

Asia Society Korea

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Korea 2019: Looking Back and Looking Forward



Left: Andrew Salmon, Journalist; Center, Michael Breen, CEO, Insight Communications Consultants; Right, Mason Richey, Associate Professor, Hankuk University

Asia Society Korea hosted its final monthly luncheon of this year, on November 19, 2019. **Mason Richey**, associate professor of International Politics at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS), and **Andrew Salmon**, journalist, broadcaster, and award-winning author, discussed a broad spectrum of key political events in Korea, and shared their opinions on future developments.

Mason Richey has been teaching and researching EU Politics and Foreign Policy, US Politics and Foreign Policy, Political Philosophy, and Immigration Studies at HUFS since 2009. 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 recent writings have appeared in *Global Governance*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *Asian Security*, *the Asia Europe Journal*, *Le Monde*, *Forbes*, and *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*. Andrew Salmon has been covering the Koreas since 2002. In 2010, his books on the Korean War won him a “Korean Wave” award from South Korea’s National Assembly, and in 2016, he was made a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II. His writings have been published in numerous media outlets including the BBC, CNN, Al Jazeera, and news outlets including *Forbes*, *Asia Times*, *The Daily Telegraph*, *The International Herald Tribune*, *The South China Morning Post*, *The Times*, and *The Washington Times*. Asia Society Korea member **Mike Breen** moderated this month’s off-the-

***The Monthly Luncheon Series are sponsored by Lotte Chemical, Poongsan, Samjong KPMG, and Mr. Young Joon Kim**



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Monthly Luncheon Series

The Great Successor: Understanding Kim Jong Un and North Korea



Left, Michael Breen, CEO, Insight Communications Consultants; Right, Anna Fifield, Beijing Bureau Chief, The Washington Post

Asia Society Korea hosted its September luncheon with another prestigious guest, **Anna Fifield**, the Beijing Bureau Chief for The Washington Post. Fifield gave a talk about her recently published book titled “The Great Successor: The Divinely Perfect Destiny of Brilliant Comrade Kim Jong Un”. **Michael Breen**, CEO of Insight Communications Consultants, moderated the talk. Fifield’s illustrious career includes positions as The Washington Post Tokyo Bureau Chief from 2014 to 2018 and Seoul correspondent for The Financial Times between 2004 and 2008. She was a Nieman Journalism Fellow at Harvard University, studying how change happens in closed societies. In 2018, she received the Shorenstein Journalism Award from Stanford University for her outstanding reporting on Asia. Fifield is also an Asia Society Asia 21 Young Leader.

Brexit: What it means to Korea and the Asia-Pacific



Left, Michael Breen, CEO, Insight Communications Consultants; Right, H.E. Simon Smith, Ambassador, British Embassy Seoul

Asia Society Korea had the honor of inviting Ambassador **H.E. Simon Smith**, from the British Embassy in Seoul, to speak at the October monthly luncheon. With Brexit still dominating the headlines, Ambassador Smith spoke about the current political developments in Britain, along with the possible effects of Brexit on Korea and the Asia-Pacific. H.E. Simon Smith has been the British Ambassador to the Republic of Korea since March 2018. He first visited North and South Korea in 2002-4 when he was Head of the Foreign & Commonwealth Office’s NE Asia & Pacific Department. He has served as British Ambassador to Ukraine and to Austria – where he was also the UK’s Permanent Representative to UN and international organizations in Vienna, and the UK Governor on the Board of the International Atomic Energy Agency. He began his career in the Diplomatic Service in 1986, and has also worked – largely on economic, trade and investment issues – at the British Embassies in Tokyo and Moscow. Drawing from his deep understanding and experience in British and Asian politics, Ambassador Smith provided great insight on the Brexit issue at this month’s off-the-record special lecture. Asia Society Korea member **Mike Breen** moderated the discussion.

