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40

# Asia Society



아시아사이어티 코리아 소식

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**Asia Society Korea**

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

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# Young Leaders Initiative

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## 2021 Asia Society Korea Youth (ASK-Y)



July 20, 2021 — Asia Society Korea Youth (ASK-Y) is a new program being launched in 2021 to convene the young generation across Asia and the rest of the world to voice their thoughts and share their concerns about the future of the world we inhabit. ASK-Y encourages youth participants of varying backgrounds to think outside of the box and come up with innovative solutions to the big questions that concern cultural, economic, political, environmental, and social sustainability.

ASK-Y is an effort to create a platform which emerging leaders can interact and engage with key public figures and leaders of industries, thereby cultivating the next generation of public intellectuals and activists in the realm of global sustainability. From panel discussion to policymaking to technological invention, ASK-Y probes any and all generational, sociocultural, gender and/or political issues pertaining to **sustainability**; the first principles under the issues, namely **why** we think we know what we already know; **why** we should be concerned about these issues; and offer our thoughts on **how** we can work together to navigate a more sustainable shared future.

The program highlights the creative perspectives and solutions as proposed by the youth to achieve the following objectives:

- Promote multi-track diplomacy, especially track II diplomacy between private citizens and groups of individuals
- Encourage youth participation in public and civic affairs by better building and managing the existing youth talent pool for track II diplomacy
- Expand international cooperation and capacity-building across the grassroots network of young people working toward social and environmental justice
- Produce and disseminate creative agendas for policy innovation and reform
- In that spirit, Asia Society Korea is recruiting its first cohort of 10 fellows for the ASK-Y program. An honorarium and certificate of completion are provided to those who submit their reports.

### I. Eligibility

- Anyone between ages 19 and 29
- Must be recommended by an Asia Society affiliate and/or academic advisor at an accredited institution of higher learning
- Fluency in the English language (both written and spoken)
- Applicants need NOT have established residency in South Korea in order to apply
- We do NOT discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, disability, or national origin. This program is open to prospective applicants of all nationalities.

## 2. Guests

- Asia Society Korea Honorary Ambassador Members
- Seasoned industry experts, advisors, and scholars affiliated with Asia Society Korea's extensive international network

## 3. Schedule

- Application deadline — August 25, 2021
- Interviews and recruitment of participants — September 13-17, 2021
- Bi-weekly discussions — October 2021 until December 2021
- Final Reports due — end of January 2022
- Final Presentations — early March 2022

## 4. Program Benefits

- Asia Society Korea student membership fee waived
- Invitation to Asia Society Korea online events
- Mentorship opportunities from members of Asia Society Korea
- Honorarium of US\$100 per discussion
- Cash compensation upon completion of the project
- Mentorship and career guidance by current and former Asia Society members and affiliates

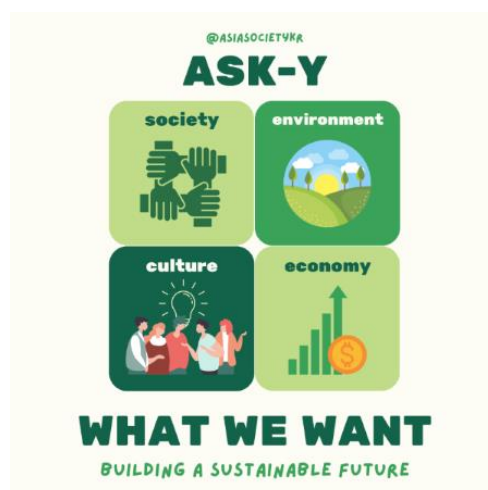
## 5. Progress Report

- Participants are strongly encouraged to share with Asia Society Korea a summary of their activities and prospective career plans
- The participants must submit a Final Report (in Asia Society Korea's format) of their ASK-Y participation within one month from the program end date
- Participants are also encouraged to write a review of their activities in ASK-Y sessions which may be shared with our members and audience on Asia Society Korea's online platforms

If interested, fill out the application form [here](#). For complete and accurate submission, you will receive an email acknowledging your submission as complete. Regularly check your official email account and phone for our confirmation. Please be advised that your recommendation needs to be submitted via email.

If you have any inquiries regarding the application process, please contact us at [koreacenter@asiasociety.org](mailto:koreacenter@asiasociety.org).

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## 2021 Voice of Youth (VOY) Student Research Program



August 27, 2021 — Asia Society Korea held its fourth annual "Voice of Youth" Research Presentations on Friday, August 27, 2021. This year, due to the ongoing pandemic, the event was held online and five student finalists presented their research. Despite the hardships of the pandemic limiting the outreach and academic opportunities, all five participants successfully completed their work and delivered their research results concretely and informatively to the judges.

Six distinguished judges were in attendance to evaluate the participants' presentations:

- **Youngjoo Kim**, CSR Manager, Citibank Korea
- **Young Joon Kim**, Board Member, Asia Society Korea; Chairman of the Board of Directors, Asian University for Women Support Foundation
- **Yvonne Kim**, Executive Director, Asia Society Korea
- **Scott Orrantia**, Program Committee Member, Asia Society Korea
- **Mason Richey**, Senior Contributor, Asia Society Korea; Associate Professor of International Politics, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS)
- **Mark Tetto**, Board Member, Asia Society Korea; Co-Representative Director, TCK

The presenters were selected among a highly competitive group of applicants, representing some of the top universities – not only in Korea, but also in Japan and the United States. Each participant conducted in-depth research on his/her topic of interest throughout the spring semester period.

Each presentation and research report were assessed and graded in terms of its contents, planning, strategy and applicability, delivery, and sustainability. Overall, all five participants performed exceptionally well, delivering concrete and informative research results.

This year's winners are:

- Winner: **Sera Yun**, Seoul National University, Master's Degree in International Studies
- Runner-up: **Jinwan Park**, Keio University, Bachelor's Degree in Economics

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## 2021 VOY Participants



### **Yerin Boo**

#### **Seoul National University, Master's Degree in International Studies**

Yerin Boo is a master's student at Seoul National University's Graduate School of International Studies. As a BK21 Scholarship Fellow, she is both conducting and assisting in research related to East Asian security and Korea's foreign policy. She recently graduated Summa Cum Laude from Seoul National University, where she was the president of SNU Student Ambassadors, as well as editor-in-chief of the English paper. Such continual ambassadorial and journalism involvement has made her invested in using writing and research as a means to advocate for the Korean perspective. As an extension of this passion, her research for the VOY program focused on Korea's middle power diplomacy strategy. In particular, she used a re-conceptualized theoretical framework of middle power diplomacy to conduct a three-tier assessment of MIKTA, then proposed corresponding youth-oriented solutions. Yerin aims to further her studies in international relations and international law to one day use her expertise to contribute to Korea's foreign policy.



### **Jinwan Park**

#### **Keio University, Bachelor's Degree in Economics**

Jinwan Park is a rising junior at Keio University, participating in Programme in Economics for Alliances, Research and Leadership (PEARL). His research interests include political theory, labor, and public economics, and civil rights. He is currently serving his internship in the U.S. Consulate Busan, where he is in charge of analyzing the economics and political agendas with a regional specialization in the Busan, Jeju, and Gyeongsang areas. For several years, he also has officially represented the Republic of Korea in numerous international forums, including but not limited to the inaugural ASEAN-Korea Youth Summit and Asian Education Forum. As a participant of Voice of Youth 2020, his research paper analyzed the causations of rising youth engagement in Korean politics and discussed its impacts.



### **Abigail Tan**

#### **Yonsei University, Bachelor's Degree in International Studies**

Abigail Tan is an undergraduate student majoring in Culture and Design Management, and Asian Studies. Her research interests include museum education and learning, museum accessibility, digital initiatives and development in the museum, and programming in the culture and heritage fields. She took part in the Yonsei University Underwood Research Project where she explored the future of the museum experience and digital technologies post-pandemic, and also interned at Asian Civilisations Museum in Singapore in 2020. As a participant of Voice of Youth 2021, she investigated the impact of digital technologies in the museum during the Covid-19 pandemic, and how they can be better made use of to reach underserved students who are impacted by the digital divide.



### **Michael Yoo**

#### **University of Oregon, Bachelor's Degree in Environmental Policy and Urban Planning**

Michael Yoo's research interests revolve around brand transparency, climate adaptation policies, global supply chains, and international cooperation. Over the past year, he worked with civic nonprofits and universities to engage youth voters with climate action legislation in California, Oregon, and Washington. As a participant of Voice of Youth 2021, he analyzed the consumer behavior and market trends within South Korea's coffee industry, and evaluated the trajectory of the industry in context with climate change and shifting consumer preferences.



### **Sera Yun (Winner)**

#### **Seoul National University, Master's Degree in International Studies**

Sera Yun is a Master's candidate majoring in International Commerce at the Graduate School of International Studies, Seoul National University. Her research interests lie at the intersection of multilateral climate finance, green growth, and development cooperation. Sera's professional experiences include having worked at the UNDP Seoul Policy Centre, Green Technology Center Korea, and most recently at the World Bank, under the Infrastructure Chief Economist's Office and Korea Green Growth Trust Fund. As a participant of the Voice of Youth 2021, her research paper examines the degree of 'equity' in the distribution and allocation of multilateral climate finance in Asia, analyzes a set of explanatory factors behind the region's allocational patterns, and suggests a strategic framework that is purposed to address the growing climate financing gap.

# Monthly Lecture Series & Webinars

## [MAY] A Closer Look: Opportunities and Reform in the Korean Stock Market



*John Lee, CEO of Meritz Asset Management.*

May 18, 2021 — Asia Society Korea held a special session of the Monthly Lecture Series on the Korean financial markets. With a clarion call sounding for South Korea to put its equity market and cryptocurrencies in perspective to meet the aspirations of an evolving economy, **John Lee**, CEO of Meritz Asset Management, offered deep perspective and strategic insights into the challenges and opportunities for the Korean economy — and the key questions that bear upon the future outlook of the nation's financial markets.

Taking us through his journey of over 35 years of investment and financial success starting with the "Korea Fund" in the early 1990s, John Lee touches upon everything from financial literacy and equity culture in Asia to the economic trajectory of South Korea moving forward. The discussion was moderated by **Young Joon Kim**, Board Member of Asia Society Korea.

### About the Guest Speaker



**John J. Lee** is the CEO of Meritz Asset Management. Prior to Meritz, Lee was a Managing Director and senior portfolio manager at Lazard Asset Management and before that, Managing Director at Scudder Stevens and Clark (later Deutsche Bank) where he managed the "Korea Fund" between 1991 and 2005.

In 2014, John Lee returned to Korea as CEO of Meritz Asset Management and focused on changing Korea's investment culture. In order to change society's misconception about finance, John Lee has met with more than 40,000 people through over 1,000 lectures during the past five years. He has also launched "John Lee Lifestyle" on YouTube in order to teach financial literacy and convey his own experience and philosophy to investors in his home country.

Lee is a Certified Public Accountant and worked at KPMG Peat Marwick prior to Scudder. He studied Economics at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea from 1978 to 1980 and received a B.S. in Accounting from New York University in 1985. In 2010, Mr. Lee has published numerous books in Korea titled "Why Equities," "Buy Stocks, Buy Future," "존리의 부자되기 습관" and "존리의 금융문맹 탈출."

## About the Moderator



**Young Joon (“YJ”) Kim** is a partner in the Seoul Foreign Legal Consultant Office of Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy and a member of the firm’s Project Finance Group. Having joined the firm in 1983, he has previously served in the firm’s offices in New York, Hong Kong, and Tokyo, where he was the managing partner for 1997-2003.

YJ’s practice is highly diversified, with a concentration on large-scale, cross-border project financing, aviation finance, and M&A transactions, with a strong focus on transactions involving large Korean corporations and governmental institutions, including particularly Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) such as Export-Import Bank of Korea (K-Exim) and Korea Trade Insurance Corporation (K-sure).

YJ is listed in Chambers Global as a leading corporate lawyer active in Korea and for asset finance, and was voted by Euromoney International Legal Guide as one of the “Leading Banking/Corporate Lawyers of the World.”

YJ has lectured at conferences addressing the negotiation and documentation of project financing transactions, aviation financings, export credit financings, M&A, and corporate governance. He has helped edit the Korean-language “Project Finance” textbook authored by a senior banker at K-Exim, where he regularly gives seminars for K-Exim’s staff and its customers.

YJ is a member of the Executive Committee of the Harvard Law School Association; the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Asian University for Women Support Foundation (Chittagong, Bangladesh, and Cambridge, Massachusetts, USA); and a member of the Korean Securities Law Association. He is listed in Chambers Global as a leading corporate lawyer active in Korea and for asset finance, and was voted by Euromoney International Legal Guide as one of the “Leading Banking/Corporate Lawyers of the World.”

