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Ambassador Series

Interview With H.E. Khaled Abdelrahman Hassan Abdelrahman, Ambassador of Egypt to the Republic of Korea



Interview with H.E. Khaled Abdelrahman Hassan Abdelrahman, Ambassador of Egypt to the Republic of Korea

September 26, 2022 — Ambassador of Egypt to the Republic of Korea, H.E. Khaled Abdelrahman Hassan Abdelrahman, speaks to Asia Society Korea about his efforts towards environmental advocacy, unique similarities between the two nations, and various visions of the future. The ambassador emphasizes the importance of increased collaboration between Egyptian and Korean companies that will lead to both cultural and economic growth for the two countries. The interview also highlights the increasing interest in not just K-content but also the Korean language amongst Egyptian youth, while providing insight into job opportunities in Egypt and the future of the country.

ABOUT KHALED ABDELRAHMAN HASSAN ABDELRAHMAN, AMBASSADOR OF EGYPT TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



H.E. Khaled Abdelrahman Hassan Abdelrahman assumed his role as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Arab Republic of Egypt to the Republic of Korea in April 2022. Prior to this position, H.E. Abdelrahman was the Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Protocol at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Before arriving in Korea, H.E. Khaled Abdelrahman served around 30 years in the foreign service, having first joined the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs in November 1992. His recent roles have included Deputy Assistant Minister of Foreign Affairs for Protocol at the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs from September 2015 to October 2016 and the Ambassador to the Republic of Angola from October 2016 to October 2019.

H.E. Khaled Abdelrahman earned his bachelor's degree in Political Science from Cairo University in 1989 before receiving a diploma in 'Diplomacy and International Relations' at the Institute of Diplomatic Studies in the Egyptian Ministry of Foreign Affairs (1992).

H.E. Khaled Abdelrahman is fluent in Arabic and English. He is married to Ms. Dalia El Gohary (MBA) and has two children.



Interview With H.E. Khalid Ebrahim Al-Hamar, Ambassador of Qatar to the Republic of Korea



Interview with H.E. Khalid Ebrahim Al-Hamar, Ambassador of the State of Qatar to the Republic of Korea

October 7, 2022 — In this latest installation of the [Ambassador Series](#), H.E. Khalid Ebrahim Al-Hamar, Ambassador of Qatar to the Republic of Korea, invited Asia Society Korea to the Qatar Embassy in Seoul to discuss the significance of the [Qatar World Cup 2022](#), bilateral relations, and the [Qatar National Vision 2030](#). The ambassador focused on the advancement in the relationship between Qatar and South Korea since establishing formal diplomatic relations in [April 1974](#), and how the approaching World Cup creates the opportunity for both countries to strengthen existing bonds. His Excellency also introduced unique Qatari decorations and art pieces located at the Embassy that hold great cultural and traditional significance.

ABOUT H.E. KHALID EBRAHIM AL-HAMAR, AMBASSADOR OF QATAR TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



H.E. Khalid Ebrahim Abdulrahman Al-Hamar worked at the Foreign Affairs office from 2001 to 2005 before working at the Embassy of the State of Qatar to Egypt as First Secretary from 2005 to 2011. He also served as a director of the department of Arab Affairs and African Affairs from 2014 to 2016.

H.E. Khalid Ebrahim Abdulrahman Al-Hamar was a representative of the State of Qatar in the meetings of ACD and represented the State of Qatar at the Asia confidence-building, “CICA.” He was also a member of the High Strategic Committee of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in 2015, he was appointed as director of the Asian Affairs Department.

He graduated from Qatar University in 2001 with a BA in International Media before earning his MA in Public Administration. He is currently married and has five children.



15th Anniversary Special: An Interview with H.E. Joon Oh, Asia Society Korea Board Member



Interview with Ambassador Oh Joon, Asia Society Korea Board Member

November 8, 2022 — Asia Society Korea Board Member and Save the Children Korea Chair H.E. Joon Oh shares his views on the value of non-governmental organizations, the modern history of Korea with the U.N., and the reason behind his decision to become a diplomat. Oh also emphasizes the internal changes that have taken place in Korea over the last 30 to 40 years in light of the nation's globalization and advise the modern-day youth that “open-mindedness is an important quality for all global citizens.”

