

# contemporary issues



The Korea Society engages American and Korean policy makers, business leaders, scholars, journalists, authors and the interested public in timely, informative and stimulating discussions of contemporary issues which open paths of inquiry, identify areas of common interest, and promote more enlightened relations between the United States and Korea.

# contemporary issues



## Standoff on the Korean Peninsula: Defusing North Korea's Nuclear Ambitions *January 23 • New York, NY*

Former U.S. Secretary of Defense William J. Perry spoke on the topic of managing the diplomatic and security challenges posed by North Korea in an evening forum program copresented with the Japan Society and the National Committee on United States-China Relations. He was joined by Xiaobo Lu and Samuel S. Kim, director and senior research scholar of Columbia University's Weatherhead East Asian Institute, respectively, and Tsuyoshi Sunohara, chief correspondent of the Nihon Keizai Shimbun's Washington Bureau. John L. Holden, president of The National Committee on United States-China Relations, moderated the session.



William J. Perry



(l-r) Perry, Kim, Lu, and Sunohara

## A Friendship Tried with Distress: North Korea Policy and the Future of the U.S.-Korea Relationship in a Transitional Period

*January 27 • New York, NY*

ROK National Assemblyman Hahn Hwa-Kap, the then president of the Millennium Democratic Party, offered his assessment of the Bush administration's North Korea policy and its implications for U.S.-Korea relations in a breakfast forum program held on the eve of the inauguration of a new administration in South Korea.



Hahn Hwa-Kap

## Korean Attitudes toward the United States: The Enduring and Endured Relationship

*January 30–February 1 • Washington, DC*

The Korea Society was a cosponsor of a two-day conference presented by the Asian Studies Program of Georgetown University in cooperation with the Pacific Century Institute. Discussions were focused on understanding the changing situation and were intended to help focus attention on potential future dangers and to mitigate their growth. The presenters were: Stephen Bosworth, dean, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University; Kent Calder, award-winning author; Victor Cha, associate professor of government and D.S. Song-Korea Foundation chair in Asian studies, Edmund Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University; Young-dal Chang, chairman, National Defense Committee, Korean National Assembly; Brent (Won-ki) Choi, North Korea specialist, *JoongAng Daily*; Bruce Cumings, Norman and Edna Freehling professor of history, the University of Chicago; William Drennan, deputy director of the Research and Studies program, United States Institute of Peace; Nicholas Eberstadt, Henry Wendt chair in political economy, American Enterprise Institute; James Feinerman, associate dean, International and Graduate Programs, Georgetown University Law Center; Yoichi Funabashi, columnist and chief diplomatic correspondent, *Asahi Shimbun*; Robert Gallucci, dean, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University; Brad Glosserman, director of research, Pacific Forum CSIS; Donald P. Gregg, president and chairman, The Korea Society;

Chai-Bong Hahm, professor of political science, Yonsei University; G. John Ikenberry, Peter F. Krogh professor of geopolitics and global justice, Georgetown University; Sung Min Jang, visiting scholar, Duke University; Mitch Kaneda, associate dean, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University; Spencer Kim, chairman, CBOL Corporation; Sung-Han Kim, associate professor & director general for American studies, Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security (IFANS), Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Trade; Uichul Kim, professor of psychology, Chung-Ang University; Chung-Min Lee, associate professor of international relations, Graduate School of International Studies, Yonsei University; Dennis McNamara, Park professor of sociology and Korean studies, Georgetown University; Ronald Meinardus, resident representative, Friedrich-Naumann-Foundation in the Philippines; Chung-in Moon, professor of political science, Yonsei University; Katharine Moon, Jane Bishop associate professor of political science, Wellesley College; Don Oberdorfer, journalist-in-residence and adjunct professor of international relations, Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University; Bonnie Oh, distinguished research professor of Korean studies, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University; John Kie-Chiang (K.C.) Oh, Banigan professor of politics emeritus and former provost, Catholic University of America; Gilbert Rozman, Musgrave professor of sociology, Princeton University; Stephen Rounds, public affairs officer, U.S. Embassy-Seoul; David I. Steinberg, distinguished professor and director of Asian studies, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University; Sung Chul Yang, ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United States; Scott Synder, representative, Korea Office of The Asia Foundation; Richard Walker, James F. Byrnes professor emeritus and ambassador-in-residence, University of South Carolina; William Watts, president, Potomac Associates.

