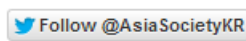


Asia Society Korea Center

Lotte Hotel Seoul, Suite 615
30 Eulji-ro, Jung-gu
Seoul, Korea 04533, CPO Box 3500
Tel: 82 2 759 7806
Fax: 82 2 757 0034
Email: koreacenter@asiasociety.org

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Chairman's Message



2016 was a tough year for many people both in Korea and around the world. However, thanks to your ongoing support and contributions, we at the Korea Center were able to successfully host many global programs over the past 12 months - our February Asia Rising event and December Asia 21 Summit being personal highlights. It was fantastic to see ambassadors and the diplomatic community hosting private dinners here in Seoul for our new members, typifying the ethos of Asia Society. Another milestone for the Korea Center in 2016 was the summer launch of our Korean student program which enabled future generations to voice their hopes and concerns for the new President of the United States of America. We feel that it is a part of our mission to prepare students for a world where the opportunities for success require the ability to analyze and have opinions on global issues.

Next year, we will continue with our efforts of developing new, innovative programs while also providing more opportunities for networking and bridge building. We always welcome your ideas for better understanding in helping to strengthen partnerships among people, members and leaders.

I would like to conclude my end of year message by sincerely thanking all of you once again for your tireless support and commitment towards Asia Society Korea. I look forward to seeing you all with the resumption of our programs in February. I wish you all a happy, healthy, and fruitful New Year.

2016 Holiday Dinner



December 8, 2016 - Asia Society Korea's 2016 programming came to a close on December 8th with the Holiday Dinner at the Lotte Hotel Seoul, hosted by **Mr. Dong-Bin Shin**. This year's event took on extra significance as it was held in conjunction with the Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit, which welcomed 33 members of the 2016 class and nearly 100 Asia 21 alumni to Korea.

Over 200 distinguished guests and VIP's were in attendance for what was a fantastic evening of entertainment and collaboration. (Continued on Page 14)

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North Korea Coverage by Steven Borowiec

One North Korean Defector's Path from Destitution to Religion



Steven Borowiec

October 9, 2016 - Hyun Ji-hee's story of escape is similar those of many other North Koreans who fled during the famine of the mid-1990s: with the country reeling from severe floods and loss of aid from the Soviet Union, her salary stopped coming through, as did state rations of food.

As she watched neighbors and coworkers die of starvation, Hyun had to find another way of providing for herself and her two daughters. She decided to leave for China, a place she knew little about, but had heard she could make money in. One night in 2004, she walked out of her home in North Hamgyong Province, unaware that she would never return.

After spending ten days walking through mountains north to the border, she crossed the border into a world of living standards she had never imagined. She quickly found work off the books as a nurse, providing basic care to elderly people, and throughout the six years would spend in China, Hyun's life became filled with much that was new to her: the sounds of a new and unfamiliar language, the smells of Chinese food, the neon lights and urban clatter of bustling commercial streets.

Along with this influx of new, Hyun also suffered from a great emotional void, as she lost the daily presence of her husband and children. Also, as a North Korean defector, she was in China illegally, and would have faced deportation if discovered by Chinese police. This fragile situation meant that Hyun fretted constantly about what would happen if she were arrested, and that she had few safe spaces, and that while she wasn't working, she spent much of her time secluded in her place of residence. Like with many other defectors in China, into this void came Christianity. Hyun began attending church regularly and studying a Bible in her spare time.

When North Koreans escape their country, they have generally to that point had little contact with ideas other than their country's state ideology. Almost all the books and films they have access to, and the content of their lessons in school, revolve around glorifying the Kim family dynasty that has ruled the country throughout its existence.

Religion is effectively banned in North Korea, with open worship of anything except the country's ruling elite harshly punished. The United States Commission on Religious Freedom wrote in 2003 that, the North Korean government had "formed several religious organizations that it controls for the purpose of severely restricting religious activities in the country."

Hyun says that when she arrived in China, she had no knowledge of Christianity or any other religion, but had grown up worshipping North Korea's founding leader Kim Il Sung as if he were a god. "All there was in North Korea was Kim Il Sung. Even after he died [in 1994], people still worshipped his dead body," Hyun said in a recent interview in Seoul.

Once they cross the border, North Koreans, women in particular, are vulnerable to various threats from police, traffickers and criminals of all sorts. A large portion of people and organizations that offer respite from the danger tend to be religious in orientation, and often make converting the defectors to Christianity a core part of their mission.

In her recently released novel, "How I Became a North Korean" Korean American writer Krys Lee skillfully conveys the complicated nature of the relationships between defectors and the missionaries that offer them help at their most desperate moments.

The desperate defectors must accept help and protection, but in addition to feed and a warm place to sleep, they also want freedom and dignity; the missionaries sincerely want to help, but have also have to satisfy their funders. In one discomfiting scene, a defector learns he and others in his group won't be free to move on to South Korea until he learns the Bible by heart. Incensed, he asks, "You mean you're holding them hostage until they memorize the whole book?" The missionary character responds, "The Lord's word can only change your life for the better."

During my interview with Hyun, which took place on the sidelines of a religious gathering attended by around 100,000 people at Seoul's Olympic Stadium, she declined to go into much detail about the specifics of how she became a Christian. At times nearing tears and all the while seeming uncomfortable discussing a trying time of her life, Hyun would only say that throughout six years in China, she was introduced to a church where she worshipped a few times a week. She had that before leaving North Korea, she had an inkling of God's existence, and that leaving North Korea gave her the freedom to consider religion with an open mind, which led her to devout belief.

Hyun is now 53 and lives in Busan with her two daughters, who are aged 29 and 24. She says she regularly speaks to defectors about how Christian teachings can help them handle the psychological trauma they endured growing up in and fleeing North Korea. She says her ultimate goal is to bring religious freedom to North Korea, to realize a day when North Koreans will be able to discuss all the world's faiths openly, instead of being stuck worshipping the dead body of their founding leader.

