 29, 2023 — Delve into the captivating realms of psychology, culture, and geopolitics in episode 12 of "The Glitch," guided by the expertise of distinguished speakers: behavioral psychologist **Dr. Paul Youngbin Kim** and

international relations professor **Dr. Byoung Joo Kim**. Hosted by Asia Society Korea's Senior Contributor **David Tizzard**, and Senior Officer of Program and Content, **Michelle Kang**, the digital medium sparks dialogue and invites you to delve into the intricate intersections of identity, society, and global dynamics.



#13 From Diplomacy to Security: South Korea's Complex Relations in a Changing World

By David Tizzard, Asia Society Korea Senior Contributor and Michelle Yaeri Kang, Senior Program and Content Officer

October 31, 2023 — In the latest episode of "The Glitch," Asia Society Korea Senior Contributor **David Tizzard** and Senior Program and Content Officer **Michelle Kang** uncover the delicate balance between economic interests, diplomatic relationships,

public opinion, and national security. The video sheds light on how South Korea navigates the ever-changing global landscape, where diplomacy and security go hand in hand.

Discover the complexities faced by South Korean leaders as they make crucial decisions in the face of a dynamic geopolitical arena. Learn about the nation's aspirations for a secure future, and gain insights into the challenges and opportunities that shape its role on the world stage.



#14 The Opium Wars to K-pop: The Ever-Changing Face of Drug Perceptions

By David Tizzard, Asia Society Korea Senior Contributor and Michelle Yaeri Kang, Senior Program and Content Officer

November 30, 2023 — In the hustle of Korean life, where every moment is a symphony of work, study, and relentless development, there's a new conversation taking center stage—drugs. Asia Society Korea Senior Contributor **David**

Tizzard and Senior Program and Content Officer **Michelle Kang** dissect the media's relentless bombardment of drug narratives, questioning the dissonance between sensational headlines and the mundane reality of everyday life.

The Glitch is Asia Society Korea's digital portal into South Korean culture, politics, law, and society.

Empowering Educators and Shaping the Future: Unveiling the Global Discourse on Teacher's Rights

By Suna Kim, Program Coordinator at Asia Society Korea



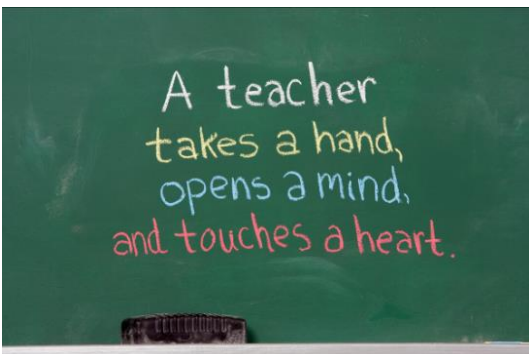
October 5, 2023 — Teachers, the architects of future generations, are at the heart of educational systems worldwide. The recognition and protection of their rights are crucial not only for their well-being but also for the quality of education they deliver. Educational reforms concerning teacher's rights have consistently attracted attention worldwide, and numerous reforms have been under consideration. For instance, one key education reform involves reducing teachers' working hours to prevent burnout and improve well-being. Advocates argue it can enhance teaching quality, but critics in some countries worry about the impact on instructional time. Another important reform is enhancing job security for educators. Long-term employment can boost teacher morale, but critics fear it might reduce innovation and motivation. Recently, there has been a growing focus on the mental well-

being of educators. For example, the aftermath of tragic incidents, such as the recent suicide of a South Korean teacher, has sparked significant discussions about reforms aimed at enhancing educators' mental health and safety. Furthermore, there is an increasing demand for reforms, particularly in Korea, aimed at addressing the relationships between teachers and parents, as advocates link the recent incident to the pressure and stress imposed by students' parents.

Numerous reform efforts have been initiated to tackle the growing awareness of mental health issues among educators. In the United States, there's a specific push to acknowledge burnout as an occupational risk. In the United Kingdom, the focus is on expanding access to mental health services. Finland is emphasizing the reinforcement of peer support networks, while Japan is promoting flexible work options. Meanwhile, South Korea is working to reduce the stigma surrounding mental health, aiming to foster a more supportive environment within the education sector that encourages educators to seek assistance when necessary. Consequently, granting access to mental health services can enhance the overall well-being of teachers, subsequently benefiting student outcomes. However, despite recognizing the significance of mental health support, there are hesitations regarding its financial viability. The argument here is that the allocation of resources for mental health support should be carefully weighed against other pressing needs within the education sector.



