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Save the Date

Tuesday, September 22 & Wednesday, September 23

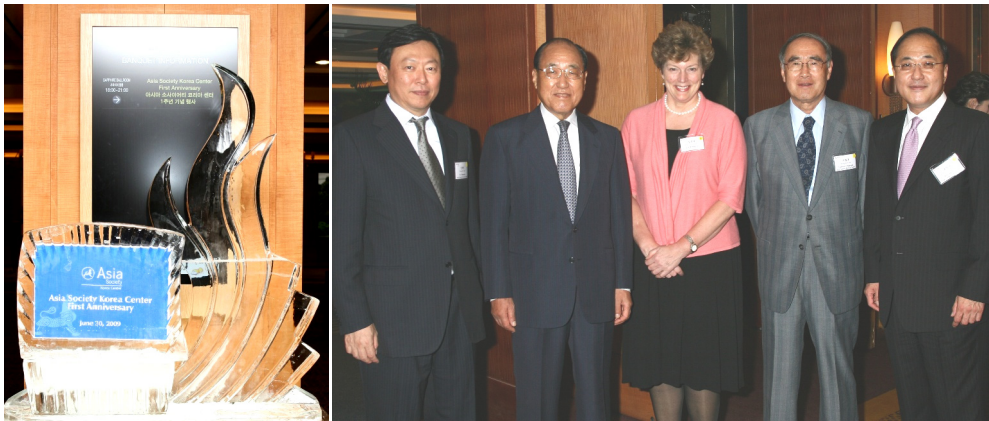
Bridge to a New Era: Public-Private Partnerships in Vietnam & South Korea

Tuesday, December 8

Asia Society Korea Center

Annual Christmas Dinner

Asia Society Korea Center Turns 1



On June 30, 2009, Asia Society Korea Center held its first year anniversary dinner at the Lotte Hotel Seoul's Sapphire Ballroom. Nearly 200 guests attended the event, including H.E. Kathleen Stephens, the US Ambassador to Seoul, and Susan Shirk, Director of the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC) at the University of California, San Diego and former Deputy Assistant Secretary of State during the Clinton Administration. The event was attended by a cross section of national and international figures such as the former South Korean Prime Ministers Lho Shin-Young and Lee Hong Koo, National Assembly Member Ryan Jung Wook Hong and Mr. H.S. (Hyun Sang) Cho, Executive Vice President of the Hyosung Group and the Chairman of the Asia 21 Korea Chapter.

Special Conference

Bridge to a New Era:

Public-Private Partnerships in Vietnam & South Korea

Inspired by the 19th Asian Corporate Conference that was held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam in April 2009, this seminar seeks to review and deepen the bilateral relationship between Vietnam and South Korea today, and explore how both countries can promote their further cooperation in a new global economy. It will bring together top business figures and government leaders from both countries to better understand the opportunities and challenges faced by Vietnam and South Korean investors and the prospects for Asia's business environment. Our 19th Asian Corporate Conference (ACC), which was organized by Asia Society headquarters, was a huge success and served as an innovative programming concept that further fostered an open debate on the bilateral partnership between Vietnam and South Korea. Given the success of the ACC and in light of the Vietnamese government's engagement in Asia Society activities, this seminar will also prove to be an equally important opportunity. (see page 5)

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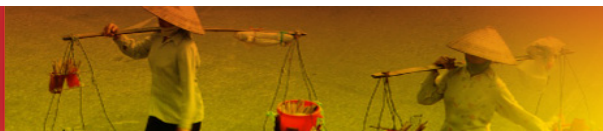
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Monthly Luncheon Series

May Past, Present & Future of the Six-Party Talks



Nobuyoshi Sakajiri

Mr. Nobuyoshi Sakajiri, Senior Diplomatic Correspondent of the China General Bureau of *Asahi Shimbun* and Asia Society's Bernard Schwartz Fellow, addressed Asia Society Korea Center's audience about the "Past, Present and Future of the Six-Party Talks" for the luncheon series gathering in May. As a correspondent who has covered all the rounds of the six-party talks in Beijing since August 2003, he presented specifics on the current issues revolving around governmental discussions, while reviewing the past experiences faced by these countries and the potential for progress with challenges for the future of multilateral diplomatic relations.