North Korea Coverage by Steven Borowiec

The Lonely, Dangerous Experience of North Korea's Overseas Workers

November 23, 2016 - I spotted the two men on a mostly empty side road, both of them clad in paint splattered clothes and carrying tools as they walked away from a construction site in the low, late evening light. I was leaving a restaurant where I had just dined with two professors. I excused myself for a moment and approached the two men, whom I had taken for North Korean laborers.

I started by making small talk in my clumsy Korean, introducing myself and asking what had brought them to Vladivostok, a port city in Russia's far east. They were open and polite, saying that they'd lived in the city for around a year, being shuttled around to various construction projects. The work was tedious, and the days long, and they looked forward to an end of the day drink at their living quarters, they said.

In our brief conversation, there was one line the North Koreans both said a few times: "We miss our hometown." Though they were among the relatively privileged North Koreans who get permission to work abroad, they said they wanted to return, and hearing the distress in their voices, I believed them when they said they'd rather be at home, even if home was one of the most repressive countries in the world.

But they added that they needed to remain in Vladivostok for another year to make money. They had families at home to support, they said. Like grownups all over the world, they were sacrificing the familiarity of home to provide for their loved ones.

Those two men were part of the waves of tens of thousands of North Korean workers who toil in countries abroad, often in dangerous conditions, earning meager wages that are heavily garnished by the government in Pyongyang.

I thought of them this week when I came across a report that a North Korean worker had died in an accident in Russia, carried by NK News, citing Russian news outlets. The report said a 45-year-old North Korean man died when a concrete wall fell on a trailer that housed North Korean workers. The report followed news of another North Korean who reportedly died in the Russian city of St. Petersburg a week before.

The topic of North Koreans sent as cheap labor to Russia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa occasionally makes headlines when a particularly unfortunate case occurs, such as accidental death. The more routine abuses these workers incur, of grueling, dangerous work for less than minimum wage, of having passports seized and being denied basic freedom of movement, are usually ignored.

An investigation earlier this year by Vice found North Koreans working in Poland under conditions that amount to forced labor as defined by the European Convention on Human Rights and by the International Labor Organization. Reporters found a company owned by the North Korean Worker's Party was involved in sending North Koreans to work on a shipyard, servicing vessels from across the European Union.

In response to the embarrassment that came with the reporting, Poland pledged to stop granting visas to North Korean workers. This will presumably mean that North Koreans already working in Poland will be repatriated. Once home, it is likely that they will have to seek work in North Korea or be dispatched by their government to countries that are more permissible than those in Europe, and where there are fewer nosy Western journalists poking around. There is another option. Instead of sending the North Koreans home, the governments of Poland and other countries could more strictly manage the conditions they work in to ensure basic safety and legal minimum wage. My hunch is that North Korean workers, such as those I met in Vladivostok that day, would prefer an improvement to their work conditions to being sent home before the end of their contracts.

As a journalist, opportunities for unscripted interactions with North Koreans are uncommon. That evening in Vladivostok, I parted ways with those two North Korean men without asking them many things I was curious about. I would have liked to know the terms of their dispatch to Russia, did they have to pay bribes, or put up a contract fee to get their jobs? How much of their wages did they get to keep, and how much was fleeced by their government? What is the lived experience of a North Korean abroad, and how do people respond when they learn of their country of origin? But instead I opted not to intrude on their peaceful evening with further questions.

I can only hope they finished out their time in Russia and returned home with enough money in their pockets to live comfortably for a time, and didn't, like the two men who made headlines this week, become a casualty of the North Korean state's overseas efforts to earn foreign currency.

North Korea Coverage by Steven Borowiec

Spin This: South Korean Politics Seen, or Not Seen, in North Korea's State Media

December 20, 2016 - A friend posted the following Facebook status almost as a taunt, "So, South Koreans can hold peaceful gatherings for 6 weeks and have their leader voted out of power. Spin that, North Korean media." North Korea does have media, in the sense that the country has organizations that report and disseminate information in text, audio and video forms. But the bodies that fulfill these roles are entirely state owned and have no editorial independence. Their objective is not to provide the citizenry with accurate information or storytelling. Their primary function, as my pal's Facebook post alluded, is spin. Whatever the news story, North Korea's media is sure to present it in a way that casts North Korea in a favorable light, while whenever possible kicking dirt on Pyongyang's enemies, usually the U.S., South Korea, Japan and the United Nations. Anyone who peruses the North Korean state media will come across story after story of claimed successes in the development of North Korea's infrastructure and nuclear weapons. There is rarely, if ever, any mention of the poverty, isolation and environmental degradation that have been documented in North Korea.

Such skewed and incomplete reporting is one way that North Korea tries to manage its image, for audiences both domestic and international. Since being divided in the 1940s, South and North Korea have been in a propaganda battle to depict themselves as the more desirable of the two Koreas. As South Korea has in recent decades grown into an imperfect but functioning democracy, with vastly higher living standards, this battle has become near impossible for the North to win.

The political movement that has gripped South Korea in recent months will be a tough one for North Korean editors to spin. In case you missed it, a brief recap of the saga: evidence surfaced that President Park Geun-hye had taken direction from and shared classified materials with Choi Soon-sil, a shadowy confidante and daughter of a cult leader. Park was also alleged to have helped Choi extort corporations for millions in donations to dubious foundations, and got Choi's daughter admission to a prestigious university in Seoul.

The public demonstrations set in motion the wheels of the National Assembly, and on December 9, lawmakers voted overwhelmingly in favor of a motion to impeach Park, with a fair number of lawmakers from Park's own Saenuri Party voting to oust her. Unless the Constitutional Court overturns the motion, Park will be removed as president and will face criminal charges for her role in the affair.

The scandal was the latest, and perhaps most blatant, case creating the impression that South Korea's wealthy, well-connected elite have rigged the system in their own favor, while regular folks are told to work hard if they hope to have any chance of succeeding.

The result has been a whole lot of anger -- well-organized, peaceful and articulate anger. Millions of people nationwide participated in weekly rallies, shutting down the center of Seoul and other cities as they marched holding candles, chanting and singing, calling on Park to step down.