## [June] Asymmetric Weapons and the Korean Peninsula: Conflict Potential and Countermeasures



*Dr. Sangho Lee, Professor of International Politics and Strategy at Daejeon University (top left), Dr. Yoiungjun Kim, Professor of the National Security College at the Korea National Defense University (top right), Dr. Daniel Pinkston, Lecturer at Troy University (bottom left), and Mason Richey, Senior Contributor of Asia Society Korea and Associate Professor at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (bottom right).*

June 25, 2021 — Asia Society Korea hosted a webinar on North Korean asymmetric capabilities with **Dr. Youngjun Kim**, Professor of the National Security College at the Korea National Defense University, **Dr. Sangho Lee**, Professor of International Politics and Strategy in the Department of Political Science at Daejeon University, and **Dr. Dan Pinkston**, lecturer in International Relations at Troy University.

The panel discussed a range of issues from what we know about Pyongyang’s capabilities today to why the regime develops asymmetric weapons to effective deterrence strategy and countermeasures against such capabilities. The conversation was moderated by **Mason Richey**, Asia Society Korea’s senior contributor and associate professor at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies.

## About the Guest Speakers



**Dr. Young-jun Kim** is a Professor of the National Security College and a Director of Center for Northeast Asian Affairs and Center for North Korean Affairs at Research Institute for National Security Affairs (RINSA) of the Korea National Defense University (KNDU). He is a member of the National Security Advisory Board for the Republic of Korea President's Office (the Blue House). His recent publications include *Origins of the North Korean Garrison State: People's Army and the Korean War* at Routledge (2017). He is a policy advisor on North Korean issues for the National Security Office of the ROK President's Office, the National Assembly, Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), Ministry of National Defense (MND), Ministry of Unification, National Intelligence Service, the Joint Chief of Staff and the ROK-US Combined Forces Command. He is a managing editor of the new journal "The Korean Journal of Nuclear Nonproliferation and Energy" sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Executive Director for the Korea Nuclear Policy Society, Korean Political and Diplomatic History Association, Korea Political Science Association, and Korea Defense Policy Association.



**Dr. Sangho Lee** is a Professor of Politics and Diplomacy at Daejeon University, Korea. He previously served as Assistant Administrator of the Republic of Korea Navy Development Committee and as Chairman of the Korea Cyber Peace and Security Forum. He is currently Vice President of The Korea Association of National Intelligence Studies. Prior to Daejeon University and the ROK Navy, Dr. Lee was a researcher in the Department of Security Strategy Studies at the Sejong Institute and a research fellow at Korea Research Institute for Strategy (KRIS). He was a researcher at Centre for Defence Studies and reported to the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) of the British Armed Forces while undertaking teaching responsibilities at King's College London. Previously, he also served as an Adjunct Professor at Gyeonggi University and Hannam University. Dr. Lee received his Ph.D. in War Studies from King's College London, MA in Political Science from Yonsei University's Graduate School of International Studies, and BA in International Relations from St. John's University.



**Dr. Daniel A. Pinkston** is based in Seoul as a full-time lecturer in international relations with Troy University. Previously he was the Northeast Asia Deputy Project Director for the International Crisis Group in Seoul, and the director of the East Asia Nonproliferation Program at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies. Pinkston received his Ph.D. in international affairs from the University of California, San Diego, and he has a master's degree in Korean studies from Yonsei University. He is the author of *The North Korean Ballistic Missile Program*, and he has published several scholarly articles on North Korean WMD and Korean security affairs. He also served as a Korean linguist in the U.S. Air Force.

## About the Moderator



**Dr. Mason Richey** is a senior contributing writer to Asia Society Korea and an associate professor of international politics at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Seoul, South Korea). Dr. Richey has also held positions as a POSCO Visiting Research Fellow at the East-West Center (Honolulu, HI) and a DAAD Scholar at the University of Potsdam. His research focuses on U.S. and European foreign and security policy as applied to the Asia-Pacific. Recent scholarly articles have appeared (inter alia) in *Pacific Review*, *Asian Security*, *Global Governance*, and *Foreign Policy Analysis*. Shorter analyses and opinion pieces have been published in *War on the Rocks*, *Le Monde*, the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, and *Forbes*, among other venues. Dr. Richey received his Ph.D. from Binghamton University, New York.

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## [August] Asia Society At the Movies: *Innocent Witness* Screening and Conversation with Director Lee Han



Yvonne Kim, Executive Director of Asia Society Korea (left), and Lee Han, Director of movie 'Innocent Witness' (right)

August 17, 2021 — In collaboration with [Asia Society Museum](#) and [Asia Society Southern California](#), and with the support from [Lotte Entertainment](#), Asia Society Korea showcased a two-part program of *Innocent Witness* (2019) and invited **Director Lee Han** and Asia Society Korea Executive Director **Yvonne Kim** for a post-screening talk.

Director Lee is a wonderful subject who is smart, self-amused, and occasionally self-deprecating. The interview takes us through his justifiably proud journey from the delicious entertainments of his youth to the compassionate questing movies that have marked his career. In recent years a number of Korean movies have depicted autistic characters, but not all of them have handled these depictions with sensitivity. In the hands of director Lee, however, the end result is a film that is effortlessly comfortable to watch but becomes steadily more emotional as it reaches its final act. It is charged with a passion that is not just added on but feels earned.

### ***Innocent Witness***

- Genre: Drama
- Duration: 129 minutes
- Director: **Lee Han**
- Language: Korean
- Subtitles: English
- Producers: **Jae-joong Kim, Woo-jae Kim, Jun-woo Lee**
- Main Cast: **Jung Woo-sung, Hyang-gi Kim, Song Yun-ah, Jang Young-nam, Yeom Hye-ran**



Jung Woo-sung and Hyang-gi Kim star in Lee Han's 'Innocent Witness.'  
(Film still courtesy of Lotte Entertainment).

*Innocent Witness* tells the story of when **Soon-ho (Jung Woo-sung)** a lawyer trying to prove the innocence of a murder suspect, meets the only witness, **Ji-woo (Hyang-gi Kim)**, a girl who has autism. At the beginning of the film, Soon-ho approaches Ji-woo to put her on the stand in the case on which his success depends. Soon-ho only meant to use Ji-woo for the trial, but in the process, finds solace in their relationship. At the same time, Ji-woo finds the courage to open up and communicate with the outside world. The film, a heartwarming portrayal of an unlikely bond, moves viewers to examine our perceptions of one another in a world where we are so easily closed off from others.

### **About the Speakers**



**Lee Han** made his directorial debut in 2002 with the movie *Lover's Concerto* starring **Cha Tae-hyun, Son Ye-jin** and **Lee Eun-jo**. He followed up with the young love story *Almost Love* (2006) and gained widespread recognition as a major director with *My Love* (2007), a film that shares the stories of different couples. He captivated 5.3 million moviegoers with *Punch* (2011), a film that explores the treatment of minorities in society. Lee Han's *Thread of Lies* (2014), focuses on the lives of those left behind after a young girl's suicide, and *A Melody to Remember* (2016), is based on true story of a children's choir formed during the Korean War. *Innocent Witness* (2019) is his seventh

project, dealing with the true meaning of trust and communication through the story of a lawyer and his developing friendship with a girl with autism.



**Yvonne Kim** is currently the executive director of Asia Society Korea Center, having been with the inaugural Seoul-based branch of the Global Asia Society since its startup stages in 2008. Ms. Kim has brought Asia Society and the presence of international businesses and embassies to the forefront of the Korean media through her extensive public relations network. By increasing overseas and local branding of Asia Society, she developed programming and financial planning for the prestigious and selective Asia 21 Young Leaders Program in Korea and Asia Society global fundraising. Ms. Kim is often sought after for her senior-level contacts in Korea's public and private sectors, as well as in the international business community, to further global programming support, strategic planning, and public relations for global outreach.

This program was presented by [Asia Society Museum](#), [Asia Society Southern California](#), and [Asia Society Korea](#) as part of a new series titled [Asia Society at the Movies](#). *Asia Society at the Movies* showcases a broad range of films and filmmakers from across Asia and the Asian diaspora.

***The screening was made possible by LOTTE Entertainment.***



### **Asia Society at the Movies**

Asia Society is proud to announce the launch of *Asia Society at the Movies*, a new series of film screenings and conversations showcasing a broad range of films and filmmakers from across Asia and the Asian diaspora. *Asia Society at the Movies* celebrates established and emerging voices, contemporary films, and classics, and documentaries. The series builds on Asia Society's long and rich history of film programming. This initiative also serves to deepen understanding of Asian cultures—a core part of Asia Society's mission since its creation. [Learn more about the Asia Society at the Movies initiative.](#)

### **About Asia Society Museum**

[Asia Society Museum](#) presents a wide range of traditional, modern, and contemporary exhibitions of Asian and Asian American art, taking new approaches to familiar masterpieces and introducing under-recognized arts and artists. The Asia Society Museum Collection comprises a traditional art collection, including the initial bequests of Mr. and Mrs. John D. Rockefeller 3rd, and a contemporary art collection. Through exhibitions and public programs, Asia Society provides a forum for the issues and viewpoints reflected in both traditional and contemporary Asian art and in Asia today.

### **About Asia Society Southern California**

Established in Los Angeles in 1985, [Asia Society Southern California](#) (ASSC) is ideally situated at the gateway to the Asia-Pacific region. ASSC has played a pivotal role through creative programs and activities in increasing shared knowledge, enhancing dialogue, and furthering cultural exchanges transcending regional boundaries. As part of the global Asia Society, which was founded more than 60 years ago in New York City, ASSC has launched many creative initiatives and programs addressing current issues of importance across the fields of the arts, culture, policy, business, and education.

### **About Asia Society Korea**

Since its establishment in April 2007, [Asia Society Korea](#) has been serving as an active gateway for engagement on issues affecting Korea, the Asia-Pacific region, and the United States. Through its programs addressing policy, business, and education, as well as arts and culture, the Korea Center has been seeking to integrate Korean voices into the broad range of Asia Society programs across the region.

### **About Lotte Entertainment**

[Lotte Entertainment](#) is a South Korean film production and distribution company. Established in the Republic of Korea, the company has distributed films throughout South Korea since its founding in September 2003. Lotte Entertainment distributes over 25 Korean / foreign titles a year through its multiplex circuit Lotte Cinema branch, which presents more than 800 screens nationwide in Korea.

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# Ambassador Interview Series

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## 2021 New Ambassadors Welcome Dinner



*Photo Credit: Marco Devon*

May 31, 2021 – As a part of our Leo Gala Series to promote Korean culture and celebrate its beauty with envoys of South Korea's foreign diplomatic community, Asia Society Korea held its New Ambassadors Welcome Dinner at the Lotte Hotel Seoul on May 31, 2021. The event was co-hosted by the Korea Center's Chairman **Dong-Bin Shin** and board member **Young Joon YJ Kim**, introducing the seven new ambassadors who have been in Korea since October 2020 as well as fifteen female ambassadors in the country.

Our deepest gratitude to our generous friends, sponsors, and extraordinary members of the diplomatic community who support us in so many ways throughout the year. Each year, we take the annual welcome dinner to imbue and remind ourselves of one overriding responsibility: to safeguard the legacy we have received from our predecessors and hand it enriched to the next. As we aspire to build bridges between Asia and the rest of the world, we set our sights on the space we have long needed to cross disciplines and connect communities. In that spirit, we truly look forward to working closely with the new arrivals in promoting a deeper understanding of Asia around the world.



**We Know Asia, Get to Know Us**

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**<https://asiasociety.org/korea>**

## Interview with H.E. Michael Danagher Canadian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea



*H.E. Michael Danagher, Canadian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.*

May 13, 2021 — Asia Society Korea invited **H.E. Michael Danagher**, the Canadian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, to discuss a range of issues impacting Korea and Canada. A veteran diplomat and Korea lover who is on his third diplomatic mission to Korea, he sat down with Asia Society Korea Executive Director **Yvonne Kim** to discuss everything from the Korean War to the pandemic to Canada's exemplary quality of life.



*Kapyong 70: A Tribute to the Canadian Veterans of the Korean War*

### About H.E. Michael Danagher, Canadian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea



**Ambassador Danagher** joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade in 1987 after working in the private sector. He has served on assignment in Canadian diplomatic missions in Lagos and in Seoul, and as Senior Trade Commissioner in Hanoi and Budapest. He served in Seoul for a second assignment as Senior Trade Commissioner and Minister-Counsellor at the Embassy of Canada.

His responsibilities with Global Affairs Canada in Ottawa have included issues such as natural resources trade policy, bilateral relations with Africa, Europe and Taiwan, and as head of assignments for Canada's Trade Commissioner Service. More recently, he has served as Executive Director, South Asia, Southeast Asia and Oceania Commercial Relations Division and as Director-General, Regional Trade Operations and Intergovernmental Relations.