Asia Society Korea Year-End Celebration



Asia Society Korea celebrated the end of 2019 with our members and supporters at Lotte Hotel Seoul. Chairman **Dong-bin Shin** welcomed the participants and thanked them for their continued support and involvement in Asia Society Korea programs over the years. During the dinner, participants were presented with a summary of this year's activities, along with anticipated plans for next year's programs. 2019 has been a productive year for Asia Society Korea, with the inaugural Leo Gala, various cultural programs with the embassies of Lebanon, Mexico, and Greece, and informative monthly luncheon series with key speakers across the fields of policy, business, arts and culture, and education. Members shared their reflections about Asia Society Korea, highlighting the benefits of its function as a foundation for formulating and promoting cooperation. The final remarks of the night were offered by **Sung Joo Han**, a member of Asia Society Korea Board of Directors, and **Hong-Koo Lee**, Honorary Chairman of Asia Society Korea, who have contributed tirelessly towards developing the organization from its earliest days.

Asia Society Korea Student Programs

2019 Voice of Youth



Left: Young-Joon Kim, Chairman, Board of Directors of Asian University; Right, Jiyeon Jeon, Ewha Womans University

Asia Society Korea held its second annual Voice of Youth's Research Presentations on Wednesday, August 28, 2019. Earlier this year, many applicants submitted their preliminary research plan. Five finalists were ultimately chosen and developed their work over the past six months.

Four distinguished judges were in attendance: **Young-Joon Kim**, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Asian University for Women Support Foundation.

Sean Sea-Yeon Kim, CEO of IOK Company. **Kim Eunho**, CSR Manager at Citibank Korea. The presenters from a number of top universities in Korea covered a diverse range of topics.

Yvonne Kim, Executive Director at Asia Society Korea.

Wonguk Cho from Soongsil University began the session with a talk on the needs of university English-medium Major courses in

Korean undergraduate institutions from the students' perspective. Cho brought the limitation of the current measures to the surface, which aimed on the quantitative expansion of EMI courses on improving knowledge or language proficiency acquisition amongst students.

Sulki Hong, a Ph.D. student from Seoul National University, preceded with the second presentation on a comparative study covering CSR (corporate social responsibility), in UK, US, and Korean industries. She explained the characteristics and the growing significance of CSR projects with specific examples of each major corporation's practices from the three countries.

Next up to the podium was **Seohee Lee** from Graduate School of Public Administration, Seoul National University, with her research on the effects of gentrification on residents' wellbeing. The overarching intention of her research was to devise an objective, date-driven index that represents the relationship between gentrification and local residents' wellbeing. Lee underlined how the primary findings of the study indicated that increased gentrification in the neighborhoods of Seoul created a negative effect on the residents' wellbeing, and further pointed out that the rise and instability of housing markets triggered by gentrification as the main threat against the quality of life of residents.

Jiyeon Jeon presented her research on the factors impacting refugee resettlement policies in Korea. Jeon, an Ewha Womans University Graduate School student, observed that the refugee issue in Korea sparked by the 2018 Yemeni refugee crisis, has been heavily securitized by multiple domestic-level actors, preventing appropriate legislation and policies from being made. As refugee issues are becoming more relevant in the peninsula, Jeon made recommendations for the foundation of firm consensus between the government and our society to shield societal issues from irrational securitization and irrelevant politicization.

The final presenter, **Jihyeon Bae** from Kyunghee University, then delivered her research on the correlation between Chinese economic aid and the quality of democracy in aid recipient Asian nations. Her paper provides evidence that Chinese economic support creates negative impacts on the democratic status of the beneficiary countries. It also suggests that Chinese financial support diminishes the cost of authoritarian ruling, thus indirectly encouraging blatant authoritarian governance. Bae specifically examined the case of Cambodia and the Philippines to explain the negative correlation between Chinese capital and democratic performance in these countries.

Each presentation and research report were assessed and graded in terms of their knowledge, planning, strategy and applicability, delivery, and sustainability. Overall, all five participants performed exceptionally well with concrete and informative research, receiving a certificate and cash prize as a token of appreciation.

International Cooking Classes

Embassy of Mexico



Chef Ana Palma, Embassy of Mexico in Seoul

Asia Society Korea organized a cooking class program in cooperation with the Embassy of Mexico and the Lotte Culture Center in Cheongnyangni on October 14, and in Pyeongchon on November 28. **Mrs. Verónica González-Laporte**, the wife of the Mexican Ambassador, and **Chef Ana Rubi Palma M.** from the Ambassador's residence, shared with the class how to make a variety of traditional Mexican dishes, including guacamole (avocado spread), calabaza en tacha (caramelized pumpkin), and pollo en salsa de cacahuete (boiled chicken with peanut sauce).