While determined, the protests have mostly been lighthearted, with participants using humor instead of intimidation to express their views. Multiple generations of the same family have come out, and the demonstrations have generally had festive atmospheres, blurring the line between cultural and political event.

Perhaps sensing the difficulty of using this exercise of democracy as a propaganda coup to, as it is wont to do, depict South Korea as a cruel and disorderly society under the control of the U.S., North Korea has yet to comment on the movement that led to Park's ouster (early on in the scandal, through propaganda website Uriminzokkiri, the North castigated Park for her alleged misdeeds, and called for her to resign).

Just three days after the impeachment vote, the North spoke out while all the subtlety of a sledgehammer, while opting not to mention the scandal directly. That day, a report carried by Korean Central News Agency, North Korea's main propaganda outlet, depicted a military operation targeting the Blue House, South Korea's presidential office and Park's place of residence. On the cover of that day's edition of the Rodong Sinmun newspaper ran two photos of North Korean soldiers descending on the Blue House, and the building going up in flames, as leader Kim Jong Un chuckled as he looked on.

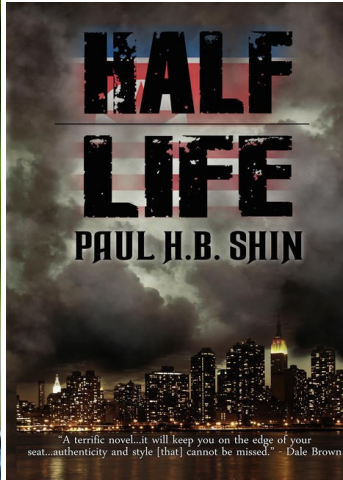
As of now, it is safe to assume that, save for a small elite with access to outside sources of information, North Koreans aren't aware of the popular movement that has flipped its southern neighbor's politics on its head. North Korea's state media has proven to be of no use in helping its citizens understand events outside the country, and this case is an example of North Korea's media fulfilling its primary function: keeping the populace unaware of the freedoms enjoyed elsewhere in the world, keeping them in the dark as candles of democracy burn in the South.

Meet the Author

Interview with Paul H.B. Shin



Paul H.B. Shin



One of the most exciting books released this fall is “Half Life”, a fast-paced thriller centering on politics, North Korea and believable characters. The book is **Paul H.B. Shin’s** debut novel following a career as an award-winning journalist for more than 20 years, most recently for ABC News. He was previously a reporter and editor for the New York Daily News. He was born in South Korea having lived in London during his childhood and now lives in Brooklyn, New York. Paul spoke to Asia Society Korea Center’s contributing writer Matthew Fennell to discuss the book and his hopes for future publications.

Half Life is a thriller focusing on politics, espionage and North Korea. What was the inspiration behind your book?

The inspiration for “Half Life” grew out of some real-life incidents in 1997. North Korea’s ambassador to the United Nations was hospitalized in New York City in the summer of that year, and when word spread that he couldn’t pay his medical bills because the North Korean government was in such financial dire straits, the local Korean-American community rallied around the cause to help him.

Around the same time, there were several high-profile defections of North Korean officials, and those events got me wondering what it must be like to be an official from the reclusive country stationed overseas- someone who has to peddle the propaganda but also has seen enough of the outside world to know the paradoxes of their own country. I filed those stories away for a while, letting them stew in my mind until I came up with a story arc. That’s how I got started on “Half Life.”

On your website you mention how the book took you more than 10 years to complete. What were some of the challenges that you faced?

One of the challenges was finding time to write, since I was working a pretty demanding full-time job at the same time, first as a reporter and then as an editor. So, keeping up the momentum was tricky. Another challenge was that it’s very difficult to get reliable information about the inner workings of North Korea -- not only the government, but practical things as well, such as what the roads are like in Pyongyang, for example.

Fortunately, there was a steady trickle of information that would come out through news reports and first-hand accounts. But the kind of information that I was interested in wasn’t necessarily going to be on the front page of major newspapers, so I had to pay close attention. So, it took quite some time to gather those details, which I wanted to do to give some authenticity to the novel.

Without giving too much away, what is the driving force behind the story line?

“Half Life” is based in the year 1997, when North Korea was suffering from a devastating famine that was also unraveling the ruling class. Nuclear scientist Han Chol-Soo is on a diplomatic mission in the United States. There he is forced to embark upon a high-stakes pursuit after his wife disappears with their newborn son. Han turns to his colleague Park Jun-Young for help -- a man that he suspects is an intelligence operative. He soon regrets his decision as Park cuts a swath of mayhem in the name of helping Han. When a U.S. State Department agent learns of Han’s plight, he tried to get him to defect.

The book gives the reader a fascinating insight of life in North Korea. How were you able to carry out your research for the story?

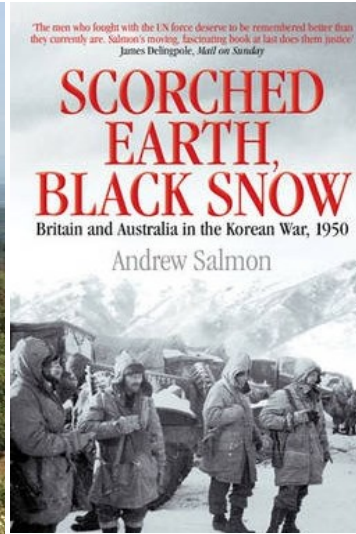
When it came to specific facts and events about North Korea, I relied mostly on news reports and my own research. News reports in particular were invaluable because the country is so reclusive. Any peek beyond the veil added to my understanding of what was going on with the government and the country as a whole.

Meet the Author

Interview with Andrew Salmon



Andrew Salmon



Seoul-based Englishman **Andrew Salmon** is a familiar face at Asia Society Korea Center being a regular at our events and recently lecturing at the September Monthly Luncheon.