Nobuyoshi Sakajiri has been a senior diplomatic correspondent at the China General Bureau of *Asahi Shimbun* since September 2005. He joined the *Asahi Shimbun* in 1989. In 1994 he was selected to participate in the *Asahi Shimbun's* foreign-language training program. After a year of Chinese studies at the University of Sichuan, China, he was assigned to cover Hong Kong from 1996 to 1998, before and after its handover to China. In Tokyo, he served as a staff reporter at the Foreign News Department and for two years also covered social security matters in Japan.

H.E. Edmundo Sussumu Fujita, Ambassador of Brazil to the Republic of Korea, was guest speaker on the topic of "The Future of Brazil-Korea Relations in a Global World" for the Asia Society Korea Center's July Luncheon. Ambassador Fujita spoke about the important bilateral issues facing both nations in current times and the potential for developing this relationship in multi-faceted ways through further interaction and understanding.

Ambassador Fujita was born in São Paulo, Brazil, from a family that emigrated from Japan almost 100 years ago to South and North America. He was the first Brazilian of Asian origin to pass through the competitive exams to enter the exclusive Foreign Service, in 1975. He has since been posted to London, Tokyo, Moscow and New York, where he was alternate representative to the Security Council. He served as Ambassador to Indonesia from 2005 to 2009, before coming to Seoul.

July

The Future of Brazil-Korea Relations in a Global World



H.E. Edmundo Sussumu Fujita

August

How Irish are the Koreans? Some Reflections & Impressions



H.E. Eamonn McKee

H.E. Eamonn McKee, Ambassador of Ireland to the Republic of Korea, presented the audience at the August luncheon with a unique title to arouse the curiosity of many, "How Irish are the Koreans?" As a recently arrived foreigner to Seoul, he proceeded with an analysis of similarities between the cultures of Ireland and Korea that included the belief in the power of the spoken word and a long tradition of oratory and oral performance. He further added the rebel instinct, intolerance of pomposity and being more emotional than their neighboring countries as commonalities.

On the other hand, Ambassador McKee moved onto explain his perspectives on the differences between the Irish and the Koreans, which centered on the fact that Korea's colonization and the trauma of war occurred in more recent times than Ireland, and therefore, the recovery that much more remarkable.

On the issue of language, Koreans had been fortunate to return to their native tongue once colonization ended, whereas the use of Irish Gaelic in Ireland is limited to certain areas of the country, and is not the main use of commerce. On the flip side, Ireland is able to benefit as an English speaking nation by fully using the language that was once imposed by its colonizers. Ambassador McKee also commented on the enormous amount of resources, time, money and energy that is consumed by countries, such as South Korea and Ireland, which experience partition, missed potential and opportunities.

News & Events

Asia Society Korea Center's First Year Anniversary Event



Asia Society Korea Center celebrated its first year anniversary on June 30, 2009 and held a dinner event to commemorate the successes and progress from initiatives and ventures that were taken after its inauguration on April 2, 2008. Since the founding of the Korea Center, it has conducted 21 high-profile programs and events in policy, business, journalism, art and culture, and hosted nearly 2,000 guests. With the mission to embark on new programmatic initiatives that would strengthen ASKC's profile as a Center of Excellence within the global Asia Society organization, this event marked the Korea Center's commitment to the region, adding another important piece to the institution's evolving global identity.

H.E. Kathleen Stephens, the U.S. Ambassador to Seoul, gave the congratulatory speech centered on parallel comparisons with the joint vision for the alliance of the Republic of Korea and the United States that was announced during President Lee Myung-Bak's official visit to meet with President Barak Obama in June 2009. Ambassador Stephens emphasized the continued deepening of bilateral relations, as well as building even closer ties between both societies, civic, cultural, academic, and other institutions, corresponding to ASKC's current initiatives.

Dr. Lho Kyongsoo, Co-Chairman of the Korea Center and Professor of International Politics at Seoul National University, gave an overview of the Korea Center's current programs, future projects and upcoming challenges to the audience.

