

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

Update on Current Reform Efforts in Korea

WASHINGTON, January 14 – ROK Minister of Government Administration and Home Affairs Kim Jung-Kil spoke in a Korea Forum program about the progress of President Kim Dae-jung's reform policies. Kim placed special emphasis on the recently launched "Rebuilding Korea Campaign," which he characterized as an all-out reform movement aimed at "correcting the irrational processes and procedures that grew out of the rapid economic growth of the past three decades." He emphasized that these reforms were needed to restore economic stability and shape a government "attuned to global standards."

Engagement with North Korea: Pipe Dream or Practical Reality?

NEW YORK, January 26 – The prospects for constructive engagement with North Korea were explored in depth during a one-day conference at the University Club which featured presentations by leading American and Korean experts, including several who have had extensive experience in negotiating with North Korea. The objective was to foster a critical dialogue between those who have had practical experience in dealing successfully with counterparts in North Korea and those who are skeptical about the feasibility of engagement, which is implicit in the ROK Government's Sunshine Policy, or who question the viability of KEDO and the Agreed Framework. In his role as moderator, Amb. Donald P. Gregg, president and chairman of The Korea Society, challenged the presenters and other participants to test old assumptions and consider whether the United States and the ROK could relate to North Korea on a constructive basis, rather than exclusively through the threat or use of force. Amb. Robert L. Gallucci, dean of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, delivered the keynote address. In his remarks, Gallucci offered a sobering assessment of the harshly partisan tone in Washington that generally characterizes discussions of the U.S.'s North Korea policy. While defending a policy of engagement, he emphasized the importance of proceeding carefully to ensure that the existing balance of forces on the peninsula remains sound and the defense of Seoul is not compromised. Other speakers included Mr. Desaix Anderson, executive director of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO); Amb. Young Jin Choi, then assistant secretary general for planning and support, United Nations; Lt. General (ret.) James Clapper, former director, Defense Intelligence Agency; Mr. Jerome Cohen, director of Asia studies, Council on Foreign Relations; Dr. Selig S. Harrison, fellow, Century Foundation; Dr. Chung-in Moon, director, Institute of Korean Unification, Yonsei University; Dr. Han S. Park, director, Center for the Study of Global Issues, University of Georgia; Dr. Mitchell B. Reiss, former senior policy advisor, KEDO; Mr. Leon Sigal, consultant, Social Science Research Council; and Dr. Charles Warden, executive vice president, Stanton Group. An in-depth exploration of the prerequisites for a productive engagement with North Korea was pursued. The divergent perspectives on the on-going dialogue with North Korea, which emerged during the presentations and ensuing

discussions, served to underscore the need for a systematic policy review involving all interested parties. This program was made possible, in part, by financial assistance from Goldman Sachs and the Stanley Foundation.

Japan and Korea Toward the Next Century

WASHINGTON, January 27 – The first Korea Club gathering of 1999 featured presentations by Dr. Michael Green, Council on Foreign Relations, and Mr. David G. Brown, Asia Pacific Policy Center. The speakers called attention to recent events in the Pacific region that have strained already tenuous Japan-Korea relations, including the DPRK's launching of a *Taepo dong*-type missile over Japan. They warned that similar events are likely to occur in the future, but pointed to a significant warming of Japan-ROK relations as a positive sign for the region.



Mitchell B. Reiss, Donald P. Gregg, Charles Warden and Leon Sigal, January 26.



Robert L. Gallucci, January 26.



Mia Yun, January 28.

A Reading from *House of the Winds*

NEW YORK, January 28 – In a VOICES Program, Ms. Mia Yun read excerpts from her novel, *House of the Winds*, which paints a vivid and poignant portrait of a family whose lives were deeply affected by the tumultuous impact of Japanese rule and the Korean War. Through its highly expressive prose, the novel offers an English reading audience vivid images of life in Korea in the 60s and 70s. The reading was followed by a discussion on the challenges of bridging cultures and the limitations of language in conveying culturally-embedded sensibilities. Yun responded to questions about her technique of evoking Korea through such devices as using "Pumpkin Wife" and "Young Wife" and other Korean forms of expressions to name the characters. Also discussed was the idea of the characters in *House of the Winds* being pulled out from the "folds of history," which Yun described as "the hidden recesses in history wherein the untold stories of strong and enduring individual's are concealed."