Mr. Salmon is a journalist, broadcaster and author who has been a resident of Seoul since 1998. He has published books on the Korean War, including *To the Last Round: The Epic British Stand on the Imjin River, Korea, 1951* and *Scorched Earth, Black Snow: Britain and Australia in the Korean War, 1950*.

Salmon met with the Asia Society's contributing writer Matthew Fennell to talk about *Scorched Earth, Black Snow* which has recently been translated into Korea and released here on the Peninsular.

Scorched Earth, Black Snow covers the role of British and Australian soldiers in the early years of the Korean War. What was the inspiration behind this unique perspective?

Simply put, I wanted to cover the war's most dramatic period – i.e. the first six months – from a different perspective. June to December 1950 saw the North Korean invasion; the retreat of ROK and US forces to the "Pusan Perimeter" when it looked like the North Koreans might actually win the war; the stunning reversal of fortune that was the Incheon landing; the liberation of South Korea; the counter-invasion of North Korea; and the second, stunning reversal of fortune when the Chinese struck and drove UN forces from the north. This was a period of bitter defensive battles; amphibious landings; the only (counter) invasion free-world forces launched of a communist state during the entire Cold War; the 20th century's greatest ambush as the UN forces advanced into the Chinese trap; and the horrific scorched-earth retreat. It is traumatic, tragic stuff. This has been well covered by US authors – covering (largely) US forces – but I wanted to tackle this immense drama from another perspective. The only non-US and non-ROK forces that took part in all these events were the British, who provided the second UN contingent to deploy after the Americans. And the Aussies were then brigaded with the British, so it made perfect sense to tell their stories, too.

Your book includes numerous first hand Western accounts of the fighting. How were you able to research many of these stories?

Primarily, through veteran interviews: I have 90+ first hand stories. They are mainly Brits and Aussies, but include South Koreans and Americans too. Secondly, though taped interviews from the Imperial War Museum's sound archives: They have collected thousands of interviews with veterans of every war the UK has fought since World War I, so it is a tremendous resource. Thirdly, through written accounts - primarily, letters and diaries, which are kept in various museums and regimental archives. Fourthly, through official documents, such as unit reports and war diaries, which are now declassified, and which live in the National Archive at Kew in London. Lastly, I mined the existing literature and cherry-picked data from that – with attribution, of course!

The Korean War is often referred to in the West as the "Forgotten War". Was your book written to help people understand the role of the UN in the conflict?

Primarily, it was written because I thought it was an incredible story that has been under told. Some may ask "Why write a book titled "Scorched Earth, Black Snow?" Fair question. That is not just a catchy title: it is appropriate to the subject and is backed up by historical content. The book contains first-hand, up-close-and-personal accounts of commando raids, close-range combat, air attacks and Biblical-level destruction. It includes accounts of previously unknown atrocities (by both sides) and details the horrific suffering of the Korean population in the savage war during the winter of 1950, when some 700,000 refugees attempted to escape from the frozen, burnt-out wasteland of North Korea. It certainly includes some inspirational accounts of heroism and comradeship - but on the whole, it is not a pretty picture. What is it like to be shot or bayoneted? What does it feel like to do the same to another human being? What happens when napalm is dropped on your position? Why do men commit atrocities?

Articles

Brexit and Korea: Carving out a New Road



Ambassador Hay, center, with GSIS Dean, Cheol Hee Park, and students

By Tom Norris, Contributing Writer

The United Kingdom's recent decision to break from the European Union, or Brexit, is a chance for Britain to carve its own road in foreign policy and, rather than threatening trade relations with Korea could even bolster it, says His Excellency Charles Hay, British Ambassador to Korea.

Speaking at Seoul National University on Monday, Mr. Hay discussed the British people's decision to leave the EU and its implications for UK-Korea relations. Despite the dramatic fall of the pound and the various economic uncertainties Britain now faces, Hay says the nation's faith in the strength of UK-Korea trade relations remains unshaken. He asserted that there is "still a constant stream of Korean companies seeking business in the UK" and pointed out that Korean exports to Britain have risen 27% in the last year.

Asked whether the same levels of trade could continue with Britain not party to the EU-Korea Free Trade Agreement, Hay acknowledged that both countries "have a lot to lose if trade is interrupted" and declared that both governments "are eager to make a new UK-Korea trade agreement to replace the EU-Korea FTA and ensure a seamless transition".

As part of the UK's efforts to secure a smooth transition, in September, Ambassador Hay welcomed UK trade ministers to Korea for economic discussions with the Korean government. During the meetings, the two sides looked for new ways to expand bilateral economic cooperation and decided to continue the talks in London in December.

Ambassador Hay sees "huge future potential in the UK-Korea bilateral relationship" and this is not restricted to solely economic matters. One of the new ways in which British-Korean cooperation is expanding is military partnership. Just four weeks ago, the British Royal Air Force took part in joint military exercises with the United States and Korea for the first time in 60 years.

Despite the success of the exercises, Ambassador Hay lamented the fact that Britain's participation in the exercises drew "lurid headlines of attack preparation against North Korea". Hay claims that Britain's participation was not, as the press reported, a response to nuclear tests conducted by the North, but instead a product of British-Korean cooperation and were, in fact, arranged months before the nuclear tests occurred.

Speaking on North Korea more broadly, Ambassador Hay shared his belief that Brexit will have a large impact on Britain's policies towards the country going forward. Independent of the EU, Britain will not have to follow EU sanctions against North Korea and can craft its own, unique policy in response to human rights violations and security challenges.

From peninsular security to bilateral trade, Brexit presents a huge challenge to all aspects of the UK-Korean relationship and now, in the words of Ambassador Hay, Britain must carve out its own road.

Articles

The Positives of Protest: Korean Students give their views



Pictured at the protest: (Beomchol Kim, farthest left, and Kat Kang, second from the right)

By Tom Norris, Contributing Writer

Although the Korean political crisis is largely seen as the lowest point in decades for democracy in Korea, it could also be a bellwether for positive change that has been long in the making, say student protesters.