Calabaza en tacha is a famous holiday dish in Mexico, most often consumed on Dios de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). It is made with pumpkin, brown sugar, cinnamon, and cloves. Pumpkin seeds are often added during at the end to highlight the visual presentation. The sweet flavor of Calabaza en tacha serves as the perfect dessert to wrap up a holiday meal with friends and family.

Pollo en salsa de cacahuete originates from Puebla, Mexico, a region that is often referred to as the gastronomic mecca of Central Mexico. It is mainly prepared with boiled chicken, tomato, roasted peanuts, sesame seeds, and onion. The dish is also traditionally served with Mexican chilies called chipotles. The peanuts act as a thickening agent to the rich

sauce that envelops the boiled chicken, creating a tender and hearty taste.

Guacamole is made from mashed avocado, blended with tomato, onion, coriander, olive oil, lime juice, and salt. It is rich in flavor and useful for both vegetarian and non-vegetarian diets. It can be served with simple nacho chips, but it also goes well with heavier meals such as grilled pork skin. The trajectory of guacamole in the global market has been astonishing, with demand growing year after year. Guacamole is undoubtedly becoming an irreplaceable dish on meal tables worldwide. All of the participants had a wonderful time at the cooking class, and were very pleased by the rare opportunity to learn about authentic homemade Mexican cuisine.

Embassy of Lebanon



Chef Abdallah Sanyour, Embassy of Lebanon in Seoul

Asia Society Korea organized a cooking class program with the Embassy of Lebanon and Lotte Culture Center, in Myeongdong on August 27, and in Jamsil on October 15. **H.E. Antoine Azzam**, Ambassador of Lebanon to the Republic of Korea, and Chef **Abdallah Sanyour** from the Ambassador's residence, introduced the traditional recipe for Lebanese tabbouleh (salad) and hummus (chickpea paste).

Tabbouleh is a vegetarian salad made mostly of finely chopped parsley, with tomato, onion, and bulgur, and then seasoned with olive oil, lemon juice, salt, and pepper. The fresh aroma of the parsley blends perfectly with the richness of olive oil and the acidity of the lemon juice, creating a well-rounded salad that goes well with a variety of main dishes. This dish is a mezze (the Lebanese version of appetizers) and has quickly gained popularity worldwide.

Hummus is a spread made from cooked, mashed chickpeas blended with tahini, olive oil, lemon juice, and salt. It can also be made with other varieties of beans or vegetables such as eggplant. Hummus is rich in protein and useful for both vegetarian and non-vegetarian diets. It goes surprisingly well with Korean food such as samgeupsal (grilled pork belly) or gopchang (grilled pork intestine), as well as chopped vegetables and other side dishes. The trajectory of hummus in the global market has been astonishing, with demand growing year after year. Hummus is

becoming an irreplaceable dish on dinner tables worldwide. After the participants finished making tabbouleh, Chef Abdallah shared the hummus with everyone as a memorable way to wrap up a great day of Lebanese cooking.

International Cooking Classes

Embassy of Greece



Chef George Morakis

Asia Society Korea organized a cooking class with the Embassy of Greece and Lotte Culture Center, in Myeongdong on December 14. Celebrity Greek Chef **George Morakis** introduced traditional recipes for Greek salad, tzatziki (yogurt dip or soup), and gemista (stuffed vegetables).

Greek salad is made with pieces of tomatoes, sliced cucumbers, onion, feta cheese, and olives, typically seasoned with salt and Greek mountain oregano. It is served with a touch of olive oil dressing. Greek salad is often thought of as a farmer's breakfast or lunch, as its ingredients resemble those that a Greek farmer might normally have on hand.

Tzatziki is a yogurt-based dip, soup, or sauce. It is made of salted strained yogurt or diluted yogurt mixed with cucumbers, garlic, salt, olive oil, and sometimes with vinegar or lemon juice. Herbs such as dill, mint, parsley, and thyme are also added. Greek-style tzatziki is typically served as a side with meat dishes, such as spiced chicken and vegetable couscous. It may also be served as part of an assorted appetizer platter that is traditionally served with the anise-flavored liquor called ouzo.

