

Asia Society Korea Center

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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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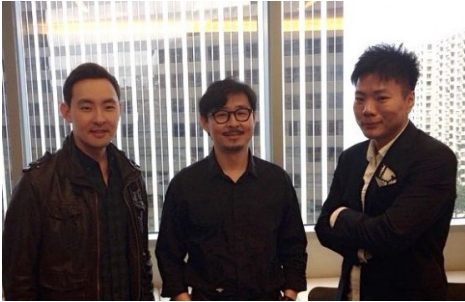
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아시아사이어티
코리아센터
소식

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

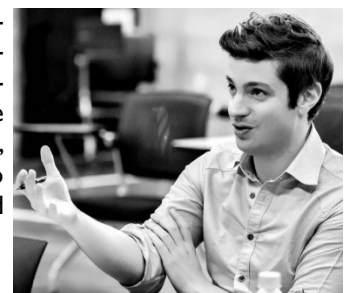


Kay Song

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.



배명복의 직격 인터뷰 오빌 셸 아시아소사이어티 미·중관계센터 소장

한·미·중이 모여 통일 이후 대비 비밀 계획 세울 때



셀 박사는 "축복이든 저주든 마중 사이에 긴 처지를 한국이 어떻게 도리는 없다"며 "안권과 민주주의, 국정 운영(거버넌스)에서 모범을 보이는 것이 한국이 할 수 있는 최선의 선택"이라고 말했다. 백종근 기자

미국 최고의 중국 전문가를 꼽으라고 할 때 마다 빠지지 않는 사람이 있다. 뉴욕 소재 아시아소사이어티에서 미·중관계센터 소장을 맡고 있는 오빌 셸(75) 박사다. 하버드대와 UC버클리에에서 중국사를 전공한 그는 1970년대 중반부터 중국과 미국을 오가며 언론인 겸 대학 교수, 저술가로 활동해 왔다. 최근 국내에서도 출간된 『돈과 힘』(존 델러리 공저)을 포함해 지금까지 쓴 중국 관련 저서만 10권에 달한다. '동아시아의 미래'를 주제로 아시아소사이어티 한국센터와 동아시아재단이 공동 주최한 콘퍼런스에 참석하기 위해 서울에 온 그를 지난 18일 롯데호텔에서 만났다.

“한국은 경제는 중국, 안보는 미국에 의존하며 양다리를 걸치고 있다. 이런 양다리 전략이 통할 수 있다고 본다.”
“인정해야 할 것은 한국은 강대국이 아니라는 점이다. 중간 규모의 성공적인 국가다. 중국과 미국에 한국이 양다리를 걸칠 수밖에 없다는 것은 충분히 이해할 수 있는 일이다. 거칠고 위험한 두 강대국 사이에서 어느 쪽의 불만을 사지 않기 위해 애쓰는 것은 논리적으로 당연하다. 이걸 뭐라고 할 사람은 없다.”
“미·중 사이에 긴 한국의 지정학적 위치는 한국인들에게 축복인가, 저주인가.”
“축복이든 저주든 중간에 긴 처지 자체를 한국이 어찌할 도리는 없다. 두 나라 사이에 서 요령껏 배를 잘 모는 수밖에 없다. 한국이 할 수 있는 최선의 선택은 인권과 민주주의, 거버넌스(국정 운영)에서 모범을 보이는 것이라고 생각한다.”
“배를 잘 몰기 위해 중요한 게 외교술이라고 보는데.”
“그렇다. 중·소 규모 국가엔 외교력이 특히 중요하다. 미국은 다른 나라를 자기 뜻대로 끌고 갈 힘이 있다. 중국도 그런 시도를 하기 시작했다. 하지만 한국은 그럴 수 없다. 영리함과 외교술로 자기 뜻을 조심스럽게 펼쳐 나가는 수밖에 없다.”
“중국의 승전 70주년 기념 열병식에 박근혜 대통령이 가는 게 맞다고 보나.”
“일본의 침략으로 중국인들이 많은 엄청난 상처를 생각하면 중국이 대대적으로 승리를 자축하는 것은 충분히 이해할 수 있는 일이다. 하지만 유의할 점은 일본과 독일, 이탈리아 등 파시스트 세력에 대한 승리를 기념하기 위한 열병식이 반일(反日) 감정을 자극하는 퍼레이드가 돼서는 곤란하다는 점이다. 박 대통령이 시진핑(習近平) 중국 국가주석과 나란히 앉아 최후단 미사일과 항일전 참전용사 행렬을 지켜보는 것이 한국에 도움이 될지는 잘 모르겠다.”
“박 대통령의 열병식 참석이 한·미 관계에 악영향을 미칠 수 있다는 뜻인가.”
“미국도 한국의 퍼레이드를 이해는 할 것이다. 하지만 내가 만일 한국 대통령이라면 승전을 기념하기 위한 것인지는, 일본을 규탄하기 위한 것인지 분명치 않은 퍼레이드에 참석하기 위해 천안문 광장에 가는 것을 편하게 느낄 것 같지는 않다.”
“아베 신조(安倍晋三) 일본 총리의 종전 70주년 담화를 어떻게 평가하는가.”
“전진하지도 않았지만 후퇴하지도 않았다. 과거사는 실리적인 문제에 정치적 문제까지 얽혀 있는 매우 심층적이고 까다로운 이슈다. 한국이나 중국이 일본에 대해 얘기하는 걸

