Farewell Dinner for Mr. Marc Knapper, Chargé d'Affaires ad interim of the U.S. Embassy

The Asia Society Korea organized a farewell dinner for Mr. Marc Knapper, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim of the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, on July 10, 2018. Corporate and individual members of the Asia Society Korea as well as the staff of the U.S. Embassy were in attendance to bid farewell to Mr. Knapper. (Continued on Page 11)

2018 Voice of Youth

Asia Society Korea reaffirmed its commitment to providing a space for the youth of Korea to share their ideas by holding its first “Voice of Youth – Research Presentation” on July 3, 2018. Over the past couple of months, university students have been submitting their research papers, and following a tough selection process, five finalists were chosen to present at this week’s event.

The presenters from various local universities, covered a diverse range of topics, which made for an informative afternoon. Each candidate was assessed and graded in terms of their knowledge, planning, strategy and applicability, personal qualities, and enthusiasm. (Continued on Page 4)
May Monthly Luncheon guest speaker, **Mr. Wonjae Lee**, brought the topic of innovation to the table. Lee’s voice is familiar to most Koreans since he regularly participates in panels on KBS Radio; furthermore, he is the CEO of a new think tank called ‘LAB2050’ and he also serves as a member of the Presidential Committee on Aging Society and Population Policy in the Korean government. Lee spoke on the topic “Is Quantum-leap Possible in the Upcoming North Korean Development Process?” and set out to demonstrate how advanced economies such as Korea’s will need to adapt due to changes in technology, income distribution, and population.

In terms of technology, Lee explained that automation is taking away jobs year by year. He used Adidas as an example, since the company recently created a smart factory that employs only ten people in Germany yet produces the same amount of output as 600 people in a factory in Bangladesh. This exhibits how companies around the world are able to produce more goods while employing fewer workers. Lee used evidence from the World Economic Forum to show how societies have gone through three industrial stages - initial mechanization, mass production, and computers and automation - to a fourth revolution termed ‘Cyber Physical Systems’. This fourth stage utilizes artificial intelligence, resulting in factories that can operate without human oversight.

Lee then moved on to explain how income distribution in developed countries is changing. First, he presented a graph to point out how ‘real term wages’ have grown progressively lower than ‘real term labor productivity’ since the mid-nineties. From a worker’s perspective, this means that even if workers are more efficient, the reward for labor output does not grow at the same rate. A second graph demonstrated how low-income workers are receiving a lower proportion of the wealth that is generated by companies than in the past; instead, it is capital owners such as investors or land owners who are eating up the difference. Another challenge that Lee noted is the huge growth in the ‘knowledge economy’ at the expense of the ‘industrial labor economy’. The ‘knowledge economy’ deals with intangible assets like patents, copyrights, and trademarks, and this intellectual property contributes to 87% of the S&P market value, compared to just 17% in 1975. All the graphs came together to show that the value of labor is continuously decreasing. Population was the final change that Lee observed, since most developed countries are suffering from aging populations, with Korea being a prime example. This will create issues going forward as today two-thirds of Korea’s population is in the ‘working age’ bracket, but this will decrease to less than half of its population in fifty years. This will be a big challenge for economies as they will have a smaller labor workforce to count on. Lee then moved on to talk about how the current government is planning to deal with these three changes. He explained that the Moon administration has come up with a new policy called “Innovative Growth and Income-Led Growth”. The first part relates to more investment in research and technology, and the second combats disproportionate income distribution through raising the minimum wage and improving social security.

Finally, Lee brought North Korea into the equation by explaining his own model, which opposes the conventional wisdom that North Korea will potentially complement South Korea through cheap labor and natural resources. This new model is supported by the inconvenient truth that the North already has its own aging population, as well as his earlier argument that we are facing the importance of the fourth industrial revolution and the significance of the ‘knowledge economy’. Lee claims the suggestion that the North should replicate the model that the South used to grow into a global economic leader is wrong because we are now in a different time; thus, it would make sense for the North to start from the fourth industrial stage rather than the first. The goal should be to create jobs that are desirable for 2018 and not in labor-driven industries such as agriculture and manufacturing. He concluded by arguing that because the North would be starting from scratch, it would be the perfect place to test out revolutionary concepts; for instance, smart technology, shared economies, and social innovation.

While we are still a long way from seeing ideas such as these come to fruition, it shows how far relations have come between the two countries that they are even being suggested. What is also clear from Lee’s talk is that the world stops for no one, and if South Korea wants to remain at the front of the pack, it will need to continue to innovate.
Monthly Luncheon Series

The Fate of Iran’s Nuclear Deal and Its Impact on U.S.-North Korea Denuclearization Talks

Asia Society Korea wrapped up its spring season of luncheons with a talk by the Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran, H.E. Hassan Taherian. Ambassador Taherian has been serving in South Korea since 2014 and he lectured on “The Fate of Iran’s Nuclear Deal and Its Impact on U.S.-North Korea Denuclearization Talks”. The talk went into detail on the roots of Iran’s nuclear program, the outlook for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and the impact of the JCPOA on the U.S.-North Korean negotiations.

H.E. Taherian opened by explaining that Iran’s nuclear program predates the Islamic Revolution of Iran, and it is only since the Revolution that the West has become opposed to it. He claimed that Western countries were, in fact, intertwined in agreements with Iran prior to the Revolution, but that they went back on their pledges, which caused great economic harm to Iran. Since the role of nuclear science was critical to the Iranian economy and its sustainable development, Iran decided to continue with its peaceful program that has always opposed the use of nuclear technology for weaponry. Following the Revolution, however, the West hindered Iran’s progression through obstacles and discrimination. According to H.E. Taherian, the U.S. and its allies used the media and other outlets to condemn Iran’s nuclear program as a security threat. The eventual pressure, he added, from Western countries and the United Nations Security Council resulted in Iran agreeing to sign the JCPOA in 2015. The deal assured that Iran would halt a large amount of its nuclear activities and accept a robust inspection regime in return for the lifting of sanctions. The ambassador went on to explain that since 2015, Iran has not violated the JCPOA and this is supported by its flawless inspection records.

However, the U.S. has decided to withdraw from the deal, and H.E. Taherian believes this demonstrates that the U.S. is unreliable and unpredictable. H.E. Taherian stated that if the JCPOA is to continue, the remaining countries should guarantee to make up for the losses that will be incurred by America’s absence; otherwise, there is no motivation for Iran to stay in the agreement.

In terms of the impact of the JCPOA on the U.S.-North Korean negotiations, the ambassador claimed that it is still too early and time will tell for determining what terms are put forward by both parties. H.E. Taherian did make a point of noting that the nuclear programs of Iran and North Korea are of a totally different nature since Iran’s program has always been peaceful, with no intention to produce a nuclear weapon. Nevertheless, he acknowledged that Iran welcomes any measures that reduce tensions and increase stability on the Korean peninsula.

Finally, H.E. Taherian asserted that America’s withdrawal from the JCPOA will impact the negotiations with North Korea because the North will note that America has a history of going back on previous agreements. Thus, North Korea will want assurances that America will not pull out of any agreement it makes and this will add to the complexity of the talks. The ambassador does not anticipate a quick resolution with North Korea as they will have noted America’s previous actions in Iran, Libya, and Iraq. This, he believes, is why the North only promised a gradual process of denuclearization during the summit in Singapore. North Korean leaders, H.E. Taherian believes, are well aware that their power only remains with the possession of a nuclear weapon, and if they give it up, all that was previously agreed to will be meaningless as America will go back on its promises.

Following his talk, H.E. Taherian took a number of questions from those present before wrapping up what was another excellent luncheon. The Asia Society Korea Luncheon Series will now take a break for the summer before returning again in September for its fall season.

*This series is sponsored by Lotte Chemical, Poongsan, Samjong KPMG, Best Network, Lutronic, and Mr. Young Joon Kim.
Seven distinguished judges were in attendance to pick a winner: Chong Ghee Ahn, Senior Advisor at Kim & Chang; Jimmy Chul Won CHEY, President of MIGHT & MAIN; Sung-Joo Han, Professor Emeritus, Korea University; Eddie Suk Hyun Kang, Creative Director at Happy Cell Inc; Sean Sea-Yeon Kim, CEO of W Investment & Finance Co., Ltd; Yvonne Kim, Executive Director at Asia Society Korea; Hong-Koo Lee, Chairman of Seoul Forum; and Peter Pae, Seoul Bureau Chief at Bloomberg.

The representative from Chung-ang University, Hong-il Kim, got things underway with a talk about cryptocurrency regulation in South Korea. Given the recent interest in the alternative currencies, the issue of legalization and its impact on society requires attention. Kim used his time to make suggestions for establishing effective policing and regulatory guidelines for blockchain technology in Korea. After presenting the situation in Korea and outlining the approaches taken by other countries, Kim urged policymakers on the peninsula to speed up their decision making and cooperate with the private sector. Through pertinent regulation that clamps down on illegal activities, fosters the technology, and works with international partners, Kim believes cryptocurrencies offer a great opportunity for Korea and the world as a whole.

The second presenter, Eun-ji Park, is a well-traveled exchange student from Ehwa University and she covered South Korea’s position in North-East Asia’s integrated carbon market. Park opened by noting that since the Paris Agreement, North-East Asian countries, including Korea, have yet to find acceptable solutions to the carbon pollution issue. With this in mind, she set out to analyze the difficulties faced by domestic stakeholders in this area and the reasons why international cooperation has been unsuccessful. Through detailed research, Park demonstrated that Korea, China, and Japan are not ready to implement linkage-ready markets due to individual domestic issues that must be overcome as linkage is critical for improving the current situation.

Next up to the podium was Eun-kyung Son with her research on female entrepreneurs in South Korea and their effect on the global economy. Son, a Sogang University student, pointed out the importance these entrepreneurs, both foreign and immigrant, can have on an economy, but she also explained that data shows female entrepreneurs are underrepresented, and that there is a lack of research analysis in this area. Following interviews with a number of subjects, her paper made recommendations such as the collection and accumulation of essential data, sustainable business mentorships, and equal access to a childcare support system.

The fourth speaker, Gah-wan Yoo, used her intern experience in the U.S. as motivation for her research into financial literacy programs for immigrant women in South Korea. The Ehwa Woman’s University student observed that most immigrant support programs on the peninsula focus on language education, vocational training, and psychological treatment without any consideration for economic education. She recommended, firstly, that the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family and the Ministry of Strategy and Finance unite their programs to avoid redundancy. She also called for programs that operate on a long-term basis rather than as one-off sessions, which she claimed are inadequate.

To wrap-up the event, a student from Yonsei University, Lee Youjin, used her concerns about the future of many universities in Korea as motivation to investigate how an understanding of the Fourth Industrial Revolution can help with the issue. Lee argued that Korean universities need an innovative model to improve their competitiveness and this can be achieved through a better understanding of where science and technology is headed. Furthermore, Lee believes Korea should move to a communicative approach to education, which allows students to interact with numerous people in the field of science rather than follow a traditional lecture-style approach.

All five participants performed exceptionally well and the judges face a difficult task in selecting a winner. The final decision will be announced at an awards ceremony at the end of this month. The winner will receive a certificate and cash prize, but more importantly, the event demonstrated the importance of hearing ideas from diverse groups of people.
By Mark Sample, Contributing Writer

When American actress Alyssa Milano tweeted #MeToo and encouraged women to get involved to “give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem”, nobody would have predicted how far and wide the feminist movement would stretch. As the tag went viral throughout America during October 2017, socially conservative South Korea remained relatively quiet. Feminism was a term, at the time, that most Koreans would not want attributed to them.

In fact, barely a month before #MeToo enveloped Korea, K-pop idol Son Na-eun of Apink faced a storm of criticism for promoting feminism when she posted a photo of her phone cover that read “GIRLS CAN DO ANYTHING.” Up to this point, gender inequality was a facet that remained largely under the radar as most people chose to ignore it, and the rest feared the consequences of initiating a debate on the topic. Women have traditionally faced mockery for bringing up these issues and female victims of sexual harassment or assault had to overcome suspicion, with those in power, men, likely to try to silence or tarnish them.

Rather than remain in the shadows, however, women are standing up and letting their voices be heard. It took a few brave individuals to set the wheels in motion, with hundreds of Korean women coming forward to tell their stories of maltreatment at the hands of men. The key inspiration was Seo Ji-hyeon, who alleged during a live interview with a news channel that a former South Korean Ministry of Justice official, Ahn Tae-geun, groped her during a funeral in 2010.

Allegations against a presidential hopeful, Ahn Hee-jung, an esteemed poet, Ko Un, and an award winning movie director, Kim Ki-duk, poured more fuel on the fire, which enabled the movement to grow week-by-week. As 2018 has progressed, both traditional and social media networks have become dominated by discussions about gender discrimination on the peninsula. Previously underreported facts such as Korean women receiving less than a third of men’s salaries, and women filling just 2% of Korean boardrooms have become common knowledge and topics of debate throughout the nation.