Particularly in South Korea, a recent tragic incident involving a teacher's suicide has emphasized the urgent necessity for mental well-being reforms designed specifically for educators. This incident has also shed light on the unique dynamics that develop between teachers and the parents of students. While certain reforms, such as the reduction of working hours,



have been implemented to address the general well-being of educators, there is a growing realization that a country-specific examination is required to understand the root causes of educators' declining mental health. This recent incident, among several others in the past, serves as an illustrative case demonstrating the presence of hidden relationships that lead to significant and far-reaching consequences. As reforms progress and new initiatives emerge, it becomes increasingly important to recognize that educators worldwide deal with a multitude of challenges that encompass both the political and social spheres.

In conclusion, as we navigate the evolving landscape of education and teacher well-being, it becomes increasingly evident that teachers hold a key to shaping a brighter future. Their rights and welfare must be protected through thoughtful educational reforms that recognize the unique challenges faced by educators in various parts of the world. Recent events serve as reminders that addressing issues like working conditions, job security, and mental health support is not just a matter of policy but a moral imperative. As we move forward with these reforms, we must remain mindful of the diverse challenges teachers encounter and continue working collectively to create an environment where they can thrive and, in turn, empower generations to come.

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Unraveling the Structure of Public Security: A Comprehensive Exploration

By Suna Kim, Program Coordinator, Joohyeong Cho and Sungjae Park, Policy & Business Research at Asia Society Korea

November 27, 2023 — South Korea is often praised for its outstanding public security, providing residents with the comfort of late-night strolls and afternoon shopping – all tied together with a shared sense of safety. However, the evolving landscape of crime has drained into the societal structure, leading to a profound reassessment of the very concept of "public security."



In South Korea particularly, the notorious "Don't Ask Why Attacks (묻지마 폭행)" incidents have significantly darkened the nation's security outlook. This summer, the shocking fatal stabbings at Shillim Station in Seoul and Seohyun Station in Gyeonggi Province brought attention to a troubling surge in unexpected hate crimes in Korea. The attack at Seohyun Station was particularly shocking, involving a vehicle that put the unsuspecting public in danger, followed by brutal stabbings. These "Don't Ask Why" crimes, marked by their non-specific and unprecedented nature, have heightened anxiety among citizens. In response, special forces have intensified patrols and searches on the streets to address the growing concerns stemming from these recent events. The boldness of these attacks necessitates crucial investigations into the state of public security and the changing landscape of violence within Korean society.



Extending beyond these aspects, a troubling global trend suggests a noticeable decline in the collective sense of public security. This raises several critical questions: When did individuals start believing that it's okay to openly display anger and violence? How and why has society transformed into a place where late-night strolls or afternoon outings – where not even the jeopardy of robbery or gang violence could be conspicuously suspected – evoke fear to the equivalent of such major felonies? In recent years, there has been an increased focus on specific incidents worldwide, highlighting the pressing need to address the underlying factors contributing to crimes that negatively impact public safety.

Gender discrimination, anti-religious sentiments, and hatred based on race all make up the plethora of other underlying factors leading to the execution

of hate crimes[1]. When it comes to the repercussions of criminal activities on individuals, the general public is not immune to the far-reaching effects of heinous crimes. Notably, the United States[2] has witnessed a distressing surge in mass shootings, European[3] and Middle Eastern[4] nations grapple with the escalation of extremist ideologies resulting in both minor and major acts of terrorism. Brazil[5] is facing an alarming spike in violent crimes against women, and South Africa[6] is experiencing a rise in murders and assaults targeting women and children. These occurrences collectively contribute to growing concerns about the broader landscape of public safety, prompting a reassessment of societal attitudes. This underscores the pressing global imperative to address and fortify public safety measures.

Navigating through this complex landscape reveals that the idea of public security is no longer fixed; it is in a constant state of change. The aforementioned examples emphasize the need not just to handle the immediate consequences of crimes but to also examine societal norms that either allow or normalize violent acts. The stability of societies is contingent on crime rates and the root causes of such misconduct. The focus should not be placed on the instant mollification of crimes but on the sustainability of reformed safety measures along with the evaluation of society's perception of hate crimes. Closure is to be illuminated only by asking the hard questions: What social predicaments do crimes as such indicate about the day and age of societies? Is the proclivity to dismiss hate crimes inevitably implied in the future? Ultimately, what is it that stored complacency among individuals who are at the forefront of orchestrating random acts of violence under the guise of "emotional expression"?



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