ABOUT H.E. JOON OH, ASIA SOCIETY KOREA BOARD MEMBER



H.E. Joon Oh is a professor of United Nations studies at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, Korea. He is also the chair of Save the Children Korea and a board member of Save the Children International. Previously he was the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations in New York from 2013 to 2016. During that time, he also served as the 71st president of the Economic and Social Council and as president of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2015 and 2016.

Before that, he was the Korean ambassador to Singapore (2010–13) and deputy minister for multilateral and global affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Seoul (2008–10). The Korean government twice awarded him the Order of Service Merit, in 1996 and 2006. In 2018, Oh received a Global Korea Award from Michigan State University. Rehabilitation International gave him a Global Presidential Award in 2016 in acknowledgment of his achievements as president of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He also received the 2014 Youngsan Diplomat of the Year award for his work on North Korean human rights issues.

He published his first book in Korean, *For Mica, Who Contemplates Life*, in 2015. He received a master's degree in international policy studies from Stanford University in 1991.

Read more about H.E. Oh Joon's work with Save the Children [here](#).

Interview with H.E. Savitri Indrachapa Panabokke, Ambassador of Sri Lanka to the Republic of Korea



November 28, 2022 — In celebration of the 45th Anniversary of Sri Lanka and South Korea, Asia Society Korea interviewed H.E. Savitri Indrachapa Panabokke, Sri Lankan Ambassador to South Korea for this month's Ambassador Series. The ambassador discussed a wide range of topics such as the expansion of bilateral cooperation, similarities between the people of South Korea and Sri Lanka, challenges faced by Sri Lankans residing in South Korea, and of course, food! Her Excellency also discussed her hopes for future developments in the foreign labor market, building on a significant statement she had previously made about the need to adopt a people-centric and people-friendly approach when providing consular and labor welfare services to the Sri Lankan migrant worker population in South Korea.

ABOUT H.E. SAVITRI INDRACHAPA PANABOKKE, AMBASSADOR OF SRI LANKA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



A member of the Sri Lanka Foreign Service, H.E. Savitri I. Panabokke counts over 22 years in the Sri Lanka Foreign Service and has held many positions in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo and at Sri Lanka Missions abroad.

Her service overseas includes the Sri Lanka Permanent Mission to the UN in New York, the Embassy of Sri Lanka in Vienna, the High Commission of Sri Lanka in Singapore, and the Embassy of Sri Lanka and Permanent Mission to the European Union in Brussels. She has also served in various capacities at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombo, including the East Asia and Pacific Division, Economic Affairs Division, Public Communications Division, and the Foreign Secretary's Bureau. She held the post of Director General of Regional Cooperation immediately prior to her assignment to Seoul.

Ambassador Savitri I. Panabokke has a Bachelor's Degree in English from the University of Colombo and a Master's Degree in International Studies from the National University of Singapore.



Student Program

2022 Asia Society Korea Youth (ASK-Y)



2022 Participants of the Asia Society Korea (ASK-Y) program

December 15, 2022 — Asia Society Korea held the final session of the 2022 “[Asia Society Korea Youth](#)” program, marking the end of another fruitful initiative. From October to December, the panel of six met bi-weekly to discuss key global issues and their relevance to youths.

The following five distinguished mentors took part in our sessions:

- Nazifa Rafa, 2021 ASK-Y Fellow; University of Cambridge, Ph.D. Student. ([Session 2](#))
- Nathasha Dharmasena, 2021 ASK-Y Fellow; Milken Institute, Intern; Wedu Global, Member. ([Session 3](#))
- Schoni Seung Hyun Song, Policy Consultant; Asia Society Korea Associate, Founder of ASK-Y program. ([Session 3](#))
- H.E. Joon Oh, Board Member, Asia Society Korea; Chair, Save the Children Korea; Former Ambassador of Korea, UN. ([Session 4](#))
- Claudine Ukubereyimfura, 2021 ASK-Y Fellow; Yenching Academy of Peking University, MA Student. ([Session 5](#))

Key global issues such as environmental concerns, youth poverty, human rights, and global mistrust were addressed throughout the program. Each participant was assigned the role of session leader, which involved coordinating presentations with the panel and moderating discussions. All six participants finished the bi-weekly sessions satisfactorily and are now working on drafting an educational program brief as their final project.