Like the country has seen on the political front in recent times, a true sign of change on the horizon comes when the people take to the streets to protest in large numbers. March saw the #MeToo movement hold its own marathon protest in downtown Seoul when almost 200 woman took the microphone to tell their personal stories of sexual harassment for 2018 minutes non-stop.

Changes are starting to take place with the Moon Jae-in administration announcing extensions to the statute of limitations in sexual abuse cases, and a process that allows victims to report crimes anonymously. The president, nevertheless, noted that the country “cannot solve this through laws alone and we need to change our culture and attitude”.

As Moon notes, it is changes to the culture and attitudes that will prove the most challenging obstacle in altering what was once a patriarchal society. This is not an easy task but there is a clear determination amongst the young generation, particularly, to make a breakthrough and the #MeToo movement continues to be a key stimulus.
As summer starts to heat up in Korea, memories of the PyeongChang Games begin to fade away. Such is the nature of sports fans. Rather than bask in the glory of Yun Sung-bin’s astounding gold medal or reminisce over the “Garlic Girls” meteoric rise to stardom, spectators search for the next big event on the calendar and a new hero to get behind.

June will provide this opportunity as it sees the start of the Men’s FIFA World Cup, which will take place in Russia. The South Korean national soccer team will need to take a huge chunk of inspiration from the likes of Yun Sung-bin if they are to make it out of the first round since they have been drawn in Group F, also known as, “The Group of Death” with Germany, Sweden, and Mexico.

While sports fans do tend to look forwards, they also never forget. To mention the World Cup in Korea automatically stirs up conversation about the tournament that was hosted jointly by Korea and Japan in 2002. Of course, not only did that event successfully thrust the nation onto the global stage, but it produced a truly inspiring story under the leadership of Guus Hiddink. That team, unfortunately, fell short when it lost in the semi-finals to Germany. On the way to the last four, however, The Red Devils upset the odds by beating Poland, Portugal, Italy, and Spain to win the hearts and minds of the Korean people and sports fans around the world. Ironically, the 2018 edition will see Korea compete against Germany again, and attempt to avenge that loss on the way to going one step further than Hiddink’s team. Another hero from that story, Park Ji-sung, is not so optimistic. This week he claimed Korea has more than a fifty percent chance of exiting the tournament early.

On May 14, Korean manager Shin Tae-yong announced his preliminary squad, which included 28 players, and this will be whittled down to a final list of 23. The 61st ranked team in the world will be relying heavily on its power in midfield and attack that comes from the likes of English Premier League stars Son Heung-min and Ki Sung-yueng, but the manager acknowledged his team’s defensive frailties. The Taegook Warriors have been rocked by the news that regular defensive starters, Kim Min-jae and Kim Jin-su will both miss the tournament due to injury; thus, Shin is tasked with finding adequate replacements.
긴장이 팽배한 중미 관계는 오늘날 특히 중대한 기로에 있다. 최근 몇 달간, 트럼프 행정부는 철강 및 알루미늄 관세 정책을 발표했으며, 1,500억 달러 상당의 중국산 제품에 관세를 부과하며 세계 2대 경제대국 간의 잠재적 무역 전쟁의 발판을 마련했다. 이러한 경제 대결은 시진핑 중국 국가주석이 베이징에서 자신의 정치세력을 더욱 강화하고 중국을 세계 최대 경제 대국으로 이끌어가는 와중 발생하고 있다.

현재의 무역 교착 상태가 과연 미국과 중국 양국 관계뿐 아니라 세계 경제를 쇠퇴 시킬 것인가, 아니면 양국이 타협할 것인가? 중국이 시장지향적인 방향으로 경제를 개혁하고 개방함으로써 미국의 우려를 해소할 것인가? 이러한 질문들에 답하기 위해 아시아소사이어티 정책연구원(ASPI)은 중국의 경제 궤적과 중미 경제 관계에 관한 패널 토론을 진행하였다.

ASPI 부회장인 웬디 커틀러(Wendy Cutler)를 포함한 전문가들은 중국의 경제 개혁 의제와 미국과 중국 간의 무역 전쟁을 피하는 방법을 논의하였다.

또한, 아시아소사이어티 정책연구원의 선임연구원이자 로디움 그룹(Rhodium Group) 설립파트너인 다니엘 로젠(Daniel Rosen)은 중국 사회의 경제 개혁과 중국의 성장 잠재력에 대한 영향을 추적하기 위하여 아시아소사이어티 정책연구원과 로디움그룹이 만든 웹 도구 차이나 디시보드(China Dashboard)의 최근 분기별 분석 결과를 발표하였다.

발제자 소개:

세리 안(Shery Ahn)은 "블룸버그 마켓(Bloomberg Markets)"과 "블룸버그 마켓: 힘의 균형(Bloomberg Markets: Balance of Power)"의 공동 집행자이다. 그녀는 한국 아리랑 TV의 외교 특파원으로 북한과 베이징 6자회담을 담당하였으며, 도쿄의 NHK 월드 방송 "뉴스라인"을 진행하였다. 블리비아에서 자란 세리 안은 한국어, 일어, 스페인어에도 능통하다.

웬디 커틀러(Wendy Cutler)는 아시아소사이어티 정책연구원(ASPI)의 부원장으로 외교관이자 협상가로서 미국 무역 대표부에서 근무했으며, 최근에는 미국 무역 대표부 부대표 대리로 맡아 한태평양경제동반자협정(Trans-Pacific Partnership)과 미일간 양자협정을 이끌었다. 또한 중미 무역관계와 아시아태평양 경제협력 포럼(Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum)을 이끌기도 하였다.

대니얼 로젠(Daniel Rosen)은 로디움 그룹(Rhodium Group)의 공동 설립자이며 기업의 중국 쪽 사업을 담당하고 있다. 그는 또한 아시아소사이어티 정책연구원의 선임연구원을 겸하고 있으며, 콜럼비아 대학의 비상근 부교수로 재직하고 있다. 2000년부터 2001년까지 그는 백악관 국가경제회의(National Economic Council)와 국가안정보장회의(National Security Council)의 상임고문을 맡았으며, 현재 미국외교협회(Council of Foreign Relations)와 미중관계위원회(National Committee on U.S.-China Relations)의 멤버로 활동하고 있다.

원문은 아시아소사이어티 코리아 홈페이지에서 찾을 수 있습니다.
In the News: From Asia Society

미국 속의 아시아: 아시아계 이주민들

이민자들이 가져 오는 긍정적인 영향은 학술적으로도 인정되어 널리 받아 들여지고 있다. 이는 이민인구가 경제 및 인구 통계 성장의 놀라운 엔진으로 작용하는 미국에서 가장 분명하게 나타난다. 그러나 현재 정치 환경과 이민 개혁에 관한 논쟁은 이민자들의 공헌에 의문을 제기 할뿐만 아니라 오랫동안 "이민자 국가"로 알려진 미국에서 이민자를 "범죄"로 묘사하고 있는 현상이 나타나고 있다.

아시아소사이어티와 뉴욕 아시안 법률가협회는 아시아태평양 문화유산의 달을 기념하기 위해 미국 이민생활에 대한 진솔한 이야기를 들을 수 있는 특별한 모임을 개최한다. "Here to Stay (이곳에 머무르다)"는 현대 이민자들의 느끼는 감성, 매 순간의 긴장감, 그리고 이러한 이민자들이 미국 생활 양식을 풍요롭게 하는 방법에 대한 이해를 제시한다. 다양한 사연들에 대한 소개 이후에는 전문가 패널이 뒤따라 이민에 대한 토론을 하게 된다.

패널

스티브 최(Steve Choi)는 뉴욕 주 이민자 커뮤니티를 대표하는 약 200개의 회원 그룹으로 구성된 뉴욕 이민연합의 전무이사이다. 그는 2013년 뉴욕 법학 저널의 "떠오르는 스타"상, 2012 전미 아태변호사협회 "40세 미만 최우수 변호사"상 및 한인 협회의 "올해의 인물"상을 수상했다. 그는 또한 뉴욕시 인권위원회에서 근무하고 있다.

사오덩 첸(Xiaodeng Chen)은 브루클린 대학의 정치학 학생이다. 그는 11년 전에 모든 것을 남겨두고 중국 푸젠성에서 미국으로 이민 왔으며 택배 기사 및 경비원으로 생계를 유지한 경험이 있다. 또한, 그는 졸업 후에 다문화주의를 장려하고 보호하는 기관에서 일하고자 하는 꿈을 가지고 있다.
테레자 리 (Tereza Lee)는 피아니스트이자 이민자 인권 운동가이다. 그녀는 이민개혁 법안인 드림액트 법안이 제정되게 한 인물로 알려져 있다. 그녀와 메리트 음악 학교의 예술 감독인 앤 모나코 (Ann Monaco)는 딕 더빈(Dick Durbin) 상원의원에게 테레자 리의 이민 신분에 관한 도움을 요청하면서 2001년 드림액트 법안 초안 작업이 시작되었다. 그녀는 현재 맨해튼 음악학교에서 음악 박사 과정을 받고 있다.

안토니오 슈 리우 (Antonio Xu Liu)는 내셔널 그리드의 자원 조정자로 현재 뉴욕시에서 가스 공사를 조정하고 있다. 베네수엘라 출신인 그는 정치 망명 신청을 한 가족과 함께 미국에 왔으며, 현재 그는 뉴욕 프라이드 퍼레이드 매니저먼트 팀의 이벤트 및 채용 리드로 헤리티지 오브 프라이드를 지원하고 있다.

박지원(Stephanie Ji Won Park)은 아시아 아메리칸 법률공조교육재단의 지역사회조직가이다. 불법체류체류청년 추방유예 제도 (다카, DACA)의 수혜자로서 자신의 경험으로부터 영감을 얻은 그녀는 교육 워크샵, 이민자 권리를 알자 (Know Your Rights) 클리닉 등을 통해 불법 아시아계 이민자들의 권익보호를 위해 노력하고 있다.

로즈 추이존 빌라조르 (Rose Cuisson Villazor)는 캘리포니아대학법대 캠퍼스 법학 교수이자 마틴루터킹홀의 연구학자이다. 그녀는 이민 시민권 법, 재산법, 아시아계 미국인 평등 보호법 및 비판적 인종 이론 분야를 연구하고 있다.

크리스 곽 (Chris Kwok, 사회자)은 아시안법률가협회의 문제위원회 및 아시아 실무위원회의 공동 의장이다. 또한, 그는 미국 영리재단기관인 JAMS의 중재자이며 이전에는 뉴욕 지방의 미국 고용 평등위원회의 분쟁 조정 담당자로 근무하였다.

원문은 아시아소사이어티 코리아 홈페이지에서 찾을 수 있습니다.
Asia Society Korea
May - August 2018

In the News: From Asia Society Policy Institute

동북아시아 탄소시장 협력

REPORT

Business Sector Action to Drive Carbon Market Cooperation in Northeast Asia

An Asia Society Policy Institute Report produced in collaboration with KPMG Samjong

아시아소사이어티 정책연구소 보고서

중국, 일본 및 한국의 탄소 시장 확대는 동북아시아에서의 잠재적 탄소 시장 협력에 대한 논의의 토대를 마련했으며, 민간 부문의 역할은 이 분야의 성공을 위해 매우 중요하다.

저자들은 새로운 아시아소사이어티 정책연구소(Asia Society Policy Institute, ASPI)와 삼정 KPMG 보고서에서 동북아시아의 탄소 시장 협력을 추진하는 사업 부문 활동에서 중국, 일본 및 한국의 탄소 시장 연계가 산업 선호와 어떻게 조화를 이룰 수 있는지 제시한다. 이 보고서는 동북아시아의 탄소 시장 특성을 제시하고 시스템 간의 유사점과 차이점을 논의한다. 또한, 민간 부문에 대한 탄소 시장 연계의 잠재적 영향을 다루고 효과적인 시장 협력을 달성하고 민간 부문 투자의 잠재력을 열 수 있는 새로운 비즈니스 기회를 포착할 수 있는 비즈니스 리더의 역할을 제안한다.

이 보고서는 아시아소사이어티 정책연구소의 이니셔티브 중 동북아 탄소 시장에 대한 계획(Toward a Northeast Asia Carbon Market)의 일환으로 영향력을 있는 시장 연결이 미래에 확장 될 기반을 마련하고자 한다. ASPI는 MacArthur Foundation과 Japan Foundation for Global Partnership의 이 사업에 대한 지원에 감사의 말을 전한다.