He was appointed as Ambassador to the Republic of Korea in September 2018. Ambassador Danagher has a BA from the University of Ottawa (1983) and MBA from McGill University (1986).

## Interview with H.E. Akiva Tor Israeli Ambassador to the Republic of Korea



*H.E. Michael Danagher, Canadian Ambassador to the Republic of Korea.*

June 28, 2021 — Asia Society Korea invited **H.E. Akiva Tor**, the Israeli Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, to discuss a range of issues impacting South Korea and Israel. A veteran diplomat who is now half a year into the office in Seoul, Ambassador Tor is described as an envoy who might have a better mental map of the country's capital than some Seoulites do. He sat down with Asia Society Korea Executive Director **Yvonne Kim** to discuss everything from bilateral relations to Israel's successful handling of the coronavirus.



*H.E. Akiva Tor, Ambassador of Israel to the Republic of Korea, posed for a photo on June 1st as he joined the #LiveTogether campaign — an anti-discrimination social media initiative jointly organized by the South Korean MOFA and UNESCO to fight racism and discrimination around the world.*

### About H.E. Akiva Tor, Israeli Ambassador to the Republic of Korea



**Akiva J. Tor** was appointed as the Ambassador of Israel to the Republic of Korea in November 2020.

Prior to his appointment to Korea, he started his career as Director at Israel Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei in 1996. After joining Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, he served as Deputy-Spokesman (1998 – 2000); and Deputy Director of the Department for Palestinian Affairs (2000 – 2002). He also served as World Jewish Affairs Adviser to the President of Israel for about three years since 2003; Israel Consul General in San Francisco and Pacific Northwest (2008 – 2012); and Head of Bureau for World Jewish Affairs and World Religions in MFA (2013 – 2020).

H.E. Tor received his BA in Analytical Philosophy from Columbia University (1981-1985), then pursued his graduate studies and received his MA in Political Science and Contemporary Jewish Thought, and an MPA from Harvard Kennedy School (2002-2003) with the support of Wexner and Goldman Fellowships, respectively.

Amb. Tor served as a paratrooper in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) (1985-1987) and was honorably discharged as an infantry captain. His most recent published works include *Building a Bridge Over Troubled Waters: A Jewish Peace Corps* (2015), and *The Jewish Blindness* (2011).

## Interview with H.E. Yasmin D. Amri Sued Rwandan Ambassador to the Republic of Korea



*H.E. Yasmin D. Amri Sued, Rwandan Ambassador to the Republic of Korea*

July 15, 2021 — Asia Society Korea invited **H.E. Yasmin D. Amri Sued**, the Rwandan Ambassador to the Republic of Korea, to examine the most salient of issues impacting Seoul and Kigali. "One of the next-generation leaders of Africa" according to the African Leadership Institute, Ambassador Yasmin Sued is someone who brings plenty of experience in both the public and private sectors. A business-woman-turned-diplomat, she sat down with Asia Society Korea Executive Director **Yvonne Kim** to discuss everything from Rwanda's dual national holiday to the country's blossoming tech scene to its crème de la crème coffee culture.



*H.E. Yasmin D. Amri Sued, Ambassador of Rwanda to the Republic of Korea, posed for a photo on May 27 as she joined the #LiveTogether campaign — an anti-discrimination social media initiative jointly organized by the South Korean MOFA and UNESCO to fight racism and discrimination around the world.*

### About H.E. Yasmin D. Amri Sued, Rwandan Ambassador to the Republic of Korea



**Ambassador Yasmin D. Amri Sued** has been designated as the Rwandan Ambassador to Korea since 2019. She has been a diplomat at the Rwandan mission in the United Arab Emirates. Prior to her service at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs which began in 2015, Ambassador Amri Sued built various experiences in the private sector. Her previous careers include Marketing Services Manager for Millicom International Cellular (2014-2015); Brand and Communication Manager, Millicom International Cellular (2013); Marketing Department, Airtel Rwanda (2012-2013); Independent Consultant (ES Partners); Country Manager, Creative Eye Rwanda (2009-2012); Brand Manager Consultant, DALILA (2008-2009); Strategist and Business Development, CreaXion (2007-2008).

She received a BA in economics from the Universite Libre de Bruxelles in Belgium (1997-2002).

## [Eat Taste Learn]

### To Bee or Not To Bee: New Zealand Manuka Honey Cream Pudding



August 11, 2021 – New Zealand Ambassador **H.E. Philip Turner** generously invited Asia Society Korea to share one of his favorite recipes and this exquisite dessert was showcased by the official chef of the New Zealand Ambassadorial Residence, **Mrs. Gracy Mendonca**. The pair showcased how to prepare New Zealand Manuka honey cream pudding. Check out their recipe for New Zealand Manuka honey cream pudding that will knock you off your regular routine for dessert.

Are you a lover of lemon and honey of the highest order? Well, flavor your honey cream pudding with Manuka honey and some lemon juice, for extra zing. Sweet and tangy, these desserts yield two textures — puffy and custardy — from one straightforward batter.

Eat healthy and reduce your ecological footprint at once. With #EatTasteLearn, help us promote a sustainable food culture that provides healthy cuisine to everyone without exploiting the environment.

#### MAIN INGREDIENT

- 575 ml heavy cream
- 2 heaping tablespoons of New Zealand Manuka honey
- 2 tablespoons of sugar
- 1 lemon rind
- 100 ml lemon juice

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Place the cream, Manuka honey, sugar, and lemon rind in a sauce pan over medium heat.
- Boil, stirring till the sugar dissolves.
- Reduce the heat to low and simmer for 5 min while stirring.
- Add the lemon juice, strain, and pour into 6 glasses or ramekins
- Chill for 4 hours.
- Serve topped with kiwifruits.

## Participants



**H.E. Philip Turner** was appointed New Zealand Ambassador to the Republic of Korea (South Korea) in March 2018. He is concurrently Ambassador to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). The winner of the 2019 Asia Society Korea Ambassador of the Year Awards, Ambassador Turner has extensive experience as a diplomat and a business leader in North Asia, with a particular focus on North Asia. With the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, he served on postings to the New Zealand Embassies in Tokyo and Brussels. He then moved to Fonterra where he worked for 18 years in a variety of senior positions in Shanghai, Tokyo, Brussels and Auckland. He managed Fonterra's business in China, and most recently was Director of Global Stakeholder Affairs at Fonterra in Auckland. The New Zealand multinational company Fonterra is the world's 5th largest dairy company.

Ambassador Turner attended the University of Auckland in New Zealand where he graduated with a First-Class Master of Arts in History. He speaks fluent French and Japanese, conversational Chinese, and is enjoying becoming acquainted with the Korean language.

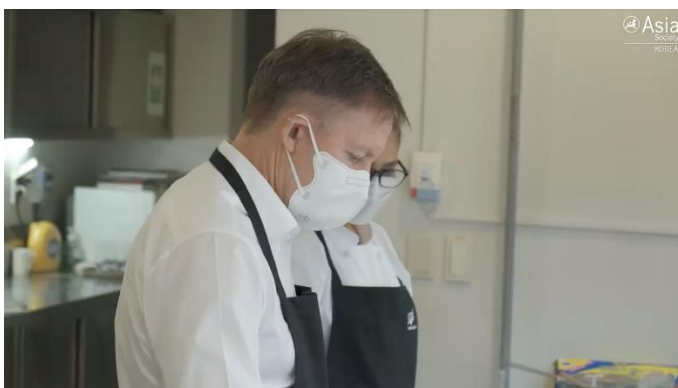
Ambassador Turner is joined in Seoul by his partner Hiroshi Ikeda. Ambassador Turner and Mr. Ikeda are passionate about embracing diversity in our society.



**Chef Mrs. Gracy Mendonca** who originally hails from India, has been working at the New Zealand Ambassador's Residence as the official chef for 15 years. Throughout her time in this role, Gracy has been given license to produce dishes that showcase her creativity, technical skills, and showcase the best New Zealand ingredients. Guests who have been hosted for a meal at the New Zealand Residence, praise the delicious and beautiful New Zealand-inspired dishes she prepares. Gracy loves to create new dishes, including those that combine New Zealand ingredients and elements of Korean cuisine.

Gracy has always had a passion for cooking but has also received formal training both in France and Thailand. Her travels around the world have inspired her cooking, and she also brings the skills in traditional Indian cooking she gained while growing up in Mangalore.

### [Screenshots from the video]





## [Eat Taste Learn]

### Singaporean Desserts with Gula Melaka: Ondeh Ondeh and Kueh Kosui



August 16, 2021 – **H.E. Eric Teo Boon Hee**, Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the Republic of Korea, and his wife **Madam Kim Minjae**, kindly invited Asia Society Korea to share two kinds of authentic Singaporean desserts: Ondeh Ondeh and Kueh Kosui.

The main ingredient of these two desserts is Gula Melaka, also known as coconut palm sugar. It is one of the most commonly used ingredients in Peranakan culture, which is a mix of Chinese and Malay-Indonesian heritage in Southeast Asia. Gula Melaka has a unique sweetness subtly different from conventional sugars or honeys.

Asia Society Korea is continuing its **#EatTasteLearn** series to promote a sustainable food culture where everyone can eat healthy without exploiting the environment. Let's reduce our ecological footprint by eating healthy.

#### MAIN INGREDIENT OF ONDEH ONDEH

[Group A]

- 630g Sweet potatoes
- 300g Glutinous rice flour
- 5g (1 & ½ tsp) Pandan paste (or fresh pandan leaf juice)
- 100ml Water

[Group B]

- 50g Red jaggery sugar (red sugar)
- 200g Gula Melaka (Coconut palm sugar), cut/chopped into small pieces

[Group C]

- 150g Desiccated coconut (freshly shredded coconut)
- ½ tsp Salt

#### INSTRUCTIONS

- Boil the sweet potatoes until soft, then peel and mash them.
- In a large bowl, combine all the ingredients in Group A (Mashed sweet potatoes, glutinous rice flour, pandan paste, and water) to form a dough. Knead until the pandan paste is evenly mixed into the dough and until the texture is smooth.
- Use Group B to make the Ondeh Ondeh filling. Mix jaggery sugar with the chopped Gula Melaka.
- Use Group C to make the coating for the Ondeh Ondeh. Mix salt with desiccated coconut in medium-sized bowl.
- Divide and roll the dough into small balls. Use your thumb to flatten the middle of each ball and add Ondeh Ondeh filling into the hole.

- Seal the filling with the dough and roll it into a small ball again. Repeat with the remaining dough and filling.
- Place a medium pot of water to a boil.
- Gently drop the filled dough balls into the pot of boiling water.
- Remove the dough balls with a sieve when they float to the surface. Shake off the excess water, and roll them in the desiccated coconut mix.
- Allow to cool a little before serving.

### MAIN INGREDIENT OF KUEH KOSUI

#### [Group A (Gula Melaka syrup)]

- 500ml Water
- 400 gm Gula Melaka (Coconut palm sugar)
- ½ tsp Salt
- 6 Dried pandan leaves (or 6 Fresh pandan leaves, knotted)

#### [Group B]

- 200g Tapioca flour
- 70g Plain flour
- 2 tbsp Alkaline water
- 500 ml Water

#### [Group C]

- 150g Desiccated Coconut (freshly shredded coconut)
- ½ tsp Salt

### INSTRUCTIONS

- To make Gula Melaka syrup, combine the ingredients in Group A in a pot over heat and stir until the Gula Melaka dissolves to form a syrup. Remove pot from the heat and remove the pandan leaves.
- To make the Kueh, mix Group B's dry ingredients (Tapioca flour and plain flour) in a mixing bowl. Add hot Gula Melaka syrup into the flour mix while stirring continuously to form a batter.
- Once the batter is well mixed, add in water and the Alkaline water.
- Add oil to an 8-inch square pan
- Pour the batter into the oiled pan and steam for 30 minutes.
- Remove the steamed kueh from the steamer and let it cool down.
- Meanwhile, mix Group C ingredients (desiccated coconut and salt) in a bowl.
- Once the kueh has cooled, cut it into bitesize or square pieces and sprinkle the desiccated coconut mix on top of the kueh before serving.

## Participants



**H.E. Eric Teo** has been the Ambassador of the Republic of Singapore to the Republic of Korea (ROK) since August 2019. Mr. Teo was the Director-General of the Northeast Asia Directorate in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), Singapore, from 2014 to 2019. In this position, he was involved in the organisation of (i) the historic summit meeting between US President Donald Trump and DPRK State Affairs Commission Chairman Kim Jong Un in Singapore in June 2018 and (ii) the historic cross-strait meeting between Mr Xi Jinping and Mr Ma Ying-jeou in Singapore in November 2015.

