

02 Securing Peace and Stability on the Korean Peninsula

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Chapter 1

Maintaining Stability on the Korean Peninsula



1. Inter-Korean Relations

1) Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula

The ROK government has consistently adhered to the principle of the Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula in its approach to inter-Korean relations since 2013. This approach strives to deter armed provocations by North Korea on the basis of a solid security posture while leaving the door to dialogue with North Korea open. This approach also aims to further develop inter-Korean relations, to firmly establish peace on the Korean Peninsula, and to lay the foundation for unification through implementing existing agreements and building up practices of cooperation.

Although military tensions on the Korean Peninsula were extremely high due to North Korea's landmines provocations and firing of artillery shells in the De-

militarized Zone and the declaration of a quasi state of war by North Korea in August 2015, the ROK government was determined to maintain a firm and principled position based on the Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula. This led to an agreement to defuse tensions at high-level talks between the two Koreas.

2) North Korean Human Rights Situation

The ROK government, viewing the protection of human rights as a universal value and indeed an essential factor in laying the groundwork for unification, has cooperated with the international community to improve the human rights situation in North Korea. Moreover, the government has been making efforts to achieve substantial improvements in human rights including securing a better quality of life for the North Korean people.

The international community realized the gravity of the human rights situation in North Korea by the COI Report released in February 2014. The ROK government continues to cooperate with the international community in order to raise attention to the North Korean human rights issue and to induce change on the part of North Korea.

First, the government has co-sponsored resolutions on the human rights situation in North Korea at the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) meetings and the UN General Assembly. Furthermore, the ROK cooperated closely with the members of the Security Council to discuss 'the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea' once again in 2015, reaffirming the fact that the dire human rights situation in North Korea also has an impact on international peace and security.

Moreover, the ROK government provided assistance for the establishment of the UN Human Rights Office in Seoul taking the view that the follow-up measures

to the COI recommendations and implementation of the Human Rights Council resolution would be crucial for improving the human rights situation in North Korea.

At the bilateral level, the ROK government has held consultations with major countries and international bodies such as the US and the EU on measures to improve the North Korean human rights situation and has continued the provision of humanitarian assistance to North Korea through international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

3) Support for the International Community's Humanitarian Assistance to North Korea and Projects for Cooperation

The ROK government has been providing humanitarian assistance for vulnerable people in North Korea, including infants and pregnant women, within the framework of the Trust-Building Process on the Korean Peninsula, regardless of the political situation between the North and South.

The government has continued to provide aid to vulnerable people in North Korea through international organizations and domestic NGOs despite the overall decrease in humanitarian assistance provided by the international community to North Korea due to its nuclear development and long-range ballistic missile tests.

In 2015, the ROK's humanitarian aid to North Korea through the international community totaled ₩11.7 billion. For instance, the government provided US \$2.1 million for the food assistance project of the World Food Programme (WFP), US \$4 million for the provision of vaccines and medicines by the United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (UNICEF) and US \$0.8 million to support the carrying out of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) census of North Korea conducted to provide a basic reference point for more effective international

assistance for North Korea, such as providing nutrients to North Korean infants.

4) Inter-Korean Humanitarian Cooperation

The ROK government has consistently rendered support not only for humanitarian assistance to North Korea but also for social and cultural exchange by domestic NGOs. In 2015, ₩11.4 billion was provided to the North through domestic NGOs' own funds, which was more than twice the amount provided last year (₩5.4 billion). The government provided ₩2.3 billion to domestic NGOs from the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund.

In 2015, the 70th anniversary of National Liberation as well as the 70th year of division of the Korean Peninsula, the government continued to seek to resolve the issue of separated families. The two Koreas agreed to arrange a reunion of separated families at the high-level talks held on August 25 and held a Red Cross working-level contact on September 7 to 8 at Peace House in Panmunjeom.

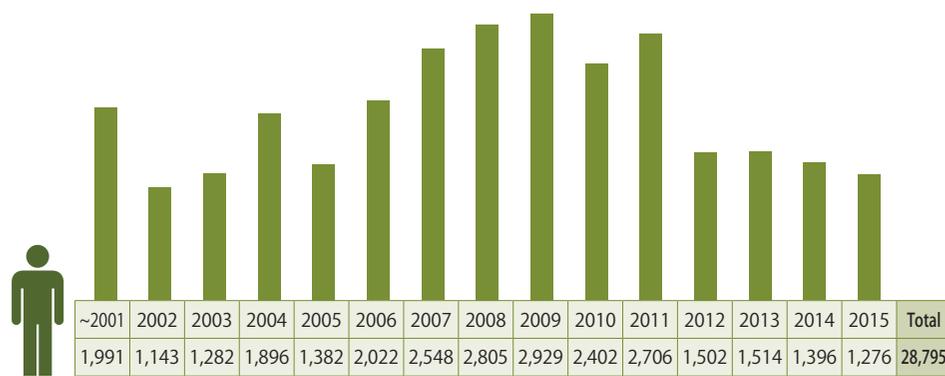
The government pushed to put a series of issues on the agenda, including exchanging lists of the surviving members of families separated after the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, holding reunions on a regular basis and allowing the families to exchange letters. The two parties shared the view that such humanitarian issue should be addressed in a fundamental manner. In addition, reunion of separated family members was scheduled from October 20 to 26 at Mt. Geumgang. The 20th reunion of separated families, the first in 20 months, was held in two rounds: In the first round (Oct. 20-22), 96 North Korean families met their relatives in the South (a total of 141 North Koreans and 389 South Koreans). In the second round (Oct. 24-26), 90 South Korean families met their relatives in the North (a total of 254 South Koreans and 188 North Koreans).

South Korean authorities suggested that the issue of separated families should be brought to the table as a main item on the agenda at the Vice Minister-Level Talks between the two Koreas on December 11 to 12, held for the first time since the inauguration of the present ROK government. The North, however, refused to discuss any pending issues, including humanitarian matters such as separated families, unless the South agreed to resume tours to Mt. Geumgang. Thus the talks ended without the reaching of any agreements between the two sides.

5) North Korean Refugees and Asylum Seekers

As of December 2015, the total number of North Korean refugees who have entered the ROK stands at 28,795. In the year 2015 alone, 1,276 North Korean refugees entered the ROK.

Number of North Korean Refugees Entering the ROK per Year



In order for the safe and swift transfer of North Korean refugees, the ROK government maintains close cooperation with international organizations and countries where many North Korean refugees reside in, under the principle that protection and assistance should be provided to all North Korean refugees who wish to settle in the ROK.

To prevent the forceful repatriation of North Korean refugees, the government has been stressing the importance of the principle of "non-refoulement" at bilateral summits and multilateral meetings. For instance, The ROK government included phrases related to the importance of the principle of "non-refoulement" in the Joint Statement of the ROK-EU Summit on September 15, 2015. In addition, the ROK government has urged the international community to abide by the principle of "non-refoulement" on various occasions including the High-level Segment of the 28th Session of the UN Human Rights Council (Mar. 2-5), the 62nd Session of the UNHCR Standing Committee (Mar. 3-5), the 63rd Session of the UNHCR Standing Committee (Jun. 24-25), the 66th Session of the UNHCR Executive Committee (Oct. 5-9) and the third Committee of the 70th UN General Assembly (Oct. 6-Nov. 25).

Furthermore, the ROK government is exerting efforts to improve welfare services to ensure mental and physical well-being of North Korean refugees while they await their transfer to the ROK. The refugees are also provided with books and educational programs, which help them adapt to their new life in the ROK. After the refugees enter the ROK, the government provides refugees with assistance such as resettlement funds, housing services, and education on social adaptation as well as vocational training to help them adapt to new environment in a swift and stable manner.

2. Efforts to Firmly Establish Peace and Lay the Groundwork for Peaceful Unification on the Korean Peninsula

1) Creating Momentum for Unification on the Korean Peninsula through Cooperation with Neighboring Countries

Given that the division of the Korean Peninsula stemmed from the international context of the Cold War, the realization of peaceful unification on the Korean Peninsula requires not only the efforts of the two Koreas but also the support and constructive cooperation of neighboring countries. Against this backdrop, the ROK government has been exerting efforts to create an international environment conducive to unification by further strengthening discussions on unification with neighboring countries including the US and China.

On the occasion of the ROK-US Summit on October 16, 2015, the ROK President Park Geun-hye closely discussed with the US President Barack Obama on the future of the Korean Peninsula beyond its current pending issues. The two leaders agreed to coordinate policies towards North Korea and to strengthen the ROK-US High Level Dialogue in creating a favorable environment to unification. President Obama reiterated his strong support for the ROK's Initiative for Peaceful Unification on the Korean Peninsula which was proposed by President Park in Dresden on March 28, 2014. Also, the two countries adopted the 'ROK-US Joint Statement on North Korea,' which is the first joint statement that mainly focuses on North Korean issues.

On the occasion of the Commemoration of 70th Anniversary of Victory of Chinese People's Resistance against Japanese Aggression and World Anti-Fascist War on September 2, 2015, the ROK government held in-depth discussions with China

on the unification of the Korean Peninsula and agreed to strengthen discussions on the issues regarding future developments on the Korean Peninsula. The ROK government is keeping this momentum by continued discussions with the Chinese government.

2) Securing International Consensus and Support for the Unification of the Korean Peninsula

In order to realize the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula, it is necessary to create an international environment favorable to unification. In this regard, the ROK government has made multi-faceted efforts to secure broader international support and closer cooperation for its unification policy.

The ROK government has endeavored to garner international support for its unification policies in a series of bilateral summits and international meetings. In this regard, the ROK government has made efforts to reflect clauses which manifest support for its unification policies in joint statements of bilateral and international meetings, and as a result succeeded in including 17 clauses in a series of meetings in 2015.

Moreover, the government is exerting efforts to deepen understandings on unification in the international community by holding a series of "Korea Peninsula Roundtable." Through these events, the ROK government is making continued efforts to explain the current situation on the Korean Peninsula, thereby creating an international environment favorable to unification.

3) Further Strengthening the Global Network for Unification

In 2015, marking the 70th year of the liberation and division of the Korean Peninsula, the ROK government made multilateral efforts in order to create an international environment favorable to unification as well as to highlight the importance of putting an end to the prolonged division of the Korean Peninsula.

The second seminar of the Korean-German Advisory Group on the Foreign Policy towards Unification was held in Berlin, Germany on February 5, 2015 on the occasion of Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se's visit. This Advisory Group was established with an objective to share Germany's unification experience. In the second seminar, participants discussed lessons of Germany's experience on confidence building and the negotiation process of the so called 'two plus four treaty,' and shared ideas to apply Germany's case to the unification process of the Korean Peninsula. The third seminar was held in Seoul, ROK on October 12, 2015 on the occasion of German President's visit. In this seminar, participants held in-depth discussions on confidence building on the Korean Peninsula and on inter-Korean personnel exchanges. Through the successful holding of the second and the third seminar, Germany reaffirmed its strong support on the unification of the Korean Peninsula and strengthened cooperation with the ROK regarding this issue.

Moreover, as agreed on July 17, 2014 by the foreign ministers of the ROK and the Visegrad Group (the V4: the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia), the second seminar was held in Prague, Czech Republic on November 13, 2015 for the purpose of sharing the V4's transition experience. The privatization experience of the V4 put forward in the conference provided meaningful counsel to the Republic of Korea in setting the direction for the pursuit of unification on the Korean Peninsula.

4) Creation of DMZ World Eco-Peace Park

The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) is one of the most heavily armed borders in the world with constant military tensions. In order to foster exchanges between the two Koreas in the DMZ, the ROK government is pursuing to establish the 'DMZ World Eco-Peace Park.' Given that international support and cooperation is essential in creating this Park, the ROK government has been explaining to the UN and related countries including the US and China through diplomatic channels and international meetings that the 'DMZ World Eco-Peace Park' will contribute to the easing of tensions and trust-building on the Korean Peninsula.