편집자 소개

잭슨 유잉(Jackson Ewing)은 아시아소사이어티 정책연구소(ASPI)의 지속 가능성(Sustainability) 연구분야의 수석 고문이다. 그는 2015 년부터 2017 년까지 뉴욕의 ASPI 지속가능성 경영 이사로 지내면서 환경 협력, 책임 있는 자원 개발 및 국제 기후 변화 정책에 관한 프로젝트를 이끌었다. 그는 현재 듀크 대학교 니콜라스 환경 정책 솔루션 연구소(Nicholas Institute for Environmental Policy Solutions)의 선임연구원으로 재직중이며 정부, 민간 부문, 시민 사회 및 국제기구들과 함께 아시아 전역에서 근무했다. 그는 찰스턴 대학에서 정치학 학사 학위를 취득했고, 본드 대학에서 국제 관계 석사 학위와 환경 안전 분야에서 박사 학위를 받았으며, RSIS에서 연구원으로도 지내고 있다.
Openning remarks were given by Yvonne Yoon-Hee Kim, Executive Director of the Asia Society Korea, which were followed by the toast proposed by Hong-Koo Lee, Acting Chairman of the Asia Society Korea. During the dinner, John Delury, a senior fellow at the Asia Society Center on US-China Relations who is also an Associate Professor at Yonsei University, moderated a conversation with Mr. Knapper on the future of U.S.-Korea relations. The evening was successfully brought to a close with a gift presentation to Mr. Knapper and a farewell message by Dr. Song-Mi Yi, a member of the Asia Society’s Global Council who is a Professor Emerita at the Academy of Korean Studies.
동북아시아 탄소시장 협력: 도전 과제 및 장벽 극복

 atrás아소사이어티 정책연구소 보고서

중국, 일본 및 한국은 전세계 탄소무역 분야에서 주요 국가로 부상하고 있다. 동북아시아의 가장 큰 산업경제 시장으로서, 이들은 깊은 상업 무역 관계를 통해 환경 문제를 같이 직면하게 되는 상황에 놓여있다. 따라서 이러한 시장이 상호 보완 관계를 활용하고 의견차를 좁혀 나가면서 보다 광범위한 탄소시장 협력을 위한 토대를 구축할 것을 요구하는 목소리가 높고 있다.

이러한 배경에서 동북아시아 탄소시장 이니셔티브의 일환인 아시아소사이어티 정책 연구소는 “동북아시아 탄소시장 협력: 도전 과제 평가 및 장벽 극복”에 관한 신규 보고서를 발간했다. 이 보고서는 학자들이 정책 입안자 및 기타 관계자들에게 동북아시아 탄소시장 연계 가능성에 대한 정보와 지침을 제공할 수 있도록 지원한다.

2018년 6월에 발간된 이 보고서에는 11개 챕터로 구성되어 있는데, 동북아시아 탄소시장 협력과 연계에 대한 도전과 접근법을 검토한다. 이 보고서는 동북아시아 지역의 탄소시장 현황에 초점을 맞춘 4개 챕터로 시작되며 법률 및 제도적 프레임워크가 어떻게 연계를 강화하면서 큰 보상을 산출하는 데 사용되는 다양한 국가적·지역적 조치를 용이하게 할 수 있는지에 대한 분석을 다룬다. 5챕터에서 7챕터에서는 연계 장벽과 그 지역의 연계성에 대한 긍정적인 측면과 부정적인 측면의 불균등한 영향을 기술하고 다른 연계 경로를 추구할 수 있는 기회에 대해서도 설명한다.

이 보고서의 나머지 부분은 중국과 일본의 배출권 거래 시스템 정책과 목표의 특수성을 중심으로 구성되어 있으며, 마지막 챕터에서는 사업 분야 참여를 통한 연계의 중요성을 강조하고 있다.
1. Introduction: Incentives and Impediments to Carbon Market Cooperation in Northeast Asia
- Jack Ewing (Jackson Ewing) 아시아소사이어티 정책 연구소 (ASPI) 지속 가능성 (Sustainability) 연구분야 수석 고문

2. Building the Foundation for Regional Carbon Market Linkage in Northeast Asia
- Jeff Swartz (Jeff Swartz) 사우스폴 그룹 (South Pole Group) 기상 정책 및 탄소시장 이사

- Michael Mehling (Michael Mehling) 매사추세츠 공과 대학 에너지 및 환경정책 연구소 부장

4. The Paris Agreement’s Article 6 and Cooperation in Northeast Asia to Address Climate Change
- Robert C. Stowe (Robert C. Stowe) 하버드 대학 환경정책 프로그램 원장

5. The Use of Quantitative Models to Assess the Impacts of Carbon Market Integration: Implications for Northeast Asia
- Kirby Ledvina (Kirby Ledvina) 매사추세츠 공과 대학 과학 및 기후변화의 공동 프로그램 조교 및 Niven Winchester (Niven Winchester) 매사추세츠 공과 대학 수석 과학자

6. Barriers to Linking Carbon Markets in Northeast Asia
- Baran Doda (Baran Doda) 런던 정치경제대학 그랜섬 기후변화 및 환경연구소 연구원

7. Political Economy of Carbon Market Cooperation in Northeast Asia
- 정서용 고려대학 국제학부 교수

8. Developing a Linkage Ready Carbon Market: A View from China
- Xi Liang (Xi Liang) 에든버러 대학 기후변화와 경영 센터 공동 원장

- Sven Rudolph (Sven Rudolph) 일본 교토대학 현대경제학 부교수

10. The Potential of Carbon Market Linkage between Japan and China
- Toshi H. Arimura (Toshi H. Arimura) 일본 와세다 대학 정치학 및 경제학 교수

11. The Business of Linking Carbon Markets in Northeast Asia
- Stefano De Clara (Stefano De Clara) 국제배출권거래협회 국제정책 원장

원문은 아시아소사이어티 코리아 홈페이지에서 찾을 수 있습니다.
중국의 놀라운 경제발전

1990년대 후반, 주룽지 (Zhu Rongji) 중국 총리는 세계 무역기구 (WTO) 가입을 위한 중국의 일련의 경제 개혁을 조율했다. 세계 마지막 공산주의 국가 중 하나인 중국이 미국 주도의 경제협력 기관에 가입한다는 것은 그 사실만으로도 엄청난 일이었다. 그로부터 20년이 지난 지금도 중국은 여전히 WTO 회원국이다. 그러나 시진핑 (Xi Jinping) 중국 국가주석이 수십 년 만에 중국에서 가장 강력한 지도자로서의 지위를 확고히 하면서, 중국은 서구식 경제 체제에서 벗어난 국가로 변모했다. "주룽지 총리는 우리가 오늘날 목격하는 시진핑 주도의 중국경제보다 더욱 자유시장적이고 국가와 당의 개입이 적은 중국경제를 지향했다"고 로디엄 그룹 (Rhodium Group) 설립자이자 중국 경제 전문가인 다니엘 로젠 (Daniel Rosen)이 목요일에 아시아소사이어티에서 전했다.

1978년 시장개혁을 시행한 이후, 중국은 공산주의 정치 체제와 자본주의 경제를 결합시키는 실험에 착수했다. 주룽지 총리의 WTO 회원국 가입을 지지하는 많은 전문가들은 이 상황이 중국의 민주화를 불러올 것이라 예측했다. 하지만, 반대로 중국의 정치 체제는 더욱 권위적으로, 경제 체제 역시 더욱 국가 통제주의적 면모를 띠게 되었다.

로젠은 "처음으로 중국 측의 많은 사람들이 중국의 경제 모델이 서구 모델에 다름다고 말하기 시작했다. 중국이 수렴하지 않고 있다고 말한 미국과 유럽의 진보주의자들은 이 상황을 이해하기 어려울 것"이라고 말했다.

원문은 아시아소사이어티 코리아 홈페이지에서 찾을 수 있습니다.
한국의 역사적인 회담과 그 이후

4월 27일 열린 남북정상회담은 국제정세에서 가장 큰 갈등 중 하나를 해결하기 위한 돌파구였다. 판문점 남측 진영에서 만난 문재인 대통령과 김정은 위원장은 금년 내에 한반도의 비핵화와 60년 넘게 지속되어 오한국 전쟁의 종전을 선언하기로 합의했다.

두 사람간 느껴진 따뜻한 동포애와 별개로, 아직까지 한반도를 둘러싼 확연한 장애물들이 남아있는 것도 사실이다.

아시아소사이어티 정책연구원 부원장인 대니얼 러셀(Daniel Russel)은 미국 NPR 라디오방송에서 회담이 성공적으로 마무리되었다고 평가하면서도 현재 남북관계를 본질적으로 진전시키는 변화는 없었다고 지적했다.

러셀은 “우리는 김정은의 발언에 주목할 필요가 있다. 그동안 그는 신년사와 다른 체제선전 활동을 통해 핵 억제력을 개발하고 있다. 핵 억제력을 완성하였다. 엄두가 완성되었다. 우리는 더 이상 핵실험이 필요 없으며, 은밀히 무기를 확장하다. 하지만 동시에 경제를 활성화시키는 전략 개발에도 노력하였다’고 밝혔다.”라고 말했다.

“김정은은 자신을 삼촌과 이복형제를 죽인 무자비한 독재자가 아닌 합리적인 지도자로 보이게 하려는 전략을 취하고 있다.”

4.27 판문점 회담은 김정은이 합의한 세 번의 정상회담 중 두번째 회담이었다. 지난달, 그는 중국 베이징을 깜짝 방문하여 시진핑을 만났고, 현재 그는 미국의 도널드 트럼프 대통령을 만날 예정이다.

아시아소사이어티 정책연구원의 케빈 러드(Kevin Rudd) 원장은 앞으로 다가올 북미 회담에 대한 기대와 우려를 나타냈다:

- 모든 협상이 불발된다고 가정해보자. 가장 큰 우려는 워싱턴에서 외교와 평화의 기회를 주었는데도 실패했으니, 이적 남은 것은 군사적 옵션 뿐이라는 태도를 취할지도 모른다는 것이다.

중미관계센터의 선임연구원 아이작 스톤 피시(Isaac Stone Fish)는 남북정상회담의 성과에도 불구하고, 남북간 긴장상태는 언제든지 쉽게 과거로 돌아갈 수 있다고 말했다. 하지만 북한의 화해를 위한 외교 제스처는 김정은의 나아진 위상을 나타낸다고도 평가했다.

피시는 CBS뉴스와의 인터뷰에서 “트럼프의 재제와 ‘최대의 압박’ 정책이 김정은에게 얼마나 통했다는지는 정확히 알 수 없다. 북한의 독재자는 북한 내에서는 안전하고, 내부적으로 충분한 권력을 가지고 있으며, 핵무기가 협상을 위한 카드로 작용한다고 믿기 때문이다.”라고 말했다.

원문은 아시아소사이어티 코리아 홈페이지에서 찾을 수 있습니다.
By Daniel A. Pinkston, Asia Society Korea Advisory Committee Member

The summit between Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un in Singapore will be the first meeting of a sitting U.S. president and a North Korean leader. For that reason alone, the event carries historic symbolism, but the outcome of the meeting and the implementation of any agreement is much more important. Many people have been speculating about the summit and whether it will be the beginning of a process for peace and reconciliation. Some have gone as far to suggest that Trump could win a Nobel Peace Prize if the summit goes well. However, much uncertainty remains because the summit was scheduled on short-notice and the preparations have been less than transparent. As expected, optimists and pessimists have been prognosticating about three likely results of the summit.

Regardless of the summit outcome, Trump’s actions at both the domestic and international levels are increasing the likelihood that any U.S.-DPRK summit agreement will fail during the implementation phase. The execution of any complex arms control agreement will require a lot of expert staff, but Trump has been replacing the professional bureaucracy with unqualified people characterized by patron-client ties and personal loyalty. Trump has disguised this as a war on the “deep state,” but in reality, he is decimating the “deep bench of experts” needed to implement coherent policies in support of the U.S. national interest. Furthermore, if diplomacy fails, the U.S. will need to cooperate with allies and partners to manage persistent North Korean threats. That cooperation is contingent upon the liberal world order, which Trump is seeking to undermine. Before returning to Trump’s two-level war, let’s explore some of the expectations and possible outcomes of the summit.
North Korea Coverage

Summit Optimists

The optimists roughly can be divided into two groups. I call the first group “the new North Korea camp.” This camp is the most optimistic and believes that a negotiated settlement might not have been possible before, but now it is possible or even likely because North Korea has changed. Different causes are cited: China’s sanctions enforcement, Moon’s engagement policy, Trump’s “maximum pressure and engagement,” North Korean internal dynamics and social change, Kim’s reformist mind, or some combination of factors. Although the casual mechanism is important and interesting, whichever it is, the result is the same—a change in North Korea’s policy preferences has created a convergence of interests, which in turn has created bargaining space for a possible deal. The “new North Korea” optimists tend to believe a shorter time horizon is needed to end the Korean War, denuclearize North Korea, and establish a permanent peace regime on the peninsula.