Asia Society Korea has long fostered talented young minds, helping them refine and develop their academic pursuits beyond the boundaries of school. It has been a great pleasure for us to host the second round of the Asia Society Korea Youth (ASK-Y) program with extremely devoted participants and much-respected mentors.

About [Asia Society Korea Youth \(ASK-Y\)](#)
View [2022 ASK-Y Participants](#)



Monthly Lecture Series

Tales from the DMZ: A Soldier's Life on the Fenceline

ASIA SOCIETY KOREA

Tales from the DMZ: A Soldier's Life on the Fenceline

September 29, 2022 • 12:00 PM KST


Mason Richey
Associate Professor of
International Politics at Hankuk
University of Foreign Studies


Stephen M. Tharp
Retired U.S. Army officer,
ROK-US CFC


In-Bum Chun
Lieutenant-General retired,
ROK Army; Former Special Forces
Commander

September 29, 2022 — “It’s a pity that Korean citizens don’t know about these soldiers” stated lieutenant general (ret.), In-Bum Chun at the special session of the Monthly Lecture Series hosted by Asia Society Korea. Chun took us through his memories of his time as a battalion commander, giving us an understanding of a soldier’s life close to the DMZ.

The session was joined by Stephen M. Tharp, a former U.S. Army officer and Department of the Army civilian whose known Chun since 1999. They discussed specific situations involving soldiers and how military life evolved, such as how access to clean water was restricted in the 1960s or how soldiers may now visit their families on a weekly basis.

Chun and Tharp were keen to share the specifics of a soldier’s life on the front lines, including patrol procedures and incidents at the Military Armistice Commission. The discussion was moderated by Mason Richey, a senior contributing writer to Asia Society Korea.

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.

Dr. Richey received his Ph.D. from Binghamton University, New York.

Watch Dr. Richey’s recent [conversation with Dr. Van Jackson](#) about security, economy, and policy toward the Asia-Pacific.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS



In-Bum Chun is a graduate from 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).

Upon completion of Regimental Command, Lieutenant General (Ret.) Chun was assigned as the Chief of the Election Support Branch, Civil-Military Affairs/Strategic Operations Directorate at the Multi-National Force (MNF) in Iraq. He was recognized by both the Republic of Korea and the United States for his contribution to the first "Fair and Free" elections in Iraq on January 30, 2005, with the Hwa-Rang Combat Medal and the U.S. Bronze Star Medal.

Currently, Lieutenant General (Ret.) Chun is the Vice President of the Korea Chapter of the Association of the United States Army and MIG Alley Chapter of the U.S. Air Force Association. Moreover, he serves as a Vice President of the Korea Freedom Federation, an Advisory Member of the National Policy Planning Committee, and a Board Member of the Korean Animal Welfare Association.



Stephen M. Tharp is a retired U.S. Army officer and Department of the Army civilian with 40 years of government service who has lived for 32 years in Korea; 14 years while on active duty. He is currently writing a series of books about the Korean DMZ and leads groups to the Korean DMZ.

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Tharp's Korea assignments during his 28 years on active duty include Chief of the Policy Planning and Operations, Directorate of Plans and Policy (C5) at the ROK-US CFC (2002-2004); Assistant Secretary (1998-2002) and Language Division Chief (1994-1996), UNC Military Armistice Commission where he met extensively with North Korean and Chinese military officers at the Joint Security Area-Panmunjom; Platoon

Leader/Company Executive Officer of Company C, 1st Battalion 23rd Infantry Regiment (1982-1984) where he spent 20 weeks on the DMZ leading reconnaissance and ambush patrols.

Lieutenant Colonel (Ret) Tharp's civilian education includes an M.A. in Asian Studies, University of Hawaii (1992); a certificate in Teaching Foreign Languages (Chinese), Monterey Institute of International Studies (1998); and a B.S. in Business Management, University of Maryland (1987). He also served as an adjunct professor at Yonsei's Underwood International College teaching Asian Studies and Korean War courses (2004-2007). He is married with no children.