Mr. Teo was Deputy Head of Mission in the Singapore Embassy in Beijing from 2011 to 2014.

From 2007 to 2010, Mr. Teo served as Deputy Trade Representative in the Singapore Trade Office in Taipei. From 1999 to 2002, he served as First Secretary (Political) in the Singapore Embassy in Tokyo.

Mr. Teo joined the Singapore Foreign Service in 1996 and has held several appointments in MFA's ASEAN Directorate and Northeast Asia Directorate.

Mr. Teo graduated from the National University of Singapore with a Bachelor of Arts (Upper Honours) Degree in 1996. In 2005, he obtained a Master's Degree in International Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University, USA. He attended an Executive Programme at the Peking University, China, in 2010.

Mr. Teo was awarded the Public Service Administration Medal (Silver) by the Singapore Government in August 2019. In December 2020, he was awarded the Order of Diplomatic Service Merit (First Class) Gwanghwa Medal by the ROK government.

Mr. Teo is married to Mdm Kim Minjae and they have a son and a daughter.



**Madam Kim Minjae** is the beloved spouse of Singapore Ambassador to the Republic of Korea (ROK) Ambassador Eric TEO. They have two adorable children — a son (11) and a daughter (9), and they are happily settled in Seoul since August 2019. Minjae, a Korean-Singaporean, who was born and grew up in Seoul, is happy to resettle back in the ROK during this period and spend more time with her family. She graduated from Kyung Hee University with a Bachelor of Arts (Chinese Language and Literature) and Master of Education (Teaching Korean as a Foreign Language). Minjae was teaching in the National University of Singapore as a Korean language teacher when she was introduced to Ambassador Teo and the rest, they say, is history. She

lived in several cities outside of the ROK such as Los Angeles, Taipei, Beijing and Singapore during her time as a student, teacher and after her marriage.

Minjae is adventurous when it comes to cooking and over the years, she has learnt how to prepare typical Singaporean cuisine, deeply influenced by Singapore's multi-racial & multi-cultural society, from her mother-in-law and also from great Singaporean chefs online. This has come in very helpful when she and Ambassador Teo host their guests to official meals at the Singapore Residence in Seoul. Their guests are often impressed that a Korean girl who have grown up in Korea is able to whip out tasty and authentic Singaporean delights as part of Singapore's Culinary Diplomacy!

### [Screenshots from the video]



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# Featured Interview

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[Meet the Author]

## The Future of the Korean Peninsula: Korea 2032 and Beyond



August 3, 2021 – Asia Society Korea interviewed the co-editors of a recently published book, *The Future of the Korean Peninsula: Korea 2032 and Beyond*, **Dr. Mason Richey**, Asia Society Korea's senior contributor and associate professor at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, and **Dr. David Tizzard**, assistant professor at Seoul Women's University.

The book considers both Koreas — North Korea and South Korea — to examine possible political, security, economic and socio-cultural pathways for the years leading up to 2032 and beyond, thus offering a composite picture of Korea and its strategic relevance in Asia and the world at large.

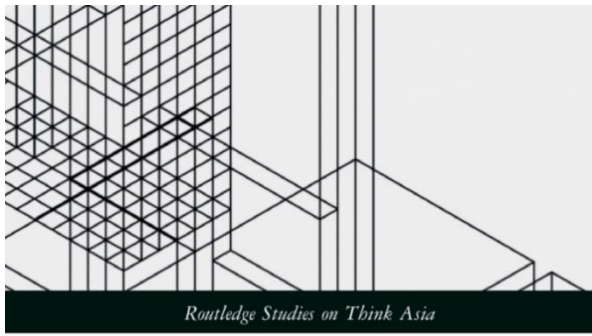
Now back in Melbourne working at the Asia Society, Scullin has published a large-format book of photography, *Hotels of Pyongyang*, that defies expectations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as a drab and homogenous place.

**1. Each year, lots of research is conducted on the topic of the two Koreas that touch on different aspects of inter-Korean dynamics. What is the significance of the year “2032” in the title of your new book? Did it have anything to do with Seoul's bid to co-host the Olympics with North Korea?**

**MR:** Indeed, the idea for the book started with the intriguing idea that the two Koreas might attempt to co-host the 2032 Summer Olympics, as well as aim at a combined national team, at least in certain sports. There has been precedent for this sort of sports diplomacy, of course, with South Korea and Japan co-hosting the 2002 World Cup, and the two Koreas fielding combined teams in certain international sporting events, most recently the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang. Co-hosting the 2032 Games, which the Moon Jae-in administration discussed on several occasions, was always an extreme long-shot, and the IOC has now essentially awarded the games to Brisbane. We'll see what happens with the possibility of a combined team. In any event, the book is not about inter-Korean sports diplomacy. Rather, sports diplomacy was just the entry point for thinking about how the two Koreas are in a dialectical relation such that each helps define the identity of the other. An inter-Korean co-hosted Olympics in 2032 may be dead, but the inter-Korean dialectical relation remains, and the point of the book is to reflect on how that might look between 2022 and 2032.

**2. Why is it important for the world to pay attention to the Korean Peninsula?**

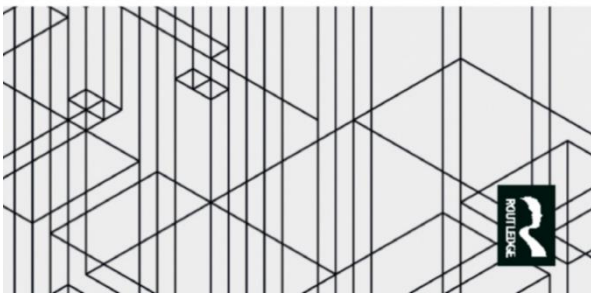
**DT:** It doesn't seem like the world has much choice anymore. The Korean Peninsula is home to the world's 10th biggest economy, massive malnutrition, Oscar-winning movies and Billboard hits, an information-starved society, nuclear weapons, devastating suicide rates, lingering gender inequality, and Cold War division. Contemporary Korea features contradictions and multitudes: tradition and hyper-modernity, rich and poor, conservatism and progressivism, the collective and the individual. No one view of Korea will ever encapsulate its entirety, but we hope this book will help unpack some of those complexities and provide a nuanced, sophisticated look at this fascinating part of the world.



# THE FUTURE OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA

KOREA 2032 AND BEYOND

Edited by  
Mason Richey, Jagannath P. Panda  
and David A. Tizzard



Cover Page, *The Future of the Korean Peninsula: Korea 2032 and Beyond*  
(Routledge, 2021)

**MR:** And of course, there are highly consequential regional security concerns emanating from the Peninsula, which sits at the heart of a potentially volatile Northeast Asia. South Korea and the US maintain a robust military alliance, which not only is directed at deterrence against North Korean aggression but has an over-the-horizon effect vis-à-vis rising China. North Korea is also a massive non-proliferation issue, as well as a humanitarian and human rights challenge.

**3. Before answering one of the big questions posed by the book—what future might the next decade hold for the Korean Peninsula?—how do you assess the last ten years of inter-Korean relations and the impact it has had on the outside world?**

**DT:** With the rise of social media and ever-hungry news cycles, incidents now become huge events in the public conscious only then to fade quickly into insignificance. The dialectical relationship between the two Koreas is largely bipolar, swinging from hope, embrace, and engagement to belligerence and negativity in a matter of months, sometimes less. We have seen death, diplomacy, closed doors, open arms, love letters, and much more over the past ten years and I don't expect that to stop. With inter-Korean relations, you always feel as if you are living through History (with a capital H). Everything feels important but nothing ever seems permanent. I think much of the outside world is also now slowly beginning to understand that state of flux.

**MR:** I've lived now in Korea for twelve years, and it's astonishing how much has happened over that time span in the security/military, economic, political, and economic spheres. It's easy to forget. One thing the book does—in most chapters, at least—is briefly analyzing some of the relevant historical events in order to contextualize some of the Peninsula's possible paths going forward.

**4. And, as adumbrated above, what future might the next decade hold for the Korean Peninsula?**

**DT:** It takes hubris to make predictions about the Korean Peninsula with great certainty. Our collection doesn't do this, but rather puts most predictions in probabilistic terms based on context, historical path-dependencies, and comprehensive analysis. What we do believe, however, is that the Peninsula will continue to grow in importance rather than recede. That's why this book seeks to provide a variety of economic, political, cultural, and diplomatic vantage points, such that whatever might come to pass, people can be prepared and informed.

**MR:** I totally agree with David about the foolishness of claiming certain predictions about the Korean Peninsula. What the book's chapter authors do in most cases is provide a range of outcomes for inter-Korean issues of politics, security, economics, and society and culture. That said, if I were forced to make predictions about the Peninsula over the next decade, I'd offer the following with relative confidence. North Korea will retain nuclear weapons, North and South will not be reunited, the North will, unfortunately, continue to be poor and maldeveloped while the South remains wealthy and technologically sophisticated.

**5. As you have pointed out—and quite accurately so—“the DPRK is not the ROK's sole security challenge.” Many South Koreans would point to the 2017 THAAD deployment as a key moment for the nation that seems to have triggered—or at least expedited—the South Korean search for “greater strategic autonomy” from its neighbors. How might South Korea's relationships with partners—especially in terms of security cooperation—help it gain greater strategic autonomy?**

**MR:** The first thing to note is why the South would like more strategic autonomy: it is a tough balancing act for Seoul to be caught between the security alliance with Washington and trade dependence on China. The THAAD issue was a wake-up call about this. As US-China competition ramps up, hedging becomes more difficult—perhaps even untenable—

for Seoul, and it can mitigate risk by being able to rely on a variety of strategic partners for both trade and security. To its credit, the Moon administration realizes this, at least rhetorically, as evidenced by building out its strategic partnership with the European Union, developing the [New Southern Policy](#) (NSP) for Southeast Asia, and engaging other partner countries.

**DT:** I also would note, for what it's worth, that North Korea also needs more partner options. The Kim regime doesn't trust the leadership in Beijing, yet it is massively over-dependent on it. Unfortunately, Pyongyang's rogue behavior—which has led to international sanctions—makes this almost impossible currently.

**6. The European Union is often referred to as a success case of regional economic and security cooperation; yet similar regional integration in East Asia seems rather inconceivable given the contentious political climate formed around the issue of history and the reciprocal policies borne out of it. How might South Korea draw from the experience of the EU to smooth the future paths for its own regional cooperation?**

**DT:** I think in the 21st century, it's important for countries to be aware of their own culture and history. External models will always be useful, but the Korean Peninsula will be best served by becoming more aware of its own path to modernity and what it can do going forward. There should also probably be more effort to widen our view of the world beyond Western Europe and North America. Yes, these regions are home to cultural and economic behemoths, as well as a fount of international cooperation, but those countries have achieved this imperfectly—and with setbacks on the way—according to their own cultures and histories. South Korea stands as a model of democracy in Northeast Asia at the moment. But it is its own form of democracy and the values that resonate around that political idea are not what we see elsewhere. Likewise, North Korea is its own sovereign political entity and not easily comparable to other states. The answers lie within rather than without.

**MR:** Agreed. The two Koreas can look to Europe—Germany, Ireland, etc.—for inspiration, but ultimately it is more important that they focus on their own experiences with imperialism, colonialism, military rule, division, and democratization.

The book is available at [Taylor & Francis eBooks](#).

## About the Authors



**Dr. Mason Richey** is a senior contributing writer to Asia Society Korea and an associate professor of international politics at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Seoul, South Korea). Dr. Richey has also held positions as a POSCO Visiting Research Fellow at the East-West Center (Honolulu, HI) and a DAAD Scholar at the University of Potsdam. His research focuses on U.S. and European foreign and security policy as applied to the Asia-Pacific. Recent scholarly articles have appeared (inter alia) in *Pacific Review*, *Asian Security*, *Global Governance*, and *Foreign Policy Analysis*. Shorter analyses and opinion pieces have been published in *War on the Rocks*, *Le Monde*, the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, and *Forbes*, among other venues.

Dr. Richey received his Ph.D. from Binghamton University, New York.

Watch his recent appearance at our webinar on North Korean asymmetric capabilities [here](#).



**Dr. David Tizzard** is an assistant professor at Seoul Women's University and a visiting professor of international studies at Hanyang University. His academic research focuses on North Korean diplomacy and South Korean cultural texts. He is a frequent commentator on social and political issues affecting the Korean Peninsula, writing a popular column in the Korea Times and appearing weekly on TBS eFM.

Dr. Tizzard received his Master's in Asian Studies from Sejong University and his Ph.D. in Korean Studies from Hanyang University.

Read more of Dr. Tizzard's weekly columns [here](#).