I call the second group “the Coase theorem camp.” The group argues that an efficient bargaining outcome between North Korea and the U.S. was always available, but transactions costs and imperfect information have prevented the two sides from reaching a settlement. From this perspective, the national security policy of each country creates externalities that are perceived as threats by the other. However, the Coase theorem camp expects high-level diplomacy to reduce transactions costs and to disclose information that will enable to the two sides to reach a mutually beneficial settlement. This camp directs most of its criticism towards the United States, particularly towards the Clinton, Bush, and Obama administrations for “failing to complete the Agreed Framework, for abandoning the Agreed Framework, and for strategic patience.” They also tend to believe that implementation will take a considerable amount of time, but that the barriers to cooperation can be managed and surmounted over the long-term.

Summit Pessimists

There are many pessimists of different persuasions, and they can be categorized in different ways. For example, they can be divided into short-term and long-term pessimists, or they can be classified according to the intensity of their pessimism. Some believe the diplomatic process will break down quickly, while others think the inevitable collapse will come later. Some believe that diplomatic failure will have catastrophic consequences, leading into conflict or even nuclear war. Others believe that the collapse of diplomacy will leave the peninsula with the status quo of deterrence and containment, and although suboptimal, they view mutual deterrence as robust and relatively stable. Still others believe that although short-term diplomatic failure might not lead to a crisis and conflict immediately, they argue that North Korea’s nuclear capabilities will make tailoring deterrence more complicated in the shadow of the “stability-instability paradox.” Finally, the “optimistic pessimists” believe that whether the summit fails in the short-term or long-term doesn’t really matter that much because all parties are constrained from using force unilaterally to gain an advantage.

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<th>Diplomatic Success</th>
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1. New NK optimists (short-term success)
2. Coase theorem optimists (long-term success)
3. Short-term catastrophic pessimists
4. Long-term catastrophic pessimists
5. Short-term stable pessimists
6. Long-term stable pessimists

Of course, these are rough simplifications of the possible pathways ahead. The future will be more nuanced with some unanticipated consequences—both good and bad. But the common thread through all pathways is that the policy response will require international cooperation. Under the best conditions, whereby Pyongyang fully cooperates in a fast-track arms control and disarmament process, extraordinary international coordination and cooperation would be required. Weapons inspectors from the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and arms control experts from relevant countries such as the United States, Russian, or China would be needed to draft and execute plans for verification and the accounting of materials, facilities, and human resources. Compliance will have to be coordinated with the UN Security Council and national capitals to coordinate the removal of economic sanctions. International financial institutions would have to be consulted if any positive incentives are to be provided in exchange for North Korean cooperation. The timing of the actions and deliverables will depend upon whether the process is shorter and very cooperative, or if it is longer and more contentious.
The pessimistic pathways present daunting challenges and a broader range of necessary policy responses. In the worst-case scenario, planning for and executing the unthinkable would be extremely costly. Slipping into a crisis and stumbling into a catastrophic war would require high-tempo military operations in and around the Korean peninsula, but the U.S. military almost certainly could not achieve any meaningful political or military objectives without access to military bases, the air space, and the territorial waters of Japan and the Republic of Korea. Absent North Korean aggression, it seems inconceivable that the prime minister of Japan and the president of the Republic of Korea would grant access to bases, air space, and territorial waters for preventative strikes or preventive war against North Korea without a Chapter Seven resolution from the UN Security Council authorizing the use of force.

If diplomacy collapses, the peninsula will return to the status quo ante, whereby deterrence and containment, economic sanctions, and diplomatic pressure will be the main instruments for dealing with Pyongyang's intransigence. These measures also require close multinational cooperation among allies and partners to raise the costs of North Korean belligerence, to deter aggression, and to signal resolve. Coordinating policy and declaratory statements, planning and executing combined and multinational military exercises to maintain readiness will be critical to ensure that North Korea does not miscalculate. Intelligence sharing will be critical for sanctions enforcement and any necessary interdiction efforts against North Korean proliferation activities. Export control regimes will have to maintain vigilance even though Pyongyang has been successful in many of its import substitution efforts. In the case of a humanitarian disaster triggered by war, natural disaster, or food insecurity, the appropriate policy response will require coordination with international organizations (IOs) and nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) such as the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the World Food Program (WFP).

In sum, whichever pathway unfolds after the summit, international cooperation will be critical for managing the process. Allies, partners, friendly nations, IOs, relevant national agencies, the private sector, export control regimes, research institutes, and NGOs will have different roles to play depending on the process. Weak or inadequate cooperation internationally will create opportunities for North Korea to maintain its belligerent posture, enhance its nuclear and missile capabilities, and to use its nuclear arsenal for coercive purposes.

**Trump’s Two-Level War**

North Korea presents several perplexing international security problems. There are no easy, quick solutions, and no single actor can resolve the problems unilaterally. While international cooperation will be necessary for dealing with the broad spectrum of possible outcomes after the summit, Donald Trump is creating barriers to cooperation with his two-level war: the first against American liberal-democracy and the rule of law; and the second against the liberal world order.

At the domestic level, no person or institution, except for Vladimir Putin and Trump himself, seems safe from Trump’s hateful rants. It’s difficult to keep track of all his vile verbal assaults, but targets have included Senator John McCain, Gold Star families, opposition politicians, “son of a bitch” NFL football players exercising their First Amendment right to protest, and celebrities. His misogyny is legendary, as he has bragged about “grabbing women by the pussy because they let you do it,” and he even agreed on a radio program that his daughter is a “piece of ass.” And who could forget Trump’s long history of racism? Or his irrational obsession with the lie that Barack Obama was born in Kenya? He seems to relish in aggravating the virtual carnage he spoke of in his inaugural address.

Trump’s relentless assault against democratic norms, U.S. government institutions, and the rule of law is chilling. He has threatened to disregard electoral results, to jail political opponents, and to revoke media licenses. He has attacked the First Amendment and press freedom by calling the media “the enemy of the people.” Trump’s treacherous onslaught against U.S. governmental institutions in many ways mirrors China’s Great Proletarian Cultural Revolution that left government capacity decimated and countless lives ruined. Trump has attacked the CIA and intelligence community, the FBI, and others. His cabinet officers have undermined the functions and capacity of the State Department, the Department of Energy, the Department of Agriculture, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Education, and more. Trump has sought to transform the Department of Justice into his personal law enforcement and internal security arm to “go after Democrats” as if he were a tin-pot dictator.

Trump also is fighting an international war against the liberal world order. The avalanche of events makes it difficult to see the big picture as we become overwhelmed with the minutiae of almost daily scandals and attacks against global norms and institutions. No institution seems spared from Trump’s incoherent rampages that are bolstered with lies and propaganda disseminated by friendly media outlets. The lies and propaganda then metastasize through social media to become “reality” for Trump and his supporters.
The basic norms underpinning the liberal world order were created by the U.S. and its allies after World War II. The rule of law, human rights, liberal democracy, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, the peaceful settlement of disputes, and open markets formed the core values that helped prevent another world war and lifted millions of people out of poverty. The liberal world order is not perfect; every human construct has flaws and can be improved. However, every American president before Trump and America’s allies have supported the values and institutions of the liberal world order. Trump has sought to undermine the pillars of this order, or he shows no interest in maintaining and supporting them.

When not showing direct defiance, Trump has made a mockery of international institutions, essentially sending a signal that he thinks they are a joke or irrelevant. The list is long. Trump pulled out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), the Paris Climate Agreement, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA, or “Iran nuclear deal”), UNESCO, and the Global Compact on Migration. He has threatened to pull out of NAFTA, and the U.S.-Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS). Trump has ignored the WTO and slapped unilateral tariffs against Canada, Mexico, the EU, and China, risking a global trade war.

Trump referred to Haiti, El Salvador, and some African countries as “shithole countries” drawing outrage from around the world. Recently, it has been revealed that the Trump administration has implemented a policy of separating children from migrant parents regardless of status, including families seeking asylum in accordance with U.S. treaty commitments under the “1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and the 1967 Protocol.”

Donald Trump has made a mockery of multilateral institutions by putting his daughter in the U.S. seat in a meeting with G-20 leaders, and shoving Montenegro’s Prime Minister Dusko Markovic at a NATO summit. But his antics at the June 2018 G-7 meeting in Canada were something to behold. Before departing, Trump complained about having to attend, viewing it as a distraction from his summit with Kim Jong-un. Then Trump asked that Russia be readmitted to the forum, left early, refused to sign the joint statement, and insulted Prime Minister Trudeau, calling the prime minister “very dishonest and weak.”

Allies in the Asia-Pacific have not been spared from Trump’s antics. He’s suggested that Japan and South Korea should acquire their own nuclear arsenal, and demanded that South Korea pay the U.S. $1 billion for the deployment of a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery in South Korea. Trump has called NATO “obsolete,” and he continues to insist that Mexico pay the United States to build a border wall, leading Mexican President Enrique Pena Nieto to cancel a planned visit to Washington after contentious phone call with Trump. While insulting friends and allies, Trump has praised autocrats and dictators such as Xi Jinping, Vladimir Putin, and Rodrigo Duterte.

Trump’s failure to take an interest and focus on policy has left the U.S. with no coherent grand strategy. He appears to be incapable of linking security and economics; instead, he seems to see everything as a stream of one-off, zero-sum bilateral transactions. Every transaction can be described as “winning” or “getting ripped off.” Furthermore, Trump’s continuous lies are damaging America’s reputation. He could go to court when he was a New York real estate developer, but the international system has no third-party enforcer. As Trump shreds U.S. credibility, allies, friends, competitors, and enemies will question or doubt U.S. commitments.

If Trump wins his war against the liberal world order, he will have built a massive global swamp where tyrants can thrive. If alliances crumble, and if international institutions are weakened or collapse, the United States and the rest of the world will be much less capable of dealing with North Korea, regardless of the trajectory that unfolds after the Singapore summit. And make no mistake, North Korea is very adept at exploiting division and disorder. It’s one of the primary reasons the Kim family has remained in power since the DPRK was established in 1948.

For North Korea and the Kim family regime, the Trump-Kim summit is a tremendous windfall that will be used in a narrative surrounding the great success of the pyŏngjin line (dual development of nuclear technology and the economy) and the completion of Pyongyang’s nuclear deterrent. According to North Korean ideology and policies, nuclear weapons are useful in three realms: international security; economic development; and international prestige.Absent revolution change in North Korea, including the abandonment of its current ideology and national identity, we should not expect Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear weapons. However, I would be very happy to be wrong.
싱가포르 정상 회담 사람들을 매료한 정치극이었다. 도널드 트럼프 미국 대통령은 북한 김정은이 믿을 수 있는 사람이며 비핵화에 진심으로 동의했다고 전했다. 추가로 트럼프 대통령은 김정은을 위해 영화 예고편처럼 제작한 동영상을 준비했다. “데스티니 픽처스”(Destiny Pictures)가 제작했다고 주장한 이 동영상은 긴장감 있는 음악을 삽입하면서 트럼프 대통령과 김정은의 영상을 담았다. 영상속의 내레이터는 극적인 목소리로 메시지를 전했다: “새로운 이야기, 새로운 시작, 평화 중 하나. 두 남자, 두 지도자, 한 음영. 특별한 순간의 이야기. 반복 될 수 없는 기회가 한 번 주어졌을 때 그는 무엇을 선택할 것인가?”

트럼프는 미국의 대통령으로서 북한과 회담을 가졌다는 점에서 역사적인 업적을 남긴 것은 부정할 수 없는 사실이다. 그러나 그가 역사적인 장면을 만들었는지 역사적인 실수를 범했는지에 대해서 평가하기에는 아직 시기상조다. 지금까지 어느 미국 대통령도 한반도에서의 한·미군사훈련을 일방적으로 중단할 것을 약속한 적이 없었으며, 많은 준비가 안 된 상태에서, 특히 상대방에게 유리한 방향으로, 정상회담을 여는 것은 많은 비판을 받았다. 김정은은 그의 선대들이 꿈꾸어온 것을 성취했다고 자랑스럽게 생각할 수 있다. 그는 실용적인 핵무기 능력을 구축하고 동시에 자유 세계의 지도자에게 “매우 존경 받을 만한” 동료라는 수식어를 둘음으로써 국제 사회의 인정을 받았다.

결국 정상 회담에서 나온 공동 성명서는 북한과 협상 파트너들이 제시한 수많은 과거의 비공식 문서를 희석시킨 것이 다. 이는 1992년으로 거슬러 올라가면 남북간의 합의를 본 한반도비핵화 공동선언과 비슷한 상황이라고 볼 수 있고 1994년 제네바 합의와 제4차 6자 회담의 2005년 공동성명서와 같은 양식을 포함하고 있다. 이는 북한이 “모든 핵무기와 기존 핵 프로그램을 포기하고 조기에 핵확산금지조약(NPT)에 회부”한다는 기존의 약속에서 벗어날 수 있게 하면서 북한이 “완전한 비핵화를 위해” 약속하게 약속할 수 있게 했다. 이러한 조항은 비핵화를 향한 진전이라고 해석하기에는 한계가 있다. 싱가포르 회담 공동 성명서는 화학 무기, 사이버 전쟁, 핵 확산, 그리고 (놀랍지 않게) 인권은 물론 탄도 미사일에 대한 거론은 찾아 볼 수가 없다.