The ROK and the United Nations

ASIA SOCIETY KOREA

The ROK and the United Nations

October 25, 2022 • 12:00 PM KST



Yongmin Park
Deputy Minister for
Multilateral and Global
Affairs, MOFA



Joon Oh
Board Member, Asia
Society Korea,
former ROK Ambassador
to the United Nations

October 25, 2022 — In honor of the United Nations Day, Asia Society Korea hosted a special session of the Monthly Lecture Series with H.E. Joon Oh, former South Korean ambassador to the UN, and Yong-Min Park, current Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs. The lecture began with Oh's statement, "After South Korea became a member of the UN, there have been many first times for South Korea during the last 30 years."

The two speakers spoke on their diplomatic experiences, as well as past, present, and future issues pertaining to South Korea at the United Nations. South Korea recently lost its seat on the United Nations Human Rights Council, which H.E. Joon Oh described as a "wake-up call" for the country to "stop trying to do something new." Rather, "concentrate on the quality of engagement", Park advised.



ABOUT THE MODERATOR



H.E. Joon Oh is a Board Member of Asia Society Korea. He is currently a professor of United Nations studies at Kyung Hee University in Seoul, Korea. He is also the chair of Save the Children Korea and a board member of Save the Children International. Previously he was the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations in New York from 2013 to 2016. During that time, he also served as the 71st president of the Economic and Social Council and as president of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2015 and 2016.

Before that, he was the Korean ambassador to Singapore (2010–13) and deputy minister for multilateral and global affairs in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Seoul (2008–10). The Korean government twice awarded him the Order of Service Merit, in 1996 and 2006. In 2018, Oh received a Global Korea Award from Michigan State University. Rehabilitation International gave him a Global Presidential Award in 2016 in acknowledgment of his achievements as president of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. He also received the 2014 Youngsan Diplomat of the Year award for his work on North Korean human rights issues.

He published his first book in Korean, *For Mica, Who Contemplates Life*, in 2015. He received a master's degree in international policy studies from Stanford University in 1991.

Read more about H.E. Oh Joon's work with Save the Children [here](#).

ABOUT THE PANELIST



Yong-Min Park is the Deputy Minister for Multilateral and Global Affairs, the Ministry of Affairs, Republic of Korea (MOFA). After graduating from Yonsei University's Department of Political Science and Diplomacy, he earned a master's degree in international politics from Cambridge University in the U.K. Park joined the headquarters of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in 1991 and has since continued his work within MOFA.

He worked in political affairs, commerce, general affairs, and consular affairs at the U.S. Embassy in Indonesia. In 2009, Park was the director of the North Korean Nuclear Affairs Negotiations Division, North Korean Nuclear Affairs Bureau, and also worked as Consul General for Korean Consulate General in Sendai, Japan.

Last year, before taking on the role of Deputy Minister, Park also served as a professor at the Korean National Diplomatic Academy (KNDA), MOFA. He has also authored numerous publications, including *The Movie Buff's Guide to New York* published in 2019.



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Korea's Place in the Future: Challenges and Opportunities

ASIA SOCIETY KOREA

Korea's Place in the Future: Challenges and Opportunities



In-Bum Chun
Lieutenant General (ret.) ROK Army

Mason Richey
Associate Professor of International Politics, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies

Nicola Smith
Asia Correspondent The Telegraph

John Delury (Moderator)
Professor of Chinese Studies, Yonsei University GSIS

November 21, 2022 — The final lecture of the [Monthly Luncheon Series](#) for this year concentrated on the complex and highly debated political issues surrounding South Korea. Former lieutenant general, In-Bum Chun, professor Mason Richey, and Asia correspondent Nicola Smith all offered their predictions for the future of Korea in light of the likely developments in China-US relations, escalating tensions between China and Taiwan, and the conflict in Ukraine, as well as how these political shifts might affect the relationship between South and North Korea. Professor John Delury enthusiastically moderated the panel in conversation as they discussed the continued power balance, Korea's actions and responses to these issues, and the reasons why it would be unfavorable for Korea to develop nuclear weapons.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR



John Delury is a Professor of Chinese Studies at Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), where he serves as chair of the Program in International Cooperation. He is also chair of the Undergraduate Program in International Studies at Yonsei's Underwood International College (UIC), and founding director of the Yonsei Center on Oceania Studies.