Chapter 2

Strengthening Momentum for Progress on the North Korean Nuclear Issue



1. Establishing Firm International Support for Non-Tolerance Towards North Korea's Nuclear Programs

At numerous bilateral and multilateral summits, ministerial meetings and other channels of various levels, the ROK government made efforts to extend the firm support of the international community for the denuclearization of North Korea. The summits, ministerial meetings and international conferences adopted 26 documents emphasizing zero-tolerance toward North Korea's nuclear programs and urging North Korea to refrain from provocative actions. It is notable that eight documents were either adopted for the first time or contained stronger messages than ever before, even though there were no strategic provocations by North Korea

in 2015 such as nuclear tests and long-range missile launches.

First, the ROK government strengthened bilateral coordination for the denuclearization of North Korea with key countries through consultations at various levels including summits. By adopting the 2015 ROK-US Joint Statement on North Korea, President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea and President Barack Obama of the United States of America committed to 'address the North Korean nuclear problem with utmost urgency and determination.' The two leaders expressed clearly that the ROK and US put great importance on the policies regarding the issues of North Korea and its nuclear programs, and that they had strong determination to resolve them. At the ROK-China Summit held on September 2, the two Presidents highlighted the importance of faithfully implementing the United Nations Security Council resolutions. In this regard, they expressed opposition to any act that would further escalate tensions. On November 2, at the ROK-Japan Summit which was held for the first time since the inauguration of the ROK government, the two leaders recognized the ROK-Japan and ROK-US-Japan cooperation to respond to common challenges such as the North Korean nuclear problem, and agreed to strengthen and continue cooperation on multilateral levels in order to respond to the North Korean nuclear issue. On November 30, on the occasion of the ROK-Russia Summit which was held for the first time in two years, President Putin said he would make concerted efforts to solve the North Korean nuclear problem through diplomacy with the principle of no acceptance of North Korea's nuclear weapons.

In addition, the ROK secured strong support from the international community in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue through numerous bilateral summits including with the Czech Republic (Feb. 26), Turkmenistan (Apr. 13), Bulgaria (May 14), India (May 18), Uzbekistan (May 20), EU (Sept. 15), and France (Nov. 4), reaffirmed

the consensus of the international community on non-tolerance towards North Korea's nuclear programs, and strengthened cooperation to resolve this nuclear issue. Further, the ROK expanded support from the international community through high-level talks including Foreign Ministers' Meetings.

At various regional forums and international meetings, a strong message that North Korea's nuclear programs cannot be tolerated was issued as well. The Joint Declaration for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia following the ROK-Japan-China summit held on November 1, held for the first time in three and a half years, delivered a stronger message regarding the North Korean nuclear problem than the last summit. The three leaders reaffirmed their resolute opposition to the development of nuclear weapons on the Korean Peninsula, and opposed any action that may cause tension on the Peninsula or violate relevant UN Security Council resolutions. Moreover, the Chairman's Statement of the East Asia Summit (Nov. 22) warned against provocations for the first time among the statements following ASEAN-related summits. At the first ROK-V4 summit (Dec. 3), the V4 and the ROK strongly condemned the continued development of nuclear and ballistic missile programs by North Korea and urged it to return, at an early date, to the NPT and IAEA safeguards and join the CTBT. It also called on North Korea to fully comply with obligations under the relevant UN Security Council resolutions, thus delivering firm message to North Korea.

Meanwhile, the Chairman's Statement of the ARF Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Aug. 6), which is the only regional security forum North Korea participates in, called on North Korea to comply fully with its obligations to all relevant UNSC resolutions, and emphasized North Korea's denuclearization. The ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Aug. 4) also adopted the Joint Communique that delivered a strong message on the North Korean nuclear issue. Alongside, the IAEA General

Conference Resolution which was adopted by consensus on September 18, unprecedentedly urged North Korea to halt all such activities and any efforts aimed at the production of fissile material. It also expressed serious concern about activities at the Pyeongsan uranium mine, and reaffirmed the united stance of the international community against North Korea's nuclear programs.

Documents Adopted at Major Bilateral and Multilateral Meetings Regarding the North Korean Nuclear Issue

Date	Documents
Feb. 26, 2015	ROK-Czech Republic Summit Joint Statement
Mar. 13, 2015	Joint Press Statement of the ROK-Slovenia Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Mar. 21, 2015	Joint Press Statement of the ROK-Japan-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Apr. 13, 2015	ROK-Turkmenistan Summit Joint Statement
May 14, 2015	ROK-Bulgaria Summit Joint Statement
May 18, 2015	ROK-India Summit Joint Statement
May 20, 2015	ROK-Uzbekistan Summit Joint Statement
May 22, 2015	Joint Press Statement of the MIKTA Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Aug. 5, 2015	Chairman's Statement of the ROK-ASEAN Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Aug. 6, 2015	Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Aug. 6, 2015	Chairman's Statement of the ARF Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Aug. 6, 2015	Chairman's Statement of the EAS Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Sept. 2, 2015	ROK-China Summit
Sept. 11, 2015	ROK-Australia Foreign and Defense Ministers 2+2 Meeting
Sept. 15, 2015	ROK-EU Summit Joint Press Statement
Sept. 18, 2015	IAEA General Conference's Resolution on the North Korean Nuclear Issue (Ministerial Meeting)

Sept. 29, 2015	Joint Press Statement of the MIKTA Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Sept. 29, 2015	Final Declaration and Measures to Promote the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (Ministerial Meeting)
Oct. 16, 2015	2015 ROK-US Joint Statement on North Korea (Summit)
Nov. 1, 2015	The Joint Declaration for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia (ROK-Japan-China Trilateral Summit)
Nov. 4, 2015	Action Plan for a 21 st Century Strengthened Comprehensive Partnership (ROK-France Summit)
Nov. 5-6, 2015	Chairman's Statement of the ASEM Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Nov. 21, 2015	Chairman's Statement of the ASEAN+3 Summit
Nov. 22, 2015	Chairman's Statement of the ROK-ASEAN Summit
Nov. 22, 2015	Chairman's Statement of the EAS Summit
Dec. 3, 2015	ROK-V4 Summit Joint Statement

2. Raising the International Community's Critical Awareness Regarding North Korea's Refusal to Hold Denuclearization Talks

In response to North Korea's argument that the Six-Party Talks should be resumed without any preconditions, the ROK government maintained its position that meaningful denuclearization talks should be held based on North Korea's sincerity towards denuclearization.

Since then, the ROK government proposed an idea on the way to resume meaningful denuclearization talks, known as the 'Korean Formula,' and held extensive consultations with the US, China, Japan, and Russia in January and February. The five parties affirmed their common understanding on: i) Non-tolerance towards North Korea's nuclear programs ii) Opposition to North Korea's strategic provocations

such as nuclear tests and long-range missile launches iii) Faithful implementation of the UNSC resolutions iv) The need to pursue "exploratory talks" to check North Korea's sincerity towards denuclearization. Based on such common understanding, the ROK offered repeatedly to have exploratory talks with North Korea in 2015. However, North Korea refused to have any kind of nuclear talks with the ROK and the entire international community, including China and Russia. Not demonstrating any willingness towards denuclearization, North Korea continued to make attempts to distract the focus on denuclearization, by proposing to the US to link nuclear tests and the ROK-US joint military exercises in January, and to conclude a peace treaty between the US and North Korea in October.

Judging from North Korea's attitude, it became clearly evident that the denuclearization process reached a deadlock due to North Korea. The entire international community became more critical of North Korea's refusal to denuclearize.

The ROK government also actively engaged in holding various minilateral meetings to strengthen communication among the participating countries of the Six-Party Talks, and to strengthen momentum for making progress in the North Korean nuclear problem. The ROK government strengthened the ROK-US-Japan trilateral cooperation on various levels regarding North Korea and its nuclear issues. In addition to the ROK-US-Japan Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Sept. 29), the first ROK-US-Japan Trilateral Foreign Vice Ministers' Meeting (Apr. 16) since the inauguration of the Park Geun-hye government, and the ROK-US-Japan Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks meetings (Jan. 28, May 27, Dec. 3) were held. Moreover, as the Chair Country of the ROK-Japan-China Summit, the ROK held a trilateral Summit on November 1 and Foreign Ministers' Meeting on March 21, thereby strengthening the ROK-Japan-China cooperation on the North Korean

nuclear issue.

Meanwhile, the ROK made active efforts to hold the first back-to-back ROK-China and US-China meetings (May 28-29) of the Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks. From September to October, a series of summits between the ROK and China (Sept. 2), the US and China (Sept. 25), and the ROK and US (Oct. 16) were held, thereby deepening the common understanding on the North Korean nuclear issue among the three countries at the summit level. On May 28, a government officials' meeting with participation from the ROK, US, China, Japan, and Russia was held on the sidelines of the NEACD (Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue). The five officials reaffirmed their commitment to the September 19, 2005 Joint Statement of the Six-Party Talks, and to make joint efforts to denuclearize North Korea.

High-level Consultations on the North Korean Nuclear Issue

Date	Participants of the Meeting
Jan. 28, 2015	ROK-US-Japan Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Jan. 28, 2015	ROK-US Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Jan. 28, 2015	ROK-Japan Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Feb. 4, 2015	ROK-China Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Feb. 7, 2015	ROK-US Foreign Ministers
Feb. 8, 2015	ROK-Russia Foreign Ministers
Feb. 11, 2015	ROK-US Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Feb. 24, 2015	ROK-Russia Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Mar. 16, 2015	ROK-Japan Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Mar. 21, 2015	ROK-Japan-China Foreign Ministers
Mar. 21, 2015	ROK-China Foreign Ministers
Mar. 21, 2015	ROK-Japan Foreign Ministers

Apr. 9, 2015	ROK-US Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Apr. 21, 2015	ROK-US Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Apr. 27, 2015	ROK-US Deputy Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
May 4, 2015	ROK-US Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
May 6, 2015	ROK-China Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
May 18, 2015	ROK-US Foreign Ministers
May 26, 2015	ROK-US Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
May 26, 2015	ROK-Japan Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
May 27, 2015	ROK-US-Japan Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
May 28, 2015	ROK-China Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
May 28, 2015	ROK-US-China-Japan-Russia Government Officials (including Deputy Chief Representatives)
May 29, 2015	ROK-US Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Jun. 21, 2015	ROK-Japan Foreign Ministers
Jun. 29, 2015	ROK-US Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Jul. 23, 2015	ROK-China Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Jul. 27, 2015	ROK-US Deputy Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Aug. 5, 2015	ROK-China Foreign Ministers
Aug. 5, 2015	ROK-Russia Foreign Ministers
Aug. 6, 2015	ROK-Japan Foreign Ministers
Aug. 21, 2015	ROK-China Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Aug. 31, 2015	ROK-US Foreign Ministers
Sept. 1, 2015	ROK-China Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Sept. 2, 2015	ROK-China Summit
Sept. 7, 2015	ROK-China Deputy Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Sept. 16, 2015	ROK-US Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Sept. 18, 2015	ROK-China Deputy Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks

Sept. 18, 2015	ROK-Russia Deputy Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Sept. 25, 2015	ROK-US Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Sept. 30, 2015	ROK-Japan Foreign Ministers
Oct. 16, 2015	ROK-US Summit
Oct. 27, 2015	ROK-US Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Oct. 27, 2015	ROK-Japan Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Oct. 31, 2015	ROK-China Summit
Nov. 1, 2015	ROK-Japan-China Summit
Nov. 1, 2015	ROK-Japan Foreign Ministers
Nov. 2, 2015	ROK-Japan Summit
Nov. 21, 2015	ROK-China Foreign Ministers
Nov. 24, 2015	ROK-China Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Nov. 30, 2015	ROK-Russia Summit
Dec. 2, 2015	ROK-Japan Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Dec. 3, 2015	ROK-US-Japan Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Dec. 3, 2015	ROK-US Chief Representatives to the Six-Party Talks
Dec. 28, 2015	ROK-Japan Foreign Ministers

3. Responding to North Korea's Provocations and Making Efforts to Strengthen Pressure on North Korea

In 2015, North Korea made numerous threats to carry out strategic provocations, including the launch of a so-called "satellite" (long-range missile). On May 3, Kim Jong-Un publicly ordered a test-launch of a satellite, and on September 14,

the Director of North Korea's National Aerospace Development Administration claimed plans to launch satellites, which increased the possibility of North Korea's provocations. The ROK government, in close coordination with the US, maintained a robust combined defense posture, and made preparations to respond with the international community on bilateral and multilateral levels. The ROK and US sent a stern warning to North Korea regarding its strategic provocations including the satellite launch and stated that North Korea's continuing development of its nuclear and ballistic missile programs is an ongoing violation of multiple UN Security Council resolutions. Furthermore, the ROK and China enhanced their strategic cooperation, and at the September 2 Summit between President Park Geun-hye and Chinese President Xi Jinping, President Xi made a public warning beforehand on possible North Korean provocations. The ROK government also strengthened cooperation with Japan through the ROK-US-Japan and the ROK-Japan-China trilateral cooperation. In the ROK-Russia Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Aug. 5), the two countries confirmed that they would continue to closely cooperate to prevent North Korea's further provocations and to make progress in North Korea's denuclearization.