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# North Korea Coverage

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## Northern Lights: A Glimpse Inside Pyongyang's Retro Hotels

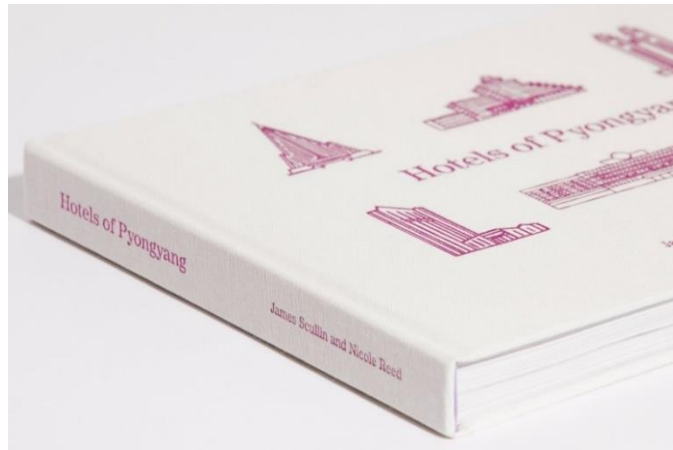


Photo Credit: James Scullin and Nicole Reed

The following is an excerpt of a book review on [Asia Society Australia](#) Programs Director **James Scullin**'s book, *Hotels of Pyongyang*. The article written by **Stephen Clark** was originally published in the [Australian Financial Review](#).

June 7, 2021 – When James Scullin first visited North Korea in 2012, he was entranced. It was the most different place he had ever been, akin to “travelling from a portal to another world” as he describes it. At 29, he moved to Beijing to work as an environmental consultant. Having previously worked as a history guide in Berlin, he began leading tours to Pyongyang, eventually returning seven times.

Now back in Melbourne working at the Asia Society, Scullin has published a large-format book of photography, *Hotels of Pyongyang*, that defies expectations of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea as a drab and homogenous place.

“It is near impossible to avoid politics in a country like North Korea,” says Scullin. “But through the architecture, I wanted to show the hidden creativity that is present even in an authoritarian country like North Korea.”

Home to long-range nuclear weapons, recurrent famines, a regime that brooks no dissent, and an army of hackers and cyber terrorists exporting chaos abroad, North Korea is certainly no joke.

Why then is it so hard to take seriously?

[Read the full piece in the Australian Financial Review.](#)

### About James Scullin, Programs Director at Asia Society Australia



**James Scullin** joined Asia Society Australia in June 2021. He is a program and project manager with experience developing diverse and tailored programs for Australian business with a focus on Asian business engagement, foreign policy, climate change and cultural awareness.

Prior to Asia Society, James was National Project Manager for the Australia China Business Council (ACBC). In this role, James developed and managed a multitude of projects, working with ACBC’s business membership and Federal and State Governments to foster greater understanding and business engagement with China. His project portfolio included high-level national China policy

briefings, China-Australia Free Trade Agreement advocacy across regional Australia, market entry delegations to China, an Australia-China business podcast, and online business support camps.

James has also worked with trade and investment advisory firm TradeWorthy on Asia Development Bank research on Belt and Road integration in ASEAN countries. Previously, James lived and worked in Beijing as an environmental consultant on European Commission climate change and development projects. He also worked as a tour leader to North Korea and in 2020 self-published the photography book *Hotels of Pyongyang*.

James is a graduate of the University of Melbourne where he holds a Bachelor of Arts and Master of Environmental Policy. He speaks Chinese and German.

# In the News: From Asia Society Policy Institute

## 산업부문을 위한 효과적인 벤치마크 기반 할당제도 개발: 한국의 ETS 사례연구



한국의 철강회사인 포스코의 공장은 서울에서 동남쪽으로 약 370km 떨어진 포항에 위치해있다. (Aflo Co. Ltd./ Alamy Stock Photo)

배출권 거래제도(Emissions Trading System; ETS)는 온실가스감축계획(Nationally Determined Contributions)과 파리 협약에 따른 온실가스 제로배출(net-zero)이라는 장기적인 목표 달성을 위한 비용 효율적인 방법으로 소개되는 사례가 늘어나고 있다. 그러나 정부와 업계의 최대 관심사는 어떻게 산업의 글로벌 경쟁력을 보호하면서 비교적 느슨한 지역으로의 생산라인을 옮기며 결국에는 배출량을 늘리게 되는 “탄소 누출”을 막을 수 있는 방안이다. 이러한 우려를 해결하기 위해, ETS 수당은 일반적으로 탄소 누출의 위험이 있는 온실가스(Greenhouse Gas; GHG) 집약적 또는 무역 집약적 산업에 무상으로 할당된다.

자유 할당 제도의 유형은 기업의 재무 성과에 직접적인 영향을 미치기 때문에 중요하다. 또한, 이 제도는 기업들이 어떻게 보상을 받는지를 결정한다. 온실가스 감소 기술에 더 많은 투자를 한 기업은 생산 수준에 배출 강도 기준(벤치마크)을 곱한 값을 기초로 한 벤치마크(BM) 기반 할당 제도 하에서 더 많은 보상을 받게 된다. 온실가스 감소 기술에 소극적이었던 기업들은 역대 배출량에 기초하는 기존의 제도 아래 더 나은 보상을 받을 수 있을 것이다. 하지만 벤치마크 기반의 할당은 더욱 공정한 방법으로 여겨지는 만큼 그에 대한 제도 설계와 실행이 더욱 어려운 것으로 간주된다.

아시아소사이어티 정책연구소의 [산업부문을 위한 효과적인 벤치마크 기반 할당제도 개발: 한국의 ETS 사례연구](#) 이슈 보고서는 한국의 중점적 산업 분야인 철강과 석유화학 분야에서 BM 기반 배분이 어떻게 성공적으로 이행되었는지를 보여준다. 본 보고서는 또한 타 국가들이 어떻게 적절한 시기에 효율적인 방법으로 효과적인 할당 시스템을 개발할 수 있을지에 대한 통찰과 정책 제언을 제공한다.

### 저자 소개



**권동혁**은 한국 에코애포트너스 환경에너지전략본부 본부장이다. 한국의 기후 및 환경 정책 개발 전문가로서, 그는 대한민국 환경부에서 진행한 배출권 거래제도의 벤치마크 기반 할당 개발에 대한 연구를 주도한 바 있다.



**알리스터 리치(Alistair Ritchie)**는 아시아소사이어티 정책연구소 아태지역 지속발전 총괄 부장이다. 그는 한국과 중국의 주요 배출권 거래제도와 관련된 여러 프로젝트를 이끌었으며, 과거 EU 배출권 거래제 개발에서 유럽위원회 자문위원을 역임한 바 있다.



## 커트 캠벨: 미국과 중국은 평화롭게 공존할 수 있어



커트 캠벨(Kurt Campbell), 미 백악관 인도태평양조정관

2021년 7월 6일

커트 캠벨(Kurt Campbell) 백악관 인도태평양조정관은 화요일 오전 아시아소사이어티와의 대담에 참여하여 바이든 행정부의 아시아 접근법에 대하여 현재까지 드러난 것 중 가장 명확한 청사진을 제공하는 브리핑을 하였다.

아시아소사이어티의 대표이사이자 최고경영자인 동시에 아시아소사이어티 정책연구소(Asia Society Policy Institute; ASPI)의 소장인 케빈 러드(Kevin Rudd), 부소장인 웬디 커틀러(Wendy Cutler), 그리고 국제안보 및 외교 부소장인 다니엘 러셀(Daniel Russel)과 함께 폭넓은 주제를 다룬 이번 대화에서, 캠벨은 미국의 인도태평양과 중국을 향한 전략에 대해 오랜 시간 논하였으며, 이는 전 미국 대통령인 도널드 트럼프가 선호하던 접근법으로부터의 결별을 의미한다고 말했다.

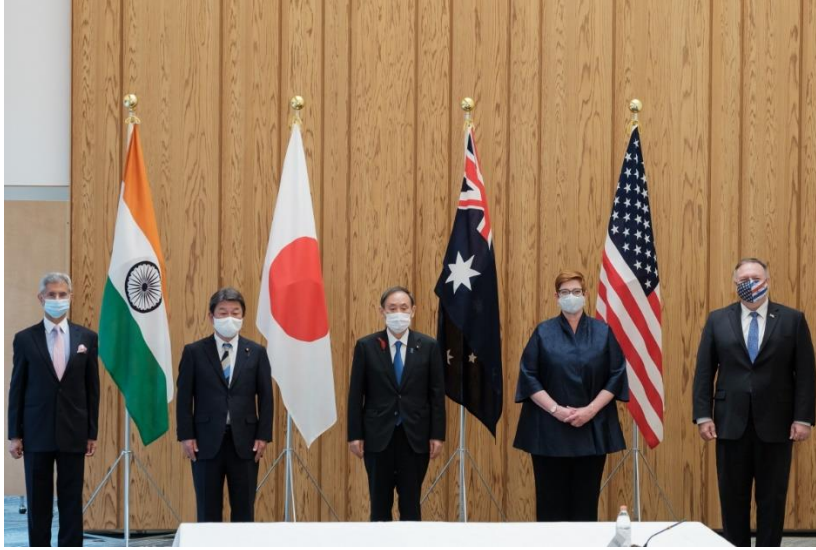
캠벨은 미국과 중국이 비록 적대적 측면이 있지만 양국의 관계를 “신(新)냉전”으로 규정하는 것은 적절하지 않다고 설명했다. 그는 “불확실의 시대가 올 것이며, 간혹 긴장감이 높아지는 시기도 올 수 있다”라고 말했다. “중국과 미국이 평화롭게 공존할 수 있을지 묻는다면, 난 그렇다고 답할 것이다. 하지만 이는 이번 세대와 다음 세대에 상당히 어려운 과제가 될 것이다.”

본 과제에 있어 한 잠재적인 발화점(분쟁요인)은 중국이 자국의 영구적인 영토의 일부로 바라보는 대만이다. 캠벨은 바이든 행정부가 “하나의 중국 정책”을 인정하며 타이완을 독립적인 국가로 인정하지 않는다고 강조했다. 대만이 국제사회에서 외면당하거나 충분히 기여할 수 있는 다자주의 협력에서 밀려나서는 안된다고 부연했다. “우리는 이곳의 민감성을 충분히 인지하고 이해하고 있다”라고 그는 말했다.

본 담화에서 그들은 아시아에서의 무역계획과 호주를 괴롭히는 중국의 정책을 “조용히 탐험중인” 미국의 무역정책에 대해서도 다루었다. 또한 캠벨은 미군의 아프간 철수 압박이 이 지역에 어떠한 작용을 할지에 대한 질문에 대해서도 답변했다.

캠벨은 심도 깊은 대담을 통해 아시아와의 관계에 대한 바이든 행정부의 깊은 헌신을 강조했다. 캠벨은 “역사상 처음으로, 인도태평양지역이 우리 지역적 관심의 중심에 있을 것”이라고 말했다. 하지만, 바이든 행정부의 최우선과제는 아직 코로나19 대유행으로부터 벗어나고 있는 양극화된 미국 내의 회복이라고 단서를 달았다. 그는 “사람들이 아시아나 세계에서 해야 할 가장 중요한 일이 무엇이냐고 물으면, 지루하게 들릴지라도 그것보다는: 집에서 회복하는 것(국내 문제 해결)이 우선”이라고 말했다.

## 중국이 쿼드(Quad)를 불안해하는 이유



2020년 10월 6일 도쿄 국무총리실에서 열린 쿼드 외무장관 회의. (왼쪽부터) 수브라마냐삼 자이산 카르 인도 외교부장관, 모테기 도시미쓰 일본 외무성대신, 스가 요시히데 일본 국무총리, 마리스 파인 호주 외교부장관, 마이크 폼페이오 미국 국무부장관. (Nicolas Datiche/Pool/AFP/Getty Images)

### 2021년 8월 6일, 케빈 러드(Kevin Rudd)

본 글은 아시아소사이어티 대표이사이자 아시아소사이어티 정책연구소(Asia Society Policy Institute; ASPI) 소장을 맡고 있는 케빈 러드가 [포린 어페어즈\(Foreign Affairs\)](#)에 기고한 글의 일부를 발췌한 것이다.