He is the author, with Orville Schell, of *Wealth and Power: China's Long March to the Twenty-first Century*, and is writing a book about US-China relations in the early Cold War. Based in Seoul since 2010, his articles can be found in journals such as *Asian Survey*, *Late Imperial China*, and *Journal of Asian Studies*, his commentaries appear in *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *38 North*, and he contributes book reviews for the quarterly journal *Global Asia*, where he is associate managing editor.

John is a member of the Council of Foreign Relations, National Committee on US-China Relations, and National Committee on North Korea; he is also a board member of the Pacific Century Institute, Asia Society senior fellow, National Committee on American Foreign Policy leadership council member, and Center on Strategic and International Studies adjunct fellow. He is a member of the Republic of Ireland's foreign affairs advisory network and is invited to offer his analysis on East Asian affairs with government, think tank, corporate, and civil society organizations globally.

Professor Delury received his Ph.D. in History from Yale University.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS



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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.

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Dr. Richey received his Ph.D. from Binghamton University, New York.

Watch Dr. Richey's recent [conversation with Dr. Van Jackson](#) about security, economy, and policy toward the Asia-Pacific.



Nicola Smith is an Asia correspondent for the UK's Telegraph and recently relocated to Seoul after six years in Taiwan. Since 2016, she has covered major political and social developments in East and Southeast Asia from global tensions over North Korea to the Hong Kong protests, the Myanmar crisis and cross-Strait relations. Previously, she was posted in New Delhi for the Sunday Times for six years, focusing on India, Pakistan and Afghanistan.



Events

Korea National Defense University Homecoming Dinner



September 26, 2022 – Asia Society Korea was delighted to support the 2022 *Homecoming Dinner*, which was attended by the Korea National Defense University Class of 2017 on September 26 at the Lotte Hotel Seoul. The event began with the introduction of President Hae-Il Jung, a member of Asia Society Korea and the president of the Korea National Defense University, then greetings were given to the defense attachés from Malaysia, Mongolia, Brazil, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Peru, and Indonesia.

President Hae-Il Jung has consistently provided strong support for the different initiatives of Asia Society Korea, especially organizing tours of the Demilitarized Zone and the 30th Mechanized Infantry division. We would like to take this opportunity to convey our sincere appreciation for his support for Asia Society Korea.



Eat Taste Learn

Ramen Relations Recipe Challenge Winners



The Ramyeon & Ramen Challenge, organized by Asia Society Korea and Asia Society Japan, aimed to demonstrate diplomatic decorum through gastronomy. As previously said, gastrodplomacy is based on the belief that the stomach is the most effective way to win hearts and minds. It is a vital reality for diplomats, tourists, and citizens, as well as a subject of scholarly study and relevance. In light of this, the ever-popular savory noodle, ramen (Japan), and ramyeon (Korea) were the ideal meal to examine cultural diffusion and to discover the local variations of noodle cuisine that were significant to each country.

Ramyeon & Ramen Results

We are excited to share the results of our most recent Ramyeon & Ramen Challenge!

Without being aware of the contestants' identities, our jury members Song Ki Kim, Executive Director at Lotte Hotel Group, and Shigeki Koshiba, owner, and head chef of Hainan Jeefan Shokudo, evaluated each contestant's recipe video before selecting the winners.

The winners are:

[Shrimp Bisque Shin Ramyeon](#)



[Chapagetti Bread](#)



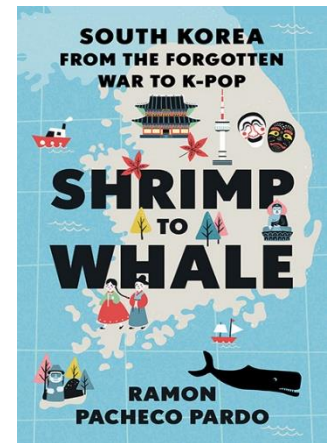
We would like to thank the Embassy of Japan in Korea, the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Tokyo, and the LOTTE Hotel Seoul for their support, as well as everyone who participated in this Challenge.