## The North Korean Crisis: A Humanitarian Perspective

February 12 • New York, NY

A distinguished panel of experts discussed the North Korean humanitarian situation in an evening forum copresented with the Asia Society. Charles K. Armstrong, associate professor of history and director of the Center for Korean Research at Columbia University, served as moderator. The three panelists were: Leon V. Sigal, director of the Northeast Asia Cooperative Security Project at the Social Science Research Council in New York; Peter Hayes, executive director of the Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainable Development, who participated via a teleconferencing hook up; and Kenzo Oshima, under-secretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator at the United Nations.

## The Game of Their Lives: A Documentary Film Screening

February 28 • New York, NY

The Korea Society was one of many cosponsors of a screening of *The Game of Their Lives*, a British documentary on the upset victory by an underdog North Korean soccer team in the 1966 World Cup. The screening was presented by Nodutdol for Korean Community Development in conjunction with the Asian/Pacific/American Studies Program & Institute at New York University.



(l-r) Kenzo Oshima, Charles K. Armstrong, Leon V. Sigal



Kenzo Oshima in conversation



Audience during Peter Hayes' (backscreen) answer



(l-r) Davis I. Steinberg, Jeong-Ho Roh, Jeffrey R. Shafer, Donald P. Gregg, and Carter Booth

*Lonesome Journey:  
The Korean American Century*  
March 4 • New York, NY

K. W. (Kyung Won) Lee, known among his peers as the “dean” of Asian American journalism, provided a characteristically spirited discussion of his forthcoming book in a well-attended VOICES program. Explaining his reasons for writing the book, entitled *Lonesome Journey: The Korean American Century*, Lee lamented that the Korean immigrant story still remains to be told to the outside world even though it is now a hundred years old. The program included a screening of *Arirang: The Korean American Journey*, a documentary film produced by the Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration to the United States in Hawaii. The program also included a lively Q&A session and an informal reception.



K. W. Lee

*New Dimensions for the U.S.-ROK Alliance*  
March 13 • New York, NY

The stresses and strains surrounding the inauguration of President Roh Moo-hyun, which came at a time of heightened concern about growing tensions in the U.S.-ROK alliance, were explored from the political, economic, legal and cultural perspectives in a wide-ranging panel discussion. The presenters were: Donald P. Gregg, president & chairman of The Korea Society; Jeffrey R. Shafer, vice chairman of Salomon Smith Barney International; Jeong-Ho Roh, director of the Center for Korean Legal Studies in Columbia University's School of Law; and David I. Steinberg, distinguished professor and director of the Asian Studies center in the Georgetown University Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service. Carter Booth, a former managing director at JP Morgan Chase with extensive experience in the Asia Pacific region, moderated the program.

*Arirang: The Korean American Journey: A Documentary Film Screening*  
March 30 • New York, NY

The National Association of Korean Americans (NAKA) and The Korea Society copresented a screening of *Arirang: The Korean American Journey*, a documentary film produced by the Centennial Committee of Korean Immigration to the United States in Hawaii. The film combines rare footage and personal interviews to provide a concise overview of the early history of Korean Americans. It covers the major stages in the formative history of the Korean American community, including the arrival of Korean laborers in Hawaii in 1903, the formation of Korean communities in Hawaii and on the U.S. mainland, the political activities of the Korean American community for Korea's independence and the community's participation in the building of a new Korea in the post-WW II period. Following the screening, Ilpyong J. Kim, professor emeritus of political science at the University of Connecticut, offered his perspectives on the early history of the Korean community in the U.S. with a focus on the politics of Korean community groups and their leaders. The program included a Q&A session followed by an informal reception.