듣다 보면 마치 저자가 정신과 의사와 자기 자신의 폭압적인 아버지에 대해 끝없이 이야기하는 걸 듣는 느낌이 든다. 역사에는 수많은 부담감이 있기 마련이다. 하지만 100% 선포하게 정리되기 어려운 것이 역사다. 완전한 정리를 요구하다 보면 어느 순간 역효과가 날 수도 있다. 사과를 압박하면 할수록 상대방은 그렇게 하기가 더 어려워질 수 있다.”
“아베 담화”에 대해 백악관은 환영성명을 발표했다. 서울과 베이징의 분위기를 감안한다면 좀 더 신중하게 반응해야 하는 것 아닐까.
“아마 미국도 속으로는 한국이나 중국의 입장에 더 공감할 것이다. 하지만 체면 문제가 있기 때문에 공개적으로 말하는 것과 비공식적으로 말하는 것 사이에는 차이가 날 수밖에 없다고 본다. 한·중·일 3국과 관련한 문제 중에는 말하지 않고 그대로 내버려두

생각이 어떻든 일본 국민은 개헌에 부정적이기 때문에 일본이 과거로 돌아가길 어렵다. 하지만 중국이 일본을 군사적으로 압박해 전쟁이 불가피한 상황이 된다면 얘기가 달라질 것이다.”
“미국이 ‘아시아 회귀’ 정책은 일본을 포함한 아시아-태평양 지역 동맹국들의 힘을 빌려 중국의 군사적 부상을 견제하는 일종의 ‘안보 아웃싱’ 정책으로 보인다. 이것이 현명한 정책이라고 보나.”
“모든 관계에는 상대가 있다. 한쪽의 행위는 상대의 행위에 영향을 미친다. 미국이 아시아로 회귀하면 당연히 중국은 맞대응할 것이다. 하지만 우리가 잊지 말아야 할 것은 이 지역의 긴장 수위를 높여온 결정적 요인 중 하나는 그동안 남중국해와 동중국해에서 보인 중국의 강제적 행보라는 점이다. 앞으로 중국이 아시아에서 어떤 역할을 할지 매우 불투명하고 불확실한 상황이다. 미국으로서의 당연한 대비책을 생각하지 않을 수 없다. 미국이 중국과 잘 지내야 한다는 데는 이론의 여지가 없다. 중국과의 협력적 관계 구축에 관한 로드맵을 제시하는 노력에서는 미국도 부족한 점이 있었다고 생각한다.”
“시진핑 주석이 말하는 ‘중국몽’의 요체가 뭐라고 보나. 국가의 부강(富強)인가, 국민의 행복인가.”
“중국 국민의 행복보다 중국의 위대함과 영광 재현에 방점이 찍혀 있다고 본다. 중국은 오랫동안 굴욕과 수치의 시기를 보냈다. 국민의 행복도 중요하지만 위대하고 존중받는 나라를 만드는 게 더 시급하고 중요하다는 쪽으로 생각이 기울 수밖에 없다. 부강한 중국 건설이 시 주석의 중국몽이다.”
“개인의 행복이 국가의 부강과 국민의 행복 중 어느 것이 더 중요하다고 보나.”
“국민의 행복이 우선이라고 생각한다. 물론 국민의 행복은 외부의 침략이나 정권, 착취 등으로부터 사회를 지키는 국가의 능력과도 밀접한 관계가 있다. 하지만 그보다 더 중요한 것은 좋은 사회, 즉 기능적이고 인간적인 사회를 만드는 것이라고 생각한다. 예컨대 일본이 그렇다. 요즘 미국인들에게 일본은 잊힌 존재다. 더 이상 일본에 대해 말하지도 않고, 일본을 생각하지도 않는다. 일본 영화를 안 보고, 일본 의상에도 관심이 없다. 그러나 일본에 가보면 누구나 일본이 기능적으로 매우 뛰어난 사회라는 걸 알 수 있다. 교육의 질이 좋고, 교통 인프라도 훌륭하다. 빈곤율은 낮다. 고도의 기술 수준도 갖추고 있다. 모든 것이 우수하고 원활하게 작동하고 있다. 일본에 갈 때마다 국가의 부강보다 좋은 사회를 만드는 것이 국가의 목