Meet the Author

Shrimp to Whale: South Korea from the Forgotten War to K-Pop

September 19, 2022 — “The bus then arrived in Seoul. And it blew me away. It was colorful, lively, exciting, Full of people up and down the streets. Full of cars as well. Full of life”, said Ramon Pacheco Pardo in his new book, *Shrimp to Whale: South Korea from the Forgotten War to K-Pop*. The book not only captures the vibrant ascent of South Korea as one of the most economically fruitful nations but also provides a coherent narrative that underlines the dynamics of shaping South Korea into a globally recognized nation.

Dr. Ramon Pacheco Pardo, author of the new book *Shrimp to Whale: South Korea from the Forgotten War to K-Pop* is a frequent visitor to South Korea. In this month's [Meet the Author series](#), he shares his observations of South Korea's remarkable history. From millennia-old roots to global powerhouse, Pardo outlines the triumphant transformation from shrimp to whale of South Korea.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Ramon Pacheco Pardo is the Professor of International Relations at King's College London and the KF-VUB Korea Chair at the Brussels School of Governance of Vrije Universiteit Brussel. He is also the Adjunct Fellow (Non-Resident) with the Korea Chair at CSIS, Non-Resident Fellow with Sejong Institute, and Committee Member at CSCAP EU.

He has held visiting positions at Korea University, the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy, and Melbourne University. Pardo has lived twice in South Korea and remains a regular visitor. He regularly teaches and provides media commentary about the country.

His publications include the books *Shrimp to Whale: South Korea from the Forgotten War to K-Pop* (Hurst and Oxford University Press, 2022) and *North Korea-US Relations from Kim Jong Il to Kim Jong Un* (Routledge, 2019). In addition, he has been editor of *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* and currently sits on the editorial boards of *East Asia: An International Quarterly*, *EU-China Observer* and *Global Studies Journal*. He has participated in track 1.5 and 2 dialogues with South Korea, North Korea, China, and Japan.

Pardo has testified before the European Parliament and advised the OECD, the European External Action Service, the South Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the United Kingdom's Cabinet and Foreign & Commonwealth offices. He is a frequent media commentator on Northeast Asian affairs and EU-East Asia relations.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR



John Delury is a senior fellow of the Center on U.S.-China Relations at Asia Society, and a Professor of Chinese Studies at Yonsei University Graduate School of International Studies (GSIS), where he serves as chair of the Program in International Cooperation. He is also chair of the Undergraduate Program in International Studies at Yonsei's Underwood International College (UIC) and founding director of the Yonsei Center on Oceania Studies.

He is the author of *Agents of Supervision: The Fate of John T. Downey and the CIA's Covert War in China* (2022), and *Wealth and Power: China's Long March to the Twenty-first Century* with Orville Schell. Based in Seoul since 2010, his articles can be found in journals such as *Asian Survey*, *Late Imperial China*, and *Journal of Asian Studies*, his commentaries appear in *Foreign Affairs*, *Foreign Policy*, *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *38 North*, and he contributes book reviews for the quarterly journal *Global Asia*, where he is associate managing editor.

John is a member of the Council of Foreign Relations, National Committee on US-China Relations, and National Committee on North Korea; he is also a board member of the Pacific Century Institute, Asia Society senior fellow, National Committee on American Foreign Policy leadership council member, and Center on Strategic and International Studies adjunct fellow. He is a member of the Republic of Ireland's foreign affairs advisory network and is invited to offer his analysis on East Asian affairs with government, think tank, corporate, and civil society organizations globally.

Professor Delury received his Ph.D. in History from Yale University.

KoTEX (Korean Talk Exchange)

Korean Education and the English Language: Monolingual or Bilingual?