2017년 11월, 아베 신조 전 일본 국무총리가 호주, 인도, 그리고 미국의 고위 관료들을 마닐라에서 만날 것을 요청하며 초청했을 때만 하더라도, 중국의 지도자들은 그다지 걱정할 이유를 찾지 못했다. 중국의 왕이 외교부장은 “쿼드(Quad)”라고 알려진 이 모임은 단순히 “신문의 헤드라인을 장식하려는 아이디어다”라며 비웃었다. 그는 “그들은 태평양이나 인도양의 바다거품과 같다. 어느정도 관심은 받겠지만 곧 사라질 것이다.”라고 말했다. 베이징의 이러한 오만에는 이유가 있었다. 중국의 전략가들이 보기에는 쿼드 국가들의 관심과 이해는 실질적인 일치를 보기에는 너무 다양하다는 것이다. 쿼드 모임은 이미 10년 전부터 시도되어 왔지만, 실질적인 결과라고 말할 수 있는 것은 거의 없었다.

하지만 2017년 11월 모임 이후 몇 년 뒤, 베이징은 초기의 오만함을 재고해야만 했다. 올해 3월, 처음으로 정상간 쿼드 회담이 개최되고 공식 발표를 채택하면서, 중국 관료들은 점점 쿼드를 걱정거리로 보기 시작했다. 그 이후, 베이징은 쿼드가 향후 수년간 중국의 야망에 대항하는 가장 중대한 도전 중 하나가 될 것이라고 결론지었다.

중국과의 “전략적 경쟁”이 워싱턴의 양당체제에서는 드문 만장일치를 이끌어내는 지점이 되면서, 중국의 시진핑 국가주석은 당국이 중국의 성장을 막기로 결심한 미국과의 “미래 국제 질서에 대한 투쟁”에 직면했다고 경고했다. 시진핑 주석은 지금부터 2035년 사이 중국이 세계 최고의 경제, 기술 강국, 그리고 잠재적으로는 군사 강국으로 부상할 수 있는 기회를 가지고 있다고 믿는다. 이러한 그의 추진에 필수적인 것은 아시아와 세계의 나라들에게 중국의 우위는 피할 수 없으며, 그에 따라 그들은 중국의 수요에 따르는 것 외에는 다른 방도가 없다는 것을 설득하는 것이다. 이는 중국이 서로에게 총 한발 쏘지 않고서도 국제질서의 규칙을 새롭게 쓰고, 세계적인 지도국가의 위치를 공고히 할 수 있게 할 것이다.

쿼드는 중국에 대항하는 다자주의 연합을 결성하는 목표가 인도-태평양 전체와 혹은 그 이상으로 강화될 잠재력이 있기 때문에 중국의 전략에 있어서는 매우 골치가 아픈 사안이다. 시진핑 주석에게 가장 중요한 질문은 과연 쿼드가 거대하고 효과적으로 중국에 대항하는 균형을 이룰 만큼 일관적이며 포괄적인 연합으로 발전하여 아시아 혹은 국제적인 우세의 불가피함을 약화시킬 것인지이다. 지금까지 베이징은 쿼드 도전에 효과적인 대응을 하기 위해 노력해왔다. 중국 관리들이 쿼드의 진전을 약화시키는 전략을 이어 나갈 것인지는 이미 “위험한 10년의 삶”이 되어버린 앞으로의 미-중 경쟁의 활로와 - 더욱 일반적으로는 중국의 세계적 야망에 대한 운명을 - 결정하는 중요한 요인이 될 것이다.

# Korean Beauty

## Hanbok Part I: The Origin and the History



June 17, 2021 – As a part of our Leo Gala Series to promote Korean culture and celebrate its beauty beyond the façade, Asia Society Korea presents to you *Hanbok: Part I*.

In 2020, **BlackPink**, a K-Pop group, made their long-awaited comeback with the single '[How You Like That](#).' On top of their magnificent performance, the music video drew the attention of many to the traditional Korean attire *hanbok* (한복; 韓服). The outfit incorporated elements from different types of *hanbok* ranging from the symbolic phoenix of the royal family to the coat-like *dopo* (도포, 道袍) which was commonly worn by military men in public. Another noteworthy appearance of the *hanbok* was by **BTS**, a record-breaking K-Pop group, in the music video of their song '[Idol](#)' released in 2018. More recently, **Suga**, a rapper of **BTS**, also performed in the music video of his mixtape '[Daechwita \(대취타\)](#)' in a modernized *hanbok*. The choices made by the two influential K-Pop groups have reintroduced the traditional clothing of Korea. As such, Asia Society Korea would like to take this opportunity to present the origins and transformation of the *hanbok* in two-part series on Korean traditional attire.



Photo Credit: Yong-Gok WOO

The *hanbok* has been an integral part of Korean lives for centuries. Since ancient times, the Korean Peninsula has been influenced by the culture of Scythian, a nomadic people inhabiting the region Scythia of Eurasia. It made the *hanbok* take the form of two separate parts — the top and bottom. The basic construction of the *hanbok* has remained the same, but the design and structure have been modified by their respective epoch, beauty standards, or shifts in culture. The *hanbok* worn by Koreans today is the most similar with the *hanbok* from the mid to late Joseon Dynasty with tight tops and looser bottoms.

*Hanbok*, like any other type of clothing in different cultures, went through various alterations in accordance with what was trendy at the time. In the process, China, Japan, and other nearby countries influenced one another. For example, during the Joseon Dynasty, studying abroad was valued and garments of the royal palace and officials took elements from the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644) while the patterns and details of the clothing displayed our traditional style and grace. Cultures of Korea also traveled to Yuan China (1271-1368) during the late Goryeo Dynasty. The trend was known as *goryeoyang* (고려양; 高麗樣), which lasted into the early days of the Ming Dynasty. Furthermore, during the Joseon Dynasty, Korean headbands for men called *mangeon* (망건; 網巾) and skirts made of horsetail were popular among the people of Ming China.



*Durumagi*

Into the late 19th century, Korea was liberalized as ports opened up, and Western culture was newly introduced to the Korean Peninsula. The modernization period from the late 19th century to the onset of the 21st century is often referred to as *Gaehwagi* (개화기; 開化期), which can also be translated directly into ‘bloom.’ During *Gaehwagi*, the term ‘*hanbok*’ was created to differentiate Korea’s traditional clothing from Western-style clothing. Furthermore, through the *Gabo Reform* (갑오개혁; 甲午改革) of 1894 to 1895, the distinction of class through clothing weakened. In particular, *durumagi* (두루마기), an overcoat worn by the upperclassmen, became a staple for all people and in 1895, the custom of *sangtu* (상투), or a topknot hairstyle for men, was abolished and people started to get shorter haircuts.

Previously, women had limited social mobility compared to men. However, *Gaehwagi* brought about a degree of women's empowerment, leading to the simplification of female *hanbok*. *Jangoat* (장옷) and *Sseugaechima* (쓰개치마), which were used to cover women’s faces, disappeared. *Jeogori* (저고리), a short jacket for women that covered the upper bust, became waist length, and the skirt became wider to ease movement. In line with these changes, undergarments became much easier to wear as well.

Since the inception of *Gaehwagi*, practicality and convenience were important elements for making *hanbok*. Today modernized versions of *hanbok* which cater to the needs of contemporary lifestyle continue to enter the market. In next week’s blog post, we will explore the beauty of *hanbok* and trace its evolving vestimentary culture to the present day.

## Hanbok Part 2: Hanbok in Modern Days



July 23, 2021 – Our [previous episode](#) on *hanbok* focused on the history and components of a typical *hanbok*. This second piece on *hanbok* will begin with the beauty of *hanbok* and the evolution of the traditional attire in modern days.

Traditional western attire is designed in three dimensional patterns which are preserved as a part of the attire. For example, the Victorian dresses were supported by cages and other auxiliary features. In contrast, *hanbok* begins as a two-dimensional form and transforms to fit the natural flow of the person wearing *hanbok*. The gentle curves and lines that underline the beautiful body figure of the wearer is one of the key features.



Photo Woooh Nayoung

Another noticeable element of *hanbok* is the color. Many foreigners are often amused by the color scheme of the clothing. In the past, the color of *hanbok* symbolized the marital status of a woman. A single female wore a scarlet skirt and a yellow *jeogori* or a *saekdong jeogori* (색동 저고리), The *saekdong jeogori*, which was an upper garment with colorful stripes on the arms, was also worn by girls on their birthdays. Furthermore, a married woman wore an indigo skirt and jade green *jeogori*, while a recently married woman wore a scarlet skirt and light green *jeogori*.

Like in many cultures, the usage and design of the traditional attire have changed over time. In the 21st century, *hanbok* began to diversify. Comfortable versions of *hanbok* for daily wear became a trend and new styles of Western attire with elements of *hanbok* such as embroidery and its unique fabric made an appearance in the market.



As a part of promoting tourism in Korea since October 2013, the entrance fee to four main palaces of Seoul and the Royal Tombs was waived for those wearing *hanbok*. The new policy quickly spread across social media, encouraging both domestic and foreign tourists to wear *hanbok* as a part of their cultural immersion. Accordingly, the number of rental services of *hanbok* in the area skyrocketed. In 2017, there were 131 rental businesses in the Jongno district of Seoul alone. However, it has been pointed out that the rental services have excessively altered the traditional attire.

Although it is infeasible to impose strict standards on *hanbok* worn by tourists, there have been legitimate concerns about some of the abnormalities in the contemporary alterations to *hanbok*. Curtain fabric is used to design rental *hanbok* and this deviation cannot be categorized as *hanbok*, according to some traditionalist *hanbok* experts. It is also said that the bottoms of the skirts have become too voluminous as they are rented out with Western-style cages that are primarily used to enrich the figure and prevent wrinkles. The skirt of *hanbok* should drop down elegantly with gentle and curved wrinkles supported by an underskirt made with a stiff but not-quite-solid fabric.



Over the years, there have been attempts to bring back the so-called "correct" ways to wear *hanbok*. [The Korea Times](#) and [Women News](#), for example, have published articles that lay out the ground rules for how the traditional Korean attire ought to be worn. For women, it is advised that they wear shawls rather than coats, which compress the shape of *hanbok*. If you do not own one, you could easily make one with an old *hanbok* skirt. You must wear a *sokjeoksam* (속점삼) under the *jeogori* to improve *hanbok*'s fit — which also happens to better allow the absorption of heat. For men, although undershirts are not required, undershirts are highly recommended to accentuate the elegant lines of *hanbok*. Moreover, if men wish to wear undershirts, deep-cut, non-white undershirts are advised.

In today's blog post, we explored the contemporary transition of *hanbok*. As time goes by, such changes are both expected and might even be welcome. Cultures and traditions change over time — and so does fashion. Granted, it is virtually impossible to wear *hanbok* exactly the same way our distant ancestors used to wear them many centuries ago. But there needs to be ongoing efforts to preserve the best of our bygone era or at least conserve what is left of it.

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# ROK'n Seoul

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## Renting a House in South Korea: *Jeonse*



By Matthew Fennel, Contributing Writer

July 30, 2021 — In Korea, a country where property is seen as a must-have asset for a stable future, housing matters. For example, while American household wealth is usually held in financial assets such as stocks or shares, over 80% of Korean household wealth is in real estate. The cultural importance of being on the property ladder may explain why, despite the world being amid a global pandemic, house prices in Korea have continued to increase rapidly, and property in Seoul is 40% more expensive than it was two years ago. Although a booming property market is not unique to Korea, how citizens invest in real estate certainly is.

While most people worldwide decide to either rent or buy a property, Korea has a third option, *jeonse*, an intermediary scheme that sits between monthly rent (*wolse*) and ownership (*jaga*). *Jeonse* is a housing rental system in Korea where instead of paying monthly installments to a landlord, a large lump-sum payment is deposited for the duration of the contract. This deposit, also called 'key money,' is usually between 50% and 70% of the property's value and is returned to the tenant in full after two years. By law, *jeonse* is a two-year contract with the tenant having the option to renew for one further two-year period.



The modern *jeonse* that we are now familiar with was first mentioned in the government's Civil Act of 1959 and became commonplace throughout Korea from the 1960s. The system was born out of Korea's lack of mortgage lending, booming property prices, and the need for private financing. *Jeonse* acted as a private banking solution to an overheated housing market, allowing landlords and tenants to benefit from a lease agreement. From the 1960s to the 1990s, this private lease lending helped fuel Korea's economic development.

Although this system may appear strange to those unfamiliar with Korea, *jeonse* has traditionally been advantageous to both the landlord and tenant. The landlord has access to a sizable interest-free amount of money to deposit in a high-interest bank account or make other investments. At the same time, the tenant can effectively live rent-free for two years while accumulating more capital to make more significant future key money deposits or buy a property for themselves. Many Koreans see *jeonse* as a more economical housing expense than monthly rent and a pivotal step in achieving the dream of homeownership. Today in Seoul, *jeonse* makes up around 70% of lease/rental agreements.

While a healthy *jeonse* works well, there are risks associated with handing over such large amounts of money. The biggest threat to a tenant is that the landlord cannot pay back the lump-sum deposit, and therefore legal proceedings are required. The Housing Lease Protection Act does offer tenants some security, but it is standard practice to carry out financial due diligence on both the landlord and the building registry.