An Assessment of Current Developments on the Korean Peninsula

NEW YORK, February 3 – Dr. Hakjoon Kim, president of the University of Inchon, spoke at a Korea Forum program on the topic of security issues affecting the ROK and their impact on regional security and the ROK's relations with Japan, Russia and the United States. Drawing on his broad expertise as a former chief assistant, chief press secretary and spokesperson in the Roh Taewoo administration, Kim provided a broad historical overview of the current situation on the Korean peninsula and outlined several possible scenarios for the future development of inter-Korean relations. Co-presented with the Asia Center of Seton Hall University.



Hakjoon Kim, February 3.

Perspectives on President Kim Dae-jung's First Year in Office

WASHINGTON, February 23 – In a Korea Club program, then Minister for Public Affairs Kim Djun-kil, Embassy of the Republic of Korea, and Mr. W. Robert Warne, then president of the Korea Economic Institute of America (KEI), assessed the Kim Dae-jung administration's policies during its first year in office. Kim contrasted the reforms undertaken by President Kim with those of past administrations, emphasizing that the ROK must become a full-fledged democracy with leaders being elected through "grass roots movements." Warne discussed the effects of Kim Dae-jung's policies on the economic situation in Asia, suggesting with cautious optimism that Korea was on the path to economic stability. He praised President Kim for managing difficult reforms in labor relations as well as the public and the private sectors.



Yoon-Shik Park, Edward Graham, Joseph Winder, Peter Beck and David Steinberg, April 14.

China and the Two Koreas

WASHINGTON, March 16 – This Korea Club program featured presentation by two highly regarded experts on East Asia from the Brookings Institution, Dr. Bates Gill and Mr. Robert Suettinger. Gill began his presentation by outlining

China's stance toward the situation on the peninsula. He asserted that China faces a difficult situation in Korean relations, as it is continuing to pursue improved relations with the Republic of Korea, but at the same time does not wish to alienate the DPRK. In his remarks, Suettinger called attention to the tenuous relationship that the United States and China have developed on the issue of North Korea. He noted that the United States would benefit from China's influence, but has not offered the Chinese any incentives for becoming more involved in negotiations with the North. The discussion following the presentations covered a wide array of topics ranging from refugees to Theatre Missile Defense.

Negotiating with North Korea

WASHINGTON, March 22 – The Honorable Charles Kartman, Special Envoy for the Korean Peace Talks, was the guest speaker in a Georgetown Korea Lecture Series program. Prior to assuming his current position in July of 1998, Kartman was principle deputy assistant to the secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. Drawing on this broad experience, Kartman addressed the topic of the recent bilateral negotiations with North Korea on access to a suspected underground nuclear facility at Kumchang-ri. He also spoke more generally about his experiences in conducting negotiations with DPRK counterparts. Co-presented with the Asian Studies Program of Georgetown University.

Prospects for Constructive Engagement with North Korea

CAMBRIDGE, MA, March 23 – This half-day seminar explored the complex relationships between the U.S., the DPRK, the ROK, and other Pacific-rim nations. As a follow up on the conference entitled "Engagement With North Korea: Pipe Dream or Practical Reality?" (see above), it featured presentations by leading experts, two of whom have had extensive negotiating experience with counterparts in North Korea. The presenters were Amb. Donald P. Gregg, president & chairman of The Korea Society; Gen. James F. Grant, USAF (Ret.) former deputy chief of staff for Intelligence U.S.F.K.; Dr. Han S. Park, director of the Center for the Study of Global Issues, University of Georgia; and Dr. Mitchell B. Reiss, former senior policy advisor for KEDO. Mr. Edward J. Baker, associate director of the Harvard Yenching Institute, and Dr. Robert Ross, associate in research at the Fairbank Center and professor of political science at Boston College, served as discussants. The program was moderated by Dr. Carter Eckert, professor of Korean history and director of the Korea Institute at Harvard University. Co-presented by the Korea Institute and the Korean Student Association of Harvard University.

Korea and the Asian Economic Crisis: One Year Later

WASHINGTON, April 14 – Mr. Joseph Winder, vice president of the Korea Economic Institute of America (KEI), moderated this panel discussion on the current state of Korea's economy and its future prospects. It featured presentations by Dr. David Steinberg, Georgetown University; Dr. Edward Graham, Institute for International Economics; Dr. Yoon-Shik Park, George Washington University; and Mr. Peter Beck, KEI. The topics explored by the panelists included financial reforms, the restructuring of the corporate sector, the current state of foreign direct investment in South Korea, and the social impact of the economic crisis on Korea. Co-presented with KEI and the Asia Society.