North Korea not only made verbal threats, but also raised tensions on the Korean Peninsula by launching Scud missiles (Mar. 2) and conducting a Submarine-Launched Ballistic Missile ejection test (May 8). In response to such provocations, the ROK government sent letters to the Chair of the UN Security Council's 1718 Sanctions Committee to note that North Korea conducted missile and rocket launches in violation of the UNSC resolutions and to request investigation by the Committee, in order to bring North Korea's violation of UNSC resolutions to the attention of the international community.

Meanwhile, as part of the efforts to change North Korea's strategic calculation

on its nuclear development, the ROK government closely consulted with its partners to improve the effectiveness of the sanctions against North Korea. The ROK government imposed bilateral sanctions for the first time (Jun. 26) on three third-country nationals and four entities who supported North Korea indirectly through weapons trade. The key partners such as the US, Japan, and the EU, also faithfully implemented sanctions against North Korea in accordance with the UNSC resolutions and strengthened their bilateral sanctions. The US, in particular, extended sanctions against North Korea to include human rights and cyber security as well. The ROK government also made diplomatic efforts to raise awareness on the importance of implementing the UNSC resolutions by reaching out to countries in Africa, Southeast Asia, and Central and South America.

Chapter 3

Enhancing and Deepening the ROK-US Strategic Alliance



1. Enhancing and Deepening the ROK-US Comprehensive Strategic Alliance

In 2015, with their shared values and mutual trust as a firm basis, the Republic of Korea and the US further deepened and developed the ROK-US Comprehensive Strategic Alliance through channels for consultations at various levels including the Summit, Ministerial Meetings, and Vice-Ministerial Talks. The two countries achieved substantial progress in the bilateral alliance, as well as in issues relating to the Korean Peninsula, Northeast Asia and Global Partnership. The two countries also explored new frontiers for cooperation in areas including space, cyber, and health security.

Korea and the US continued to modernize the alliance by resolving sensitive issues in a creative and mutually beneficial manner. Such efforts include signing, for the first time in 42 years, the revised "Republic of Korea-United States Agreement

for Cooperation Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy." Moreover, the two countries contributed to maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia by resolutely countering various North Korean provocations such as landmine explosions and artillery launches. Amidst the fluid strategic environment in the region, the ROK government engaged in proactive diplomacy towards neighboring countries with a firm basis on the ROK-US alliance. The Korean government fostered understanding and support for the harmonious development of the ROK-US and the ROK-China relations, and secured the constructive role and support of the US government in improving the ROK-Japan relations.

President Park's second visit to the US since assuming office played a key role in the development of the ROK-US relations in 2015. President Park visited the US on October 13 to 16 and held the fourth Summit Meeting with President Obama on October 16. The two Presidents reaffirmed their strong commitment to an ever evolving, dynamic and robust alliance. Through President Park's visit to the US in 2015, which followed her visit to the US in 2013 and President Obama's visit to Korea in 2014, mutual visits between the two leaders virtually became an annual event. Close relations and mutual trust between the two leaders laid an important foundation for efforts by the two countries to further develop the ROK-US relations.



ROK-US Summit and Joint Press Conference (Washington D.C., October 16, 2015)

On the occasion of the Summit, the two leaders strengthened the ROK-US security and economic alliance by reaffirming unwavering US commitment to the defense of the ROK, by agreeing to hold on a regular basis the Foreign and Defense Ministers' "two plus two" Meetings and the Security Consultative Meeting, and by launching the Senior Economic Dialogue and the High-Level Commission on Nuclear Energy. Furthermore, they agreed to strengthen strategic coordination on North Korea issues by addressing the North Korean nuclear problem with utmost urgency and determination, and by intensifying high-level strategic consultations to create a favorable environment for the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula. Particularly, the adoption of the "ROK-US Joint Statement on North Korea" sent a strong message to North Korea as the first ever statement solely focused on the North Korea issue.

President Obama, by welcoming the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative, affirmed his support for Korea's initiative to foster bilateral, minilateral, and multilateral cooperation for peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia.

Furthermore, the two leaders agreed to deepen cooperation to resolve global issues in fields such as non-proliferation, counter-terrorism, and development cooperation as well as in new frontiers including space, cyber, and health security. They also agreed to continue joint efforts to expand ties between the two peoples such as returning two royal seals recovered from private holders in the United States as soon as possible; and deepening the partnership in the field of education. The ROK-US Joint Fact Sheet adopted on the occasion of the bilateral summit set out the current status of and achievements in the bilateral relations in various fields and also presented a blueprint for future cooperation.

The visit of President Park to the US was held with utmost courtesy and hospitality demonstrated by the US as demonstrated by the invitation to the

residence of the Vice President which marked the first of its kind extended to an Asian Leader.

The visit to the US was originally scheduled for mid-June, but unavoidably delayed due to the crucial need for a concerted response to the outbreak of MERS (Middle East Respiratory Syndrome). The government consulted with the US side on postponing the visit to the US. After the decision on June 10 to postpone the visit, President Obama called President Park on June 12 to express full understanding and support, suggesting to reschedule the visit to the US at their earliest convenience. Subsequently, 38 Representatives of the US Congress sent a joint letter expressing understanding of and support for the decision to reschedule the June 17 visit to the US.

In addition to summit-level diplomacy, the two countries engaged in high-level diplomacy through multiple channels that include Ministerial Meetings in the year of 2015. Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se held bilateral meetings with Secretary of State John F. Kerry on three occasions in 2015 and enhanced policy coordination to further substantive cooperation and deepen personal ties between the two leaders.

At the first Ministerial Meeting in the year 2015 held on the sidelines of the 51st Munich Security Conference, the two ministers reached a common understanding on the direction and the roadmap for bilateral cooperation for the year 2015 and agreed to strengthen their policy coordination and cooperation in addressing North Korea issues, tensions in Northeast Asia and global challenges. Minister Yun marked the year 2015 as 'historic,' in that it marks the 70th anniversary of the end of World War II and the Korean Peninsula's liberation from Japanese colonial rule as well as the 50th anniversary of the normalization of the ROK-Japan relations. In this regard, he explained the ROK government's active efforts to further cooperation in Northeast Asia including ROK-Japan bilateral cooperation; ROK-US-Japan and ROK-China-Japan minilateral cooperations; and the Northeast Asia Peace

and Cooperation Initiative. Secretary Kerry highly valued the ROK government's initiative and expressed his willingness to fully cooperate on the policy.

Three months later, Secretary Kerry visited Korea to hold the 2nd ROK-US Ministerial Meeting on May 18. Taking note of North Korea's provocations of various forms including nuclear, missile and conventional tools; and also of the fluid and uncertain political situation in North Korea, the two ministers agreed to strengthen high-level policy coordination on North Korea issues and further reinforce the firm deterrence against North Korea. Furthermore, the two ministers shared the view that it is important to establish sustainable peace in the Northeast Asian region. In this context, they discussed the need to further cooperation in the region based on a correct understanding of history.



ROK-US Foreign Ministerial Meeting and Joint Press Conference (Seoul, May 18, 2015)

At the 3rd Ministerial Meeting held on August 31 on the sidelines of the Foreign Ministerial Conference on Global Leadership in the Arctic: Cooperation, Innovation, Engagement and Resilience (GLACIER) in Anchorage, the two ministers discussed the situation on the Korean Peninsula since the reaching of an inter-Korean agreement on August 25, and ways to respond to future developments; the situation in Northeast Asia; and methods to advance their global partnership. The two top diplomats noted with appreciation that the ROK and the US have

maintained close military and diplomatic collaboration throughout the course of responding to the recent landmine and artillery provocations by North Korea, which culminated in an agreement between the ROK and North Korea to issue a Joint Press Release on August 25. In addition, highlighting the importance of China's constructive role in maintaining peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, they agreed to continue multi-layered efforts with other countries concerned in the region. Furthermore, they agreed to work closely together in addressing such global issues as international peacekeeping operations, climate change, development cooperation, and violent extremism. Secretary Kerry noted with appreciation that the attendance at the recent GLACIER conference by Minister Yun, the only Foreign Minister from a non-Western Asian country to have participated in the event, clearly illustrated the truly global partnership between the ROK and the US.

The three ministerial meetings held every three months ahead of President Park Geun-hye's visit to the US in October laid the foundation for the ROK-US Summit successfully yielding substantive achievements.

Minister Yun also visited the US on June 14 to 16 to sign the revised "Republic of Korea-United States Agreement for Cooperation Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy" and to meet with National Security Advisor Susan Rice of the White House and have in-depth discussions on bilateral issues including rescheduling President Park Geun-hye's visit to the US.

On September 29, Minister Yun met with US Secretary Kerry and Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida on the sidelines of the 70th Session of the UN General Assembly and the Sustainable Development Summit. At the meeting, they discussed ways in which their three countries can work together to promote peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula, including ways to deter North Korea's provocations and respond to relevant incidents. They also discussed ways to

promote the trilateral cooperation to jointly address global issues in the future.



ROK-US-Japan Foreign Ministerial Meeting
(New York, September 19, 2015)



ROK-US Vice Foreign Ministerial Meeting
(Seoul, February 9, 2015)

Moreover, the two governments further strengthened the multi-layered system for consultations between the two countries on major policy issues of concern. First Vice Minister Cho Tae-yong met with Deputy Secretary of State Antony Blinken on three occasions (Feb. 9, Apr. 17, and Oct. 6) to reaffirm the close coordination on North Korea issues and to engage in comprehensive discussions regarding the situation in Northeast Asia and global issues. On April 16, First Vice Minister Cho Tae-yong attended the first-ever Vice Foreign Ministerial Consultation among the Republic of Korea, the United States and Japan for in-depth discussions on issues of common concern including North Korea issues, situations in the Asia-Pacific region and global issues.

On November 20, Second Vice Minister Cho Tae-yul co-chaired the first "ROK-US Senior Economic Dialogue" with his counterpart, Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment Catherine Novelli, to discuss ways to expand bilateral cooperation on 'New Frontier' areas including health security, the Arctic and maritime issues as well as to strengthen global partnership in such areas as climate change, development cooperation and the digital economy.

Other high-level officials including the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs Wendy Sherman, the Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Daniel Russel, and Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Korea and Japan Sung Kim visited Korea to hold high-level policy consultations.

