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Asia Society Korea Center

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2009 Year End Dinner



From left: Samjong KPMG CEO Yoon Young-Gak, ASKC's Co-Chairman Shin Dong-Bin, AMCHAM Korea president Amy Jackson, ASKC's Co-Chairman Lho Kyongsoo, UNHCR Seoul office representative Janice Lyn Marshall and vice minister of general affairs Cho Won-dong.

Asia Society Korea Center(ASKC) held its year-end dinner on Tuesday, December 8, at the Lotte Hotel Seoul. Over 250 guests attended the event, including: His Excellency Dr. Chung Un Chan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea; Dr. Hong Koo Lee, ASKC's Honorary Chairman and former South Korean Prime Minister; Mr. Shin Dong-Bin, ASKC's Co-Chairman and Lotte Group's Vice Chairman; Mr. Lho Kyongsoo, ASKC's co-chairman and Professor of International Politics at Seoul National University; and Ms. Amy Jackson, President of AMCHAM Korea. Prime Minister Chung delivered congratulatory remarks. (see page 3)

Security in Northeast Asia: Foundation for Regional Cooperation and Prosperity



Dr. Kyongsoo Lho, co-chairman of the Korea Center, with panelists at the Asia Economic Community Forum.

Asia Society Korea Center sponsored 2009 Asia Economic Community (AEC) Forum, which was organized to identify current economic issues of Asia and the world, and to explore Asia's future development while discussing cooperative measures within the region to form an economic community. The Forum was held in the city of Songdo from November 11-13. Dr. Kyongsoo Lho, co-chairman of the Asia Society Korea Center and Professor of International Politics at Seoul National University, chaired a panel at the Forum on November 12. The panelists were: Professor Jia Qingguo of Peking University; Professor Peter Beck of American

University; Professor Hajime Izumi of University of Shizuoka; and Professor Yoon Young Kwan of Seoul National University.

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Monthly Luncheon Series

SEPTEMBER

Najib Tun Razak, Anwar Ibrahim and Political Reforms in Malaysia



Professor James Chin

James Chin, Head of the School of Arts & Social Sciences and Professor of Political Science at Monash University, Malaysia Campus, delivered September's luncheon lecture on the current political climate of Malaysia. Professor Chin gave an overview of the different political scenarios facing Malaysia and the prospects for Anwar Ibrahim and his party, Pakatan Rakyat, to overthrow the Barisan Nasional ruling party in order to bring democracy to the country. He delivered further insights on the social conflict between the Malays, Indians and Chinese ethnicities who make up Malaysia's citizenry, the economic conditions facing Malaysia for a free trade agreement with the United States, and new media issues with the internet and youth participation online in both social and political spheres.

OCTOBER

A Tale of Two Crises: Korea's Role in Tackling Climate Change and the Global Economic Downturn



H.E. Martin Uden

H.E. Martin Uden, British Ambassador to Seoul, was the guest speaker for the Korea Center's October luncheon, which was held at the British Embassy.

In his speech, Uden emphasized the need for immediate, large-scale action to curb climate change. Such action, he said, would also help lift not only South Korea but also the industrialized world out of recession. He argued that the challenge presented by the worldwide financial meltdown is also an opportunity for serious, sustained action on global warming. In fact, he continued, solutions to the two crises go hand in hand: investments in renewable energy sources and energy efficiency will lead to growth in jobs and competitiveness, thereby helping to alleviate some of the worst effects of the economic slump.

In conclusion, Uden reiterated that climate change is the inescapable challenge facing the world at present, and that economic sacrifices in the short-term may be required for the sake of the next generation.

NOVEMBER

A United Korea? Reassessing North Korea Risks



Dr. Goohoon Kwon

Dr. Goohoon Kwon, Senior Economist at Goldman Sachs, addressed the risks currently posed by North Korea, ranging from the threat of all-out war to the potential costs of unification, all of which warrants a re-evaluation.

Addressing a crowd of more than 100, Kwon suggested a gradual, long-term integration between the North and South Korea along the lines of the China-Hong Kong situation rather than instant German-style reunification. Given the potential for easier capital mobility, an abundant labor pool, domestic demand, the potential for greater foreign direct investment, and loosened border controls within a united Korea, Kwon projected that their combined GDP in USD terms could exceed that of France, Germany and possibly Japan in 30 to 40 years, especially with the North's rich mineral wealth realized. Overall, Kwon emphasized that the possible benefits of long-term peace and stability for the Korean peninsula may outweigh the costs that result from reunification.