Gemista is a traditional recipe for Greek stuffed tomatoes and/or other vegetables that are baked, until soft and nicely browned. The traditional Greek recipe for gemista can be either vegetarian, where the gemista is filled with rice and chopped vegetables and baked in a tomato based sauce, or it may contain minced beef or pork. There are countless recipes for Greek stuffed tomatoes, with almost every household having its own. The participants were very keen to learn the recipes for authentic Greek cuisine, which features nutritious ingredients and rich in flavor.



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In the News: From Asia Society

호아킨 카스트로 미 하원의원과 함께 살펴보는 미·중 무역 현황



출처: Getty Images, GreenTechMedia

미국의 대아시아 무역정책에 대한 논의를 펼치기 위해 아시아소사이어티 정책연구소 부소장 웬디 커틀러는 호아킨 카스트로 미 하원의원 (텍사스 주, 민주당)과 함께 카스트로 의원이 진행하는 팟캐스트 시리즈인 '외교 케이블'에 참석했다.

카스트로 의원은 커틀러 부소장과 함께 "10년 전, 미국이 고려했어야 할 가장 중요한 도전 과제"라는 첫번째 질문으로 인터뷰를 시작했다. 이에 커틀러 부소장은 경제적 동향과 인구 통계학적 추세에 따르면 중국이 신흥강국으로 성장할 조짐은 10년 전부터 명백 했다고 대답했다. 부소장은 중국의 일대일로(一帶一路) 프로젝트를 설명하며 해당 프로젝트는 그 채무 뿐만 아니라 국영기업체들에 대한 높은 의존도로 인하여 부정적인 여론이 거세지고 있다는 문제점을 함께 시사했다. "(일대일로 프로젝트는) 정말 복잡한 현안이다. 많은 국가들이 이 경제 계획이 사실상 채무 함정 임을 인지하기 시작했다"고 덧붙였다. 교역 문제에 있어서 발언하기를 미국이 '환태평양 경제동반자협정' (TPP)에서 탈퇴했음에도 불구하고, 나머지 협정국가들은 '포괄적·점진적 환태평양경제동반자협정' (CPTPP)을 통해 합의를 도출하였으며 이러한 국가지역에서 미국 제도에 근거한 많은 규정들이 뿌리를 내리고 있다는 사실을 상기시켰다. 현재 미국의 수출기업들은 CPTPP 협상 참가국들 사이에서 손해를 보고 있지만 미국-캐나다-멕시코 협정(USMCA)과 같이 견고한 유사 협정을 통하여 미국이 다시 TPP와 같은 협정으로 돌아올 수 있는 길을 열어줄 것"이라고 커틀러 부소장은 내다보았다.

커틀러 부소장은 인도 및 동남아시아를 포함한 아시아 지역과 미국의 지속적인 관계 모색을 위한 기회들을 설명했다. 먼저 언급된 인도의 경우 "성장률은 중국보다 훨씬 높기 때문에 확실히 지켜볼 국가"라고 강조했다. 그와 동시에 많은 동남아 국가들, 특히 베트남이 미 중 무역전쟁의 여파로 혜택을 보고 있는데 이는 많은 미국 기업들이 자국으로 돌아가기 보다는 동남아로 이동해 사업을 재개하기 때문이며 이로 인해 미국-베트남 무역적자가 증가하고 있다고 전했다. 이어 커틀러 부소장은 트럼프 행정부가 이제 베트남과 호전적이 관계로 들어서려 하는 가운데 "(베트남은) 미국의 친밀한 우방국이며 양국 간 무역 분쟁을 잘 가라앉힐 수 있는 방안이 마련되었으면 좋겠다"는 바람을 내 비추었다.

In the News: From Asia Society

북한이 중국을 경계하는 이유

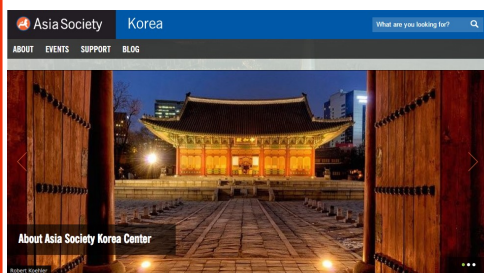


출처: pbs.org

2011년 김정은 위원장의 집권 이래 수년간 북한의 유일한 우방국 이자 경제적 동아줄인 중국과의 관계는 매우 부진해졌다. 지난해 김 위원장과 중국의 시진핑 주석 간에 성사된 일련의 회담으로 양국의 분위기는 다시 따듯한 기류에 올랐지만, 그럼에도 불구하고 북한이 베이징을 경계할 이유가 아직 산적해 있다고 존 델러리 교수는 말했다.