Although the year 2015 was an eventful one with unfortunate events such as the attack against the US Ambassador to the Republic of Korea Mark Lippert, the two countries closely communicated, consulted and cooperated through various channels ranging from summit and high-level meetings to working level meetings to achieve substantive results in various fields including the alliance, the Korean Peninsula, Northeast Asia and global issues.

High-level officials in the US administration including President Obama and Secretary Kerry described the ROK-US relationship as stronger than ever on many occasions such as President Park's visit to the US. The US CRS (Congressional Research Service) report also highlighted that the ROK-US relationship is at their most robust state since the formation of the alliance. As such, both countries responded strongly to North Korea's provocation based on the staunch alliance, and strengthened the role of the alliance as the linchpin for peace and security in the Northeast Asian region in the fluid strategic circumstances in the region. Furthermore, the two countries laid a foundation to expand 'new frontiers' of cooperation by strengthening their global partnership for peace and prosperity around the world.

ROK-US Summits, Foreign Ministerial Meetings, ROK-US-Japan Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Meetings in 2015

ROK-US Summit

Date	Venue	Occasion
Oct. 16, 2015	Washington DC	Summit Meeting on the Occasion of President Park's Visit (Oct. 13-16) to the United States.

ROK-US / ROK-US-Japan Foreign Ministerial Meetings

Date	Venue	Occasion
Feb. 7, 2015	Munich	ROK-US Foreign Ministerial Meeting on the Occasion of the Munich Security Conference
May 18, 2015	Seoul	ROK-US Foreign Ministerial Meeting on the Occasion of Secretary John Kerry's visit to the ROK (May 17-18).
Aug. 31, 2015	Anchorage	ROK-US Foreign Ministerial Meeting on the Occasion of the GLACIER Conference
Sept. 29, 2015	New York	ROK-US-Japan Trilateral Foreign Ministerial Meeting on the Occasion of UN General Assembly

2. Consolidating the Foundation for the ROK-US Strategic Alliance

Alongside intergovernmental cooperation, Korea and the US have been conducting people-to-people exchanges with not only members of the US Congress and officials of the US state governments and legislatures, but also academic

and opinion leaders. The vibrant exchanges between the two countries have contributed to expanding the basis of bilateral relations through a multi-layered cooperative network and mutual understanding.

The Korean government has been implementing the Congressional Member



President Park Geun-hye meets Sen. Cory Gardner
(Seoul, August 19, 2015)

Exchange Program (CMEP) since 2011 to strengthen cooperation with the US Congress.

In 2015, Representatives Mike Kelly and Ami Bera visited Korea as part of this program.

Numerous other US Congress members visited Korea as well, including a congressional

delegation led by House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Representative Charles Rangel,

a congressional delegation from the House

Committee on Armed Services led by Chairman of the House Armed Services Subcommittee on Strategic Forces Mike Rogers, and Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs Cory Gardner.

These visits have provided an opportunity for US Congress members to witness the situation around the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia and better understand Korea's foreign and security policies, thereby laying the groundwork for continuous support for the ROK-US alliance in the US Congress. In addition, the Korean government invited US Congressional Korea Caucus member staffs to provide an opportunity for them to experience the solidity and importance of the ROK-US alliance.

In 2015, Korean National Assembly members also actively visited the United States. In January, members of the House Steering Committee visited the United States. In March, Speaker Chung Ui-hwa visited Washington DC and met with

US Congress members including Speaker of the House John Boehner. In April, a delegation led by National Assembly member Hwang Jin-ha participated in the Korea-US-Japan Trilateral Legislative Exchange Program (TLEP) in Washington DC. In May, an ROK-US Inter-parliamentary Council delegation led by National Assembly member Lee Byung-seok met with Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs Ed Royce in Washington DC. In July, a delegation from the Saenuri Party led by Chairman Kim Moo-sung also paid a visit to the United States and met with Chairman of the Senate Committee on Armed Services John McCain. Such active parliamentary diplomacy has contributed to the establishment of a network between Korean and US legislative bodies, while facilitating their communication.

Strengthening inter-parliamentary exchanges and cooperation has led to significant achievements. First, the US Congress expressed its support for the ROK-US alliance on various occasions including in the Joint Explanatory Statement (JES) of the 2016 National Defense Authorization Act as well as issuing a Senate Resolution welcoming President Park's official visit to the US (S.Res.278). Second, US Congress members including House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senator John McCain issued statements in support of the "comfort women" agreement between Korea and Japan. Third, the number of US Congressional Korea Caucus members greatly increased in 2015, indicating growing support for Korea in the US Congress.

The Korean government also made considerable efforts to expand people-to-people exchanges with US state governments and legislatures. In 2015, five incumbent governors—Guam Governor Edward Calvo, Maryland Governor Larry Hogan, Washington Governor Jay Inslee, Montana Governor Steve Bullock, and Hawaii Governor David Ige—visited Korea. In addition, as part of the State Government and Congress invitation program, House Minority Leader for the Georgia General Assembly Stacey Abrams and Minority Leader of the Illinois Senate

Christine Radogno visited Korea. Their visit helped Korea to forge a bond with US states, adding another dimension to our efforts toward the consolidation of the ROK-US alliance.

Moreover, exchanges with US opinion leaders including former officials, academic



Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se Meets
President of CEIP (Seoul, June 30, 2015)

scholars, and think-tank leaders were actively carried out. Those who visited Korea include President of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (CEIP) William Burns (former Deputy Secretary of State), President of the Wilson Center Jane Harman, the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) delegation led by President Richard Haass, the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)

delegation led by President John Hamre, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs (CCGA) delegation led by President Ivo Daalder, and Chairman of The Korea Society Thomas Hubbard. President Burns, in particular, was the first CEIP President to visit Korea in two decades. This demonstrates the diversification of Korea's outreach with US opinion leaders.

The Korean government also continues to make active efforts to invigorate people-to-people exchanges for the sustainable development of ROK-US relations. In 2015, as a follow-up measure for the Peace Corps Korea Revisit Program (2009 to 2013), the Korean government implemented various outreach activities tailored to each region of the United States together with 'Friends of Korea (FoK),' which mainly consists of former members of the Peace Corps who served in Korea. The people of both countries were able to solidify their friendship through the Korean government's initiative to give back to the volunteers who devoted themselves to

serving in Korea.

The Korean government will continue its efforts to consolidate the foundation for the ROK-US strategic alliance by pursuing systematic and strategic 'policy-centered public diplomacy' in various forms.

3. Strengthening ROK-US Combined Defense Posture and Broadening the Scope of Security Cooperation

In response to the increasing threats from North Korea, such as short and mid-range missile launches as well as the advancement of nuclear and missile technology, the ROK and the US are maintaining the most robust combined defense posture and deterrence against North Korea at an unprecedented level based on seamless collaboration. The ROK and the US responded jointly and firmly to the landmines provocations and firing of artillery shells in the De-militarized Zone in August 2015 and deterred additional provocations stably managing the situation. While maintaining a robust deterrent posture the ROK and the US also have expanded the scope of the alliance in various areas including defense technology, response to biological threats, cyber and space. Also, the alliance truly develops into a global partnership which is more than just a linchpin of peace and stability in the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia.

The US reaffirmed its continued defense commitment to provide and strengthen extended deterrence for the ROK using the full range of military capabilities, including the US nuclear umbrella, conventional strike and missile defense capabilities. In particular, the ROK and the US decided to integrate the extended

deterrence policy committees (EDPC) and counter-missile capabilities (CMCC) into the new Deterrence Strategy Committee (DSC) at the 7th Korea-US Integrated Defense Dialogue (KIDD) in April 2015 in order to enhance the ROK-US deterrence and response capabilities in regards to North Korea's nuclear and missile threats. Accordingly, the 1st DSC was held during the 8th KIDD in Seoul in September 2015 in which the ROK and the US discussed the measures to deter North Korea's provocations and aggression, particularly the weapons of mass destruction (WMD) and ballistic missiles as well as to enhance the alliance's defense and response capabilities.

At the 47th Security Consultative Meeting between the ROK Minister of National Defense and US Secretary of Defense approved the implementation guidance on the "Concepts of ROK-US Alliance Comprehensive Counter-missile Operations (4D Operational Concept)" to detect, disrupt, destroy and defend against North Korean missile threats. The approval of the implementation guidance has been noted for further development of the ROK-US response capabilities.

Also, at the 47th Security Consultative Meeting, the two countries signed the "Conditions-based Operational Control (OPCON) Transition Plan"(COT-P) and pledged to implement the COT-P faithfully in order to ensure a stable wartime OPCON transition at a proper time. Besides, the two countries reaffirmed the pledge to continuously work together closely for timely completion of US Forces Korea (USFK) relocation and camp returns.

The ROK and the US decided to strengthen the coordination in defense technology strategy and cooperation. At the 47th SCM, the two countries agreed to establish a strategic level Defense Technology Strategy and Cooperation Group (DTSCG) which is co-chaired by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of National Defense, the Department of State, and the Department of Defense, with

the participation from other relevant agencies. Through this group, the two sides will cooperate and coordinate more closely together at policy and strategy level on their defense technology strategy and cooperation agenda.

Also, the two countries have continued to pioneer the new frontiers of ROK-US security cooperation. In particular, the ROK-US Able Response was implemented with the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) for the first time which provided an opportunity to acquire best practices to respond to biological threats through transnational and international cooperation as well as to raise awareness of the importance of the cooperation in responding to biological threats. This exercise provides an opportunity for continuous development of the capabilities to prevent, detect, and respond to biological threats, whether naturally occurring, accidental, or intentional. The two countries continue to maintain the security cooperation in other areas such as space and cyber, etc.

The ROK-US alliance has played a crucial role to maintain the stability and prosperity in the region being noted as stronger than ever before. While continuously maintaining a robust combined defense posture to maintain the peace on the Korean Peninsula, the ROK and the US will continue to develop a comprehensive strategic alliance to meet regional and global needs based on common values and mutual trust.

4. Improving the Implementation of the Korea-US Status of Forces Agreement

The government is continuously striving to enhance the effective implementation of the ROK-US SOFA while introducing operational improvements to provide a

stable working environment for the USFK, contribute to their defense capacity, and minimize inconveniences experienced by Korean nationals.

In 2015, the government, through a close cooperation with the USFK, proactively addressed the USFK related issues such as the anthrax delivery incident, Pocheon ricochet incidents, labor issue and crimes. It also exerted efforts to minimize the Korean nationals' inconveniences caused by USFK's activities, through active operation of the SOFA Counseling Center.

Through the 195th (Jul. 15, 2015) and 196th (Dec. 17, 2015) SOFA Joint Committee meetings, the government approved the "Procedures Relating to the Entry of Specified Inactivated Biological Test Samples" submitted

by the Joint Working Group for ROK-US Biological Defense Cooperation which was organized to deal with the anthrax delivery incident. The newly established procedure requires the USFK to notify the ROK side when the USFK introduces the test samples into the ROK. Moreover, the procedure designates the SOFA Disease Prevention and Control Subcommittee as the consultation channel and stipulates measures such as joint assessment by the ROK-USFK health authorities which supports close and more systematic coordination between the ROK and the USFK regarding the test sample control.

In addition, the government strongly urged the USFK that it is necessary to investigate the root causes and come up with preventive measures concerning



The 195th SOFA Joint Committee Meeting (Seoul, July 15, 2015)

Pocheon ricochet incidents, stressing that local residents living nearby the US range are deeply worried about their safety due to a series of similar ricochet incidents. The USFK provided the results of its investigation on the root causes of the incidents and expressed its commitment to a continued close cooperation with the government in preventing future recurrence of such incidents.

As for the Korean employees of the USFK, the government and the USFK agreed to exert continued efforts, wherever possible, to minimize staff reduction related to relocation of USFK camps to Pyeongtaek. Also, the two sides concurred on continuous cooperation to achieve substantial improvement of pension system for the Korean employees.