표가 아닐까 자문하게 된다. 한국도 그렇다. 교육도 우수하고, 중산층의 수준도 높다. 의료 시스템도 좋다. 기능적으로 상당히 잘 굴러가는 사회다.”
“시진핑과 김정은 시대에 들어서서 전통적 북·중 관계가 변했다는 시각이 많은데.”
“나도 그렇게 본다. 김정은에 대해 당혹스러워하고, 어떻게 해야 할지 잘 모르겠다는 얘기를 중국 친구들로부터 많이 듣는다. 무슨 일이 벌어질지 걱정스럽다는 얘기도 한다. 한국과 미국이 충분히 영리하다면 은밀히 중국을 불러 북한의 비핵화와 주한미군 감축 등 한반도 통일 이후에 대비한 비밀 계획을 세울 시점이라고 생각한다.”
“중국과 미국을 능가하는 초강대국이 될 수 있다고 보나.”
“그동안 중국은 놀랄 만큼 괄목할 발전을 이룩했다. 하지만 중국은 여러 가지 문제에 불확실하게 될 걸로 본다. 미래로 가는 중국의 길이 초강대국을 향한 직선 코스는 아닐 것이다. 중국이 직면한 진정한 도전은 법치(法治)의 원칙에 따라 보다 정의롭고, 공평하고 안정된 사회를 만드는 일이다. 만일 중국이 대외적 모험, 예컨대 남중국해나 동중국해에 쓸데없이 많은 힘을 쏟는다면 좋은 사회를 만들기는 더 힘들어질 것이다.”
“중국인 ‘종진공 함정’에 빠져 정치적·사회적 혼란에 빠질 가능성은 없다고 보나.”
“중국 경제가 다음 단계로 넘어가기 위해서는 수출 주도형 경제를 소비 주도형 경제로 바꾸는 등 변화가 불가피한 중대한 시점에 도달했다는 데는 의문의 여지가 없다. 주가 폭락이나 위안화 평가절하, 부동산 거품 등에서 보듯이 그런 전환 과정은 결코 쉽지 않다. 여러 가지 문제를 동반할 수밖에 없다. 지금까지 경제적으로 중국은 아주 많이 좋았다. 위험한 하강 국면 없이 상승세만 지속할 것이다. 하지만 중국 경제에도 하강 국면을 올 것이다. 중국이 다른 나라와 전쟁을 하는 상황이 발생하지 않는다고 가정할 때 경제적 하강 국면에서 살아남는 것이 앞으로 중국이 직면할 최대 도전이 될 것이다.”
“중국인 지금보다 훨씬 부강한 나라가 된다 면 마중 충돌은 불가피할 것으로 보나.”
“중국이 부강하지만 오만한 나라가 된다 면 매우 위험한 상황이 올 수 있다. 부강하면서 세계의 상호의존성을 인정하는 나라가 된다면 큰 문제가 없이 미국과 잘 지낼 수 있을 것이다. 미·중의 협력 없이는 세계가 제대로 굴러가지 어려운 것이 현실이다. 지금 있는 미국 지도자라면 중국의 부상을 수용하고, 두 나라가 필요에 따라 협력하는 방법을 찾을 것이다.”

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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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