Ms. Yvonne Kim, the Korea Center's Executive Director, further provided the attendees with specific details on the initiatives pursued and to be undertaken and developed by the center, which included enhancing membership presence and partnership development. Furthermore, she emphasized the focus on close partnership with Asia Society's New York office to further strategic goals. The Vietnam Conference to be held from September 22 to 24, 2009 was raised as an important opportunity to bring together senior government and business leaders from Vietnam and Korea to review and deepen their bilateral relations. The Asia 21 Korea Chapter or K21, was described as a special group of dynamic young leaders whose overarching goal is to develop collaborative approaches to shared challenges and to build the necessary networks of trust while fostering the highest ideals of value-based leadership.

Global media presence included the BBC and CNN news agencies in addition to the numerous local news agencies.



Scholarship Initiative

Asia Society Korea Center and the Seoul Global Center have jointly initiated a scholarship for the low-to-middle class children and teenagers from multicultural families in Seoul, who are facing challenges in acquiring Korean language proficiency, as they are without socio-economic conditions that permit their entry into international schools. The initiative will take place in the 2010-11 academic year.

Many elementary and middle school students growing up in multicultural families in Korea face an identity crisis while trying to adapt to and understand Korean society. This conflict of cultures is a difficult and challenging time for the students. The scholarship aims to encourage understanding of multicultural families and broaden partnerships within the current Korean society.

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www.asiasociety.org/centers/korea**

Special Conference

Bridge to a New Era: Public-Private Partnerships in Vietnam & South Korea September 22-23, 2009



Vietnam and South Korea have been important economic partners since the establishment of official diplomatic relations between the two countries in 1992. South Korea is one of the countries with the largest foreign direct investment in Vietnam, and Vietnam is an attractive investment location that encourages foreign business and retains a labor force with potential for technical training. With progressive cooperation between the two countries' leaders and business communities, they will see rapid and effective developments in bilateral economic relations in the near future.

With their financial and technological strength and business experience, Korean corporations are fully capable of participating in projects on infrastructure development, including roads, highways, railways, airports and seaports. The Vietnamese government eagerly supports foreign businesses to invest in important industrial and high-tech areas for national development, namely steel rolling, shipping, IT and telecommunications.

The recent worldwide economic slowdown is a concern to many, regardless of affiliation or nationality. There is considerable uncertainty as to how deep and long this downturn will last. Both Vietnam and Korea are increasingly sensitive to the on-going global economic crisis, being countries that are highly dependent on exports for the stability of their economies.

Through this seminar, the current bilateral relationship between Vietnam and South Korea is to be explored by reviewing cooperative developments over the years and suggesting directions to deepen this progressive relationship. Government leaders, key decision-makers and industry experts from the international business community will gather in Seoul to generate discourse on the opportunities and challenges faced by Vietnam and South Korean investors and the prospects for Asia's business environment. In light of the successful 19th Asian Corporate Conference held in Ho Chi Minh City in April 2009, this initiative ignited the possibility of further open debates on the Vietnam-South Korea bilateral economic development issue.

What are the policies, strategies and commitments on investment encouragement in Vietnam? What will be the capability of Korean businesses after the global financial crisis? How can the economic-cultural relationship between Vietnam and South Korea be examined? These are some of the major issues that are to be addressed throughout the seminar on the public-private partnership developments and challenges facing those parties involved in the bilateral economic future of Vietnam and South Korea.

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Confirmed Speakers

Nguyen Xuan Phuc, Chairman of the Office of the Government of Vietnam
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Kak-soo Shin, Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade, Korea
Chemin Rim, Vice Minister for Industry and Technology, Ministry of Knowledge Economy, Korea
Suck Rai Cho, Chairman, the Federation of Korean Industries
Ki Sik Park, Vice President, Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA)
Pham Tien Van, Vietnamese Ambassador to Korea
Bui Quoc Trung, Deputy Director, Foreign Investment Agency, Ministry of Planning & Investment, Vietnam
Evan Ramstad, Seoul Correspondent, the Wall Street Journal
Vu Tu Thanh, Representative, US-ASEAN Business Council, Vietnam

Asia Society Korea Center Membership Application Form

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.

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**** Tax Exemption Notice ****

On December 27, 2007, the Asia Society Korea Center was designated as a public donation body by the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Finance and Economy. This means that donations to the Asia Society Korea Center are subject to tax exemptions. The donator will therefore be able to receive full tax benefits, which gives prospective donors one more good reason to donate! The contributions will be used to develop innovative programs and world-class events for the Asia Society Korea Center's members. Help make a difference!

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