Providing Medical Aid to North Korea

ARLINGTON, VA, April 20 – Dr. Stephen W. Linton, then chairman of the Eugene Bell Centennial Foundation, spoke at a Korea Club meeting about his recent successful efforts to provide medical aid to tuberculosis patients in the DPRK. As an acknowledged expert who has visited the DPRK on over fifteen occasions, Linton drew on his personal experiences to suggest ways of working effectively with the North Korean government in supplying medical aid. He also highlighted key obstacles that must be overcome when dealing with the DPRK. This was the first program in a special three-part series examining opportunities for successful cooperation with North Korea.

Korea's Place in the New Millennium: Embracing the Challenge of Peace and Prosperity

NEW YORK, April 28 – Ambassador Hur Ri-hoon spoke about two major challenges facing Korea on the eve of the new millennium, in his first public address following his appointment as Korean consul general in New York. Identifying the first challenge as the goal of eliminating the remaining strictures of the Cold War on the Korean peninsula, Hur emphasized the need to provide a sense of security to both the North and the South. He cited the Sunshine Policy as a response to this challenge, noting that its objective is to establish a sustainable peace and to ensure peaceful co-existence between North and South Korea, as a prelude to eventual reunification through a gradual process of integration. Turning to the second challenge, the financial crisis which rocked South Korea at the end of 1997, Hur briefly summarized the various internal and external factors which have been cited as causes of the crisis. Expressing cautious optimism about South Korea's capacity to overcome the current difficulties, he stated that the objective Korea is pursuing is not just another repetition of the startling economic growth of recent decades. Rather, he stressed, the objective is to pursue recovery based on "becoming a responsible and contributing member of the global economy by successfully implementing our bold initiative for reforms in economic structures and social and legal systems."

Entrepreneurship in Korea: The Case of Hyundai

NEW YORK, April 29 – Richard M. Steers, the author of *Made In Korea: Chung Ju Yung and the Rise of Hyundai* who is an expert on Korean management and professor of management at the Lindquist College of Business at the University of Oregon, addressed a Korea Club meeting in which he offered a frank and critical assessment of Hyundai's success within the dual context of Korea's historical entrepreneurial roots and the role of the Korean *chaebol*. Steers, who has co-authored two highly regarded books on the subject of Korean business: *The Chaebol: Korea's New Industrial Might* (1987) and *Korean Enterprise: The Quest for Globalization* (1997), is a former president and fellow of the Academy of Management and the author of twenty books.

A Reminiscence of Post-World War II Korea

NEW YORK, May 6 – Mr. Edward N. Costikyan, Esq. was the featured presenter in a VOICES program based on his unpublished memoir about his experiences in Korea from 1945 through 1946. As an infantry lieutenant serving in the U.S. Army of Occupation, which liberated Korea from forty years of Japanese colonial rule, Costikyan reported that his orders were "to do whatever made sense to preserve order and prevent Koreans from beating up on departing Japanese."

Recalling how there had been no signs of modern economic activity at the time he was serving in Korea, Costikyan confessed his surprise upon reading recently that the collapse of Korea could bring down all of the Far East. He concluded optimistically with a statement that still rings true for many people: "The Koreans who endured Japanese rule have uncrushed spirits."

Gender and Class in the Ethnography of Korea

COLLEGE PARK, MD, May 10

– This Korea Lecture Series program featured a presentation by Dr. Nancy Abelmann, a professor in the Department of Anthropology and East Asian Languages & Culture at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Co-presented with the Committee on East Asian Studies at the University of Maryland.



Stephen W. Linton, April 20.



Richard M. Steers, April 29.



Edward N. Costikyan, May 6.

The Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office

WASHINGTON, May 20 – This second program in a three-part Korea Club series examining the opportunities for successful cooperation with North Korea featured a presentation by Mr. Alan Liotta, deputy director of the Defense Prisoner of War/Missing Personnel Office (DPMO). Liotta, who has been with the DPMO since 1993, provided a briefing on his office's historic and ongoing work in North Korea involving joint remains recovery operations, joint archival reviews and other issues. He relayed his experiences in negotiating access for the DPMO in North Korea, working side-by-side with soldiers of the Korean Peoples Army, and overcoming political difficulties between the U.S. and the DPRK.