Furthermore, the government acknowledged that the crime rates of the USFK military personnel showed decrease trend over the past years as a result of the aggressive crime prevention efforts made by the relevant authorities of the ROK and the USFK. The two sides agreed to continue their efforts to combat USFK crimes in the future.

To reach out proactively to the public and better implement the SOFA, the government made efforts to actively utilize the SOFA Counseling Center established in April 2013. The Center provides overall information on SOFA and comprehensive legal advice on civil compensation procedures and criminal proceedings that may be initiated against USFK personnel with regard to mishaps and accidents involving the USFK such as traffic and damage to crops. The Center also has public relations initiatives with a strong outreach program including periodic visits to local governments and police stations



The SOFA Counseling Center

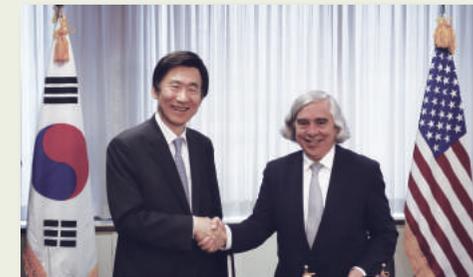
with a view to contributing to the resolution of specific complaints.

The government will continue to strengthen inter-ministerial consultations in order to implement the SOFA in a more effective manner while at the same time expeditiously resolving SOFA related issues. By closely collaborating with the USFK, the government will continue to further improve the overall management of SOFA through all channels for cooperation, including the SOFA Joint Committee and subcommittees.

The New ROK-US Agreement for Cooperation Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy: Expansion of Strategic Nuclear Partnership Between the ROK and the US

After extensive negotiations of more than two years since the inauguration of the Park Geun-hye Administration, the Republic of Korea and the United States succeeded in reaching the new ROK-US Agreement for Cooperation Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy. The new Agreement entered into force on November 25, 2015, and opened a new era for strategic nuclear partnership between the two countries. The Agreement updates the previous 42-year-old agreement (entered into force in 1973) in a strategic and mutually beneficial way.

The new Agreement expands the two countries' horizons for peaceful uses of nuclear energy, which were limited or left unexplored under the previous agreement, particularly in, inter alia, three key areas: spent fuel management, assured nuclear fuel supply, and promotion of nuclear exports. For example, the Agreement will contribute



ROK Minister of Foreign Affairs Yun Byung-se and US Secretary of Energy Ernest Moniz sign the new Agreement (June 15, 2015)

to the improvement of public health by allowing the ROK to produce a stable supply of medical radioisotopes used for cancer diagnosis, for which Korea previously had to rely entirely on imports. It will contribute to promoting nuclear imports and exports as well by opening up possibilities for expediting the necessary authorizations. The Agreement also contains a new provision for mutual assistance in case of disruptions in nuclear fuel supply, which will improve both countries' energy security.

In addition, the new Agreement affirms the right of each country to use nuclear energy for peaceful purposes and states that the ROK and the US desire to expand their existing cooperation without prejudice to the sovereignty of each country. With such an unprecedented text, the Agreement reaffirmed the principles for a mutually beneficial cooperation based on the recognition that both countries have attained an advanced level in the field of nuclear energy.

The revision of the Agreement is another example of a case that strengthened the strategic cooperation between the ROK and the US in a creative and future-oriented way. The new nuclear Agreement is expected to become another important pillar of the ROK-US alliance along with the Mutual Defense Treaty and the Free Trade Agreement (FTA) between the two countries.

The ROK and the US will continue their close cooperation for the effective implementation of the new Agreement. As a first step for the implementation of the new Agreement, the two countries will hold the

First Plenary of the High Level Bilateral Commission on a vice-minister level in the first half of 2016 and will continue to give a concrete shape to the strategic and future-oriented cooperation between the two countries.

Chapter 4

Strengthening Cooperation with Neighboring Countries



1. Korea-Japan Relations



Korea-Japan Summit (Seoul, November 2, 2015)

Korea and Japan are not only important neighbors that share similar values and interests but also partners in achieving peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia and beyond. In this vein, the Park Geun-hye administration, since its inauguration, has sought to build a stable relationship with Japan on the basis of a correct understanding of history.

In particular, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations, the Korean government exerted extensive efforts to open a new chapter in relations with Japan. In November 2015, President Park Geun-hye held a summit with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on the occasion of the ROK-Japan-

China Trilateral Summit, which was held after a three and a half year hiatus, and the candid discussions between the two leaders provided the basis to improve bilateral relations. In consideration of the fact that the year 2015 was a turning point marking the 50th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations, the two leaders instructed officials to accelerate consultations for the resolution of the comfort women issue as early as possible, which had been the core pending issue between Korea and Japan. Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se, through his first visit to Japan in June, as well as through six ROK-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meetings and three telephone conversations, reaffirmed the importance of ROK-Japan bilateral relations and discussed ways for its further development. On the occasion of his first visit to Japan, an agreement was reached on a general framework regarding the issue of Japan's inscription of its Meiji Industrial Revolution sites as a World Heritage, which had been an important pending issue between the two countries. The inscription was decided at the 39th World Heritage Committee in July, with the rightful concerns of the Korean government being reflected in a faithful manner. In addition, bilateral dialogues such as the Vice Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in April continued, as part of efforts to narrow the gap in views and resolve issues concerning history and historical perceptions.

The repeated retrogressive remarks and actions by some of the political leaders of Japan, however, undermined Korea's efforts to improve the bilateral relationship. Many Japanese government officials and political leaders visited the Yasukuni shrine, a symbol of Japan's past imperialism and which glorifies Japan's military aggression in the past. Japan also carried out provocations over Dokdo, an integral part of Korean territory; in February, a high-level official of the Japanese central government attended and celebrated the annual event held by Japan's Shimane prefecture, and in April, the Japanese government approved middle-school

textbooks that wrongfully describe Dokdo as Japanese territory.

The Korean government made diverse efforts to resolve the historical issues that have hampered the development of ROK-Japan relations. In particular, regarding the comfort women issue that had been the core pending issue between Korea and Japan, the Korean government made efforts to gain the support of the international community in resolving the issue as early as possible, such as through the UN General Assembly and the UN Human Rights Council, based on the shared



Korea-Japan Foreign Minister Joint Press Conference (Seoul, December 28, 2015)

perception that the comfort women issue is not only a bilateral issue between Korea and Japan, but also an issue of universal women's rights. At her keynote address at the 70th UN General Assembly on September 29, President Park emphasized the need for the early resolution of the issue, stating that "only a few of the victims of brutal sexual violence during World War II are still alive today, and solutions

that can bring healing to their hearts need to be devised quickly, while these victims are still alive." At the ROK-Japan Summit held on November 2 in Seoul, she pointed out that the comfort women issue was the biggest stumbling block to improving bilateral relations, and emphasized that its early resolution was necessary. As a result, the two leaders agreed to accelerate consultations for the resolution of the comfort women issue as early as possible. For the following two months, Korea and Japan further engaged in in-depth discussions, and an agreement was reached at the Foreign Ministers' Meeting on December 28, with the two Foreign Ministers announcing the agreement through the Joint Press Availability.

Remarks at the Joint Press Availability

Remarks by Minister Kishida:

The issue of "comfort women" was a matter which, with the involvement of the military authorities of the day, severely injured the honor and dignity of many women. In this regard, the Government of Japan painfully acknowledges its responsibility. Prime Minister Abe, in his capacity as Prime Minister of Japan, expresses anew sincere apologies and remorse from the bottom of his heart to all those who suffered immeasurable pain and incurable physical and psychological wounds as "comfort women."

The Government of Japan has been seriously dealing with this issue, and on the basis of such experience, will take measures with its own budget to heal the psychological wounds of all the former "comfort women." More specifically, the Government of the Republic of Korea will establish a foundation for the purpose of providing assistance to the former "comfort women." The Government of Japan will contribute from its budget a lump sum funding to this foundation. The Governments of Korea and Japan will cooperate to implement programs to restore the honor and dignity and to heal the psychological wounds of all the former "comfort women."

Along with what was stated above, the Government of Japan confirms that through today's statement, this issue will be finally and irreversibly resolved on the condition that the above-mentioned measures are faithfully implemented. Also, the Government of Japan, along with the Government of the Republic of Korea, will refrain from mutual reprobation and criticism in international forums, including at the United Nations in the future.

Regarding the above-mentioned budgetary measure, the expected amount will be around 1 billion Yen. What I have stated is the outcome of consultations held under the instruction of the leaders of both countries, and I am confident that Japan-Korea relations will thereby enter a new era.

Remarks by Minister Yun:

The Government of the Republic of Korea takes note of the statement by the Government of Japan and the measures leading up to the statement, and, along with the Government of Japan, confirms that through today's statement, this issue will be finally and irreversibly resolved on the condition that the above-mentioned measures stated by the Government of Japan are faithfully implemented. The Government of the Republic of Korea will cooperate in the measures to be taken by the Government of Japan.

The Government of the Republic of Korea is aware of the concern of the Government of Japan over the memorial statue placed in front of the Embassy of Japan in Seoul with respect to the maintenance of the peacefulness and respectability of its mission, and will make efforts to appropriately address the concern, including through consultations with relevant groups on possible responses.

The Government of the Republic of Korea, along with the Government of Japan, will refrain from mutual reprobation and criticism in international forums, including at the United Nations in the future, on the condition that the measures stated by the Government of Japan are faithfully implemented.

The agreement is the result of all-out efforts to reflect the hopes and requests of the victims to the greatest possible extent, with the sense of urgency that the

most important thing is to settle the issue to restore the honor and dignity of the comfort women victims before any more of them pass away. In the agreement, the Japanese government reaffirmed that the Japanese military authorities were involved, and acknowledged responsibility for the first time without any modifiers. Secondly, Prime Minister Abe expressed sincere apologies and remorse to the victims in a clear manner. Finally, the Japanese government stated that it would provide a lump sum funding of around ¥1 billion from its budget to a foundation that would be established and run with an initiative of the Korean government, and the foundation would then undertake a wide range of projects to restore the honor and dignity of the victims and heal their psychological wounds.

On Japan's unreasonable claims to Korea's sovereign territory Dokdo, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs expressed Korea's firm and strict position through means including spokesperson's statements. In addition, the Korean government redoubled its efforts to debunk Japan's false claims by taking various steps such as adding subtitles in twelve different languages to a multi-language video promoting the historical truth about Dokdo, as well as adding a database on Dokdo to the Dokdo website.

The Japanese government revised the Guidelines for US-Japan Defense Cooperation in April, establishing the foundation for security cooperation between the US and Japan. In addition, the Japanese government made possible the exercise of collective self-defense by passing the new "Legislation for Peace and Security," the essence of which is to expand the role and overseas deployment of the Self-Defense Forces. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, through the spokesperson's commentary, affirmed that the Guidelines for US-Japan Defense Cooperation and Japan's new security legislation clearly reflected full respect for Korea's sovereignty, and made it clear that Japan's security policy must be implemented in a transparent

manner and in a way that contributes to regional peace and stability, upholding the spirit of its pacifist Constitution.

Meanwhile, anti-Korean protests and hate speeches against Koreans spread in Shinjuku area of Tokyo and in districts of Osaka where a large number of Koreans reside, were threatening their safety. Through various diplomatic channels, the Korean government called on Japan to come up with legal measures as soon as possible in order to prevent such actions from spreading. President Park, upon receiving courtesy calls from Toshihiro Nikai, Chairman of the General Council of the Liberal Democratic Party, and Natsuo Yamaguchi, President of the Komeito, urged Japan to provide an institutional framework to prevent the safety and livelihood of Koreans from being threatened. The Japanese side agreed that hate speeches aimed towards a specific country or its people should not be tolerated, and there were some positive developments as a result, such as increased education centered around Japan's Ministry of Justice and the proposal of a bill within the Japanese parliament regulating hate speeches.