## Resolving the Korean Crisis: Voices of the Region

April 10 • Cambridge, MA

The Korea Institute of Harvard University, The Korea Society and the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) collaborated in presenting a conference designed to explore regional perspectives on possible approaches to the resolution of the current nuclear crisis on the Korean peninsula. The format of the conference entailed a keynote session followed by two panels of distinguished Korea specialists and policy experts. The keynote session was moderated by Donald P. Gregg, president



Han Song Ryol

and chairman of The Korea Society. There were two presenters: Don Oberdorfer, journalist-in-residence and adjunct professor of international relations, Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University; and Han Song Ryol, deputy permanent representative of the DPRK Mission to the United Nations. The first panel was moderated by Charles K. Armstrong, associate professor of history and director of the Center for Korean Research at Columbia University. The panelists were: Ilpyong J. Kim, professor emeritus of political science at the University of Connecticut; Han S. Park, professor of political science and director of the Center for the Study of Global Issues at the University of Georgia; and Dae Sook Suh, former director of the Center for Korean Studies at the University of Hawaii. The panel focused on the North Korean and the South Korean perspectives on the current crisis as well as the prospects for inter-Korean relations. The second panel was moderated by Ezra Vogel, Henry Ford II research professor in the social sciences

at Harvard University. The panelists were: Alexandre Mansourov, associate professor at the Asia Pacific Center in Honolulu; Tsuyoshi Sunahara, senior fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, DC; Xiyu Yang, counselor at the PRC Mission to the United Nations; and Aleksandr Ilitchev, senior officer in the Department of Political Affairs at the United Nations. The discussion in this panel was focused on the national perspectives of China, Japan and Russia. In a concluding summary, Carter Eckert, director of the Korea Institute, characterized the conference proceedings as a "step in the right direction" providing a timely and significant opportunity to reflect constructively on regional voices and interests in seeking a resolution of the crisis on the Korean Peninsula. He added that the conference had served as a rare occasion for the media, the university community and the general public to interact with a uniquely well-qualified group of Korea scholars as well as other experts and officials, including a very articulate representative of the DPRK.

## Bridging Change in Asia: New York Looks to Korea and Japan

April 25 & 26 • New York City

In the spring of 2003, as part of the *Transmitting the Forms of Divinity* exhibition, The Korea Society and the Japan Society copresented two one-day conferences anchoring a three-month exploration of Korea-Japan relations, past, present and future. The first conference, *On the Brink: Japan, Korea & the Future of Regional Security in Asia*, featured senior foreign policy and economic experts from Japan, South Korea and the U.S. in a timely discussion of the common security and economic challenges facing Japan and Korea in an increasingly complicated global landscape. The keynote speakers were: Gong Ro-myung, a former South Korea ambassador to Japan; Terusuke Terada, a former Japanese ambassador to South Korea; and Christopher J. LaFleur, special envoy for Northeast Asia security consultations. The other speakers were: Kim Dong-shin, a former South Korean minister of national defense; Donald P. Gregg, president & chairman of The Korea Society and a former U.S. Ambassador to South Korea; Nicholas D. Kristof, Op-Ed columnist

for *The New York Times*; Ahn Choong Yong, president, Korean Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP); John P. Lipsky, chief economist, J.P. Morgan Chase & Co.; Marcus Noland, senior scholar, Institute for International Economics; Don Oberdorfer, journalist-in-residence and adjunct professor of international relations, Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University; Masao Okonogi, professor of political science, Keio University; and Ippei Yamazawa, professor, Graduate School of Asia-Pacific Studies, Waseda University. The second conference, *Korea & Japan: Rediscovering the Past, Shaping the Future*, brought together distinguished historians, sociologists, writers and artists to examine the cultural interchange between Japan and Korea, from prehistoric common roots to popular culture in the 21st century. The keynote speaker was Gari Ledyard, King Sejong professor of Korean studies emeritus, Columbia University. The other speakers were: Donald McCallum, professor of art history, University of California at Los Angeles; Charles Armstrong, associate professor of history and director of the Center for Korean Research at Columbia University; Mark Caprio, assistant professor, Department

of Law, Rikkyo University and post-doctoral fellow, Korea Institute, Harvard University; Kim Hosup, professor, Faculty of Public Policy, Chung-Ang University; Makoto Oda, award-winning author and peace activist; Jung Sun Park, assistant professor, Asian Pacific Studies Program, California State University (Dominguez Hills); Greg Pak, documentary filmmaker and writer; and Linda Hoaglund, translator and film critic. *An'nyoung Kimchi* (1999) by Tetsuaki Matsue was screened as a closing event. A report has been published detailing the major topics explored during the conferences.