The Future of the Past: Memories of War in East Asia

NEW YORK, May 25 – This second in a three-part series of panel discussions entitled "Japan in the Asian Context" focused on the legacy of World War II and how it has divided parts of East Asia for more than half a century as many conflicts remain unresolved. The participants were Mr. Ian Buruma, author, journalist, and scholar-in-residence at the Woodrow Wilson Center, Washington, DC; Mr. Garret Gong, Freeman chair in China Studies, Center for Strategic and

International Studies, Washington, DC; Dr. Charles Armstrong, assistant professor of history, Columbia University; and Dr. Carol Gluck, George Sansom Professor of History, East Asian Institute, Columbia University, who served as moderator. The discussion offered a variety of perspectives on the importance of remembering and forgetting, recognizing that the events of the war era continue to be a source of divisiveness in East Asia. In his presentation, Armstrong suggested that Koreans have no memories of World War II per se since the country was under Japanese colonial rule at the time. Rather, their memories of the war are only a facet of the national collective memory of being under Japanese rule. Therefore, Armstrong stressed, it is critical to make a distinction between individual and collective memory is assessing how forgetting and remembering will influence public opinion, political decision-making, national policy and relations between Japan, China and Korea throughout the next century. Co-presented with the China Institute and the Japan Society.

East Asian countries have grown relatively more important in recent years, unlike the past when exchanges in the region were predominately with the United States. Mr. Jaehoon Ahn, director of the Korean Service at Radio Free Asia, noted that cultural exchanges remained restricted even after Japan and Korea officially normalized their relations in 1965. With the recent lifting of the previous barrier against the inflow of Japanese culture into Korea, he noted, there is lively debate underway about whether this opening-up should be gradual or complete since many Koreans fear that their culture will be overwhelmed by Japanese influences. Ahn made it clear that he considers this concern exaggerated and unwarranted. The third panelist, Dr. John Chian-Sheng Kuo, adjunct assistant professor at Columbia University, discussed the popularity of Japanese writers in Taiwan, and in particular, how the theme of impermanence in Japanese literature resonates for many young Taiwanese readers. The program was moderated by Dr. John D. Smith II, professor of Japanese History at Columbia University.



William Clark, Jr., Carol Gluck, Garret Gong, Charles Armstrong and Ian Buruma, May 25.



Alan Liotta, May 20.



William Clark, Jr., Donald P. Gregg, James A. Kelley, Ralph A. Cossa and Michael McDevitt, June 17.

Cross-Cultural Trends in Asian Popular Culture

NEW YORK, June 10 – This final program in the “Japan in the Asian Context” series, presented in collaboration with the Japan Society and the China Institute, examined the growing impact of Japanese popular culture throughout Asia as well as the concomitant trend of the growing influence of Asian popular culture among many younger people in Japan. Dr. Christine Yano, assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Hawaii, presented the idea of a “New Asianism,” whereby an Asian culture is repackaged and adopted by another Asian nation. Her case in point was the “re-Japanization” of Asia, noting that Japan’s trade and cultural exchanges with other

Japan, Korea and the United States: New Opportunities for Working Together on Northeast Asian Security

NEW YORK, June 17 – Amb. Donald P. Gregg presided over a panel discussion, which was the final program in a two-year project on “Postunification Security Cooperation Among the U.S., Japan and Korea in the Post-unification Era.” The panelists were Mr. James A. Kelley, president, Pacific Forum, CSIS; Ralph A. Cossa, executive director, Pacific Forum, CSIS; Admiral Michael McDevitt (RAdm Ret.), Center for Naval Analyses; Mr. Carl Ford, president, Ford Associates, Inc.; Dr. Rhee Sung-Woo, president, New Asia Research Institute; and Col. Noboru Yamaguchi, defense/military attaché, Embassy of Japan. During the discussion, Ford outlined the worst case scenario, which envisions that the security alliance will not perform very well as a result of mutual misperceptions and suspicions among the partners in the region.

McDevitt argued the view that once the military threat in North Korea is removed, the U.S. and China may not have the ability to maintain stability in Asia. Yamaguchi noted that the development of a defense relationship between Japan and Korea is a recent phenomenon, but quite a substantial one all the same. Rhee emphasized the need for Korea to maintain a close security alliance with the U.S. while also pursuing friendly alliances with China, Japan and Russia. Cossa expressed his view that a unified Korea would not see Japan as an integral part of the solution to the problem of ensuring security in the region and would

prefer to look to China, instead of to the U.S., for direction. Co-presented by the Pacific Forum, CSIS (Hawaii), The Okazaki Institute (Japan), The New Asia Research Institute (Korea) and the Japan Society.