The scandal that has embroiled the president erupted three weeks ago when cable news channel JTBC discovered an abandoned tablet computer belonging to Park's confidante Choi Soon-sil. Evidence allegedly recovered from the device revealed that Choi had received confidential documents and may have intervened in state affairs. Since then, President Park has made two televised apologies to the Korean public and Choi has been arrested on charges of fraud and influence peddling. However, this has done little to quell the anger of Korean citizens, and Park's approval rating has tumbled to an abysmal 5 percent. Subsequent protests reached a boiling point this Saturday, when up to a million Koreans flooded the streets of the capital to call for President Park's resignation.

Despite their disappointment with the current government, protesters say the scandal has, in fact, galvanized a passionate new wave of interest in protecting the democratic future of Korea.

They believe that the protests symbolize this hope. One such protester, Beomcheol Lee, a student from Seoul National University and council president of SNU's Graduate School of International Studies, says the country is witnessing "democracy in action". Lee has never shied away from civic engagement or felt indifferent to the political process.

Determined to have his voice heard, Lee, along with several classmates, went to Gwanghwamun to take part in the demonstrations.

Lee was shocked by both the size and spirit of the demonstrations. This protest was far different than the ones he had witnessed on television as a child. Gone was the fear of police brutality and atmosphere of danger. Instead, the protest was a family-friendly event that took on the air of a festival, with police officers calmly managing traffic.

The most inspiring aspect of the protest to Lee was seeing four generations of a family coming together to participate. For Lee, it was important for the older generation to take part as "it brings an end to the romantic nostalgia for the Park Chung-hee dictatorship", a popular sentiment that he says handed Park Geun-Hye the presidency in the first place. While the younger generation had always held Park and her government in a negative light, according to Lee, "this latest scandal made my father and his generation feel betrayed by a leader they thought represented the good of an old era".

It was equally as important for younger people to be involved in the rally, in Lee's opinion, due to the educational opportunity it presented. Lee described the protests as "the best way to learn about democracy" and said that many parents brought their children "in order for them to witness democracy in action".

The protests gave Lee hope for a stronger democratic future because they made young people take an interest in Korean politics for the first time. One such person was Kat Kang, a fellow student at Seoul National University, who joined Lee at the protests. Kang was motivated to take part in the rally after the Choi scandal, realizing "the danger of indifference" and believing she must do something to "keep government leaders and the ruling party accountable".

To Kang, the Choi scandal was more than just a call to action, to her, "the scandal was a starting point to look into what our constitution meant, what true democracy meant, and what it means to be Korean". And, although Kang believes the protests represent "a major growing pain in the path towards a mature democracy", she says they also "represent a great opportunity for people like me to think about our role as citizens".

Monthly Luncheon Series

Global Terror, Common Challenges and Turkey's Contribution to Global Peace and Security



H.E. Arslan Hakan Okcal

By Matthew Fennell, Contributing Writer

May 17, 2016 - With terrorism a modern day global threat, and Turkey at the epicenter of the issue, the Asia Society Korea Center was pleased to welcome **H.E. Arslan Hakan Okcal**, Ambassador of the Embassy of the Republic of Turkey, to speak about “Global Terror, Common Challenges and Turkey’s Contribution to Global Peace and Security” at its May 2016 Monthly Luncheon. Having been in the Republic of Korea since January 2014, and having previously worked as Deputy Director for Terrorism in Ankara, the Ambassador was able to deliver a well-balanced and informative lecture based on his experiences around the world, which include working in Libya, Macedonia and Greece. The talk focused on Turkey’s history with terrorism over the past 40 years before looking at the more recent Jihadi threat stemming from the Middle East. His Excellency was keen to stress that although we are living at a crucial time in the world, there is ample reason for hope moving into the future.

Ambassador Arslan Hakan Okcal started his talk with a quote from Charles Dickens’ *A Tale of Two Cities* by saying “It was the best of times, it was the worst of times. We are living in the winter of despair and the spring of hope”. He was referring to the fact that although we do face a real threat from terrorism, the world is also seeing a decrease in poverty, increased literacy rates, a technology revolution, longer life expectancy and more and more democracy. That being said, the challenges and threats that we encounter can be viewed with different perceptions based on where you live and your point of view. For example, living in South Korea the biggest threat comes from North Korea and their missile and nuclear issues, but if you live in Turkey the biggest problem you face is from terrorism. As Turkey neighbors both Syria and Iraq, it is engulfed by both the migrant crisis and the threat from ISIS.

While the Jihadi threat is admittedly huge, Ambassador Arslan Hakan Okcal also spoke about the threat of terror from the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) and the Revolutionary People's Liberation Party. In fact, Turkey first experienced terror threats from Armenian militants in the 1970’s which cumulated in the 1983 bombing of a Turkish Airlines check-in counter at Orly Airport in Paris which killed eight people and injured 55. In 2016, the biggest threat to world peace comes from ISIS and Al Qaeda, two groups that formed from the instabilities in Iraq and Afghanistan. The optimism following the Arab Spring was quickly eroded away with many false expectations for democracy in the region. The Ambassador believes that the solutions to the problem must come from the bottom and that Arab counties should focus on education, good governance and democracy, while the West has a responsibility not to meddle in countries and leave behind a mess.

Monthly Luncheon Series

Assignment Pyongyang: The Reporter's Perspective

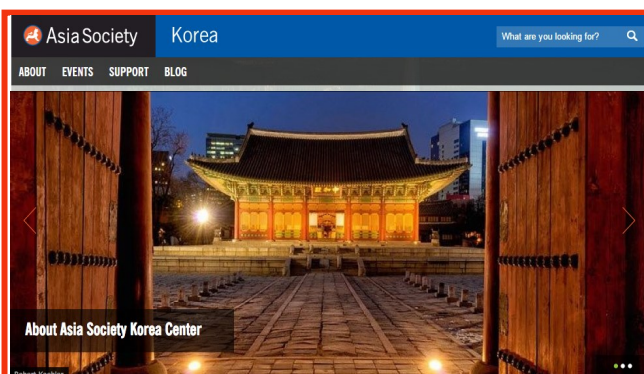


James Pearson(left) and Stephen Evans(right)

By Matthew Fennell, Contributing Writer

June 14, 2016 - Asia Society Korea Center's June Monthly Luncheon was held on Wednesday at the Charlotte Suite, Lotte Hotel Seoul. Leading British journalists **James Pearson** and **Stephen Evans** were in attendance to talk about "Assignment Pyongyang: The Reporters' Perspective". The two looked back on their visit to the DPRK in May when they were in the country to report on the Workers' Party Congress. The event was moderated by John Delury, renowned Chinese and North Korean historian and expert, current professor at Yonsei University in Seoul, and a fellow of the Asia Society's Center for U.S.-China Relations. The discussion focused around what was notable and significant about the trip compared to previous visits while also analyzing the relationship between the Western media and North Korea government. The luncheon was concluded with the opportunity for those in attendance to engage in a Q&A session.