Foreign Affairs 기사 원문

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북미정상회담 이후 지역적 전망

2018년 6월 12일 케빈 러드(Kevin Rudd) 아시아소사이어티 정책연구소(Asia Society Policy Institute, ASPI) 회장은 블룸버그 데이브레이크(Bloomberg Daybreak)와 함께 트럼프-김정은 정상 회담의 지역적 전망에 대해 이야기했다.

그는 문재인 대통령이 "회담 결과에 매우 기뻐할 것"이라고 말하면서 그의 국내 명성이 "이 정상 회담 과정의 설계자"로 올라섰다고 전했다. 또한, 트럼프의 한미연합군사훈련 중단 발언에 대해 한국 내에서 우려하는 만큼의 문제가 되지는 않을 것이라고 말했다. 트럼프는 미 대통령 중 처음으로 주한미군 철수에 대한 입장을 공식적으로 밝혔다. 한편, 러드는 중국이 이미 "제재의 범위에서 북한 주민들에게 압력을 가하기 시작했다"고 얘기하며, 이에 따른 트럼프 행정부의 대북제재 유지가 어려울 수도 있다고 지적했다.

원문 링크  
블룸버그 인터뷰 영상

김정은의 선전 쿠데타

런제이 포드(Lindsey Ford) 아시아소사이어티 정책연구소 안보부장은 CNN 뉴스룸(CNN Newsroom)의 브라이언 볼드윈(Brian Baldwin)과 도널드 트럼프 미국 대통령과 김정은 간 싱가포르 정상 회담에 대한 인터뷰를 진행했다.

지도자들의 공동 성명서의 표현은 모호한 약속들로 가득 차 있는 데, 이는 "트럼프 대통령이 이 정상 회담을 매우 급하게 준비한 과정"의 결과라고 포드는 지적했다. 또한 그는 이 두 지도자가 "협상 가들이 상대방이 어떤 것을 희생할지에 대한 고민을 하지 않은 상태가 양쪽 간의 이러한 모호한 문장의 성명서를 만들어냈다고 말했다.

또한, 포드는 미국과 북한의 갈등이 설전 모습을 보면서 트럼프 대통령이 김정은에게 칭찬을 하는 장면을 보는 것이 "조화롭지 못했다"고 얘기했다. 그는 "개인 외교"의 필요성을 인식하고 있지만, 동시에 북한 정권이 "의학적으로 유발된 혼수 상태"로 오토 웰비어(Otto Warmbier)를 집으로 보낸 사실을 잊으면 안된다고 강조했다. 그는 김정은이 최근 6개월 전 국제적 추방자였던 것을 깨닫지 못할 때 이번 정상 회담이 김정은에게 "선전 쿠데타를 할 기회를 제공했다"고 생각한다고 밝혔다.

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지난 화요일, 세계의 주목을 받은 도널드 트럼프 (Donald Trump) 미국 대통령과 김정은 북한 위원장 간의 정상회담이 막을 내렸다. 이후, 뉴욕 타임즈는 회담에 대한 자세한 결과를 보도하였고, 회담의 공동성명은 본 링크를 통하여 열람 가능하다.

장장 4시간에 걸쳐 진행되었던 본 회담이 시사하는 바는 앞으로 수개월간 전문가 및 일반 대중들의 논평 등을 통하여 다방면에 걸친 평가가 진행될 것으로 보인다. 이와 관련, 아시아소사이어티 역시 내일 오전 북한 핵 전문가 다니엘 러셀 (Daniel Russel)과 웬디 셔먼 (Wendy Sherman)을 초청한 웹캐스트를 진행할 예정이다.

이에 앞서, 간단히 본 회담에 대한 아시아소사이어티 회원들의 의견을 아래와 같이 소개하고자 한다. 본 콘텐츠는 앞으로 지속적으로 업데이트 될 예정이다.

캐빈 러드 (Kevin Rudd) 아시아소사이어티 정책 연구소 회장은 ABC 7:30에서 "아직 해야 할 일이 많지만, 정상회담의 기대치를 고려했을 때 나는 합격점을 주고자 한다"고 전했다.

北미 정상회담은 패러다임 전환을 의미한다. 물론, 추후 이어질 협상에 결과에 따라 우리는 이 변화가 영구적인지 알 수 있을 것이다. 회담의 결과를 회의적으로 평가 할 필요는 있지만, 우리의 이러한 태도가 새로운 것을 향한 발전에 걸림돌이 되는 건 안 될 것이다. 트럼프 대통령의 외교 스타일은 정통적인 것과는 다소 거리가 멀다. 하지만 여기서 우리가 짚고 넘어가야 할 것은 그는 조지타운대학 외교학과 출신이 아니라는 것이다. 그는 트럼프 대통령이다. 우리는 두 정상이 패러다임 전환기로 결정한 회담 결과를 마주하였고, 이제 관련된 구체적인 사항들이 실행 될 수 있는지에 대한 과정을 보기 시작했다.
아시아소사이어티 중미관계 연구센터 선임 연구원이자 연세대학교 교수 존 들루리 (John Delury)는 NPR과의 인터뷰에서 북미 정상회담이 "북한과의 적대적 관계를 우호적 관계로 전환한, 그야말로 패러다임 전환"이라고 전했다. 그는 김정은 위원장을 북한의 국제 지위에 변화를 줄 수 있는 지도자로 묘사했다.

북한 역사와 지난 6개월간 김정은 위원장이 국내외적으로 걸어온 행보를 보았을 때, 김정은 위원장은 그의 아버지인 김정일과 확연히 다르다는 것을 알 수 있다. 김정은 위원장이 싱가포르에 간 사실 자체만으로 우리는 이것을 알 수 있다. 그는 그동안 북한을 고립시켜온 벽을 허물 준비가 되어 있으며, 이런 상황을 바꾸려고 하고 있다. 또한, 김정은은 북한 경제와 외교적 입장에 대한 중국의 압도적인 영향력에 대처할 방법을 주의 깊게 찾고 있다. 김정은 위원장은 정교하다.

반면에 다니엘 러셀 (Daniel Russel) 아시아소사이어티 정책연구소 부원장은 북미 정상회담 결과에 대해 회의적이었다. 버락 오바마 전미국 대통령 행정부 당시 국무부 아시아 담당 특사를 역임한 그는 "역사적인 성과를 낼지 못한 것으로 보인다"고 Foreign Affairs에 기고했다.

북미 정상회담에서 트럼프 대통령이 초반에 내놓은 수는 다양한 측면에서 김정은 위원장에게 유리하게 작용한 듯 보인다. 북한은 평화 협정을 발족할 수 있도록 한미연합훈련(트럼프 대통령이 "비용이 많이 들어간다"고 표현한 바 있는) 중단이라는 성과를 냈다. 트럼프 대통령이 고비용이라 간주하는 한미연합훈련은 줄곧 북한 입장에서 "도발적인 전쟁 게임"으로 표현되고는 했다. 트럼프 대통령은 북한의 핵 및 미사일 프로그램을 정지하는 데 필요한 초중단을 요구하지 않은채 한미연합훈련 중단이라는 중요한 카드를 포기했다. 북한 김정권의 오랜 목표는 한미동맹을 파괴하고 주한미군을 철수시키는 것이었다.

러셀은 트럼프 대통령이 단순히 김정은 위원장을 만난 것 외에는 별다른 성과가 없는 것을 자랑하는 것에 대해서도 회의적이었다.
North Korea Coverage: From Asia Society Policy Institute

그는 “미국이 한국에 대한 방위 의무를 협상 테이블에서 논하고 관련된 협의로 이끌어 낸 것은 과거 대통령들도 할 수 있었지만 하지 않았던 협상”이라고 로이터 통신과의 인터뷰에서 밝혔다. 또한, 로스앤젤레스 타임즈와의 인터뷰에서 러셀은 트럼프 대통령이 김정은 위원장에게 양보한 것은 마치 “독갈한 말만 다시 산 것이 아니라 소매가격도 지불한 것과 같다”고 전했다.

린제이 포드 (Lindsey Ford) 아시아소사이어티 정책 연구소 안보부장은 북미 정상회담 성과에 대해 러셀과 비슷한 태도를 보였다. 그녀는 트위터에 다음과 같이 적었다.

포드는 MSNBC와의 인터뷰에서 북한이 미국과의 협상에서 좋은 결과를 얻은 점이 “나쁜 행동이 좋은 행동보다 국제 관계의 틀 안에서 더욱 주목 받고 원하는 결과를 얻는 데에 유리한 것과 같다”고 말했다. 전체 인터뷰 동영상 링크는 이곳에서 확인할 수 있다.

CNN 방송과의 인터뷰에서 포드는 “개인 외교는 장점이 있다. 그러나, 우리는 김정은 위원장이 오토 워름비어 (Otto Warmbier)를 혼수 상태로 돌려보낸 사실을 결코 잊어서는 안되고, 공항에서 이복 동생을 암살 한 사람이라는 사실 역시 잊어서는 안된다. 우리는 이변 회담을 통하여 그에게 선전 꾸려의 기회를 제공한 데다”고 전했다.

또한, 아이작 스톤 피시 (Isaac Stone Fish) 아시아소사이어티 중미관계 연구센터 선임연구원은 (로버트 켈리, Robert E. Kelly, 와 더불어) Foreign Affairs에 궁극적으로 북한은 중국 문제라고 기고했다.

북한 핵 문제와 북한에 대한 논쟁은 과도하게 미국화되어있다. 동북아 외교의 홀미로운 점 중 하나는 ‘승부의 책임’ (skin in the game)을 가진 국가들이 다른 역할을 해야 할 때 오히려 이 지역에서 5,000 마일 이상 떨어진 곳에 위치한 미국 정부가 이 문제를 소유하고 있다는 것이다.

북미 정상회담에 대한 스톤 피시의 소견은 다음과 같다.

“그래서 우리는 같은 말을 세번이나 삼았다. 더 많은 것이 나오지 않는 한, 트럼프 대통령은 이 상황을 너무 부풀려서 말하고 있는 듯 하다.”
- 아이작 스톤 피시 (@isaacstonefish) 2018년 6월 12일

원문은 아시아소사이어티 코리아 홈페이지에서 찾을 수 있습니다.
May 29, 2018 - Asia Society Korea’s first cooking class of the year gave twenty participants the chance to enjoy a taste of India. The Indian Cultural Centre and Ms. Deepali Praveen from J.W. Marriott were on hand to help make a traditional Indian dish at Lotte Department Store in Myeong-dong.

Those in attendance were taught how to cook a palak paneer curry with a garlic naan on the side. Paneer is a cheese that is easy to make, so it is commonly used in Indian dishes. It is also considered to be a healthy option due to its low fat content. Chef Praveen added that if you are served paneer at a gathering, it is a clear sign that you are being treated well.

Chef Praveen next demonstrated how to bake a naan, and then she asked those present to attempt to make the oven-baked flatbread. She noted that in ancient times, local Indian communities would gather each evening to bond by making a large naan together. This dish is adaptable and can be made using a variety of different ingredients, such as cheese and butter.

All of the participants had a wonderful time at the cooking class. They expressed a lot of interest in the exotic food, and took pleasure in cooking with new spices and flavors. After the lesson was finished, Chef Praveen was asked if she would make a lassi, a popular and traditional Indian yoghurt-based drink. On a whim, Chef Praveen whipped up the drink, which she shared with everyone as a sweet way to wrap-up a great day of Indian cooking.

May 30, 2018 – On May 30th, Lotte Shopping’s Cultural Center played host to the second class of Asia Society Korea’s International Cooking series. Vietnamese cuisine is having a surge in popularity throughout Korea these days with a number of new restaurants opening all over the peninsula. It was no surprise, therefore, that this event hosted by Ms. Lan-Hinh Tran, spouse of the Ambassador of Vietnam to South Korea, sold-out quickly.

Ms. Tran is an advocate of home-cooked meals, and the twenty attendees were eager to learn some tips from her. As the weather is beginning to heat up, Ms. Lan decided to teach the participants how to make Vietnamese summer rolls. Ms. Lan explained that she always tries to blend delicious flavors with health when cooking, so she chose not to fry the spring rolls and instead serve them freshly with a side of peanut sauce. She added that the versatile dish can serve as an appetizer or light lunch, and is made easily using a handful of fresh ingredients.

The class was well organized with Ms. Lan preparing all of the ingredients and the participants ardently followed her step-by-step instructions. While everyone enjoyed making the summer rolls, Ms. Lan also told anecdotes and provided information about Vietnamese culture and its cuisine. As with previous classes, the participants enjoyed the food so much that they took the leftovers home with them.
Interview with H.E. Ramzi Teymurov, Ambassador of Azerbaijan

The Republic of Azerbaijan, also known as Odlar Yurdu (The land of fire) celebrated its 100th anniversary this year. Asia Society Korea caught up with Ambassador Ramzi Teymurov to discuss how he has adjusted to Korean life while becoming acquainted with the customs and culture over the past five years.