A Review of Negotiations with North Korea

WASHINGTON, June 29 – Mr. Joel Wit, the head of the Agreed Framework Division in the U.S. Department of State, and Mr. Chuck Downs, a senior policy advisor for the U.S. House of Representatives, were the featured speakers in this final meeting of a three-part Korea Club series which explored the opportunities for successful cooperation with North Korea.

Drawing on his firsthand experience as a member of the team which conducted the recent inspections of the Kumchang-ri underground nuclear facility in North Korea, Wit gave a briefing on the findings of the inspections and offered his perspectives on the negotiating strategies of the DPRK. Downs added to the discussion by presenting his views on American successes and failures in negotiating with North Korea.

Six Months in North Korea

NEW YORK, July 22/Washington, July 29 – Ms. Christy Gavitt gave a slide lecture presentation on her experiences while working as a monitor for the distribution of U.S. government-issued corn and wheat through food-for-work projects in seven provinces in the DPRK. The topics addressed included a description of several projects administered by the Private Voluntary Organization Consortium for North Korea (PVOC), an assessment of the nature and seriousness of the food shortage, and the DPRK government's policies on the supervision of the monitoring activities. With more than twenty years of experience working in the field of international development in Africa and other areas, Gavitt was one of the first Korean-speaking foreigners given permission to reside long-term in the DPRK. Co-presented by The Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service in New York and the U.S. Institute for Peace in Washington.



Christy Gavitt, July 22 (NY), July 29 (DC).

Can Engagement with North Korea Succeed?

NEW YORK, July 29 – In a Korea Lecture Series program, Amb. Donald P. Gregg offered his assessment of the current status of relations between North and South Korea and the prospects for continuing engagement. The talk focused on the evolution of the North-South dialogue, as well as international efforts to engage North Korea in a constructive process of normalizing relations. Gregg emphasized his belief that it is important to maintain a dialogue with North Korea despite possible provocative acts, such as the then widely anticipated firing of a second multi-stage missile by the DPRK. In support of this view, he argued that the likely alternative to a pro-active policy of constructive engagement was a return to a pattern of dangerous isolationism that could result in a nuclear standoff similar to that which had evolved in the early 1990's. Co-presented by the American & International Public Affairs Institute of the Wagner School at NYU.

The Political and Humanitarian Crisis in North Korea

WASHINGTON, September 2 – This panel discussion featured presentations by Professor Hyung Kook Kim, director of Asian Studies at American University; Dr. John Merrill of the U.S. Department of State; and Ms. Nancy Lindborg, vice-president of Mercy Corps International. Topics addressed included a brief history of developments relating to the DPRK since 1994 which provided a context for understanding the current situation, an explanation of the U.S. government's recent political role, and a description of the humanitarian aspects of the crisis. Co-sponsored by The Refugees, Migration and Humanitarian Workgroup; the United Nations Association

USA; and the SID Asia Roundtable.

Dr. Lee Jong-koo: Forty Years in Cardiology

NEW YORK, September 2 – Dr. Jong-koo Lee, an authoritative expert in the field of cardiac medicine both in Korea and North America, discussed his personal experiences in the field of cardiology for the past forty years. A graduate of Seoul National University, Lee completed his post-graduate training in 1964 at McGill University in Ontario, Canada. He held professorships in the United States and Canada prior to returning to Korea to teach medicine at Ulsan University from 1989-1996. Following his teaching career at Ulsan University, Lee served as the director of the Cardiovascular Center, Hyundai Medical Center, Seoul; director of the Simon Jong-koo Lee Heart Clinic, Seoul; consulting cardiologist, Samsung Medical Center, Seoul; and professor emeritus, University of Alberta, Canada. Lee has written scores of articles which have appeared in prestigious journals throughout the world and has recently completed a book (in Korean) entitled *How to Prevent Heart Disease, Stroke, and High Blood Pressure*.



International Gathering of Korean Adoptees Conference Participants, September 9-12.