(l-r) Gong Ro-myung and Terusuke Terada

# AMERICANS ARE NOT WELCOME HERE

Anti-Americanism in Korea:  
Closing Perception Gaps  
May 21 • New York, NY

In a half-day conference copresented by the Pacific Forum CSIS and the Korea Foundation, a group of former ambassadors and other distinguished experts addressed the issue of the “rising tide of anti-Americanism in South Korea” that has drawn an increasing level of media attention in the United States over the last year. The conference highlighted the broad range of South Korean attitudes toward the U.S. and examined the context, both current and historic, in which these attitudes have evolved. It included a luncheon keynote address followed by two panel discussions. The first panel, entitled *Anti-Americanism in the Korean Context*, featured presentations by Hahm Chaibong, professor of political science at Yonsei University, and Donald P. Gregg, president & chairman of The Korea Society and a former U.S. ambassador to South Korea. Ralph Cossa, president of the Pacific Forum CSIS, served as moderator. The second panel, entitled *Adapting the U.S.-ROK Alliance to New Realities*, featured presentations by Chung Chong-wook, Freeman Foundation visiting professor at The Claremont McKenna College and a former South Korean national security advisor, and Stephen W. Bosworth, dean of the Fletcher School of Law & Diplomacy at Tufts University and a former U.S. ambassador to South Korea. The goal of the discussions was to promote a more informed public awareness in the United States of the nature, depth and scope of anti-Americanism in the ROK and its potential impact on the U.S.-ROK alliance.



(from top)  
Hahm Chaibong  
Ralph Cossa  
Chung Chong-wook



(l-r) Han Sung Joo and Donald P. Gregg



Han Sung Joo

## The North Korean Quandary: Is There a Way Out?

July 15 • New York, NY

Han Sung Joo, ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the U.S., offered his assessment of the mounting evidence that North Korea is advancing its nuclear weapons and plutonium reprocessing programs, and the ramifications of the potential emergence of a nuclear-armed North Korea for the peace and stability of the Northeast Asian region as well as the international community. Noting that the response to this challenge will continue to be a roller coaster ride, Han argued for a return to the negotiating table and a renewed resolve to implement peaceful measures while concurrently being firm and consistent. Han concluded his address with the assertion that the most important task at hand was for the ROK, the U.S. and Japan to seek a coordinated solution.



Screening and Discussion of *Nuclear Nightmare: Understanding North Korea*  
August 5 • New York, NY

The Korea Society, Asia Society, The New York Times Television and Discovery Communications copresented a preview screening and discussion of the Discovery Channel documentary, *Nuclear Nightmare: Understanding North Korea*. Donald P. Gregg, president and chairman of The Korea Society, was the moderator and commentator for the program. The panelists were: Kenneth Levis, senior producer, New York Times Television; Stephen Reverand, executive producer, Discovery Channel; and Calvin Sims, editorial producer, New York Times Television. All the panelists agreed that there is still an opportunity for a peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear threat through dialogue despite the perceived imminence of the threat.



Choe Byung Yul

Korea in Transition: Challenges and Opportunities

September 18 • New York, NY

Choe Byung Yul, the then chairman of the Republic of Korea's Grand National Party (GNP), outlined his party's position on the challenges and opportunities facing South Korea during an afternoon reception held in his honor. In his presentation, Choe reaffirmed his party's convictions about the ongoing importance of the Korea-U.S. security alliance, stressing that the alliance had allowed Korea to pursue economic development and achieve remarkable achievements despite incredible odds. Regarding relations with North Korea, Choe stated firmly that the GNP opposed President Roh's policy of giving economic aid to North Korea without demanding accountability. At the same time, he strongly reaffirmed the GNP's commitment to the promotion of human rights and freedom in North Korea, and requested the global community's assistance in this endeavor.