Mr. Pearson and Mr. Evans started by talking about how they were part of an unprecedented large team of journalists who had been invited to North Korea to cover the Congress. In comparison to previous visits, both mentioned the increased dissemination of information and exposure of Kim Jong-un, a heightened security presence and the constant shadowing by their minders throughout the trip. They believe this may be evidence of the desire of the North Korean government for openness while simultaneously being obsessed with the fear of losing power. The relationship between the Western media and the DPRK remains delicate and both journalists spoke about the importance of striking a balance when reporting; give an honest account of issues within the country without upsetting the leadership. Other interesting observations from Mr. Pearson included the numbers of electric bicycles on the street, the number of solar panels on buildings and the general increase of construction work throughout Pyeongyang.



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Monthly Luncheon Series

The Korean War: Who Won? Who Lost? Why Does It Matter?



Andrew Salmon

By Matthew Fennell, Contributing Writer

September 20, 2016 – After a summer break in Asia Society Korea Center’s Monthly Luncheon Series, the program returned on Tuesday with Seoul-based Englishman **Andrew Salmon** talking about “The Korean War: Who Won? Who Lost? Why Does It Matter?” Mr. Salmon is a journalist, broadcaster and author who has been a resident of Seoul since 1998. He is France24’s English correspondent and covers the Koreas for Forbes, The Nikkei Asian Review and The South China Morning Post and writes his biweekly “Lack of Morning Calm” column for The Korea Times. In 2016, Andrew was made an MBE (Member of the British Empire) by Queen Elizabeth II for services to British veterans of the Korean War. An expert in military history on the Peninsular, Mr. Salmon has published books on the Korean War, including *To the Last Round: The Epic British Stand on the Imjin River, Korea, 1951* and *Scorched Earth, Black Snow: Britain and Australia in the Korean War, 1950*.

Mr. Salmon kicked off his lecture by giving a brief history of the Korean War using a series of iconic images taken throughout the fighting. These images ranged from a painting of the North Korean People’s Army (NKPA) rolling into Seoul on June 28, 1950 to U.S marines engaging with live enemy in Seoul, an image that Salmon calls “one of the greatest combat photos of all time”. The talk gave insights into “The Forgotten War” using actual accounts of life on the front line during infamous battles across the Peninsular. On one such description of the war, Mr. Salmon explained how a winter retreat from the North and Chinese forces by U.N troops left all bridges, railways and infrastructure in tatters with only scorched earth and black snow remaining, the title of his 2011 book.

For Salmon, the winners in the war were Japan and China. Japan was able to develop economically by staying out of the fighting yet remaining on the periphery, while China was able to emerge as a military superpower following its successes in North Korea. The losers were the United States who had failed to win a war outright for the first time in its history and North Korea which was devastated and remains divided to this day. For South Korea, the security it received through the mutual defense treaty signed with the U.S and the following economic and political miracles meant that it too was a winner in the long run. Mr. Salmon finished by highlighting of the successes of South Korea, Japan and Germany following war and how the lessons of not abandoning countries after battle should be remembered and applied today.

Monthly Luncheon Series

Korea's Forthcoming Foreign Policy Challenges



Dr. Han Sung-Joo

By Matthew Fennell, Contributing Writer

October 18, 2016 – The penultimate lecture of Asia Society Korea Center's 2016 Monthly Luncheon Series took place on Tuesday at the JW Marriott Dongdaemun Square, Seoul. **Dr. Han Sung-Joo**, former Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea was in attendance at the sold out event to talk about "Korea's Forthcoming Foreign Policy Challenges". Dr. Han is a Board Member at the Asia Society Korea Center, Chairman of the International Policy Studies Institute of Korea and President Emeritus at Korea University. He used his talk to discuss the foreign relations predicament of South Korea for the next few years, which although will encompass many challenges, may not be as difficult or dangerous as many commentators make out. What is important for him are the forthcoming presidential elections in both the U.S and Korea which matter very much because of the personnel involved and the time gap between the two elections.

Dr. Han started his lecture by talking about the 2013 optimism in Korea for an improvement in foreign relations following turbulent times with Japan, North Korea and China. Park Geun-Hye had come to power and the hope was the new administration would help build ties with estranged counterparts. Although dialogue with China initially improved, we have since experience a deterioration of relations to the point where many people perceive Korea's foreign policies to be at crisis point. The threat of a nuclear North Korea remains and there are many contradictory messages coming out of the South about how to deal with the situation. From increasing sanctions and using a carrot and stick approach to trying to destabilize Kim Jong -Un or launching a preemptive strike, many people cannot agree on how to deal with the North.

Another big issue for Han is how Korea should deal with the new government in the U.S that will be sworn in after the elections in November; in particular, how active will the U.S continue to be in world affairs, especially in Asia. Throughout history, America has oscillated between engagement and withdrawal in overseas affairs; this continues with Obama highlighting how some issues are of great interest to the U.S while others are secondary. The important question for Korea is, how much will the U.S be willing to invest and pay in South Korea and more importantly, what kind of relationship will the new Korean government want with America?