People-to-people exchanges between Korea and Japan remained high. In 2015, Korea and Japan were the third largest trading partners to each other, with bilateral trade volume reaching about US \$71.5 billion. The number of Korean visitors to Japan reached a record high of approximately 4 million, while Japanese tourists to Korea decreased 19.4% compared with the previous year to 1,838,000, due to the devaluation of the yen and the MERS outbreak in Korea.

As the 50th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations, in 2015 various initiatives were carried out to enhance mutual understanding and promote cultural and people-to-people exchanges, under the theme of "Creating a Brighter Future Together." Throughout the year, more than 410 diverse festivals were held with the initiatives of both governments and the civil sector in the fields of culture,

arts, academics and sports. A reception commemorating the 50th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations, a joint academic conference, and the Korea-Japan Festival were all held successfully by both governments. In particular, the leaders of both countries attended the reception commemorating the 50th anniversary of normalization of diplomatic relations, providing a turning point in bilateral relations towards a future of cooperation and co-prosperity.

Active exchanges between the parliaments of both countries also took place: The 38th Joint Meeting of the Korea-Japan Parliamentarians' Union was held in Tokyo, and the Korean delegation paid a courtesy call to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. In addition, President Park received courtesy calls from the Chairman of the General Council of the Liberal Democratic Party in February, the President of the Japan-Korea Parliamentarians' Union in June, the President of the Democratic Party in August and the President of the Komeito in October. Active exchanges between public opinion leaders of both countries also took place, such as the 23rd Korea-Japan Forum in August and the 51st Joint General Meeting of the Korea-Japan Cooperation Committee in November. Exchanges between the economic groups of the two countries also continued, and discussions on ways to promote economic exchanges between Korea and Japan for the next 50 years of joint growth and co-prosperity took place at the 47th Korea-Japan Business Conference. In addition, as part of a journalist interchange program launched by the foreign ministries of both countries, journalists from Korea and Japan paid mutual visits in November and June.

Bilateral Summit

Date	Occasion
Nov. 2	ROK-Japan Summit on the Occasion of the ROK-Japan-China Trilateral Summit in Seoul

Bilateral Foreign Ministers' Meetings

Date	Occasion
Mar. 21	ROK-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Occasion of the ROK-Japan-China Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Seoul
Jun. 21	ROK-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Occasion of Foreign Minister Yun's visit to Japan
Aug. 6	ROK-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Occasion of the ASEAN Regional Forum in Kuala Lumpur
Sept. 30	ROK-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Occasion of the 70 th UN General Assembly in New York
Nov. 1	ROK-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Occasion of the ROK-Japan-China Trilateral Summit in Seoul
Dec. 28	ROK-Japan Foreign Ministers' Meeting on the Occasion of Foreign Minister Kishida's visit to Korea

2. Korea-China Relations

In 2015, Korea and China made great efforts to enrich the strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries. As a result, the two sides succeeded not



Commemoration of 70th Anniversary of the Victory of Chinese People's War against Japanese Aggression and World Anti-Fascist War (Beijing, September 3, 2015)

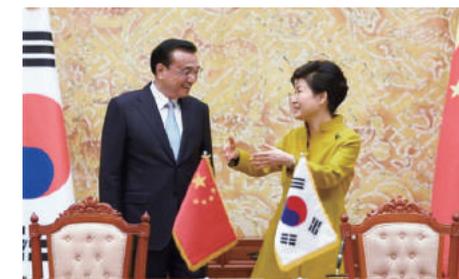


ROK-China Summit Meeting on the Occasion of Commemoration of 70th Anniversary of the Victory of Chinese People's War against Japanese Aggression and World Anti-Fascist War (Beijing, September 2, 2015)

only in strengthening bilateral cooperation in the economic and cultural spheres, but also in deepening strategic communication on political and security issues.

In particular, President Park Geun-hye's state visit to China in June 2013, President Xi Jinping's state visit to Korea in July 2014, and President Park's state visit and participation in Commemoration of 70th anniversary of the Victory of Chinese People's War against Japanese Aggression and World Anti-Fascist War on September 3, 2015, served as great opportunities to strengthen the strategic dialogue between the two countries in the political and security fronts. At the summit, both leaders agreed to send a strong message to the international community with regard to North Korea's provocations and its nuclear threat. In addition, China demonstrated their stance on holding the Korea-Japan-China Trilateral Summit, and both sides agreed to continue discussions on optimizing the Korea-China FTA as well as to strengthen cooperation on higher value-added business, including cultural and financial business, and future-oriented economic cooperation.

In late October, Prime Minister Li Keqiang of the People's Republic of China made an official visit to Korea (Oct. 31-Nov. 2) and held a bilateral meeting with President Park Geun-hye to sustain the momentum at the highest level between the two



ROK-China Bilateral Meeting on the Occasion of Prime Minister Li Keqiang's Official Visit to Korea (Seoul, October 31, 2015)



Meeting with Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress of China Zhang Dejiang (Seoul, June 11, 2015)

countries, signing 17 MOUs in fields such as culture, economy, and various other areas.

Before Prime Minister Li's visit, Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, visited Korea on June 11 to 13 and President Park received his visit. He then participated in the Korea-China Chairman of National Congress meeting in Seoul. Despite the outbreak of the infectious disease, MERS, at the time of his visit, Chairman Jang did not delay his visit to Korea. To that end, Korea and China was able to build and even higher trust and relationship than before.

Furthermore, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the two countries held active exchanges, including Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit on March 21, the ASEAN+3 Minister of Foreign Affairs Conference on August 5 in Kuala Lumpur, and the ASEAN+3 Summit Meeting on November 21 in Kuala Lumpur.

Korea and China endeavored to enrich the strategic cooperative partnership between the two countries. Under the Korea-China Joint Statement, which was adopted during President Xi Jinping's state visit to Korea in July 2014, the Track 1.5 Dialogue which encompasses both the public and private sector, took place on July 7 and the Korea-China Young Leaders Forum also successfully convened in August and October with the participation of 100 young leaders from both countries. As a result, the lines of communication among both sides expanded.

In addition, in the fields of economy and trade, the volume of trade between the two countries reached US \$227.4 billion, with China remaining as Korea's largest trading partner in import and export, and Korea as China's largest partner in export and third largest partner in import. Moreover, the Korea-China FTA entered into force on December 20, solidifying an institutional framework for comprehensive economic relations between the two countries.

The number of visitors between Korea and China exceeded 10 million for the first time in 2014, a remarkable increase from a mere 130,000 when the two countries established diplomatic relations in 1992. Furthermore, in 2015, approximately 10.4 million Chinese nationals visited Korea, and the number of weekly commercial flights between the two countries reached 1,100.

In addition, Korea and China held the 3rd Session of the China-ROK Joint Committee on People to People Exchanges in Jeju, Korea, on December 23, led by the vice foreign ministers of both countries. The two countries also faithfully carried out 50 humanities partnership projects that were agreed upon during the state visit of the Vice Prime Minister of China, Wang Yang in January.

Moreover, the Korean government invited senior officials from Chinese provinces including Governor Lu Hao of HeiLongLiang province in March and Governor Peng Ching Hwa of Guangxi Zhangzu province in April and also held Korea-China "future oriented exchange programs" (five in total) for mid-level officials from local governments. Korea also promoted various exchange programs including the Korea-China Public Diplomacy Forum and the Korea-China Journalists Exchange Program in November. Furthermore, Korea hosted an event in September to invite Chinese power-bloggers to Korea.

Furthermore, on September 4, President Park Geun-hye visited the historic building of the Provisional Government of Korea in Shanghai on its reopening day, during her visit to China for the purpose of participating in Commemoration of 70th anniversary of the Victory of Chinese People's War against Japanese Aggression and World Anti-Fascist War. Through her visit, bilateral cooperation between the two countries regarding maintenance and reopening of historical sites for Korean independence movement were enhanced.

Meanwhile, Korea and China continued working together to prevent potential

sources of conflict that would affect bilateral relations. Most notably, in an effort to find a solution to the illegal fishing practices of China in the Yellow Sea, which had been a contentious issue between the two sides, the two countries held two rounds of Korea-China Fisheries Talks, the seventh discussion in Busan in May and the eighth discussion in Tsingtao in November.

Moreover, both countries planned to commence negotiations on the delimitation of maritime boundaries resulting from the Korea-China Joint Statement, which was adopted during President Xi's state visit to Korea in July 2014, and held the first official meeting in Seoul, Korea, in December 2015.

Bilateral Summits

Date	Occasion
Sept. 2	Commemoration of 70 th Anniversary of the Victory of Chinese People's War against Japanese Aggression and World Anti-Fascist War (Bilateral Dialogue between President Park and President Xi)
Sept. 2	Commemoration of 70 th Anniversary of the Victory of Chinese People's War against Japanese Aggression and World Anti-Fascist War (Bilateral Dialogue between President Park and Prime Minister Li)
Oct. 31	Prime Minister Li's Official Visit to Korea

Meetings between Foreign Ministers

Date	Occasion
Mar. 21	Korea-Japan-China Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting
Aug. 5	ASEAN+3 Foreign Ministers' Meetings (ROK-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Kuala Lumpur)
Nov. 21	ASEAN+3 Summit (ROK-China Foreign Ministers' Meeting, Kuala Lumpur)

Other Major High-Level Exchanges

Date	Occasion
Jan. 22-24	Chinese Vice Premier Wang Yang's Visit to Korea
Jan. 28-30	Deputy Prime Minister Choi Kyung-hwan's Visit to China
Feb. 4-5	Chinese Defense Minister Chang Wanquan's Visit to Korea
Mar. 29-30	HeiLongjiang Province Governor Lu hao's Visit to Korea
Apr. 4-8	Guangxi Zhuangzu Province Governor Peng Qinghua's Visit to Korea
Jun. 11-13	Chinese Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng's Visit to Korea
Jun. 11-13	National People's Congress Chairman Zhang Dejiang's Visit to Korea
Jul. 13-14	Senior Secretary for Foreign Affairs Ju Chul-ki's Visit to China
Oct. 31-Nov. 4	First Secretary of Communist Youth League of China Qin Yi Zhi's Visit to Korea (Korea-China Youth Leader Exchange Program)

3. Korea-Japan-China Trilateral Cooperation

2015 was the year for the restoration of trilateral cooperation owing to the 6th Trilateral Summit of Korea, Japan and China in Seoul on November 1 as a result of diplomatic efforts by the Korean government. With the uncertain prospect of a Trilateral Summit due to political and security situations within the Northeast Asian region, the Korean government as the chair country actively launched diplomatic efforts to promptly restore the Trilateral Summit.

First, the three countries' decision to hold



The 7th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Seoul, March 21, 2015)

the Trilateral Summit at the earliest convenient time was made at the 7th Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting held in Seoul in March 2015 almost three years after the last meeting, and it laid the basis for the restoration of trilateral cooperation. In particular, the three foreign ministers adopted a Joint Press Release at the Ministers' Meeting, which included the agreement stating that "In the spirit of facing history squarely and advancing towards the future, the three Ministers agreed that the three countries should address related issues properly."

Furthermore, the Korean government made multifaceted efforts to lead to the results of the Trilateral Foreign Ministers' Meeting to the holding of the Trilateral Summit. In particular, on the occasion of the first visit in June 2015 of Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se to Japan since his appointment as foreign minister, he drew an agreement between Korea and Japan to work in close cooperation in order to hold the Trilateral Summit as early as possible. Subsequently, in September 2015 President Park Geun-hye visited China to attend the commemoration of China's 70th anniversary of war victory, and secured the final consent from the Chinese side to hold the Trilateral Summit in late October or early November.