Caritas and the North Korean Crisis:  
Concern for the People in Need

October 23 • New York, NY

Kathi Zellweger of Caritas-Hong Kong, part of the humanitarian network Caritas Internationalis, gave a moving presentation on the plight of the people in North Korea. A frequent visitor to North Korea who regularly ventures into its remoter regions, Zellweger also showed a documentary video of pictures she had taken during her visits. While stressing the importance of providing humanitarian aid to the people in North Korea, Zellweger argued persuasively for the need to shift toward development aid on a gradual basis. In support of the feasibility of making this shift, she noted the clear evidence of a growing tendency toward self help among North Koreans as a result of the economic reforms underway in the country today.



Kathi Zellweger

## Celebrating A Century of Korean Immigration to the United States: A Gala Closing Ceremony

*October 30 • New York, NY*

Nearly 1,000 guests came together for a reception and dinner held in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf-Astoria in New York City to mark the conclusion of a year-long commemoration of the centennial of Korean immigration to the United States. The event celebrated the achievements of Korean Americans and highlighted their contributions to American society and culture. The event was hosted by the Greater New York Chapter of the Committee on the Centennial of Korean Immigration (CCKI) and supported by many collaborating organizations, including The Korea Society.



Gala Closing Ceremony

## Globalization and Korea: Lessons for the Future

*November 4 • New York, NY*

Joseph E. Stiglitz, the 2001 Nobel laureate in economics who currently is a professor in the Columbia University Graduate School of Business, presented his views on the lessons that can be learned about globalization from the experiences of Korea and other countries in the East Asian region where globalization has had a very positive impact overall and has



Timothy Wendt



Joseph E. Stiglitz

promoted economic growth. He noted that the first lesson to be learned from Korea's experience is the need to reshape globalization to make it work. The second lesson is the need to strike the right balance between the role of government and the role of the private sector, particularly in the early stages of development. Specifically, he stressed, Korea's experience demonstrates the importance of establishing the right regulatory framework since chaos is bound to ensue in the absence of rules and referees.

## US - DPRK Forum on The North Korean Nuclear Crisis: In Search of A Peaceful Solution

*November 10-12 • Athens, GA*

The Center for the Study of Global Issues (GLOBIS) at the University of Georgia organized and hosted an informal forum with logistical support from The Korea

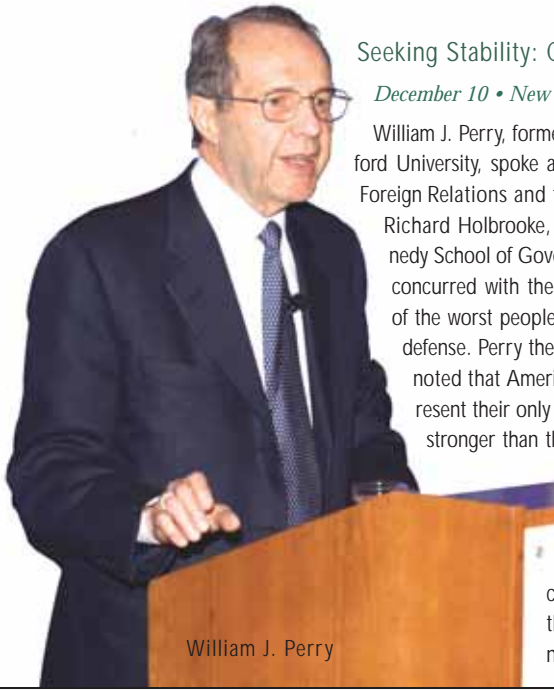
Society. The participants were Jo Sung Ju, director-general, Bureau of American Affairs, DPRK Foreign Ministry; Kim Myong Gil, deputy director-general, Bureau of American Affairs, DPRK Foreign Ministry; Sim Il Gwang, researcher, DPRK Institute of Disarmament and Peace; Han Song Ryol, deputy permanent representative, DPRK Mission to the