International Gathering of Korean Adoptees Conference

WASHINGTON, September 9-12 – This "first of its kind" conference drew approximately four hundred participants, hailing from over thirty states in the U.S. and six European countries. At the participants were adopted overseas from Korea between the years 1955 and 1985. The program offered a highly diverse array of activities including a dialogue about the adoption experience; workshops on adoption, culture and ethnicity; cultural exhibitions and demonstrations; exhibits of adoption information; a meeting with the Congressional Coalition on Adoption; a group visit to the Korean War Memorial; and receptions at the Capitol and the residence of the Korean Ambassador. A press briefing on the conference was held on September 9 at the National Press Club which featured presentations by Frederick F. Carriere from The Korea Society, John L. Williams and Susan Soon-Keum Cox from Holt International Children's Services, and Madeline Fraundlich of the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute who reported on the results of an adoptee survey conducted in conjunction with the planning for the conference. One of the specific priorities of this international gathering was to highlight the connection of shared history between the Korean community and adoptees. To this end, a variety of Korean cultural, entertainment and educational activities were scheduled in conjunction with the conference. The workshops were focused

on topics such as cultural and racial identity, search and reunion, a historical overview of Korean adoption from both a global and Korean perspective, and the sharing of individual adoption experiences. The program finale entailed a moving wreath laying ceremony at the Korean War Memorial on September 12. Co-presented with Holt International Children's Services, the Evan B. Donaldson Adoption Institute and also-known-as, inc.

Korea's Competition Policy: Restructuring Korean Enterprises

WASHINGTON, September 10 – This luncheon forum featured an address by Mr. Jeon Yun-Churl, Chairman of



Donald P. Gregg at the American & International Public Affairs Institute of the Wagner School at New York University, July 29.



John L. Williams, Madeline Fraundlich, Susan Soon-Keum Cox and Frederick F. Carriere, September 9.



Deborah DeYoung and John Merrill, September 23.



Tony P. Hall, September 21.

the Korean Fair Trade Commission (KFTC). After an introduction by Amb. Donald P. Gregg, who hosted the program, Jeon began his address with a historical overview of Korea's economic development in which he highlighted the importance of understanding the reasons, directions and time frame of the current economic reforms in Korea. Stressing the need to rebuild the economy at the end of the Korean War, Jeon argued that the Korean government had no choice but to pursue a policy that would result in a prosperous and vibrant country. Given the strength of this imperative during the last thirty to forty years of Korea's economic development, as long as the system worked, reforms toward restructuring the way *chaebol* conducted their business were not enforced. However, with the advent of the Asian financial crisis in 1997

and the election of President Kim Dae-jung in 1998, a new imperative emerged and efforts to reform the country's economic policies and business practices were initiated. In his closing remarks, Gregg lauded Jeon for his commitment to enforcing the reform policies which have enabled the country to rebound from the financial crisis. Co-presented by the Georgetown University Law Center, The Atlantic Council of the United States and the Korea Economic Institute of America.

Luncheon Forum with Lee Hoi Chang

NEW YORK, September 13 – President Lee Hoi Chang of the Grand National Party was the guest of honor at a luncheon co-hosted by the Asia Society and the Council on Foreign Relations. In his address, Lee offered a candid and highly critical assessment of the current administration in Korea, stating that vestiges of authoritarianism continue to stifle the development of a true democracy and a market-driven economy. In particular, he denounced what he characterized as the current administration's arbitrary policies in the area of corporate restructuring, which he alleged are motivated by political expediency instead of the stated objective of allowing free market principles to drive the engine of economic reform.

Humanitarian Diplomacy Toward North Korea

WASHINGTON, September 21 – Congressman Tony P. Hall (D-Ohio) spoke at a Korea Forum program about his most recent trip to North Korea. Highlighting the changes he had observed in North Korea since his last visit, Hall reported seeing signs of greater candor on the part of his North Korean hosts which he views as a significant indication of an improvement in North Korean attitudes toward the United States. While affirming that the Perry initiative and the lifting of sanctions by the Clinton administration were positive strides

forward, Hall stressed that the United States must continue to provide humanitarian aid. He pointed out that when change does come in North Korea, the citizens will remember who helped them during their time of crisis, and accordingly, look favorably upon the United States. Co-presented by ProGlobal, Inc.

An Update on the Famine in North Korea

ARLINGTON, VA, September 23 – Dr. John Merrill of the U.S. Department of State and Ms. Deborah DeYoung of the office of Congressman Tony P. Hall (D-Ohio) spoke at a Korea Club

meeting about their recent trip to North Korea with Congressman Hall. They discussed their impressions of North Korea and its continuing famine, noting that the situation has improved even though the country is still suffering from widespread food shortages. Of special concern is the apparent lack of production throughout rural North Korea even though the situation in Pyongyang appears to be viable. Tours of North Korean orphanages showed relatively healthy children, although the delegation noticed that some children still show signs of severe health problems. They were also alarmed by the lack of proper medical equipment for treating the illnesses that have resulted from the famine. They noted that bandages were recycled, anesthesia was largely unavailable for operations, and hospitals lacked even basic medications. The

evening concluded with a question and answer period, during which the speakers affirmed the need to continue a policy of engagement with North Korea.