Kwon concluded by suggesting appropriate government policies that could reduce the costs of integration, particularly the introduction of sustainable investment schemes for mineral resources in North Korea.

Upcoming Luncheon

Amy Jackson, President, AMCHAM Korea
Tuesday, January 19, 2010
Charlotte Room, 36th Floor, Lotte Hotel Seoul

News & Events

2009 Year End Dinner



Prime Minister Chung Un-Chan gave congratulatory remarks at the Korea Center's year-end dinner on Tuesday, December 8, 2009.

Asia Society Korea Center (ASKC) held its year-end dinner on Tuesday, December 8, at the Lotte Hotel Seoul. Over 250 guests attended the event, including: His Excellency Dr. Chung Un Chan, the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea; Dr. Hong Koo Lee, ASKC's Honorary Chairman and former South Korean Prime Minister; Mr. Shin Dong-Bin, ASKC's Co-Chairman and Lotte Group's Vice Chairman; Mr. Lho Kyongsoo, ASKC's co-chairman and Professor of International Politics at Seoul National University; and Ms. Amy Jackson, President of AMCHAM Korea. Prime Minister Chung delivered congratulatory remarks.

The theme of this year's holiday event was "multiculturalism," and the Korea Center announced its establishment of a scholarship fund for multiethnic and refugee children. The initiative was established in cooperation with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Seoul Global Center in order to enhance people's awareness of these children, to create a discourse about new partnership opportunities, to embrace non-governmental approaches, and to stimulate the imagination, potential, and future growth of the children.

ASKC ran a Toy Drive during the event and delivered the toys to the Seoul Global Center, who will distribute them to the children of low-income multi-ethnic families in Seoul. The event also featured a short screening of the movies from the ASKC-sponsored multicultural film project, "Beautiful Coexistence-Multicultural Festival 2009." The film project was organized by CGV to raise awareness about the presence of multicultural families in Korea and to promote better understanding of different cultures. The festival mainly features films from countries that make up large proportion of the migrant workers, migrant women married to Korean men and international students in Korea. There are 14 films from 16 countries. The highlight of the evening was the performance of selected scenes from Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* by a group of Seoul Foreign British School's students.

Since the inauguration of the Asia Society Korea Center in April 2008, the Center has conducted 26 high-profile programs and events in policy, business, journalism, art and culture, and has hosted nearly 2,500 guests.



Prime Minister Chung Un-Chan with the Seoul Foreign British School students.



Over 250 guests attended the dinner event.

Scholarship Initiative

Providing for the children of disadvantages multi-ethnic and refugee families is a relatively new phenomenon in Korea, and poses particular challenges for the Korean government. As it has not traditionally been a country of immigration, Korea, for the most part, does not have in place either adequate relevant legislation or workable practical mechanisms for ensuring proper education for children of lower class multi-ethnic families and refugee families. Even when these families manage to overcome systemic hurdles, they often lack financial resources to cover the high cost of education in this country.

To help offset some of these costs, and to give greater voice to children of mixed-ethnicity families, as well as to children of refugees and asylum-seekers, the Asia Society Korea Center, in cooperation with the Seoul Global Center and the UNHCR, has established a scholarship fund to help further the hopes and dreams of these children. We seek to enhance people's awareness of such families, create a discourse about new partnership opportunities, to embrace non-governmental approaches, and to stimulate the imagination, potential, and future growth—not just of multicultural children, but of Korea itself. The scholarship initiative will launch on the Children's Day on May 5, 2010.

Visit us at our new website at: www.asiasociety.org/centers/korea

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2010 Events Calendar**JANUARY**

19 Monthly Luncheon

25 Special Lecture

FEBRUARY

16 Monthly Luncheon

MARCH

16 Monthly Luncheon

18-20 Asian Corporate Conference
(New Delhi, India)

22-23 Vietnam Conference

APRIL

13 Monthly Luncheon

29 ASKC 2nd Anniversary Event

MAY

5 Scholarship Initiative Launch Event

18 Monthly Luncheon

JUNE

15 Monthly Luncheon

JULY

13 Monthly Luncheon

AUGUST

17 Monthly Luncheon

SEPTEMBER

14 Monthly Luncheon

OCTOBER

19 Monthly Luncheon

NOVEMBER

17 Monthly Luncheon

DECEMBER

9 Year End Dinner

Become a Member Now!

The Asia Society Korea Center is a non-profit and non-partisan organization. Your membership support remains vital to our success. We invite you to become a member of the Korea Center and enjoy all the benefits that Asia Society has to offer.



Korea Center