Historically, there is evidence that similar schemes operated on the Korean Peninsula during the Goryeo dynasty (918 – 1392) when farmers would lease out their land in exchange for goods or money. This exchanging of land for cash was later expanded into a more elaborate pawn brokerage scheme during the Joseon period (1392 – 1897), whereby landlords could lend money using one's property as collateral. The first official record of a *jeonse* contract in Korea was in a 1910 report by the Japanese government.



As traditional housing markets go through boom and bust cycles, often depending on supply and demand, so too does the *jeonse* system. Following the 2007-2008 financial crisis, the Korean central bank lowered interest rates from 5% to 2%, deterring landlords from putting the lump sum deposit into savings accounts. In response to low-interest rates in banks, house owners preferred monthly rental contracts, which led to a steep price hike in *jeonse* leases as they became less common. With current benchmark interest rates at less than 1%, we see a similar situation today.

In addition to low interest rates, *jeonse* prices have skyrocketed in recent months as tenants have taken advantage of a new law allowing them to extend their contract for a further two years. Although designed to protect *jeonse* tenants, the new law has meant fewer lease properties are now on the market. These extensions, coupled with landlords moving back into their properties, have led to a shortage of economically viable *jeonse* properties, pushing tenants towards a more conventional monthly rent.

The current uncertainty around *jeonse* has led to fears that the deposit-based system has no future in Korea. Initially benefiting young people and low-income households, *jeonse* leases have become so expensive that people have little choice but to gravitate towards more costly monthly payment (*wolse*) plans.

With house prices rising at the fastest rate in almost a decade, real estate is now a huge political issue, and there have been calls for the current administration to make policy changes to protect *jeonse*. While the government plans to stabilize the housing lease market by increasing the supply of homes across the nation, we will have to wait to see if it is enough to bring down prices.

For university students leaving home for the first time, newly married couples moving in together, families looking to increase living space, or foreigners moving to Seoul for work, all eyes will be firmly on the ongoing evolution of the Korean housing market and *jeonse* in particular.





## Buses in Seoul: The Long and Winding Road to Innovation



**By Matthew Fennel, Contributing Writer**

August 31, 2021 — In many cities worldwide, people often describe their bus transportation experience as inaccessible, unreliable, or uncomfortable. Yet, in Seoul, the extensive bus network is not only economical, efficient, and modern but has also recently made international news for its innovation and technology. Seoul buses have experienced an interesting, sometimes challenging, journey over the past 90 years. Still, it is safe to say that in 2021, futuristic shelters, self-driving buses, and wireless charging technology signal a very bright future for bus transportation in the capital.

Buses first [appeared](#) on the streets of Seoul in 1928 when a Japanese businessman operated ten vehicles that would take up to 20 passengers from Seoul Station to other parts of downtown. Due to the business losing money, the bus licenses in the city were eventually sold to a private company in the mid-1930s. Despite an increase in bus users during this time, the onset of the Second World War meant that the Japanese government mobilized many of the vehicles to deliver weapons rather than carry passengers.

When the first Korean government came to power in 1948, they prioritized establishing a public transport network in Seoul. In 1949, the city government [granted](#) licenses to private companies to operate 273 buses, and by 1950, around 1,000 were in service. However, high hopes for establishing an efficient Seoul transport system lasted only ten months as the Korean War broke out and military attacks destroyed over two-thirds of the fleet. Fortunately for the industry, by the end of the 1950s, bus travel bounced back, and with around 10,000 vehicles in operation, it became the primary public transport in Seoul.

During the 1960s, Korea's population grew dramatically, and so too did the bus network. The Seoul city government took full ownership of the industry, drivers became government employees, and bus numbers, each with their own female attendant, increased to over 50,000. However, the glory days didn't last long as financial losses, a new Seoul subway system, and increased car ownership meant that Seoul had far too many buses than demand required. Since the 1980s, buses have played second fiddle to the subway, yet the industry refused to give up without a fight. Designated bus lanes, new vehicles, and significant [reform in 2004](#) breathed new life into the network.

Fast forward to 2021, and Seoul is now regarded as having one of the most advanced transport systems in the world. The bus network has been fully integrated with the subway system, and passengers can travel within the Seoul metropolitan area using one smart pass. Fares start at around \$1 US and transferring to the subway, or vice-versa is possible without any extra transportation charge. Upon reaching a destination, the automatic fare adjustment system will deduct the amount from the smart pass depending on the distance traveled.



Not having access to free Wi-Fi, waiting for a bus in the heat or cold, or even paying money to the driver are all almost unthinkable. Digital fares have been the norm for a long time, with only 0.8% of passengers using cash on buses last year. Furthermore, the Seoul city government recently [announced](#) that paying by non-digital means on 170 of its 7,000 buses will be impossible from October. Should the pilot program be a success, only digital payments will be accepted across the whole network. While a digital payment infrastructure may not be particularly innovative, other features of Seoul's bus system most certainly are.

Last year's rollout of '[smart shelters](#)' made international news, highlighting modern technologies the network has become accustomed to in Seoul. Along with the standard air-conditioning, heated seats, wireless charging portals, and free Wi-Fi, the shelters are also equipped with temperature-checking automatic doors, air filters, and ultra-violet lighting to help prevent the spread of Covid-19. Powered by solar panels, the intelligence system can also react to crises triggered by fire, smoke, or unusual behavior to alert the relevant emergency services.



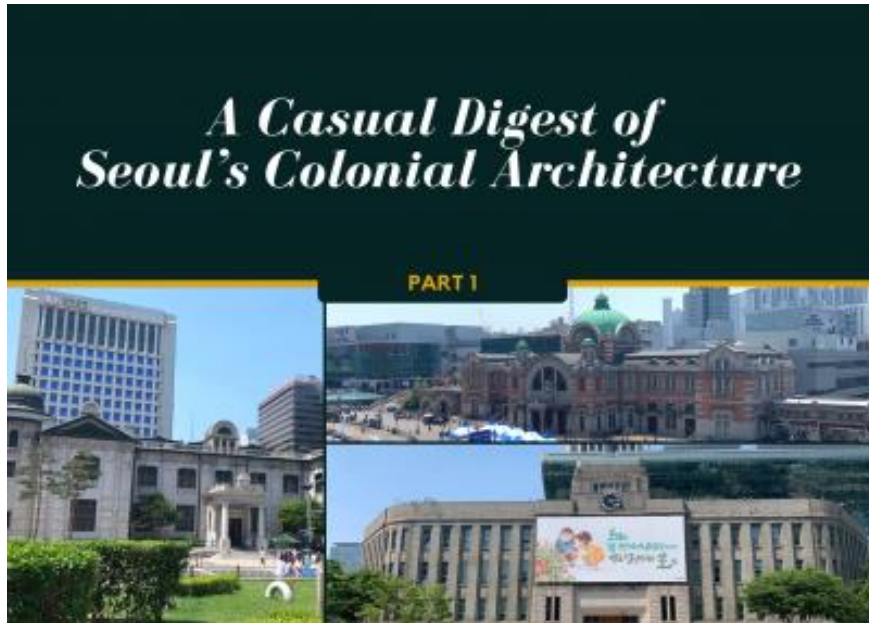
It is not only bus shelters that use cutting-edge technology, with Seoul set to welcome self-driving buses on its roads from October. These [self-driving buses](#) will follow a set course similar to a shuttle bus. Customers will use an app to stop the bus, taking them to their desired destination along the route. Seoul's long-term plan is to establish the world's first 5G driverless vehicle network. The pilot program will include around ten autonomous vehicles tested in tunnels, roundabouts, and other urban environments.

Another example of innovation in Korean transport is its wireless electric bus system. While wireless charging has become standard for smartphone users, the Korean Government has been working for ten years on developing charging technology for electric vehicles. Specially adapted roads transfer power to Online Electric Vehicle (OLEV) buses, charging them as they follow their route. Last year, the government [granted](#) commercialization of the technology, and local governments hope to implement it within a few years.

With huge investments into transportation technologies and infrastructure, it is clear that Seoul's bus system will continue to play a considerable role for citizens who demand continuous improvement. The capital has already [established](#) free Wi-Fi on all of its 35,006 city buses, and as recently as August 24th, 2,340 of Seoul's 4,080 bus stops have free, high-speed, wireless access points. While many cities worldwide strive for a clean, safe, and punctual bus system, expectations in Seoul are far greater. Times have changed dramatically since the '[Gyeongseong Buyoung](#)' bus first entered circulation in the city in 1928.

Renovating the country's public transport fleet, establishing new transport networks, and modernizing the equipment and machinery used in the sector are some of the measures that the country has already been taking for developing the country's transport infrastructure. As much as smart technology and efficiency matter, the key going forward may lie in equity and access. Seoul still has a long way to go in terms of EV battery and charging technology. With vision, leadership, and the right investments – including a 21st-century regional public transportation system – we can turn things around and reach new heights. Seoul has picked itself up from the mat before. There is no reason we can't do it again with transportation.

## A Casual Digest of Seoul's Colonial Architecture: Part I



By Schoni Song, Program & Communications Manager

*The views expressed in this article are strictly personal and do not represent Asia Society Korea.*

### One Day in Seoul

August 6, 2021 — I woke up at 9 o'clock in the morning after an herbal-tea-induced sleep. It was Wednesday but also [Buddha's Birthday](#) so that meant no work. I decided to take a walk around Seoul with a friend instead of the usual day-off nap and found myself photographing a quiet neighborhood of Namsan-dong not far from the landmark N Seoul Tower. When an elder South Korean man walked by, he casually asked me and my friend what we were doing here on a perfectly serviceable public holiday.

I told him I liked old city architecture and, in making small talk, we asked him how old he thought the building was.

"30 years? 40 years? Who cares, I just came here to meet someone." He then just sped off, oblivious to the fact that he had been standing next to Korea's first ever apartment building from nearly a century ago.

Symptomatic of the ultra-urbanization is Seoul's eager embrace of concrete and cement over a recently imposed divide: the colonial past and our modern present. That demarcation comes to us with the aerial view of a skyline densely populated with cars roaming everywhere and clusters of high-rise apartments and office buildings. It's an image of society that has largely been Manhattanized since the 1990s to support a city bustling with relentless industrial growth.

Country boys like myself certainly sense a bit of nostalgia when my friends ask me how I can stand living here, "so far away from everything." When I hear this question over the phone, I'm usually looking out the window at the trees in a neighborhood park, the running creeks of a Cheonggyecheon river, or visualizing the smell of brake dust and rain-soaked food trucks, thinking: define "everything."

### "Describe the City You Live In"

In 2017, I took the TOEFL test to submit for my grad school admissions. I was crammed into a small testing room with dozens of other Koreans. I heard a guy trying his best to answer a question every couple of minutes. Then another woman across the hall. And again, a guy repeating, "Describe the city you live in" over and over again. I was dying to tell him that you were actually supposed to describe the city of Seoul, not actually repeat the line.



Currently a small villa without a nametag, the structure was originally called “Mikuni Apartment” built in 1930 by a Japanese automotive manufacturer by the same name.

When most Seoulites are asked to describe their own city, you will rarely come across someone who chooses early 20th-century architecture. But when they do picture the vestigial remnants of a bygone era, the first thing that springs to mind are structures with decaying wooden-framed, clay-walled exterior — an accidental survivor from the Japanese occupation and the destruction of an internecine civil war that followed.

The Mikuni Apartment, which is South Korea’s first apartment building, is presently worth very little to the general public, save for its use as a residential area for a handful of Seoul citizens.

Personally, this is a tragedy — not just for the historic vestige of our modern architectural history, which admittedly confers little attention to South Korea’s dwindling stock of colonial-era structures as a whole. But the small batch of buildings that are breathing their last clearly has something to add to the cultural and socio-economic fabric of the industrial post-colonial country South Korea has become.

## A Country in the Making

The Joseon Dynasty was the father that gave birth to modern Korea. South Korea as we know it, divided across the 38th parallel, now owns half its genes but all its history. At the dawn of the 20th century, Western architecture had just begun to penetrate the hermit kingdom that was the late Joseon Dynasty. This initially came in the form of missionary residencies, hotels, port facilities, and legations. But it was also introduced through the Japanese, who had developed a strong penchant for emulating Western designs.

By the 1940s, the European red-brick homes, Renaissance-inspired government compounds, flamboyant Gothic configurations, American-styled schools, gabled warehouses, and modern Japanese wooden buildings had come to dominate Korea’s major urban cityscapes.

Even architectural designs traditionally employed in the Joseon Dynasty — such as patterns of tile roofs and stone slab foundations — were gradually taking on new shape as they found ways to acclimate to metropolitan life against the backdrop of the city’s built-in grid form in select districts, creating a melting pot where foreign influence mixed with traditionalist inertia to give birth to a new line of architecture that Korea had never seen before.