UN; Sin Song Chol, counselor, DPRK Mission to the UN; Curt Weldon, U.S. Congressman (R-PA); Keith Luse, professional staff (majority), East Asia and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Frank Jannuzi, professional staff (minority), East Asia and Pacific Affairs, U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Donald P. Gregg, president & chairman, The Korea Society; James Laney, former U.S. ambassador to South Korea; and Selig Harrison, director, Asia Program, Center for International Policy. Han S. Park, director, GLOBIS Center, University of Georgia, served as moderator. All participated in the forum in a private capacity, and did not speak for their respective governments. The overarching objective of the forum was to exchange opinions about possible ways to achieve the goal of a nonnuclear Korean peninsula. In particular, the forum explored ways to make future six-party talks successful by trying to clarify expectations and describe interests on both sides. The talks were open and constructive.



(l-r) Gregg, Ju, Jannuzi and Luse (Photo courtesy of GLOBIS)





William J. Perry

## Seeking Stability: Challenges and Opportunities for U.S.-Asia Relations

*December 10 • New York, NY*

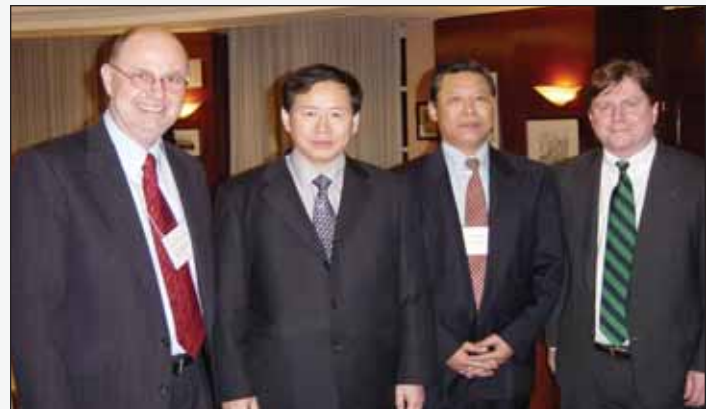
William J. Perry, former secretary of defense and currently Michael and Barbara Berberian professor at Stanford University, spoke at the Asia Society in a program cosponsored by The Korea Society, the Council on Foreign Relations and the Overseas Press Club. The program began with introductory remarks by Amb. Richard Holbrooke, chairman of the Asia Society board of trustees. Ashton Carter, a professor at the Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University, moderated the Q & A session. In his presentation, Perry concurred with the Bush Administration's high priority on keeping the worst weapons out of the hands of the worst people, but expressed concern about the emphasis on preventive war rather than preventive defense. Perry then took up the question of how to get the world back on a nonproliferation track. He noted that America's "unmatched power" has led some countries "to believe that nuclear weapons represent their only hope," making today's underlying incentives to proliferate different and, in some ways, stronger than they were during the cold war. "It is not being alarmist to speculate that a robust nuclear program in North Korea could stimulate a nuclear arms race in the entire Asia Pacific region... Accepting a nuclear program in North Korea would implicitly give a green light to Iran, thereby posing a whole new set of problems, including the possibility of a military response by Israel." In closing, Perry asserted his deep conviction that America must give the highest priority to the programs and policies that have the best prospects of averting that catastrophe, even at the expense of other national security programs.

## The Nuclear Issue on the Korean Peninsula: Prospects and Possibilities

*December 19 • Cambridge, MA*

A closed-session roundtable on the Korean nuclear crisis, which was convened at Harvard University, brought together scholars, Congressional staffers and North Korean diplomats for a frank but friendly exchange of views. The program was organized jointly by the Kennedy School's Managing the Atom (MTA) Project, Harvard University's Korea Institute, and The Korea Society. The one-day session provided a venue for a discussion of ways to improve U.S.-DPRK relations. The

core focus was on examining perceptions that each country had of the other and how misunderstandings have compounded the difficult task of negotiating a resolution to the nuclear crisis. Some of the American participants emphasized that North Korea had to agree to a verifiable and irreversible halt to its nuclear weapons program. The North Korean participants appeared open to this objective, but expressed concern that American commitments such as promises not to attack North Korea also should be verifiable and irreversible. Jim Walsh, executive director, Managing the Atom Project, served as moderator for the program.