1. Happy 100th Anniversary. It has been over five years since you first came to Korea. Could you describe your life here briefly?

Before answering your questions, let me convey my appreciation to Asia Society Korea and your magazine for this interview.

The year of 2018 is indeed very remarkable for my country, as 100 years ago our ancestors established first ever democratic republic in Muslim East – Azerbaijan Democratic Republic (ADR). ADR as the first parliamentary democracy with a republican form of governance in the Muslim world was also the first model of a democratic secular state based on the rule of law all over the East, including the Turko-Muslim world.

ADR was a pioneer that combined both European democratic values and the abundant cultural heritage of the East in one entity. All citizens of ADR were granted the right to vote regardless of their ethnic and religious affiliation. Thus, granting of women with the right to vote must particularly be noted, as it happened the first time in the Islamic World and even before some Western democracies.

Although on April 28, 1920, the red army invaded Azerbaijan, the idea of a free Azerbaijan never wavered. In its short period of existence, the ADR returned national consciousness to the Azerbaijani people, and following the collapse of Soviet Union Azerbaijan regained its independence on October 18, 1991.

I would summarize my past 5 years of presence in Korea as one of the most interesting, diverse and rich of professional experienced pages of my lifetime. Me and my family enjoyed a lot with our presence in your beautiful country. We enjoyed Korean culture, cuisine & beautiful nature while managed to gain many Korean friends. I must emphasize that friendship environment is very essential for foreigners to get easily adopted to the new society. In that term I should say that we were lucky to meet with so many Korean friends that helped us a lot to discover the beauty of Korea.

2. As a foreigner, what was the most interesting or intriguing aspect of Korean culture that you noticed?

I should say there are a lot of cultural aspects of Korea that I found interesting. Especially I must emphasize how highly Korean people value and respect their culture and history. Wherever I visited in Korea from Seoul all the way to Jeju, I observed a lot of Koreans are visiting historical and cultural places, such as temples, tombs and museums. I believe this is very important aspect for a country in terms of protecting and respecting its own historical & cultural heritage. Other than that, I have to emphasize variety and colorful traditional Korean dress-hanbok, and rich Korean cuisine culture are also very interesting.
3. **Azerbaijan and Korea must be very different in many aspects. Is there anything in common that you find interesting?**

I would say Azerbaijan and Korea share many common values rather than having differences. First, the languages of both countries are in Altaic language family. That means Korean vocabulary has many words that have a Turkic-Azerbaijani language root. Beside this, paying respect to the elders, setting the family units as an integral part of life, presenting the Patriarchal lineage and linking ancestors through the husband’s line, bearing extra responsibility to the family by eldest son, eating seated on the floor and many other examples are proof of sharing common values.

Since Azerbaijan is located in the center of Eurasia and as a country of mix Asian-European culture we find Korean culture similar to ours and therefore, I consider Azerbaijan and Korea as a country that stores common culture and society aspects.

4. **What are some aspects of the culture of Azerbaijan that you hope to promote here in Korea?**

I don’t want to specify one or few aspects of the culture of my country, since promoting Azerbaijani culture as a whole in the Republic of Korea is one of many activities of our Embassy and I believe the Embassy is successfully implementing this mission since its establishment.

Up to date we have conducted several events for promoting Azerbaijani culture, including Silk Road Festival, Turkic Culture Festival, Azerbaijan Culture Days, Azerbaijan Film Festivals, where we introduced Azerbaijan’s culture to Korean public. We were part of many international film festivals, demonstrating best awarded films of Azerbaijan which were met with great interest. We jointly organized Azerbaijan - Korea Fashion Show of national dresses and have introduced samples of Azerbaijani cuisine in different platforms, including National Day receptions, Azerbaijan Days and Food Festivals organized by Government organizations and cultural centers. In that sense I would like to use this opportunity to convey our great appreciation to our First Lady Madam Mehriban Aliyeva in her capacity as chairperson of Azerbaijani Culture Friends Foundation and the Ministry of Culture of Azerbaijan as well as Seoul-Baku Azerbaijan-Korea Cultural Exchange Association for their tremendous supports to the promotion of Azerbaijan culture in Korea.

As this year we celebrate 100th anniversary of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic, on this occasion the Embassy organizes series of events one of which is “Azerbaijan Carpet Exhibition” jointly to be organized with the Korea Foundation on November 15-December 15, 2018. For your information “The Art of Azerbaijani Carpet weaving” Inscribed in 2010 on the UNESCO Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. This event allows Koreans to witness rich art of Azerbaijani carpet weaving that represent different schools which vary for their colors and patterns.

Another project initiated by the Embassy dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Azerbaijan Democratic Republic is the launch of the Korean translation of the “Selected works” of great Azerbaijani poet Bakhtiyar Vahabzade by the end of this year.

Understanding that the cultural exchanges are the most effective instrument in bilateral relations, we are working and will continue to work hardly on promoting rich and multifaceted culture of Azerbaijan in Korea.

5. **Azerbaijan is becoming an increasingly popular tourism spot. What places would you recommend and why?**

Azerbaijan is a country of rich cultural and historic heritage. One of the major resources of Azerbaijan is its natural diversity. Azerbaijan has 9 climatic zones out of 11 existing in the world ranging from humid subtropical climate to semi-arctic. This creates unique opportunities for tourism. Azerbaijan benefits from its favorable location at the crossroads of Eurasia. Six international airports with direct flights to major European as well as Asian cities, as well as the biggest port on the Caspian Sea operate in Azerbaijan.

First, I would recommend the Ichari Shahar of Baku or the Old City surrounded with walls, with narrow lanes and streets flanked by ancient houses, mosques of architectural grace and enduring beauty including the Palace of the Shirvanshahs’ and Maiden Tower are a testament to Azerbaijan’s rich history has been included into UNESCO World Heritage List. The Majestic and stately, Maiden Towers, the symbol of Azerbaijan on the banks of Caspian Sea is an imposing testimony of the capital’s glory. A masterpiece of Old City architecture is the medieval residence of the rulers of Shirvan, the Shirvanshahs’ Palace of 15th Century.
The Ateshgah temple of Fire Worshippers and Gobustan Rock Art Cultural Landscape are the two of the most visited places by Koreans. The Ateshgah temple of Fire Worshippers is formed of a central chapel surrounded by 26 cells used for praying, meditation and guests’ rooms. The Gobustan plateau is a site of outstanding marvelous rock images carved on hill faces in pre-historic times. This archaeological site hosts remains of inhabited caves, settlements, flora and fauna. UNESCO has instituted this place as a World Heritage Site with 6,000 odd pieces of pristine rock art of Gobustan dated to over 40,000 years back.

Designed by Zaha Hadid, designer of the Dongdaemun Plaza, Heydar Aliyev Center is one the most popular example of the most visited modern architecture of my country. The Heydar Aliyev Center is a 57,500 m2 (619,000 sq ft) building complex in Baku, noted for its distinctive architecture and flowing, curved style that eschews sharp angles. The center is named after Heydar Aliyev, National Leader of Azerbaijan.

The foreign tourists who are more interested on historical monuments and places may also visit Shaki, Gabala, Ganja and Nakhchivan regions of Azerbaijan that includes magnificent historical architectures such as Shaki Khan’s Palace, Juma Masjid, Nizami Ganjavi Mausoleum, Momina Khatun Mausoleum and etc.

For those who are more interested in beautiful nature, sightseeing and skiing, I would to recommend visiting Guba, Gusar, Gabala, Shamakhi and Ganja regions of Azerbaijan.

6. What are your expectations for future Azerbaijan-Korea relations? (In terms of politics, economics, culture, etc.)

Azerbaijan and Korea have strong mutual relations especially in business sphere. Many Korean companies are actively engaged in designing and implementing huge projects in Azerbaijan. However, the current world economic situation also highly affected to the trade relations between Korea and Azerbaijan. Today, Azerbaijan is mostly importing electrical machinery, vehicles, computers and equipments from Korea. But the export from Azerbaijan is consist of precious metals, juices, bedding items and others. We hope the trade volume will increase with the kind efforts of our governments in 2018.

At the same time, the economic conditions and the geopolitical situation of Azerbaijan made its market very attractive to foreign especially Korean companies. Azerbaijan has free trade agreement with neighbor countries and open to more than 200 million populated market. Azerbaijan plans to encourage Korean large-scale investments not only in energy sector, but also in infrastructure projects, including construction of highways, railways and development of information technologies and agricultural sphere. Should be emphasized that Azerbaijan is ready for cooperation not only with largest Korean enterprises, but also with medium and small companies.

I also believe that exchange of high level of visits between two countries will also promote business and investment opportunities for state and non-state entrepreneurs in both countries and will also create new perspectives for future development of relations in all other fields.

7. You were awarded “Ambassador of the Year” last year by Asia Society Korea. What does Asia Society Korea mean to you personally?

Since my appointment as an Ambassador to Korea I have close relations with Asia Society Korea and I tried my best to participate as much functions as possible hosted by Asia Society Korea. I should say that Asia Society Korea gave great opportunity to meet with many important people representing almost all fields of society, including business community, academics, politicians, and also to get more knowledge about geopolitics and business environment in Korea and entire Asia. Therefore, I consider Asia Society Korea as one of the important think-tank organization, and I will continue to participate and support Asia Society Korea activities during my presence here. Using this opportunity, I once more convey my sincere appreciation to the leadership of Asia Society Korea for awarding me the “Ambassador of the Year”.

(Continued)
Interview with H.E. Abida Islam, Ambassador of Bangladesh

Last year, H.E. Abida Islam was appointed as the Ambassador of Bangladesh to the Republic of Korea. Before arriving on the Korean peninsula, she served as the Director General of the Bangladeshi Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Asia Society Korea wanted to welcome H.E. Abida Islam to South Korea by catching up with her to ask a few questions.

1. As a foreigner, what has been the most interesting or intriguing aspect of Korean culture that you have noticed so far?

Well, I found a lot of aspects of Korean culture fascinating during my stay in Korea, which is a little over six months. Before coming here, I knew that only in four decades, South Korea has experienced incredible economic growth and has become the 11th economy in the world and the 4th largest economy in Asia. Such a transformation could only be possible due to the hard work, commitment and dedication of the Korean people. I found them extremely passionate and committed towards work and also experienced the excellent working environment here. Everything is meticulously planned, coordinated and completed well ahead of time. I also admire their politeness and punctuality. Despite being a progressive society, South Korea maintains its native ethos, which is a wonderful blend of tradition with modernization.

In terms of cuisine, rice is the staple food in both of our countries and I find lots of similarities in rice-related cuisines. I am a fan of South Korean Bibimbap. Anyone who has never tried Korean dishes before will certainly like this dish.

Surprisingly, there are some words meanings of which are exactly the same in Bangla as well as English language. Such as the word “gang”, means river; “Abbuji” is father and “ammuji” is mother both in Bangla and Korean language. Also, we call rice as “chaal” in our language whereas it is “ssal” in Korean and the sound is almost the same. People having knowledge about both the languages, may find such common words in both the languages.
2. Bangladesh and Korea are far apart, not only geographically, but also culturally. While these two countries contrast in many areas, is there anything in common that you find interesting?

There are many commonalities between Bangladesh and South Korea despite being geographically at a distance. People of both the countries deeply value their traditional practices and perform those with due diligence. For example, the traditional New Year celebration is one of the biggest festivals in our respective countries. Bangla New Year, Pohela Boishakh, is a secular festival in Bangladesh. It is celebrated by the people from all corners irrespective of class, creed or religion with traditional flair and ambiance. During this holiday, we try to spend quality time with our families and dear ones. Similarly, I hear Chuseok is one of the biggest festivals in Korea, where people return to their ancestral homes to meet with their near and dear ones.

Respect for the elders is another striking similarity that I can mention. Bangladeshis also value our kinship and family ties. Like Korea, we have many customs and rituals to show respect for the elderly. We also give immense importance to family bonding and seriously monitor the progress of our children in education.

In the Bengali language, we have different layers of salutation based on whom you talk to, like the one you have in the Korean language. I can cite many more similarities like these. For example, Korean Movement for Independence is on 1st March and we celebrate our day Independence and National Day on 26th March every year. People of Bangladesh and South Korea both had to make supreme sacrifice to uphold the dignity of their respective Mother languages. For Bangladesh, it is on 21st February 1952 (recognized by the UNESCO as the International Mother Language Day in 1999) when it was a part of Pakistan and for South Korea during its occupation days. I understand that 15th August is a national day for both of our countries. It is the National Liberation Day in South Korea. In Bangladesh it is observed as the National Mourning Day commemorating the killing of our Father of the Nation, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman in 1975.