Remaining challenges that Korea faces includes its relationship with China and how it should also conduct itself in U.S-China relations. China is Korea's largest trading partner, even bigger than Japan and the U.S combined; while the U.S is Korea's only true ally in the area. As we know, China and the U.S are vying for power in the Asia -Pacific region and Korea has to tread carefully as to not antagonize either nation. For Han, the final challenge for Korea is in finding and electing a leadership who can foster a consensus and harmony among the sharply divided nation on how to conduct and go about foreign policy issues in order to move forward as a united country.

Monthly Luncheon Series

Post-Mortem on the 2016 US Presidential Election: A Personal Perspective



Mr. Young Joon Kim

By Matthew Fennell, Contributing Writer

November 30, 2016 – The Asia Society Korea Center brought to a close its 2016 Monthly Lecture Series by hosting a special dinner at the Lotte Hotel Seoul on Wednesday, November 30th. Many distinguished guests were in attendance, including former Prime Minister and Korea Center Honorary Chairman **Lee Hong Koo**, to listen to **Mr. Young Joon Kim** give his “Post-Mortem on the 2016 US Presidential Election: A Personal Perspective.” Mr. Kim is a partner of the international law firm of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy and was a member of “Hillary for America, National Finance Committee”. A generous supporter of Asia Society for many years and having recently accepted the offer to join the Korea Center Board, Mr. Kim kindly agreed to share his assessment of the fallout from the Trump-Clinton presidential battle.

Not being a political analyst or journalist, Mr. Kim gave his talk based on his experience of having been involved in the last 3 presidential cycles where he had close contact with many of the key players in the various campaigns, starting with the 2008 Obama campaign. Mr. Kim’s general political view had been that although different administrations had different policy emphases and directions, the United States itself as a country, in terms of its core values and its place in the world, hasn’t fundamentally changed from administration to administration, until the tumultuous eight years of George W. Bush prompted him to get more actively involved in pushing for changes. That continued with his involvement with the Hillary campaign as Trump was starting to gain momentum in his race for the presidency.

Mr. Kim split his talk into 4 parts: How and why Hillary lost? How and why Trump won? What a Trump presidency could mean for the world? What are some potential silver linings in all of this? Rather than focusing on predictions about what Trump might do in terms of domestic or foreign policy, the talk centered more around how his election has changed America, its character, political spirit and discourse. While emphatically noting that the post-election reversals made by Trump on his extreme statements and threats do not normalize things, Mr. Kim ended the talk with some observations on potential silver linings, such as how this unexpected turn seems to have jolted the Millennials out of burying their face in the Facebook into taking more of ownership of the society and becoming more actively engaged in making positive changes.

2016 Asia Society Korea Center Holiday Dinner



Tom Nagorski, Executive Vice President, Global Asia Society



Mr. Dong-Bin Shin, Chairman of Asia Society Korea



From left: H.E. Hong-Koo Lee, H.E. Raul Hernandez, H.E. Sung-Joo Han



H.E. Sung-Nam Lim, First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Korea



Neal Cross, managing director and chief innovation officer at DBS Bank

(Continued from Page 1)

Asia Society Korea's 2016 programming came to a close on December 8th with the hosting of its Holiday Dinner at the Lotte Hotel Seoul. This year's event took on extra significance as it was held in conjunction with the Asia 21 Young Leaders Summit, which welcomed 33 members of the 2016 class and nearly 100 Asia 21 alumni to Korea. Over 200 distinguished guests and VIP's were in attendance for what was a fantastic evening of entertainment and collaboration.

Opening remarks were given by **Dong-Bin Shin**, Chairman at Asia Society Korea; **H.E. Sung-Nam Lim**, First Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs for the Republic of Korea; and **Tom Nagorski**, Executive Vice President at the Global Asia Society, who all spoke about the need for strong leadership and positive dialogue in preparation for future challenges and responsibilities of the modern world. It was great to see so many Asia 21 alumni in attendance, especially hearing the short speeches from **Jimmy Chey**, class of 2008 and chair of Asia 21 Korea Chapter; **Mitsuru Claire Chino**, class of 2006; **Satchit Balsari**, class of 2010; and **Tania Hyde**, class of 2013.

During the dinner, guests were treated to a fascinating talk on jungle innovation from **Neal Cross**, managing director and chief innovation officer at DBS Bank, who gave tips drawn from his hotel project in Sumatra, a social enterprise to help save the critically endangered Sumatran Orangutan and to give local villagers employment and education. Another highlight of the evening was the presentation of the Korea Center Ambassador of the Year Award to **H.E Raul S. Hernandez**, Ambassador of the Philippines to the Republic of Korea, for his contributions and support of Asia Society. The award was presented by Korea Center board members **H.E Hong-Koo Lee** and **H.E Sung-Joo Han**. The evening was brought to a close with song and dance performances from **Astro** and **Hello Venus** who gave attendees a first-hand K-Pop experience.

全南日報

젊은 리더 한자리에 '2016 아시아21 서밋'
본보 이재욱 대표 '공프' 성과 공유



아시아21서밋(Asia21 summit)정례회의가 8일 서울 롯데호텔에서 열려 아시아 각국의 젊은 리더들이 사례공유와 집단 공공서비스 프로젝트 발전 방향 등을 논의하고 있다. (배현대 기자 htbae@jnilbo.com)

아시아 젊은 리더들이 공공의 가치 및 당면 현안 등을 논의하는 '2016 아시아21 서밋'이 8일 개막했다. '올해의 젊은 리더'에 선정된 전남일보 이재욱 대표이사는 지난해부터 진행 중인 공공캠페인 '공프로젝트'의 성과를 참석자들과 함께 공유했다. 이날 서울 소공동 롯데호텔에서 열린 행사에는 올해 선정된 아시아 젊은 리더 33명 가운데 32명이 참석해 공공의 가치와 공공성 회복 등에 대한 각자의 생각을 공유했다.

'아시아21'은 1956년 록펠러 3세가 설립한 비영리·비정치 국제기관인 '아시아 소사이어티'가 운영하는 프로그램으로 아시아·태평양 지역 젊은 리더들이 활동하는 국제민간회의단체다. 아시아 소사이어티 뉴욕 본부 톰 나골스키 이사는 인삿말을 통해 아시아 소사이어티의 역사와 회원들의 활동을 소개했다.