November 28, 2022 — In South Korea's educational system, proficiency in English has become a fundamental requirement. The expansion of the English language, or "English fever," in Korea can be traced back to the long-running education obsession in the country. The English language has grown in importance and utility for the Korean people over time, especially in light of the effects of globalization. Every student and professional finds it crucial to adequately grasp the usage of the language. Thus, uncovering the Korean educational system requires understanding the significance of the English language.

The main factor influencing the development of the English language in Korean society is Korea's global recognition. As Korea gains international attention after the 'boom' in Korean cultural content such as Korean pop music, drama, and films, it is becoming increasingly important for Koreans to comprehend English in order to communicate with the rest of the world. English is no longer merely a language to boost one's work prospects; it is now becoming a required language skill to have as a global citizen.

English language proficiency is, in some sense, intimately related to the success mindset that all Koreans share. English fever mostly results from the idea that encouraging children to study the language will be a huge asset for their future success as leaders at the national or international levels. The reality of today demonstrates that English language proficiency is a "necessary" skill for Koreans in terms of chances for higher education and prospective career.

According to Statistics Korea, the total private education expenditures of elementary, middle, and high school students marked a record high of 23.4 trillion won (\$18.9 billion USD) in 2021, which rose by 21.0% from 2020.¹ Of that, 7.14tn KRW was spent on private English language education.² The cost of private English education accounted for about one-third of total costs. There are hundreds of privately managed cram schools in every corner of Seoul where students can improve their skills in English and most other disciplines. Korea has attempted to control the private tutoring industry for decades, however, the private education participation rate stood at 75.5% in 2021, an 8.4% increase from 2020.

Korean students perform well on English exams and the country has a high English proficiency index as a result of intense English private education, yet many scholars and educators believe that Koreans lack the linguistic ability required to converse successfully in English. The English language course is one of the key subjects included in primary and secondary school curricula across the country, yet, criticisms continue that the passive features of English, such as grammar, reading, and listening, are overemphasized in Korea's English language instruction.

¹ Statistics Korea, 'Private Education Expenditure', last modified 11 March 2022, Access [here](#).

² L. Yoon, 'Total expenditure on private education in South Korea in 2021, by subject (in trillion South Korean won)', last modified 24 March 2022, Access [here](#).

Koreanization of Global Youth By David Tizzard

December 22, 2022 — Though each country embraces its own language, culture, and history, transnational proximity is achieved through the sharing of emotions. This mutual recognition of human values such as hope, despair, joy, and even lust, then gives birth to a global culture. Successful movies, popular singers, groundbreaking books, hashtags, and global events all resonate similarly among people, particularly of the same generation. Driven by the exponential growth of technology and the omnipresence of social media platforms, we are slowly transcending cultural and regional homogeneity. A new age is upon us.

Yet many of a certain age in Korea doubt the global popularity of Hallyu. For decades they have heard over-enthusiastic tales from the government and domestic media about how K-pop groups and Korean food have been taking the West by storm, only to then discover on traveling to those places that the reality was far different. “It’s all smoke and mirrors in the desire for legitimacy amidst the Cold War contestations with the communists to the North,” they would (often rightly) shrug.

But those shrugs are becoming more and more unfounded. Hallyu is huge, it’s real, and it’s here. For a non-western, non-English speaking country to be affecting people all around the world through a variety of contents—from movies to food and cosmetics to webtoons—is a largely unparalleled success story in the modern world. What people once thought of as war-trodden and poor are now symbols of affluence and beauty. We are experiencing a vibe shift.

Part of that vibe shift is a growing number of young international students drawn to the country. This can often arise out of a deep love for *Hallyu* content or simply because everyone seems to be talking about Korea these days. Irrespective of the reason, my Korean Studies lectures become ever larger, filled with curious young adults wanting to know more about Confucianism, Han, the *Minjung* movement, *Nunchi*, Lookism, and *Gatsaeng*. They slowly learn of a more complex and rich history and culture beyond the glitz and glamour of the high-definition content. They also come to terms with the turbulent (and violent) history the peninsula has experienced.