3. Most people in Korea have not had the opportunity to visit or learn a great deal about Bangladesh. What are some aspects of your country that you hope to promote here in Korea?

In international media, Bangladesh is mostly portrayed as a climate vulnerable country. At present, the international community is acclaiming Bangladesh for its humanitarian act in hosting about one million Rohingya refugees despite being an overpopulated country with limited resources. I am proud to say that Bangladesh maintains an impressive socio-economic growth against such so many odds. Bangladesh is making contribution in global peace by sending its military and civil officers to the UN Peace-Keeping operations. As one of the most climate vulnerable country, Bangladesh is active in all climate change related forums and over the past three decades it has undertaken a series of initiatives for mitigation and adaptation to address the adverse impact of climate change. Our women empowerment is remarkable. Women not only have leadership role in politics, but there are increased participation in women in private and public sectors, defence service (army, navy, air force), judiciary, police, sports and all other professions.

I would like to promote our rich history and cultural heritage amongst the Korean people by encouraging them to actively participate in our different events. I believe it would further increase people to people contact and form a positive perception about Bangladesh. Since the last year, we are celebrating our new year (14th April 2018) in the open space of Itaewon area to display our cultural diversity through live music and dances, cuisines and costumes and thus inspire the Korean people to participate in the event.

With the UNESCO Commission for Korea, we observed our Martyrs Day and International Mother Language Day with due solemnity on 21 February 2018 in presence of number of Korean guests. Two Korean Professors also spoke at that event on the significance of the Day. 25th March 2018 is the Genocide Day of Bangladesh and we observed the event at a reputed university in Korea with the active participation of the Korean intellectuals. Our participation in the 33rd Korea World Travel Fair (KOTFA) -2018 has given the opportunity to exhibit our cultural diversity and attractive touristic places to the Korean visitors. We are also looking forward to our 3rd Bangladesh Film Festival from 20-22 July 2018 that will represent the culture, art and contemporary life of Bangladesh to the Korean viewers.

You would be happy to know that there are over 500 companies working in Bangladesh. The increasing number of Korean community there is already promoting Korean culture and cuisine in Bangladesh. I believe, with our initiatives, we will also be able to showcase Bangladeshi culture and tradition to the people of this friendly country.
4. Similarly, are there any features of Korean society that you hope to recommend to the people back in Bangladesh?

Bangladeshi people are also hardworking and honest, but we could learn from the Koreans with regards to the timekeeping and comprehensiveness - the core components of the rapid development of the Korean nation.

5. Finally, what are your expectations for future Bangladesh-South Korean relations with regards to politics, economics, and culture?

Since the establishment of our diplomatic relationship in 1973, we have enjoyed an excellent bilateral relationship with South Korea in political, technological, economic, cultural and human development fronts. South Korea is a great friend of Bangladesh. We deeply value this partnership as we speak the same language of democracy, share similar social values and have the common aspiration for socio-economic development. I believe there is an immense scope to further strengthening our bilateral relationship.

On the political front, we maintain a cooperative relationship and support each other in times of need, in different international fora. Since 2010, there is no high level visit to Bangladesh. I believe a reciprocal high-level visit would create a momentum and further boost up our bilateral relationship. Bangladesh deeply appreciates the political support of South Korea during the 3rd Committee resolution in the 72nd UNGA in November 2017 which included human rights in Myanmar. At the 27th Special Session of the Human Rights Council in December 2017 on the situation of the minority Rohingya Muslim population and other minorities in the Rakhine State of Myanmar. We are also thankful to the Korean Government for its humanitarian assistance to the Rohingya people and hope that this support will continue in the coming days.

With regards to the cultural cooperation, there are occasional exchanges of cultural troupes between the two countries. But both the countries could work closely to increase the frequency of these visits. Notable, the Hallyu or the Korean wave has already reached to the Bangladeshi people. The K-pop, K-drama, and K-food culture have made its mark among the young generation in Bangladesh and we may effectively use this opportunity to increase the people-to-people contact.

In the area of developing the Human Resources, the EDCF (Economic Development Cooperation Fund) and KOICA (Korea International Cooperation Agency) are actively supporting us and we are trying for new areas of cooperation with these two institutions.

In the economic sector, South Korea is an important development partner, one of the largest sources of Foreign Direct Investment and also an attractive destination for our workers. It is our 3rd source of import and we are thankful to the Korean Government for according duty-free and quota-free access to our nearly 500 products. Our economy is becoming intensely engaged with the economy of this country as our bilateral trade is increasing, but gradually.

There are so many potential areas in Bangladesh, which are yet to be explored by the Korean businessmen and investors.

In May 2018, after organizing an investment seminar in Seoul, we are receiving encouraging responses from the Korean Business houses and the potential investors. I laud the supports that we receive from the Korean Chambers of Commerce and Industry (KCCI), Korea Importers Association (KOIMA), Korea International Trade Association (KITA) and other trade bodies. We are expecting a visit from the South Korean trade delegation to Bangladesh soon. After participating in the Import Goods Fair (IGF)-2018, we noticed the huge interest and demand for our Leather, Jute and Ceramic products in this country. I hope our newly formed Trade Promotion Committee (TPC) with KOIMA would be helpful in this regard. I hope Bangladesh Economic Zones Authority (BEZA) and SME Foundation of Bangladesh will work in partnership with their counterparts here. I believe all these initiatives will further enhance our bilateral trade and commercial relationship in the coming days.

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Q: Tell us about your growth from passion to profession.

A: Art has always been my passion. So it was easy for me to make a decision to attend art college after high school. I graduated from Rhode Island School of Design where all students are allowed to explore their various creativities freely. Though my major at RISD was film/animation/video, I always knew my biggest passion was in fine art such as painting and drawing. While I concentrated on learning all those new techniques of filmmaking and animating, I never lost my passion in fine art. I have always kept on painting and drawing knowing that I will someday become a full-time artist after graduation.

Q: It is always difficult to find a unique signature, or yourself. Was it difficult for you as well?

A: When I was a kid, my mother was also a young painter searching for her own answers in creating. She did not teach me much in technique-wise. Instead, she provided me lots of plain papers and books of famous masters. So I read the books (mostly images) then began doodling. I doodled figures mostly such as toys and pets in various ways. Interestingly, those doodles became my style, and my present figures are quite similar to those doodles from early age.

Every year Korean fashion brands such as MCM release capsule collections in collaboration with famous artists. Korean artist and Asia 21 Korea Chapter’s Chair Eddie Kang, who has collaborated with MCM for 1 and a half years developing various designs, such as Animamix blend pattern, has visited Thailand. Vogue Thailand had a chance to invite Mr. Kang for an interview and talked about his life and career as an artist.

Q: How did you decide to become an artist?

A: To me, it was very natural to decide to become a full-time artist. Since my mother is also a painter, I grew up being exposed to artistic atmosphere from early age. She took me to various museums and galleries and showed me many creative things at her studio. Thus, I have never imagined myself pursuing different careers other than art-related ones since I was very young.

Q. What is your favorite work or exhibition throughout your career?

A: Among all the shows, I would say it would be my first solo exhibition at Taipei in 2008. The debut.

Q. Who is your favorite artist?

A: Other than my mother, I have quite few I admire. Cy Twombly and George Condo come on top. Among young artists, I like works of Yoohee Chang.

Q. Who is the artist that you want to meet the most?

A: It would be Cy Twombly obviously. I visited many exhibitions featuring his works. Among all of them, the most memorable one was at Cy Twombly Gallery from Menil Collection in Houston, Texas. Walking around the space full of Twombly’s works only, lots of different emotions were passing through my mind. Unforgettable experience.
Q. But if I ever had an honor to meet him in person, I would formally invite him to my studio and ask him to work on a mural together.

A: Cy Twombly is a well-known figure with his calligraphic style. It would be like dreams come true if he comes to my studio filling my wall with his lines and shapes.

Q. What is your favorite gallery around the world?

A: Personally, I like The Gallery Bookstore. In New York, there is Gagosian Gallery, where it has a wonderful bookstore. There is David Zwirner Gallery in New York also, where it had an awesome pop-up bookstore. Cy Twombly Pavilion and the Rothko Chapel from Menil Collection are also among my favorite spots.

Q. Collaboration of books and gallery?

A: Books, editioned works, and stationaries by artists can be easy forms for audiences to approach. So, with a good gallery bookstore, artists can explore different types of creative formats and expand their league outside of white cubes.

Q. Tell us about your daily life.

A: I am living a simple life. I get up at 7 am and go to studio around 9 am. I start my day with checking e-mails, going through some documents before I get into actual studio activities. I come back home at 6 pm for dinner. Then I begin my evening production hours from 8 to 9 pm. do the rest of my drawing work a little bit. I prefer organized routine.

Q. Tells us about your collaboration with MCM.

A: Back in 2016 after I just finished my NYC solo show, my agent asked me whether I wanted to do a collaboration with MCM. Knowing that MCM is a globally known, well-established fashion brand with history, I thought it would be a good opportunity for me to meet audiences beyond galleries. So I accepted and here we are. The time with MCM was marvelous, and we constantly exchanged ideas throughout the process to come up with a solid collaboration.

Q. Big City Life – Loveless

A: The motivation of the project came from the theme of my exhibition in New York: ‘Big City Life Loveless’. When I talk to people living in the big city, I often felt there was something missing from their lives. Something they might have forgotten but not completely lost. Something like the good memories of childhood that we gradually forget as we grow up. I believe the people still have those elements deep inside their hearts, and I want to pull it out. This is the one message I have always tried to convey through most of my work.

Q. What is the cornerstone of this project?

A: MCM is a widely known fashion brand with its unique design and style. It was most challenging to put my own image on MCM pattern and not harming the originality of the brand. So, we had many idea-exchanging sessions. Then we came to a conclusion to use both 'double-sided products' and 'direct drawing on visetos' to maintain originalities of MCM and myself at the same time. That way, we could make two different images of MCM and myself naturally coexist in the products.

Q. MCM in the eyes of Eddie Kang

A: We all know that MCM hosts annual collaboration with interesting designs. After I saw MCM’s capsule collection in collaboration with Tobias Rehberger, I realized that this brand does not fear change, and always try something new and experimental.

Q. Any comments to fellow artists of the next generation?

A: I think every artist has his or her moment of success. It could come early or late. All different. It is only matter of time.

If you stay patient and work hard, sooner or later, it will come to you. Stay awake and keep on exploring your creativities with enthusiasm and passion. Never be desperate. Be patient. Then success will come to you even before your notice.
While the world zoomed in on PyeongChang during this year’s Winter Olympic Games, there was a hidden supporter, who helped foreign athletes and visitors to enjoy the event more conveniently. This month, that man, Mr. Tae-hee Lee, President of BUXI Korea, took the time to meet with us at Asia Society Korea.

BUXI Korea is a collective taxi calling system that utilizes the Online to Offline (O2O) network to link a driver with a group of different people who wish to travel in the same direction. BUXI Korea has become so successful that the PyeongChang Organizing Committee chose it for their application called ‘Go Pyeongchang’. This meant BUXI Korea, in fact, offered many of the transportation services during the Games, which enabled people to get around more easily. Let’s hear what Mr. Lee’s has to say about it.

1. Could you describe your business to our readers? How is it different from Uber or SoCar?

Our company name, BUXI, is a combination of bus and taxi. We are targeting a niche market that buses and taxis cannot serve. Since 2016, we have been offering a rental car service by smartphone that transports visitors from both Incheon and Gimpo airports to major tourist attractions. The key benefit is that, like a taxi, you can get a car wherever you want, but at a similar price to a bus.

We differ from Uber because it is simply a direct substitute for a regular taxi; whereas, BUXI has created a new ‘multiple pickup’ market, which the taxi industry cannot offer.

SoCar also contrasts to us because they are a rental service, which rents its cars per hour. BUXI provides a car for either the individual or a group of people. That means, we share the space, not time, so that our customers can go wherever they want with others.
2. **What are the origins of your business? In other words, what motivated you to start your business?**

I was a news reporter until I founded BUXI Korea in 2015. Throughout my career as a journalist, I went on a lot of business trips abroad. Every time I headed to the airport in Korea, the transfer was so uncomfortable. Furthermore, I noticed a few services like Supershuttle in the U.S. and MK taxi in Japan, where a user could get off at a number of stations for just 30 dollars. With the number of tourists in Korea starting to skyrocket, I was certain that a new airport transportation service would succeed. Also, during the period I was working as a research fellow in Atlanta at the Georgia Institute of Technology, I noticed that the fever for shared economies was starting to grow.

In 2000, I was in charge of covering developments in IT as a reporter and I experienced how the internet revolution changed the world with Korea at the forefront. When I witnessed the fever for shared economies in the U.S. in 2010, I perceived intuitively that it would eventually work its way around the world. After 4 years of preparation, I founded BUXI in 2015.