(l-r) Carter Eckert, Han Song Ryol, Kim Yong, and James Walsh  
(Photo courtesy of the MTA Project)



Ambassador Pak Gil Yon, permanent representative of the DPRK to the United Nations, presents a soccer ball with players' signatures to Ambassador Donald P. Gregg on Dec. 23, 2003. The soccer ball was given as a token of appreciation for the assistance The Korea Society provided to the DPRK team during the 2003 FIFA Women's World Cup Games. Also receiving a soccer ball was Pennsylvania State Senator Stewart J. Greenleaf, a Republican from Montgomery County

## KUT/SU Research Collaboration

### *Project Overview*

Syracuse University (SU), with participation and counsel from The Korea Society (TKS), began discussions in late spring 2001 with Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) UN Mission representatives, which led in March 2002 to the establishment of bilateral research collaborations with Kim Chaek University of Technology (KUT), Pyongyang in the general area of integrated information technology. KUT is one of the two comprehensive universities in the DPRK and has engineering and technology as its focus.



Former chancellor of Syracuse University, Kenneth A. Shaw (center), and North Korean visitors in 2001

The SU Project Director is Prof. Stuart J. Thorson, Director of Information Technology at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. He leads a University team of researchers from SU colleges including the Maxwell School, the L.C. Smith College of Engineering and Computer Science, and the School of Information Studies as well as the Systems Assurance Institute, the English Language Institute, and the University Library. The KUT Project Director is Prof. Sin Thae Song, Director of the KUT Information (Computer) Center.

To date there have been six research exchanges, four by KUT researchers to SU (March and December 2002, April 2003, and March 2004) and two by SU researchers to KUT (June 2002 and June 2004). The length of these exchanges has ranged from one to five weeks. By mutual agreement KUT and SU have worked to maintain substantial consistency in the composition of their delegations over time and, as a consequence, each exchange has extended the results of previous ones.

The current research focus is on adapting open source software to produce a back-end library management system for the KUT digital library, which is scheduled to come on line in spring 2005. All of the software being developed is intended to conform to international standards for library meta-data. To support the ongoing development of the KUT library and to facilitate the sharing of digital library meta-data and content it is hoped that, subject to the regulations of the DPRK and the US, it will be possible to implement twin computer labs. These labs, one at SU and one at KUT, would be used to support collaborative work at a distance and would also provide a common research environment for visiting researchers.

The governance of the research collaboration is invested in a Joint Coordinating Group (JCG) composed of the project directors from KUT and SU, the vice chancellors of SU and KUT, the executive director of The Korea Society and a member of the DPRK's Flood Damage and Rehabilitation Committee. The JCG holds regular meetings in conjunction with the research exchanges and is responsible for setting the strategic direction of the relationship as well as identifying near-term project milestones. The JCG's role is described in a written agreement developed by the researchers and signed by the vice chancellors of SU and KUT.

Outcomes thus far include twin lab designs, software specifications, joint work on proving the correctness of computer programs, presentations in English of research results by KUT and SU participants, and an academic paper written jointly by representatives of KUT, SU, the DPRK Mission, and TKS which was presented at the ASPAC meetings at the East/West Center in June 2003.

### *Significance*

It is expected that the KUT digital library will serve as a concrete example of robust IT-driven public infrastructure within the DPRK. As such, it can support internally directed efforts to strengthen the civilian sector within the DPRK. Moreover, as the DPRK increasingly interacts with the larger world, it will be critical that it have trusted and successful experience working with US agencies and organizations as it develops those engagements.



Kim Chaek University of Technology Library, 2004

Of course, sustainable trust requires familiarity with both the person and the context within which that person must act. Since digital libraries depend upon adherence to international standards, their development encourages working out protocols for cooperation and thus provides a powerful domain in which to build long-term trust.