이어서 델러리 교수는 “중국의 주요 투자금이 북한으로 유입되기 시작한 것은 아니다”고 주장하며 “김정은 위원장은 중국을 경계하고 있으며, 너무 많은 중국 자본이 한꺼번에 북한으로 유입되는 사태가 일어나지 않도록 예의주시” 하고 있고 “거대한 중국 자본은 궁극적으로 북한의 경제적 이익에 상당히 위협적이기 때문에 김정은 위원장은 사실 중국과 일정한 거리를 계속 유지하고 있다” 라는 의견을 제시했다.

연세대학교 교수이자 Asia 21 Korea Chapter의 일원인 델러리 교수는 김동진 북한 전문가, 아시아소사이어티 글로벌 부회장 톰 나고스키와 함께 출연한 아시아소사이어티 뉴욕 본부의 프로그램에서 북한에 관한 안건으로 다양한 의견을 공유했다.



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Ambassador Interviews

Interview with H.E. Dinara Kemelova



H.E. Dinara Kemelova, Ambassador, Embassy of the Kyrgyz Republic

1. Welcome to Korea. We hope your first year as the ambassador has been a positive one. What were some of your first impressions of Korea?

Thank you very much. Yes, in February of this year, I took up the duties of the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Kyrgyz Republic to the Republic of Korea. Earlier, as the First Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic, I had the opportunity to visit this wonderful country several times. But for so long I've been here for the first time. My first impressions of the Land of morning Calm are flaming: I really liked the city, the developed infrastructure of the country, as well as very friendly people. In South Korea I like to visit the regions, the Government of South Korea attaches great importance to the development of rural areas, innovative technologies, and the experience in these spheres we would like to learn from your country.

There is also a high dynamics of the country's development, business activity, as well as holding cultural events and festivals in various parts of South Korea to attract tourists. And it is very interesting for me and our state as a positive experience.

My country - the Kyrgyz Republic, which we call the country of Sky Mountains, with beautiful nature, numerous lakes and rivers, is an oasis in Central Asia. However not many South Korean citizens know about our ancient history, tourist attraction and rich culture. Therefore, one of the main tasks facing me and the staff of the Embassy is to make Kyrgyzstan recognizable for Koreans and a popular destination to visit.

2. Are there any challenges that come with being a high-ranking female diplomat in your country? Would you please share your thoughts regarding the state of gender equality and women's empowerment in the Asia-Pacific region?

Prior to my appointment as Ambassador, I was twice in the position of Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic. In general, I can say that in Kyrgyzstan, women in high positions do not face "special / specific" difficulties in building their careers. The proof of this is also the tenure of the President of the Kyrgyz Republic, a woman - ex-Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Kyrgyz Republic Roza Otunbaeva. Moreover, women in Kyrgyzstan occupy high posts - the Chairperson of the Supreme Court, the Vice Minister, Ministers, Ambassadors and others. Great attention is paid to the gender balance in the Kyrgyz parliament.

Regarding the issue of gender equality in the Asia-Pacific region, it is worth noting that if we consider this issue in general, then, in my opinion, women in the Asian region are underrepresented in high positions in the public sphere, and as leaders of major companies.

3. Air pollution in Korea has become a major issue. What environmental issues is Kyrgyzstan dealing with, and what types of environmental protection initiatives has the government been implementing?

Over the past years, the issue of environmental protection and sustainable development continues to occupy a priority place on the global agenda of the international community. The human right to live in a favorable environment has become another important issue along with new challenges and threats of the current millennium.

Ambassador Interviews

Kyrgyzstan, like Korea, is a mountainous country. 93% of the territory of Kyrgyzstan is occupied by mountains, which are the source of people life, animals and birds. The riches of our mountains are glaciers that provide water to Central Asia, flora and fauna, and large reserves of natural minerals. However, our mountain ecosystems are particularly vulnerable due to extreme environmental conditions. And such environmental problems as air temperature and its quality, soil and water quality remain relevant for our state.

Problems of global climate change are already having negative impacts in Kyrgyzstan. In particular, due to global warming, the level of rivers in Kyrgyzstan fluctuates, and mountain systems degrade. There is intense melting of the glaciers of Kyrgyzstan, which as I mentioned before are sources of water in Central Asia. Natural disasters associated with water, such as avalanches and landslides, are also observed.