“The House 1932,” located in Manlijae-ro Jung-gu, is a former three-storied “jeoksangaak” (which directly translates to “enemy property”) turned into a successful modern cafe.

The Korean War (1950 – 1953), frequent city fires, and rapid industrialization as spearheaded by the “Miracle on the Han River” have since turned Korea’s cityscapes upside down. The wave of construction and reconstruction booms parted ways with hundreds of thousands of old monoliths and antiquated buildings which the country would never see again. This includes the sea of Hanok, which, despite being a celebrated feature of Korean cityscapes, has had more than 700,000 of its kind demolished in the larger Seoul region alone since the 1970s.

More complicated still is to argue for the preservation of these Occidental-Japanese buildings when their vestiges themselves carry so much political baggage and historical tension—frequently rejected by the public as foreign impositions. For a great many people, much of Korea’s contemporary non-Korean architecture translates to a badge of Japanese imperialism. In lockstep with that psyche, a famous Korean writer Cho Myeong-hui once famously characterized a piece of Japanese architecture as something disdainfully overlooking its Chogajip neighbors in his 1927 narrative, Nakdong River.

## Past vs. Present

The tension with respect to the remaining colonial architecture in South Korea reached its high-water mark when the City Government decided to obliterate the Government-General building in 1996. The former seat of colonial rule was publicly — and rather controversially — destroyed to make room for the restoration of the [Gyeongbok Palace](#).



The former city hall of Seoul, an example of Imperial Crown Style architecture, was originally built in the 1920s during the Japanese occupation of Korea.



The Old Seoul Station or “[Culture Station Seoul 284](#)” was named Gyeongseong Station when first built in 1925. Featuring a Byzantine-style central dome and a symmetrical layout, the building reopened as a culture complex in 2011.

More recent casualties of the post-colonial deconstruction wave range from the former tax building north of Deoksugung in Seoul to the colonial Japanese villa near the hot spring area of Oncheonjang in Busan, let alone the Japanese-styled Deokhwan Gwaneum-sa temple in Jinhae to the mid-century Bethel Church in Masan. The former Army War College building in Jinhae dating to the colonial era was slated for demolition but the city of Changwon overturned the decision in 2016 after a careful review which concluded that the building had much cultural and historical significance.

The case for the old [Seoul City Hall](#) building perhaps best illustrates the officialdom’s unserious attitude toward its colonial-era structures. The city of Seoul planned for a new city hall building since 2006 and announced two years later that the demolition would commence. The municipal government argued that the old building, which dates to 1926, had little to no value as a cultural heritage site and that its age made it a “safety hazard.”

Pledging to use its arsenal of legal resources to complete the demolition, the municipality was forced to keep the front half of the old hall and construct the new building right behind it. Similar window-dressing measures were taken vis-à-vis the original Bank of Korea building, Seoul Station (formerly Gyeongseong Station), and parts of Seoul National University (formerly Keijo Imperial University).

## The Stuff That Cities Are Made Of



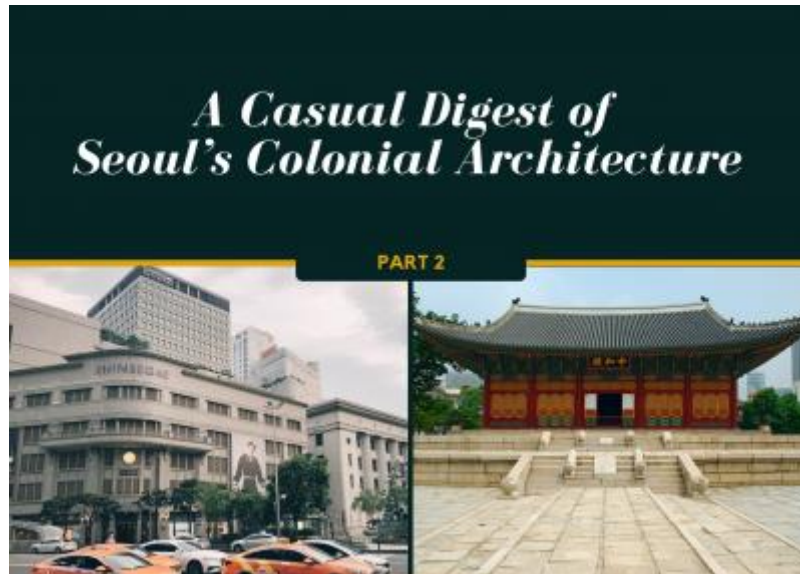
Currently the [Bank of Korea Money Museum](#) was constructed in 1912 and served as the head office of the Bank of Korea during the Japanese colonial era until it was founded anew as a museum in 2001.

It may seem difficult for the average person to have any say in the protection and promotion of early modern architectural sites. Indeed, the appeal of industrialization and urban rejuvenation as cities level entire neighborhoods to build expensive new modern complexes is impossible for any one person to protest or resist.

But while the future of Korea’s early modern architecture may appear dim on the surface, there is reason for cautious optimism. Local governments often seek ways to boost tourism and have, in many cases, promoted sites after they became “unofficial” tourism locations. Such situations then show that the average person does have a modicum of influence and that governments and preservation groups might take notice and respond positively to the trend if enough people frequent early modern architectural sites.

Maybe our cityscapes and the livelihood we have built around them do not get any better than this — or any worse for that matter. What we get is just what we are willing to find: small wonders, where they grow. If this isn’t why we should go pay a visit to these sites whenever we can, I do not know what is. After all, the inherent value of a city lies not in the physical materials that comprise it, but a tender balance of both expectation and longing.

## A Casual Digest of Seoul's Colonial Architecture: Part 2



**By Schoni Song, Program & Communications Manager**

*The views expressed in this article are strictly personal and do not represent Asia Society Korea.*

### A Tale of Two Cities



*Built in 1906, Jungghwajeon Hall, the main hall of Deoksugung Palace, was the hall in which major state affairs were conducted, official meetings held, and foreign envoys received.*

August 18, 2021 — There is no question that both a strong sense of [repudiation and apathy](#) exists when it comes to colonial-era structures and it also runs through the public psyche of the Korean people. Putting aside the elderly gentleman who [dismissed](#) the Mikuni Apartment in Namsan-dong as nothing more than a place to meet up a friend, I encountered while photographing different colonial-era structures a young fellow speaking on the phone who wondered out loud why anybody would have interest in a dilapidated building that wasn't even photogenic to his eyes. In his mind, the building was simply too old to be relevant anymore.

When we consider the early modern architecture is what came to replace Korea's beautiful, well-ordered Joseon-era city centers, hostility toward colonial artifacts is quite understandable. The Japanese occupation did in fact serve as a destructive force which dismantled more than just a handful of Joseon fortresses and dozens of royal structures in the three decades during which Korea's traditional landscape was erased. Some scholars estimate that [more than 90%](#) of Joseon-era architecture was destroyed during the Japanese occupation. It then becomes rather poetic that South Korea's industrialization has since obliterated the colonial buildings that were once so ubiquitous.

### Post-Colonial Korea: A Look Back from the Future

However, there is a strong argument for preserving colonial-era buildings considering that much of Korea's architectural heritage is reconstructed. Some Joseon Dynasty buildings are outright new, having been "reenacted" in the last decade or two, and these reconstructions — such as the Dongnae Eupseong Fortress in Busan, the restored roofs of Deoksugung Palace and the planned [stone walkway](#) nearby — are sometimes untrue to their original form let alone partially augmented or fabricated to fill the gaps of history. As such, they lack authenticity and run the risk of falling into revisionist historiography, or at least enabling a false representation of what the originals looked like.



The main branch of Shinsegae is one of the oldest department stores in Korea which opened in 1930. The building was later used as a U.S. Army PX.



Juxtaposing the old (1925) and new Seoul Station buildings is the Lotte Outlets Seoul Station Branch which sits in-between the two structures demarcating the artifacts of the 20th and 21st centuries, respectively.



Many of the structures and establishments designed and built during the Japanese colonial era still remain intact in the city of Gunsan. Many of these remaining buildings today serve as museums to educate both Koreans and foreign visitors the country's modern history.

Colonial architecture, though frequently managed poorly, retains its original scheme. It is that authenticity in which local citizens place value and to which tourists assign meaning. With so few truly old structures remaining in South Korea, early modern architecture should then be held in much higher regard than it is.

Authentic and antiquated artifacts are significant, for they not only instill in us an experiential understanding of bygone periods that visuality and annals of texts cannot. They also offer today's cities a sense of remembrance and tradition in an otherwise sea of concrete and cement.

### "Beauty perishes in life, but is immortal in art"

Take for instance the popular global tourist destinations like New York, London, Paris, and Rome, which Seoul aspires to join the ranks of and arguably have succeeded in recent years. These cities hold a sense of "oldness" because their sought-after infrastructure have both stood the test of time and been in use for that same time span.

This is not to say that Korean cities should be Eurocentric or westernized. Rather, to demonstrate that tangibility across a diverse set of architectural designs in urban cityscapes are partly what drives the most attractive cities to be the tourist powerhouses they are.

The issue of inauthentic and reconstructed architecture does not, however, mean that South Koreans make absolutely no effort to preserve old buildings. Early modern structures can be given a cultural heritage status if deemed historically significant by the government's [Cultural Heritage Administration](#), though there are issues with these assignments.

While this label offers relatively strong protection, the "Registered Cultural Heritage" status is much weaker. It recognizes the site or building as valuable, yet also grants its owner property rights. As such, it does little to guarantee that the structure will be maintained in as authentic or original a state as possible. The care of a Registered Cultural Heritage site is mostly dependent upon the owner, meaning that if they feel like knocking out a wall to put in floor-to-ceiling windows, they might be able to after some paperwork.

### A Difficult Legacy

Over the last couple of decades, more and more old buildings — many former banks, government buildings, churches, impressive private estates, waterworks, and even some minor shops and houses — have received some kind of cultural heritage status.

Furthermore, various local governments have recognized the economic potential of preserving and restoring early modern architecture. The current revitalization project in [Gunsan](#) of Northern Jeolla Province, despite being colonial-centric, has proven to be immensely successful and popular with visitors. The old port area of Chemulpo in present-day Incheon has seen a number of building restorations, and the former migrant fishing village of Guryongpo in Northern Gyeongsang Province has also rescued a street of colonial structures.



Currently Seoul National University buildings, a good many of the university's heritage sites were first designed and constructed during the colonial period when the university was under the name Keijo Imperial University.

Artists and cafe owners have also taken an interest in early modern architecture. The Seochon neighborhood of Seoul is a good example of this. However, such an interest can be found all over South Korea. As a trend in using old buildings for art spaces and coffee shops has slowly grown, there is perhaps a growing niche appreciation for, if nothing else, building designs that are not concrete rectangles. This offers a kind of temporary, unofficial protection for some early modern structures.

At least all the building owners I have spoken with show an interest in maintaining their space's sense of history. While there is still a lot of work to be done, this gives hope that some colonial-era buildings may survive after all. In a country that ostensibly values history and tradition, the subject of colonial architecture and its survival is a cautionary tale of what happens when commercial interests and industrial policy are not moderated by a conscious effort to preserve our heritage.

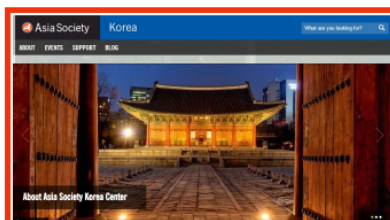
That means there is little time to salvage what remains before they all become just another Gangnam, Myeongdong, or Itaewon.

### About Mr. Schoni Song, Program & Communications Manager



**Schoni Song** joined Asia Society Korea in November 2020. As Program & Communications Manager, he reports directly to the Executive Director in ensuring the effective implementation of programs through consistent messaging and planning. His primary responsibilities include developing programmatic blueprints and liaising with POCs of partner institutions to help the organization gain appropriate exposure. His most recent (and ongoing) work includes the [Asia Society Korea Youth](#) (ASK-Y) initiative.

Before joining Asia Society Korea, Schoni served as a Capstone Consultant at the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs (INL) where he assessed the baseline for maritime-related crimes in the South China Sea to better enable INL to better understand emerging trends and policy implications. In between his graduate studies, he completed multiple research internships at think tanks such as the [Asia Society Policy Institute](#), East-West Institute's East Asia Program, and the Hudson Institute's Center for Political-Military Analysis. In South Korea, he was Program Assistant at the ROK National Assembly's International Affairs & Protocol Bureau and Army Translator at ROK Army's 2nd Operational Command. Schoni received his BA in Political Science and International Relations from Yonsei University Underwood International College and Master of International Affairs from Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs.



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