Throughout this, during their time in Korea, a new and as yet largely undocumented phenomenon is occurring: The Koreanization of global youth. A whole generation of people is slowly, and often unconsciously, becoming more Korean. Not ethnically, but culturally and aesthetically. It is impossible to navigate Seoul and not be influenced by the rhythms and pace of life, to look at the clothes on those next to you on the subway and not want to try that style, to sit in a coffee shop and not consider a new haircut, Samsung phone, and perhaps a *bukae* (a secondary character for your dope Insta stories). This is the true soft power of Korea in the 21st century. It’s not just about Billboards, Grammys, and World Cups. It’s also changing the hearts and minds (and hairstyles) of the people that experience it first-hand. This is Koreanization.



ABOUT THE AUTHOR



David A. Tizzard (datizzard@swu.ac.kr) has a Ph.D. in Korean Studies and lectures at Seoul Women's University and Hanyang University. He is a social/cultural commentator and musician who has lived in Korea for nearly two decades. He writes a weekly column in the *Korea Times* and is also the host of the *Korea Deconstructed* podcast, which can be found online.

KoTEX Issue No.3 <January> Topic:

Have you heard of the *n-po generation* of South Korea? It is an abbreviation for “numerous giving-up generation”, a word used to characterize the young people of Korea who have given up on n-number of things in life. The young generation in Korea, who are in their 20s and 30s, is known as the *gupo-generation* (literally, the “nine giving-up generation”) since they have now given up on nine aspects of life. Before, the phrase “chilpo-generation” meant giving up on seven things, including love, marriage, childbirth, housing, hobbies, dreams, and relationships. Physical health and appearance are two additional factors introduced by the *gupo-generation*.

Many young people are abandoning these activities because they are unable to afford them or care for themselves in the face of concerns such as rising housing expenses, tuition costs, soaring prices due to an unstable economy, and difficulties in finding work. As a result, low birth rates, poor employment rates, and mounting debt are discouraging the young population of Korea. Given that the younger generation is giving up on things more and more as time goes on, it is alarming how this condition has evolved and demands urgent attention.

Question: Is the “n-po generation” only seen among young people in Korea, or does this tendency exist in other nations as well?

Deadline: January 25, 2023 at 12 PM (KST).



[KoTEX](#), Korea Talk Exchange, is a digital venue that distributes original research or written works that engage in discussions about South Korea. The purpose is to provide fresh viewpoints on Korean issues from three angles: (1) to talk about how Koreans perceive themselves in relation to the rest of the world, (2) to talk about how Koreans comprehend foreigners' perception of Korea, and (3) to talk about how foreigners perceive Korea.

The Glitch

The Glitch #3 The Sublime Object of Ideology: Korean Beauty Standards and the Metaverse



September 28, 2022 — In the third episode of *The Glitch*, Asia Society Korea Senior Contributor David Tizzard and Digital Content Development Officer Michelle Ju Sihyun evolve their already successful format as they explore the intersection of beauty and technology in contemporary South Korea. With the country already known for its strong focus on lookism and appearance, questions are now being asked as to what effect the arrival of digital virtual influencers and the metaverse will have on society. This visual exploration traverses the traditional Korean concepts of *gwansang* and *yeobek*, the ideas of the philosophers Byung-Chul Han and Marshall McLuhan, as well as the idea of beauty itself.

*Special thank you to [Lucy](#) and the people at [Lotte Homeshopping](#) and [Chorokbaem](#) for allowing her to take time out of her busy schedule and help us explore life in the metaverse. We wish her great success as a digital influencer in the 21st Century.

The Glitch #4 K-Breakups: Love, Loss, and the Online Community



October 27, 2022 — In the fourth episode of *The Glitch*, Asia Society Korea Senior Contributor David Tizzard and Digital Content Development Officer Michelle Ju Sihyun explore the themes of love, loss, and community in contemporary South Korea. This visual exploration begins with the famous Korean poem *Azaleas* (1925) by Kim Sowol and then shows how the current generation is dealing with the pain of romantic breakups through vlogs and social media.

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The Glitch is Asia Society Korea's digital portal into South Korean culture, politics, law, and society. It is a curated digital metaverse where visitors can access exclusive interviews, data statistics, and informed professional analysis. *The Glitch* hopes to provide a fuller and more in-depth understanding of South Korea to people worldwide through interactive conversation.

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