3. **Were there any notable moments when you experienced difficulties with your business?**

Money and people were the key issues. To expand a business, the two elements must come at the right moment. When I founded Buxi, I was fortunate that someone supported me with an early investment; however, there were two times when I found myself in a tricky situation because of a shortage of cash. That is called the ‘Death Valley Curve’—when a startup cannot turn an initial investment into generating revenue before it runs out of money. Luckily, with policy funding from the government and a resolution from the board of directors, I was able to overcome the crisis. In fact, Korea’s biggest rental car company, Lotte Rental, is our representative investor and affiliate.

Regarding people, I remember some advice I received from the CEO of a large headhunting company in Korea. He told me, “When you run a small business or startup, in any possible case, you cannot hire people more talented than you. That is the reality. Also, that is why you have to make an endless effort to improve yourself.”

4. In a recent luncheon, the guest speaker, Wonjae Lee, mentioned that since North Korea would be starting from scratch, car sharing could work as a testbed for a new shared economy. Can you add a few words on how you feel about your business related to that matter?

Actually, that is the thing I have been interested in recently. Mr. Wonjae Lee and I share the exact same orientation.

When North Korea opens its economy for the first time, they will focus on tourism. For that, the roads should be clear and there needs to be accommodation facilities. Above all, they will need cars. Then, a new issue will arise over whether there should be the introduction of a traditional public transportation system, such as buses and taxis, or a totally new system based on car sharing and ride sharing. This issue can be better understood if you compare it to China where the initiation of the smartphone payment system meant that the credit card payment system was skipped. Transportation in North Korea can be similar by skipping traditional transportation, and moving directly to a more modern and innovative system.

5. **What, in your personal view, are the most important values when it comes to business?**

I think keeping promises is the most important value. Since I started my own business, I have been making an extreme effort to keep all of my promises, regardless of the significance. It goes without saying that promises to a client must be the number one priority. In my opinion, by keeping promises, you can develop trust, which is the most essential element of a relationship. Furthermore, promises related to money are especially important. During the time I had the experience with the ‘Death Valley Curve’, there were several occasions when I was not able to keep financial promises with my employees, which resulted in number of broken relationships. At that time, I made a solemn vow that I must keep promises to protect my network and business. Business is, after all, a relationship with people.
Asia Society Korea’s Travel Series helped brush up your historical knowledge last month with a trip to the Independence Hall in Cheonan. This month we will unleash your inner Zen with a temple stay. Buddhism was introduced to Korea by China 1,700 years ago in its meditative form, commonly known as Zen. While a recent national census showed that today less than 50% of the Korean population shows an affiliation to a religion, Buddhism is still practiced by 15%, and by many others more passively. May 22nd was Buddha’s Birthday and a national holiday in Korea; thus, swarms of people visited Seoul’s temples and the lantern festival at Cheonggyecheon.

Despite growing in popularity over recent years, many people still do not take the opportunity to experience a one-night stay at one of the many temples throughout Korea that offer the service. Thankfully, the Cultural Corps of Korean Buddhism has made it incredibly easy to organize a stay online in English (https://eng.templestay.com/). With almost forty temples throughout Korea to choose from, you can pick the location and itinerary that suits you best.

It is important to note the temples welcome people of all backgrounds and the programs are tailored to each individual. Some include physical challenges while others pick more laid-back approaches. Each temple designs its own schedule based upon the location and spiritual focus. Common activities include meditation, prostration, crafts, tea ceremonies, walks, and cooking.

While it is possible to simply spend a day at a temple, you should stay the night if you really want to embrace the full experience. All of the temples offer basic but clean accommodations with private and shared rooms. You do need to follow traditional protocol and sleep directly on the floor as floor mats, blankets, and pillows are provided. On arrival, you’ll also receive your cozy cotton outfit to be worn throughout your stay and shoes, naturally, are not worn indoors. Most temples have communal toilets and bathrooms, which are clean and modern.

The monks and nuns live by the sun so expect an early night and pre-dawn chimes to awaken you. The Yebool ceremony starts around 4:30am and pays respect to the Sakyamuni Buddha, Bodhisattvas, and all of his disciples. Visitors have the chance to simply observe the Buddhist chanting and process of self-reflection or participate before enjoying the sunrise.

Another great part of the stay is the chance to enjoy some Buddhist cuisine. The rich vegetarian diet ensures you will eat extremely healthy meals during your stay. Many of the temples grow or forage for their vegetables in the surrounding area. Meal service is generally buffet style and you can feel free to eat as much as you want; but be sure to finish anything you take as wastefulness is frowned upon.

There are, as mentioned, a host of temples to choose from and each is special in its own way, so it would be unfair to pick a favorite. We, at Asia Society Korea, would recommend getting out into the mountains to have the most relaxing temple stay experience, but for those on a tight schedule Bongeunsa and Geumsunsa are both conveniently located in downtown Seoul. Whichever temple you decide to stay at, you’ll be sure to relieve stress and reflect upon life in a beautiful setting that forces you to take some time for yourself.
Nestled between the Seomjin River and Jiri Mountain in the southern part of the country, Hadong is famed for its green tea. Despite boasting a number of attractions within a peaceful rural atmosphere, the area remains off the itinerary for most travelers. This is a shame because those who do make the visit view it as one of the most beautiful places on the Korean peninsula.

Given that it is about a four-hour bus ride from Seoul, a trip to Hadong should be spread over two days, and you will need every bit of it because there is so much to keep you busy. On your drive into the small town of Hadong, you will be captivated by the beautiful rice fields that envelope the valley before they give way to the impressive Jiri Mountain. After the long bus ride, you will be ready for a cup of tea, so a good place to start is the Hadong Tea Cultural Center. As the nation’s first tea producer, the locals of Hadong are proud to parade their culture and history through traditional hands-on programs, such as tea making, learning the region’s tea etiquette, and pottery making classes.

There are a number of options to choose from in the afternoon and all of them involve taking in some of that fresh rural air. For those looking to relax, a stroll along the beautiful Seomjin River might be the answer. The area is famed for its cherry blossom festival, but it remains beautiful year round. Others looking for something more enduring may decide to take a hike up Jiri Mountain, the reward being the chance to stand on the highest peak of the South Korean mainland. There are, of course, a myriad of other trails if time is tight or a more leisurely agenda suits. If the first two possibilities do not appeal to you, the final suggestion is a visit to the small and quaint Hansansa Temple that offers an incredible view of Hadong’s rice fields.

In terms of accommodation, Hadong has a number of hanok guesthouses that, despite being constructed recently, reflect the traditional materials and architecture of the region. While this means sleeping on the floor, it is an experience that should not be missed. Even though the building technique is centuries old, it accounts for Korea’s hot summers and cold winters. The floor-based heating system, ondol, warms the house in the winter and the wooden floors, daechung, keep things cool during the summer. Not only constructed to combat the Korean climate, the buildings are made from natural materials that do not cause pollution and are a pleasure to the eye with wooden frames and tiled curved roofs.

After a good night’s sleep, the second day should begin with a trip to the slow-paced Hwagae village. Here you can eat breakfast, sample more teas, and visit the famous market place to purchase a whole host of local products. With a bag full of goodies, there are two more possibilities before you make the long trip home. First, during one’s stay, most travelers notice that there are a number of plum trees, and this is because Hadong County is home to the sweet and often overlooked Korean plum wine. Take a walk around one of the many fields where the plums are grown and see how the process from fruit to wine takes place. Second, and more daring, is a visit to Gumo Mountain, yet this time it is not for a hike. Gumo is, in fact, home to Asia’s longest zipline ride that stretches over 3000 meters from the top of the mountain down to Gyeongchung Temple. As it travels at speeds in excess of 120 kilometers per hour, it is not for the feint hearted but it is an enthralling way to wrap up a great trip.

As you can see, Hadong County has a lot to offer, which makes it a great option for those looking to get out of the city and explore the rural side of Korea.
It’s time to hit the beach! The fifth edition of the Travel Series sets out to find the perfect beach to catch some rays and enjoy a refreshing dip. With Korean weather forecasters predicting that the peninsula is set to be baked in sunny and dry weather until the middle of August, it is the perfect time to pick out the best beaches. There is no doubt that Korea's landmark beach, Haeundae in Busan, will be packed out so we have done a spot of research to find some great alternatives.

First up, Gangwon-do is a popular tourist spot year round, but during the summer many people head to either Sokcho or Naksan beaches. Sokcho Beach is great for those with kids because the white sand gives way to shallow blue waters. There is also a nice boardwalk with a multitude of restaurants bringing out big dishes of fresh sashimi. What’s more, Seorak Mountain, Cheoksan Hot Springs, and Yeongrang Lake are all nearby, which could help fill up a nice two or three-day break. Naksan Beach, on the other hand, is popular for its amenities as restrooms, showers, and cooking areas are plentiful. The thick forest surrounding the white sandy beach also makes for a nice setting. Also, try to make time to visit Naksana Temple, which boasts 1300 years of history.

The west coast also has plenty to offer with Daecheon and Muchangpo being the stand out choices. Daecheon Beach is famous for its yearly Mud Festival when the town really comes to life, but the beach alone should be enough to bring visitors. The waters are generally calm and the white sand stretches out into the distance. If you are looking for a quieter option, however, Muchangpo Beach will appease and intrigue. The beach is famous for a natural phenomenon, known as “Moses Miracle, which sees extreme tides around the 15th and 30th days of the lunar calendar. Those lucky enough to be present when it happens can use it as an opportunity to walk the 1.5 kilometer temporary path to Seokdaedo Island. Just be sure to leave enough time to get back before the tide turns again!

Finally, no conversation about beaches and Korea can take place without mentioning Jeju Island, the ‘Hawaii of Korea’. At just over an hour by plane, Jeju is an extremely popular choice amongst Koreans during the summer, and the options are limitless when it comes to beaches. If pushed for the best choice, many would choose Hyeopjae or Jungmun beaches. Hyeopjae is great for kids since the water is shallow with no sudden drops, and the beach’s tiny silver shells provide a glisten seen nowhere else in Korea. As a bonus, the beach is close to Hallim Park where you can see an array of subtropical plants and unique topiaries. Jungmun, in contrast, is popular for water-based activities, such as wind surfing and jet skiing. The beach is also a sight to behold as it is made of a gradient of black, white, red, and gray sand due to Jeju’s volcanic geology, but swimming is a little risky here since the sea can get quite rough.

Wherever you decide to go, you will be sure to have a good time. Korea may not be as well-known for its beaches as some of its Asian counterparts, but as we have seen, there is no shortage of choices. With temperatures soaring, it is time to pack a towel and hit the beach!
August 16th, otherwise known as “Malbok”, signaled that summer is almost over and cooler temperatures are just around
the corner. With this in mind, here at Asia Society, we hope you will finally be able to step away from the air conditioner and get out
and about again. Thus, this month’s travel series will focus on a great little neighborhood in a beautiful valley that is found, surpris-
ingly, almost in the center of Seoul.

Buamdong, located northwest of Gyeongbokgung Palace, is like stepping out of the urban sprawl and into a new world. Visitors
are greeted by tranquility, greenery, and beautiful fresh-water streams. Buamdong is an area that has managed to hold onto its tra-
titions, unlike many other parts of Seoul that have succumbed to gentrification over time.

Buamdong, or the “big holy rock”, gets its name from a tale about a boulder that sat on a steep, slippery incline. The story goes that
if one rubs a stone against the boulder as many times as their age, their greatest wish will come true. The legend comes from a
woman who apparently carried out this task on a daily basis until her husband safely returned from war with the Mongols. It l
ater became a common praying ground for soon-to-be mothers who were desperate to give birth to a son.

While you cannot see the boulder today, Buamdong is the perfect setting to enjoy nature with a quiet stroll through the forest,
which is recognized as an ecological preservation spot. The streams, rugged gardens, and tree-lined trails provide the perfect
escape from the hustle and bustle of the city. Furthermore, in the time of the Joseon Dynasty, the area was used by a number
of high-ranking officials and aristocrats who wanted to take advantage of the shady forests, cool streams, and views of Bugaksan and
Inwansan mountains. Some of the villas built for these prestigious members of society still exist today. There are a number to
choose from but if you only have time to see one, we would recommend Seokpajeong, which was the home of a prince-regent
and the most famous.

The area also boasts a relaxing street laden with a number of tasty restaurants and coffee shops including one that is famed for
being used in a popular Korean television drama called “Coffee Prince”. Another unique aspect is that you will not see any of the
typical franchises like in other areas of Seoul as every business here is independently owned. Other attractions worth checking out
while on the main street are the small galleries and museums dotting the area. Whanki Museum houses the work of an abstract
painter named Whanki Kim, and the chopstick and wax figure galleries are also worth a look.

The closest subway station to Buamdong is Gyeongbokgung Station on line 3, and if you come out Exit 3 there are a number of
buses that run through the area such as 1020, 7022, and 7212. Buamdong is a great place to spend an evening or even a full day, and
you will leave feeling refreshed after getting a taste of nature so close to home.
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