A Reading from *A Gesture Life*

WASHINGTON, September 27/NEW YORK, September 28 – The award-winning author of *Native Speaker*, Chang-rae Lee, read selected excerpts from his second novel, *A Gesture Life*. The novel explores the topic of comfort women through the eyes of its principal character, Franklin Hata, who is a Japanese man of Korean birth. This special VOICES program was co-presented with the Chapter Literary Bookstore in Washington, DC and Barnes and Noble in NY.

Two Koreas: Toward One Economy

WASHINGTON, October 4-5 – The Korea Society was a co-sponsor of this two-day conference organized by the Korea-America Economic Association. The objective of the conference was to raise awareness, in both the U.S. and Korea, of the need to prepare for closer economic ties between the two Koreas. The program encompassed a wide range of topics including progress reports on economic cooperation, the potential for economies of scale as benefits of economic cooperation, and the perspectives of both Koreas and the U.S. on economic integration. Amb. Donald P. Gregg and Congressman Tony P. Hall (D-Ohio) gave keynote addresses. The other presenters were: Dr. Yesook Merrill, U.S. General Accounting Office; Dr. Semoon Chang, president, Korea-America Economic Association; Dr. K. A. Namkung, The Atlantic Council of the United States; Mr. Evans Revere, U.S. Department of State; Mr. W. Robert Warne, Korea Economic Institute of America; Dr. Ok-Nim Chung, The Brookings Institution; Dr. Yoon Shik Park, George Washington University; Dr. E. Han Kim, University of Michigan; Dr. Youn-Suk Kim, Kean University; Mr. Marc Vogelaar, Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization; Dr. Marcus Noland, Institute for International Economics; Dr. Seung-Yung Kwack, Howard University; Mr. Joel Wit, U.S. Department of State; Dr. Suchan Chae, Rice University; Dr. Wontack Hong, Seoul National University; Dr. Gill-Chin Lim, KDI School of International Policy & Management; Dr. Joon Han, Hallym University; Dr. Chinkook Lee, USDA; Dr. Hong-Tack Chun, Korea Development Institute; Dr. Bong Joon Yoon, State University of New York at Binghamton; Dr. Jay Jongmoo Choi, Temple University; Dr. Soon Paik, U.S. Department of Labor; Dr. Chong Soo Pyun, University of Memphis; Dr. Young Back Choi, St. John's University; Dr. Sang Taek Kim, Korea Information Society Development Institute; Dr. Whee Gook Kim, East-West Research Institute; Dr. Sung-Hee Jwa, Korea Economic Research Institute; Dr. Jeong-ho Roh, School of Law, Columbia University; Dr. Chung-in Moon, Yonsei University; Dr. Kun-Young Yun, Yonsei University and Harvard University; Dr. Young-Sun Lee, Yonsei University; Mr. L. Gordon Flake, The Mansfield Center for Pacific Affairs; Mr. Stephen Costello, ProGlobal; Dr. Yung Y. Yang, University of California; Dr. Kyttack Hong, Chung-Ang University; Dr. John Merrill, U.S. Department of State; Mr. Leon Sigal, Social Science Research Council; Dr. David Steinberg, Georgetown University; Dr. Katy Oh, Institute for Defense Analysis; and Dr. Kenneth Quinones, Mercy Corps International.

U.S. Policy toward North Korea: A New Direction?

NEW YORK, October 5 – In this luncheon forum, Dr. William J. Perry offered an “off the record” account of the policy review process initiated in the fall of 1998 following his appointment as special assistant to the president and the secretary of state for U.S.-North Korea policy review. Perry had just returned from a trip to Asia to brief government officials in South Korea and Japan which he had undertaken after completing the review process and submitting his recommendations to President Clinton and the U.S. Congress. Co-presented with the Council on Foreign Relations and the Japan Society.



Chang-rae Lee at Barnes and Noble, September 28.



Jeong-ho Roh, Kun-Young Yun, Young-Sun Lee, Sung-Hee Jwa and L. Gordon Flake, October 4-5.