Through such processes, the Sixth Korea-Japan-China Trilateral Summit was



The 6th Korea-Japan-China Trilateral Summit
(Seoul, November 1, 2015)

held in Seoul in November 2015 almost three and a half years after the last summit. The Leaders of the three countries shared the view that trilateral cooperation was completely restored and agreed to hold the Trilateral Summit on a regular basis and continue to develop trilateral cooperation unwaveringly. Moreover, the Leaders of the three countries, adopting the "Joint Declaration for Peace

and Cooperation in Northeast Asia" and addressing the common message of zero tolerance towards North Korea's nuclear programs and support for unification of the Korean Peninsula, agreed to promote both the Republic of Korea's "Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative" (NAPCI) and trilateral cooperation together interconnectedly. Furthermore, the Leaders of the three countries also agreed to accelerate the trilateral FTA negotiations and make efforts together to conclude the "Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership" (RCEP) negotiations in the economic area.

Meanwhile, the trilateral cooperation deepened and developed in various areas including trade, agriculture, public health, tourism, environment, culture, and disaster management with active promotion of over 60 intergovernmental consultative mechanisms including approximately 20 ministerial-level mechanisms among the three countries in 2015. It also continued efforts to promote youth exchanges among the three countries—as they are the future leaders of trilateral cooperation—by hosting various events including a Trilateral Youth Network Briefing (Mar. 28), Trilateral Youth Camp (Aug. 4-7), Trilateral Youth Summit (Aug. 24-27), and Thesis Competition on Korea-China-Japan Trilateral Cooperation (Dec. 10-11).

In the private sector, people-to-people exchanges and the exchange of goods among Korea, Japan and China continued to expand. Between 1999 and 2015, an increase in people-to-people exchanges among the three countries more than quadrupled from 6.58 million to 23.76 million. The trade volume increased more than 4.8 times from US \$120 billion in 1999 to US \$570 billion in 2015.

Established in September 2011, the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (TCS) launched its third Secretary-General and staff in September 2015, and actively engaged in activities to promote trilateral cooperation by hosting various events,

including the International Forum for Trilateral Cooperation (Apr. 3), the Young Ambassador Program (Aug. 3-14), and the Trilateral Journalists Exchange Program (Apr. 15-24). In particular, in accordance with the agreement made at the 6th Trilateral Summit, the Secretary-General of the TCS was allowed to participate in all ministerial-level consultative mechanisms.

4. Korea-Russia Relations

In 2015, commemorating the 25th anniversary of diplomatic ties, the strategic partnership between the two countries was consolidated through continuous high-level consultations such as summit meetings, mutual visits of Speakers of Parliament, and foreign ministerial meetings together with diverse economic cooperation. Friendship and mutual understanding were enhanced through diverse events, and ceremonies commemorating the diplomatic anniversary were held in the capitals and other cities of both countries. Furthermore, the "Eurasia Express," which was successfully held in July with support from Russia, offered the opportunity to reaffirm the friendship and potential for a future-oriented bilateral

relationship among the two countries.

President Park Geun-hye met with President Putin on the occasion of China's Victory Day Ceremony in September and the G20 Summit in November and reaffirmed their will to maintain a stable and firm bilateral relationship. Followed by a summit meeting in Paris on the occasion of the COP21



Korea-Russia Summit (Paris, November 30, 2015)

in November, the two leaders held an in-depth discussion on ways to promote bilateral relations and to resolve the situation on the Korean Peninsula. Renewing their firm will, the two countries agreed to closely cooperate on North Korea's denuclearization under the principle that its nuclear program will not be tolerated.

The two leaders shared the understanding that Korea's Eurasia Initiative and Russia's New Eastern Policy were heading toward a common goal and spurred the pursuit of economic cooperation despite the international situation. They also noted that cooperation within the Russian Far East and Siberia development program would contribute to a reciprocal bilateral relationship.

In May, Sergey Naryshkin, Russian State Duma Speaker, visited Korea, and Chung Eui-hwa, Korean National Assembly Speaker, visited Moscow in September to attend a diplomatic anniversary ceremony. Foreign Minister Yun Byung-se met with his Russian counterpart, Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, in February and August on the occasion of the Munich Security Conference and ARF Ministerial Meeting in Kuala Lumpur and discussed bilateral cooperation and the situation on the Korean Peninsula and in the Northeast Asian region including North Korea's nuclear program.

With President Park's Special Envoy Yoon Sang-hyun's attendance at the 70th Russian Victory Day, Vice Ministerial Meeting (Jul. 27, Moscow), the 2nd Vice Minister's participation in the "Eurasia Express," Nikolai Patrushev, the visit by the Secretary of the Security Council of Russia to Seoul (Sept. 21-22), Political Consultations Meeting (Dec. 7, Vice Ministerial level), among others, diverse exchanges took place at all levels of consultations.

Korea-Russia High Level Exchanges in 2015

Date	Occasion
Feb. 8	Foreign Ministerial Meeting on the Occasion of the Munich Security Conference (Munich)
Feb. 13	Regional Director-Generals' Meeting (Moscow)
May 18-19	Naryshkin, Russian State Duma Speaker's Visit to Korea
Jun. 16	14 th Korea-Russia Energy Cooperation Committee (Moscow)
Jun. 24	14 th Korea-Russia Meeting of the Directors-General for Consular Affairs (Seoul)
Jun. 29-30	17 th Korea-Russia Joint Nuclear Coordination Committee (Seoul)
Aug. 5	Korea-Russia Foreign Ministerial Meeting on the Occasion of the ARF Foreign Ministers' Meeting (Kuala Lumpur)
Sept. 5	9 th Far Eastern Siberia Working Group Meeting (Vladivostok)
Sept. 5	8 th Korea-Russia Business Dialogue (Vladivostok)
Sept. 21-22	Secretary Patrushev of the Security Council of Russia's Visit to Seoul
Sept. 29-Oct. 5	Speaker of the Korean National Assembly Chung Eui-hwa Visit to Russia
Oct. 23	14 th Korea-Russia Economic Science Technology Committee Meeting (Vladivostok)
Nov. 16-19	25 th Korea-Russia Fisheries Committee (Seoul)
Nov. 18-22	Alexander Galushka, Minister of the Development of the Russian Far East's Visit to Korea
Nov. 30	Korea-Russia Summit on the Occasion of COP21 (Paris)
Dec. 7	15 th Korea-Russia Policy Consultation (Moscow)

Bilateral economic cooperation between the two countries was sustained through active exchanges among intergovernmental consultative bodies and the expansion of cooperation and development in the Russian Far East region, in spite of difficult economic conditions at home and abroad, such as Russia's economic downturn caused by falling oil prices and the devaluation of the Russian ruble.

12 intergovernmental committees were held in various fields including the Deputy Prime Minister level Economic Joint Committee in October, Vice-Minister level Russian-Korean Committee for Far East and Siberia in September, Agricultural Committee, Fisheries Committee, and Energy Committee, in which close consultations on practical bilateral cooperation measures took place.

In particular, the 1st Eastern Economic Forum, which was held in Vladivostok in September, was attended by the Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy and approximately 100 key government officials and business figures. At the working council of the Korea-Russia investment platform, which was held in December, reciprocal business opportunities in the Far East region and support measures were discussed.

Status of Korea-Russia Trade

(Unit: US\$100 million, %)

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Exports	41.9	77.6	103.1	111.0	111.5	101.4	46.9
Imports	57.9	99.0	108.5	113.5	115.0	156.7	113.1
Balance	-15.9	-21.4	-5.5	-2.6	-3.5	-55.4	-66.2
Total	99.8	176.6	211.6	224.5	226.5	258.1	160

source Korea International Trade Association

The Rajin-Khasan Logistics Project, which connects the Trans-Siberia Railway of Russia and Rajin Port of North Korea, was a pilot project of the two Koreas and Russia to bring shipments of Russian coal into South Korea.

The pilot project of coal transportation was first implemented in November 2014, through cooperation between POSCO, Hyundai Merchant Marine Co., Ltd.

and KORAIL. The second phase of the project was carried out in April and May 2015, and its third phase followed in November and December. Through the third pilot project, mineral water was brought from China, and it confirmed the potential of logistics transportation not only from Russia, but also from China.

In celebration of the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Russia and Korea, various projects were actively carried out in many fields including politics, economy and culture in order to increase people-to-people exchanges and promote mutual understanding between the two countries. In July, a consultation meeting on promising technology in Korea-Russia academic-industrial collaboration, a seminar on railway transportation, and a concert in celebration of diplomatic ties were held on the occasion of the "Eurasia Express" in seven Russian cities: Vladivostok, Ussuriysk, Khabarovsk, Irkutsk, Novosibirsk, Yekaterinburg, and Moscow.

In addition, the Korea-Russia Dialogue, launched in 2010 in celebration of the 20th anniversary of Korea-Russia diplomatic relations, has played a pivotal role in strengthening cooperation between the industries, academia, public and private sectors of the two countries by becoming a communication channel in which the two leaders directly participate. The Korea-Russia Dialogue has also contributed greatly to the development of bilateral relations by presenting a blueprint for maximizing mutually beneficial cooperation. The 2015 Korea-Russia Dialogue hosted a variety of events throughout the year such as the Political and Economic Forum in March, celebration of the 25th anniversary of Korea-Russia diplomatic relations, and other events in the political, economic, cultural, educational and next-generation areas.

Korea-Russia Dialogue Events in 2015

Jan. 28 – Feb. 1	Korea-Russia Student Dialogue (Kaliningrad)
Mar. 6	Political and Economic Forum, Celebrating the 25 th Anniversary of Korea-Russia Diplomatic Relations
May 19	Roundtable with the Participation of Sergey Naryshkin, Speaker of the State Duma
Jul. 15	Korea-Russia Perspective Technology Forum (Vladivostok)
Jul. 20, 27	Korea-Russia Next Generation Event (Irkutsk, Moscow)
Oct. 17	Conference in Celebration of the 25 th Anniversary of Korea-Russia Diplomatic Relations
Nov. 16-18	5 th Korea-Russia Next-Generation Specialist Forum
Nov. 19-21	Seminar Devoted to Park Kyoung-lee (St. Petersburg)
Nov. 30 - Dec. 2	3 rd Korea-Russia University Presidents' Forum
Dec. 19	Tchaikovsky Night
Dec. 22	Korea-Russia Dialogue Night

Furthermore, the Russia-Korea Society, a network for pro-Korean Russians, was officially registered as a non-profit organization within the Russian Ministry of Justice in July 2014. On September 30, 2015, the Russia-Korea Society and the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) jointly held a conference with the participation of members from political and economic sectors as well as academia to seek ways to strengthen cooperation in civil cooperation.

The Korean government is implementing various tailor-made public diplomacy policies in Russia such as reinforcing Korean language education, introducing and promoting Korean culture and supporting academic research on Koreans in Russia so as to build a firm foundation for the development of Korea-Russia relations and to enhance mutual understanding between the peoples of the two countries.

As part of such efforts, the Korean Cultural Center in Moscow designated the last week of September 2015 (close to the date of the establishment of diplomatic relations, which is September 30) as the "Korean Culture Week" and hosted various events, such as a Korean Film Festival, fusion traditional Korean music concerts, contemporary dance performances, and a Taekwondo masterclass in Moscow.

5. Promoting the Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative and Expanding Eurasia Cooperation

1) Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI)

The Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative (NAPCI) is a process of multilateral cooperation that seeks to lay the foundation for sustainable peace and prosperity in Northeast Asia by gradually building up trust through the cultivation of a habit of dialogue and cooperation. NAPCI, a key element of the *Trustpolitik* pursued by the Park Geun-hye administration, is a future-oriented effort by the ROK government which aims to replace the structure of conflict and discord with an order of dialogue and cooperation.