행사 참석자들은 다양한 세션에서 서로의 경험을 나누며 공감대를 형성했다. 전남일보 이재욱 대표는 혁신적인 리더십을 발휘해 공공성 회복 캠페인인 '공프로젝트'를 기획하고 추진한 공로로 올해의 젊은 리더에 선정됐다. 이날 이 대표는 '본질'을 주제로 신문 전면광고를 활용해 추진한 공프로젝트의 추진 배경과 성과 등을 각국의 젊은 리더들에게 설명했다.

아시아 젊은 리더는 한 분야에서 10년 이상 일해온 40대 이하 젊은이들로 각자의 지위와 위치에서 공공성을 신장하는 역할을 해왔다. 주로 30대가 주축이고 IT분야에는 20대도 있다. 정치인에서 문화예술인, 학계 등 다양한 배경을 가진 젊은 리더들은 공공분야 회복과 신장, 사회정의 실현이란 공통분모를 갖고 있다. 김희정 아시아소사이어티 뉴욕본부 부장은 "2016 아시아 젊은 리더는 추천과 지원 과정을 통해 33명을 선정했다"고 말했다.

서울=김선욱 기자·오민지 기자

全南日報

“젊은 리더들의 네트워크 통해 글로벌 문제 해결” 네트워크 유지로 새리더 발굴할 것 ‘아시아 21서밋’ 서울대회 폐막



톰 나골스키, 아시아21 수석 총괄기획 담당
ABC뉴스 등 28년간 언론인 활동

“서울 아시아 서밋에서는 아시아의 젊은 리더들이 세계가 당면한 공공의 문제점을 개선시키는 네트워크를 더욱 강화하는데 집중했습니다.”

2016 아시아 21 서밋이 지난 8일 서울 롯데호텔에서 개막돼 10일 폐막됐다. 이번 아시아 21서밋에는 아시아소사이어티가 지난 8월 아시아·태평양지역에서 이재욱 전남일보 대표를 비롯한 '2016 클래식'에 선정한 젊은 리더 32명 등이 참가해 공익적인 가치와 공공성 회복 등에 대한 방안을 공유했다.

미국 뉴욕에 본부를 두고 있는 아시아소사이어티의 네트워크인 아시아21은 매년 아시아 지역 국가의 도시에서 회의를 개최한다. 아시아 21서밋이 지난 2006년 시작된 이후 서울에서는 두 번째로 개최됐다. 아시아 21서밋의 수석 총괄기획 담당 톰 나골스키씨를 지난 8일 만나 서울대회 의미 등을 들어봤다.

한국 방문이 세 번째라는 나골스키씨는 "두 번의 한국 방문에서 즐거운 시간을 보냈고, 기억하고 싶고 의미있는 여행도 있다"면서 "북한과의 경계를 따라 조성된 비무장지대를 방문한 일은 매우 흥미롭고 감동있는 경험이었다"고 한국에 대한 소감으로 말문을 열었다.

이번 서밋을 총괄하는 관계로 분주한 일정에서도 나골스키씨는 아시아 21에 대해 상세하게 설명을 했다. 그는 아시아 21은 1956년 미국의 록펠러 3세가 설립한 비영리·비정치 국제기관인 아시아 소사이어티가 운영하는 프로그램으로 아시아·태평양 젊은 리더들이 활동하는 국제 민간회의라고 소개했다.

톰 나골스키씨는 "아시아 서밋에 참여하는 젊은 리더들을 매년 선발하는데 변별 가능한 네트워크로 진화하고 있다"면서 "선정된 이들은 지역을 가로지르는 결정적 변화들에 강력한 영향을 미치고 있다"고 했다. 아시아소사이어티는 올해 △비즈니스 △정치 △하이테크 △비영리기관 △미디어 △엔터테인먼트 등 분야에서 이재욱 전남일보 대표를 비롯해 33명을 선발했다.

그는 "이번 서울 서밋에서는 젊은 리더들이 창의적으로 생각하려는 시도와 함께 개최 국가의 정서와 지역의 감정을 고려해 각국에서 참여하는 이들의 생각과의 균형을 이루려고 심사숙고했다"며 "많은 문제들을 이야기하는 네트워크 시간과 친목도모의 시간 간의 균형 뿐만 아니라 외부 손님들과 리더들이 흥미를 가지고 참여할 수 있는 이벤트와 프로그램을 구성하는 데 주력했다"고 강조했다.

언론인으로서 활동했던 톰 나골스키씨는 "아시아 소사이어티에 지난 2012년부터 합류했는데 여기에서 다양한 사람들을 만나 배우는 것이 너무 흥미있다"면서 "특히 방글라데시에서 열린 아시아21 서밋에서 많은 영감을 얻었다"고 덧붙였다. 나골스키씨는 미국 ABC뉴스 등에서 28년간 언론인으로 활동했던 경력이 있다.

그는 아시아 21의 향후 목표도 자세하게 안내했다. 그가 말하는 아시아 21의 지향점은 첫 번째 각국 리더들의 협력적인 네트워크를 계속 유지하는 것이고 두 번째로는 새로운 리더들을 발굴해 내는 것이다.

"아시아-태평양 지역의 청년 중 자신의 분야에서 일정 수준의 전문성과 성과가 있고 글로벌 문제 해결에 관심이 있다면 젊은 리더가 될 수 있습니다. 아시아21의 최종 목표는 세계가 당면한 문제가 무엇이든 간에 네트워크를 통해 문제 해결 방안을 찾으려 노력하는 것입니다."

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2017 MONTHLY LUNCHEON DATES

Tuesday, February 21th
Tuesday, March 21th
Tuesday, April 18th
Tuesday, May 16th
Tuesday, June 20th
Tuesday, September 19th
Tuesday, October 17th
Tuesday, November 21th

HOLIDAY DINNER

Thursday, December 7th

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