In this regard, it was on the initiative of Kyrgyzstan that the attention of the world community was drawn to the problems of sustainable development of mountain ecosystems, improving the welfare of mountain residents and preserving the environment of mountain countries. In particular, in 1998, Kyrgyzstan initiated the International Year of Mountains and the announcement of 2002 as the International Year of Mountains.

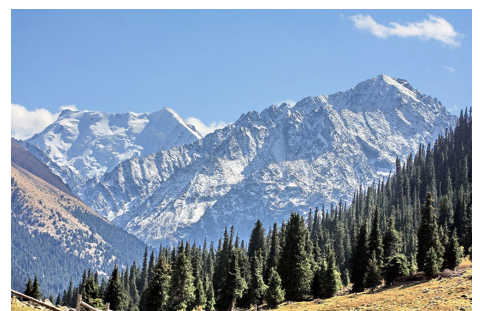
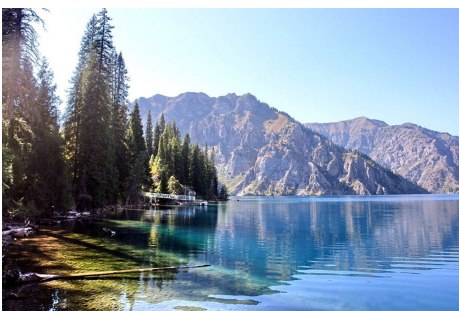
Did you know that the UN celebrates International Mountain Day every year on December 11? And this day is determined due to the past Summit in the capital of Kyrgyzstan (Bishkek Mountain Summit) in 2002. One of the issues of conservation of mountain ecosystems, which is often raised by Kyrgyzstan in the international arena, is the conservation of the snow leopard. In pursuit of this goal, in 2013, the Kyrgyz Republic took the initiative to host the World Forum for the Conservation of the Snow Leopard, one of the most vulnerable and rare species of fauna of our planet. To develop this initiative, in 2017 we held the International Forum of the Conservation Snow Leopard and its Mountain Ecosystems.

On August 24, 2017, representatives of 12 countries where snow leopards live, gathered in Bishkek (the capital of Kyrgyzstan), signed the Declaration, pledging to take measures to preserve the endangered animal population. Thanks to these actions, already specially established photo traps in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan record snow leopards, although several years ago there were fears that we would not see them again. The snow leopard that lives in the mountains of Kyrgyzstan, as we often note, is an indicator of the health of our ecosystems. It is very important for us to maintain biological diversity in our region and around the world.

And another pressing issue is environmental safety and the solution of the uranium legacy problem in certain places in some countries of Central Asia. A year ago, on the initiative of the Kyrgyz Republic, a special meeting was held at the 73rd session of the UN General Assembly to update the resolution and call for international solidarity in order to draw the attention of the world community to the environmental problem of uranium heritage in Central Asia. Currently, work is underway on the rehabilitation and reclamation of uranium tailings.

By the way, I would like to note that the Kyrgyz Republic is a party to 13 international environmental treaties and conventions, the fulfillment of obligations under which helps to maintain environmental sustainability and allows attracting external grant funds to stabilize and prevent the degradation of natural resources in the country.

And we are also ready to work closely with the Republic of Korea to promote projects on green growth and environmental protection. We are also interested in mitigation and adaptation to climate change projects in areas such as agriculture and forestry, energy, transport, industry, in particular renewable energy, where South Korea demonstrates innovative progress and significant potential.



Asia Society Korea

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Annual Program Sponsor (50,000,000 KRW or more)

Corporate Partner (25,000,000 KRW or more)

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Name _____

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Title _____

Corporate / Personal Identification Number _____

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Date _____ Signature _____

Asia Society Korea

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

Account Number: Shinhan Bank 100-032-012860

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SAVE THE DATES

Upcoming Monthly Luncheons

- Wednesday, February 12, 2020
- Tuesday, March 17, 2020
- Tuesday, April 21, 2020
- Tuesday, May 19, 2020
- Tuesday, June 16, 2020
- Tuesday, September 22, 2020
- Tuesday, October 20, 2020
- Tuesday, November 17, 2020