NAPCI takes an open and flexible approach. It seeks to foster cooperation first among countries that are willing to participate, in areas relatively amenable to cooperation, and at a pace at which all participating countries feel comfortable. Under the framework of NAPCI, all participating countries assume co-ownership as co-architects. Dialogue and cooperation starts from soft security issues, which are relatively less sensitive while representing a common threat to the region, and

then will be extended into hard security issues of mutual interest. NAPCI also seeks to create a synergy effect by building cooperative and complementary, rather than competitive, relations with the existing forms of multilateral cooperation in Asia, such as the Korea-Japan-China trilateral cooperation, ARF and EAS.

During the three years since its launch in May 2013, NAPCI has made meaningful progress. To begin with, Korea garnered broad support from the international community. As of the end of 2015, 29 countries and eight multilateral bodies expressed their support for NAPCI, including China, Japan, Mongolia, Russia, and the US as key countries as well as the UN, EU, and OSCE as dialogue partners. It is especially noteworthy that in 2015, a number of leaders of major countries welcomed or supported NAPCI during summit meetings. For example, President Obama welcomed the Initiative at a Joint Press Conference held after the summit meeting in October, and the "Joint Declaration for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia," which was adopted in November 2015 at the ROK-Japan-China Trilateral Summit, provided another strong impetus for the advancement of NAPCI.

Joint Declaration for Peace and Cooperation in Northeast Asia (Seoul, November 1, 2015)

4. We appreciated the various endeavors made so far to promote regional cooperation, and decided to make joint efforts to achieve the common goal of building regional trust and cooperation. In this regard, the Leaders of Japan and the People's Republic of China highly appreciated and welcomed, and agreed to further develop the Republic of Korea's "Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative" (NAPCI) aimed to build trust in the region through dialogue and cooperation...

Intergovernmental cooperation through NAPCI significantly deepened as well.



The 2nd High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on NAPCI (Seoul, October 28, 2015)

Following the first Meeting held in October 2014, the 2nd High-level Intergovernmental Meeting on Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation was held on October 28, 2015 in Seoul. At the Meeting, representation was raised to a higher level and a "Chair's Summary" was adopted for the first time, in which the participants agreed to hold the 3rd Meeting in 2016, paving the way for the

institutionalization of cooperation by holding the meeting on a regular basis. Once again this year, the "2015 Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Forum," an annual 1.5-track international conference on NAPCI, was held jointly with the 2nd High-level Intergovernmental Meeting. The Conference served as a meaningful arena where experts from government, academia and think tanks gathered together and discussed concrete ways to promote cooperation in soft security areas through NAPCI.

In parallel with such top-down cooperation, Korea worked on sectoral, bottom-up collaboration in soft security areas, and is now beginning to witness some visible outcomes. In the area of nuclear safety, the leaders of the ROK, Japan and China agreed at the Trilateral Summit that the three countries would continue to strengthen cooperation in the field of civil nuclear safety. At the 3rd Top Regulators' Meeting Plus (TRM+) held in Seoul in October 2015 in the format of an international forum, Korea also shared with the participants the basic principles and direction for the establishment of the "Northeast Asia Nuclear Safety Consultative Body," which was first proposed by President Park in her Liberation Day speech on August

15, 2014. As follow-up measures, bilateral and trilateral meetings among the governments of the ROK, Japan and China were held to discuss potential ways to build the Consultative Body. In addition, progress was continuously made in other areas of NAPCI cooperation.

Progress in Cooperation Projects (2015)

- Nuclear Safety: Stronger Cooperation in the field of Civil Nuclear Safety agreed among the ROK, Japan and China (6th Trilateral Summit/ Nov. 1) International Forum on Northeast Asia Nuclear Safety Cooperation (3rd TRM+/ Oct. 22–23)
- Disaster Management: Northeast Asia Group Meeting on the occasion of the 3rd UN World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (Mar. 16), 3rd Trilateral TTX (Table Top Exercise) among Korea, Japan and China with participation of the US, Russia and Mongolia as Observers (Apr. 28)
- Health: Deputy Ministers' Breakfast Meeting among Korea, Japan, China and the US on the sidelines of the 2nd GHSA (Global Health Security Agenda) High-level Meeting (Sept. 9)
- Energy Security: The 3rd Northeast Asia Energy Security Forum (Dec. 17)
- Environment: Working-level Meeting in preparation for the 20th Senior Officials Meeting (SOM) of NEASPEC in 2016 (Oct. 16)
- Drugs: The Northeast Asia Group Meeting to promote NAPCI on the occasion of the 25th Anti-Drug Liaison Officials' Meeting for International Cooperation (ADLOMICO/ Sept. 23)
- Cyberspace: Breakfast Meeting among Northeast Asian Countries to Promote NAPCI on the occasion of the Global Conference on Cyberspace in The Hague (Apr. 17)

The Korean government also held a number of international seminars on NAPCI with key multilateral bodies such as NATO (March), the EU (June), the OSCE (June) and ASEAN (October) to learn lessons from their experiences and expertise in multilateral cooperation and further expand the base of support for NAPCI in the international community.

For the success of NAPCI, developing good strategies is an important task. However, to communicate with the domestic and foreign public and effectively advocate the benefits which the Initiative can offer for the peace and stability of the region and beyond is also very important. In this regard, in 2015, the Korean government held briefing sessions on NAPCI in key countries such as the US, Japan, China and Russia. The "2016 NAPCI Booklet" was published in five languages—Korean, English, Japanese, Chinese and Russian—and the NAPCI homepage (www.napci.net) was opened in November as well. These activities helped to enhance understanding of the Initiative and further expand the cooperative networks internally and externally.

Despite the daunting security challenges facing Northeast Asia, the Korean government intends to advance NAPCI to build an order of trust and cooperation in the region. To this end, the Korean government will make continuous efforts to induce greater participation from relevant countries, establish cooperative relations with multilateral consultative bodies, and actively carry out cooperative projects on key issue areas, with the hope that these efforts would contribute to accumulating a habit of dialogue and cooperation among the Northeast Asian countries.

2) Eurasia Initiative

The Park Geun-hye administration put forward the Eurasia Initiative as a national

strategy to achieve sustainable prosperity and peace in Eurasia. The initiative was pursued in various ways through summit diplomacy aimed at the vast Eurasian region, demonstration projects to enhance regional connectivity, the establishment of an institutional framework, and building a creative economy ecosystem.

The Eurasia Initiative was reaffirmed by the leaders of Uzbekistan, Turkmenistan, and Tajikistan, who visited Korea in April and May, and it was clearly supported by 28 member states of the European Union at the Korea-EU Summit, which was held in Seoul in September.

At the Korea-China Summit Meeting held in Beijing in September, an MOU on Cooperation between Korea's Eurasia Initiative and China's One Belt, One Road was signed. In November in Paris, Korea and Russia shared a recognition of mutual cooperation between the Eurasia Initiative and New Eastern Policy during the summit meeting.

Korea proposed ways to enhance connectivity and launched the "Eurasia Express" project in July, which was part of the Silk Road Express (SRX) project, in order to enhance recognition of the appropriateness of reunification of the Korean Peninsula and the importance of connecting the Trans-Korea Railway, which was the sole disconnected link in the Eurasian region.

A total of 300 members from government, the National Assembly, business people, the general public and experts from academia, media, culture and the arts participated in the "Eurasia Express" train under the theme "One Dream, One Eurasia." It traveled for 19 nights and 20 days across 10 cities in the six countries of Russia, China, Mongolia, Poland, Belarus and Germany, hosting approximately 30 events in the fields of politics, economy, culture and academia.

On August 17, 2015, in such a meaningful year of the 70th anniversary of Korean Independence Day, the disbandment ceremony for the "Eurasia Express" took place

at Dorasan Station, Korea's northernmost train station, celebrating the successful completion of the 14,400 km journey, which is about one third of the Earth, and wished for peaceful reunification of the Korean Peninsula.

The "Eurasia Express" project was important in the aspect of public diplomacy, which marked the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations with Mongolia and Russia, and the 25th year of Germany's unification. Through these meaningful events, Korea was able to strengthen friendly cooperation with visiting countries.

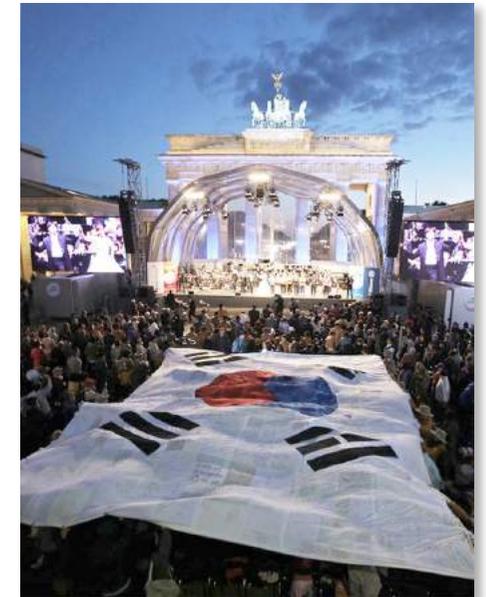
Russia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲International Seminar on the Eurasia Initiative-One Belt, One Road ▲Tourism photo exhibition of Korea on the occasion of the year of mutual visits between Korea and Russia ▲Consultation meeting on promising technology in Korea-Russia academic-industrial collaboration ▲Meeting on Northeast Asia Peace and Cooperation Initiative ▲Visits to historic sites honoring independence fighters ▲Cultural event by the Korean Culture Center ▲Eurasia Festival ▲Exchanges between Korean-Russian college students and visit to Lake Baikal ▲Seminar on Railway Transportation ▲Korean Film Festival ▲Europe-Asia Intersection Event ▲Event on college student exchanges ▲Concert on the commemoration of the 25th year of Korea-Russia diplomatic relations ▲International Forum on Cooperation between Korea and Russia
China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲International Seminar on the Eurasia Initiative-One Belt, One Road ▲"Eurasia Express" Welcome Reception
Mongolia	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲Commemorative event for the 25th Anniversary of Korea-Mongolia diplomatic relations ▲Groundbreaking ceremony of the renovation of Lee Tae-joon Memorial Park
Poland	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲Organisation for Cooperation between Railways (OSJD) Seminar ▲Seminar on sharing the experience of reconciliation between Germany and Poland
Germany	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▲Discussion on unification between Korean and German college students ▲March for the aspired unification of the Korean Peninsula ▲Concert marking the end of the journey of the "Eurasia Express" in front of Brandenburg Gate

In addition, Korea made various efforts to enhance connectivity through its support for the Rajin-Khasan Logistics project, which was a part of the trilateral cooperation program involving the two Koreas and Russia, participation in the Conference on Global Leadership in the Arctic, which was held in August 2015 in Anchorage, and also the hosting of an International Symposium on the Eurasia Transport and Logistics Network in Seoul.

President Park Geun-hye hosted a Korea-Visegrad Four Summit for the first time in Prague, the Czech Republic, in December with the leaders of the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland and Slovakia in order to strengthen a systematic foundation to promote mutual cooperation in the region.

The 9th Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum was held in Seoul on October 5, 2015, with five Central Asian countries. From this forum, the "Seoul Declaration" was adopted, which aimed to establish the Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Secretariat, in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum in 2016. Moreover, Korea strengthened its cooperation with many regional consultative groups in CICA, Nordic countries and the Eurasian continent and spearheaded the efforts to develop the GTI (Greater Tumen Initiative among Korea, China, Russia and Mongolia) into an international organization.

Additionally, Korea exerted devoted efforts to establish a creative ecosystem



Closing Reception Held in Front of Brandenburg Gate (Berlin, July 30, 2015)

through the Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP), which transferred Korean cutting-edge technology and experiences in various fields including ICT, environment, healthcare and agriculture, along with countries that have mutually beneficial economic structures.



Eurasia Express Journey Route (July 14-30, 2015)