The six research exchanges have involved the same core group of KUT and SU participants. This willingness on the part of KUT to commit the time of these key human resources provides strong evidence of their eagerness to collaborate with US institutions. Once the KUT/SU project became established and the researchers had met several times and begun to feel comfortable with one another, the relationship became very much characterized

by reciprocity, with each group working constructively to identify what was and was not possible for the other. In this regard the KUT and SU teams, guided by the JCG, have been very careful to put commitments in writing. To date every one of these commitments has been scrupulously met. Here it matters not so much that commitments are written down, but rather the process of formalizing them has provided invaluable opportunities to clarify what had been unrecognized misunderstandings before they become a source of conflict.

Beyond the central focus of the research, the collaboration, as a valuable side-effect, has provided each set of participants a window on events in the two societies. This has proven to be especially helpful in providing culturally anchored interpretations of current issues.



Children's Palace, 2002

### *Lessons Learned*

This collaboration is now about three years old and it is possible to identify, albeit tentatively, some lessons learned to date.

**Institutional commitment:** The willingness of the leadership of KUT, SU, TKS and the DPRK Mission in New York to visibly commit both themselves and key resources of their organizations to the collaboration helped greatly to provide a 'safe' environment in which the scholarly work could move forward.

**Face-to-face is critical:** The early in-person discussions between SU, TKS, and DPRK Mission people provided a context in which priorities and constraints could be discussed in an increasingly open manner.

**Trusted communications:** Over time, moving as slowly as necessary enabled the two teams to increasingly trust the communications between them. This meant that it was possible to negotiate difficult issues with generally good humor (e.g., the JCG document) and to ask clarifying questions as issues arose rather than waiting until questions became problems.



Syracuse University, 2003

**Unanticipated benefits flow:** All participants have been pleased to see how, in the context of trusted communications, unanticipated benefits flow to all parties. This distinguishes a reciprocal collaboration from a quid pro quo agreement.



Kim Chaek University of Technology, 2002

**Maintain focus:** It has been tempting to let the collaboration spill over into other substantive domains. While yielding to such temptation might at some time prove worthwhile, to date experience strongly supports that keeping attention centered on the bilateral academic research relationship has enabled the collaboration to remain largely disentangled from, though not unaffected by, the political relations between the DPRK and the US.

**Informal communications are very important:** Often the unplanned discussions are as significant as the formal planned ones. Informal meals have provided a congenial and productive environment for such conversations.

**Put it in writing:** Even with the best of intentions and good will it is possible for misunderstandings to arise. Sometimes these misunderstandings take a long time to become manifest.





Kim Chaek University of Technology, 2004

Slogging through the development of jointly acceptable written documents is almost always helpful in this regard.

Recognize that travel is exhausting, especially in the winter: The SU team made the mistake of scheduling a very brief JCG meeting in Syracuse. This was an undue burden on the KUT delegates who had to spend a disproportionate amount of time traveling (including time in Beijing awaiting the issuance of visas).

Be in it for the long haul and be prepared for bumps: It soon became apparent to both the SU and the KUT researchers that if this relationship were going to work everyone had to be committed to the long haul. This is especially true with regard to the building of the twin labs. Of course, a long time view requires that it be absolutely clear that all parties are completely sincere about the purpose and objectives of the relationship.

Share information appropriately: The DPRK and the US have different philosophies and practices regarding the sharing of information. It has proven to be important to simultaneously respect those differences and, at the same time, be honest brokers of information.

Don't over commit: A sense of trust often flows from a history of reliable interactions. In this regard meeting deadlines, clearly identifying risk factors, and establishing

clear project milestones have all helped keep the collaboration moving forward.

Consistency of participation matters: The collaboration has benefited greatly from the willingness of KUT and SU to permit the continuous participation of key people.

Importance of shared governance: In sustained collaborations questions of priorities, future directions, and resource development are bound to arise. It is therefore very useful to have a shared governance structure in place to systematically, legitimately, and proactively deal with those issues.

Of course these lessons or heuristics are individually less significant than is their overall effect. The goal is to generate and sustain an environment of trusted communication supportive of open and empathetic communications.

---

#### *Project Support*

Support for the KUT/SU research collaboration has been provided by The Henry Luce Foundation, The Ford Foundation, the Korea Tobacco & Ginseng Corporation, The Korea Society, and other private sources through The Korea Society and Syracuse University.