A Reading from *Retrieving Bones: Stories and Poems of the Korean War*

NEW YORK, October 14 – In a VOICES program, W. D. Ehrhart read excerpts from his book *Retrieving Bones: Stories and Poems of the Korean War*. The book is a searing anthology of the anguish and horror of war as viewed through the unique perspective of writers of that day. Ehrhart noted that many of the twelve stories and fifty poems assembled in *Retrieving Bones* have been out of print and are almost impossible to find in any other source. He expressed the hope that this anthology will remind Americans that important literature has come out of this tragic conflict. As the fiftieth anniversary of the Korean War approaches, Ehrhart expressed the hope that the significance of these writings will come to be more widely appreciated.

Medicines for Reconciliation between the DPRK and USA: A Medical Aid Mission to the DPRK

NEW YORK, *October 16* – Mr. Asaph Young Chun, president of the Institute for Strategic Reconciliation (ISR), gave a lecture and slide presentation on a recent ISR-sponsored humanitarian visit to North Korea to deliver donated medicines. Chun gave an eyewitness account of the observations made by the five-member "Ambassadors of Reconciliation" delegation who were in the DPRK from September 18-21, 1999. He also spoke about an agreement between the DPRK and ISR to deliver further shipments of critically needed medicines and medical supplies. Co-presented by The National Association of Korean Americans (NAKA)-NY Chapter.

A Reading from *Cry Korea Cry*

ARLINGTON, VA, *October 20*/COLLEGE PARK, MD, *October 21* – Author Ty Pak read and discussed excerpts from his recently published novel in two VOICES programs. Pak provid-

Media Perspectives on Korea

ARLINGTON, VA, *October 21* – A panel of international journalists spoke at a Korea Club meeting on the topic of how they cover Korea from their separate perspectives. The panel included Mr. Tom Carter, assistant foreign editor for *The Washington Times*, Mr. Taru Takanarita, bureau chief of the *Asahi Shimbun*, and Dr. Jeong-Woo Kil, diplomatic correspondent for the *Joong-Ang Ilbo*. Mr. Don Oberdorfer, distinguished journalist-in-residence at Johns Hopkins University, moderated the session. Kil highlighted several key areas of interest in U.S.-Korea relations, including the U.S. perception of the Kim Dae-jung administration. Carter expressed the difficulty of covering Korea with a small foreign staff and so many competing international issues, but emphasized the importance of the Korean issues in Washington. The program ended with a lively question and answer session focused on the future of Korea coverage, the upcoming elections in Korea and the United States, and the various sources used to report stories.



W.D. Ehrhart, October 14.



Asaph Young Chun (second from the right) and members of the Institute for Strategic Reconciliation delegation with North Korean medical personnel, October 16.

Creation and Recreation: Modern Korean Fiction and Its Translation

WASHINGTON, *October 30* – Session I of this one-day colloquium featured presentations by two highly celebrated authors, Pak Wan-so and Choe In-ho, who spoke respectively on the topics of "Literature and Experience" and "Literature as Encounter and Discovery." Dr. Young-key Kim-Renaud, who is a professor of Asian Languages and Literature at George Washington University, moderated the presentations. Session II featured two additional presentations: "Strategies of a Non-Native Translator" by Yu Young-nan and "Translating Cultural Subtext in Modern Korean Fiction" by Bruce

Fulton. This program was organized by The Hahn Moo-sook Colloquium with the co-sponsorship of George Washington University's (GWU) Sigur Center for Asian Studies and The Korea Society.

Reflections on Early Korean Immigration to Hawaii

NEW YORK, *November 4* – The presenter in this VOICES program, Dr. Wayne Patterson, discussed the writing of his book *The Korean Frontier in America: Immigration to Hawaii 1896-1910*. Acclaimed as the most comprehensive and authoritative work on the topic of early Korean immigration to Hawaii, *The Korean Frontier* affords keen insights into the historical, social and political forces in Korea, Japan and the United States which promoted the first wave of Korean overseas immigration. In his presentation, Paterson also previewed his soon to be released book on the second generation of Korean Americans.

A Reading from *A Gift of the Emperor*

LOS ANGELES, *November 13* – In a VOICES program, author Therese Park read excerpts from her book *A Gift of the Emperor*, which portrays the experiences of Korean comfort women. Co-presented by The Pacific Century Institute.



Ty Pak, October 20 & 21.



Pak Wan-so, October 30.

ed a highly personal perspective on the experiences of a first generation Korean American by also introducing some of the characters in a collection of his short stories, published under the title *Moonbay*, which recall many of the hardships he has experienced as a first generation immigrant to the United States. A second program was presented the following day at the University of Maryland. Stressing the beauty and dignity of the unnoticed persona, the author explained how he writes about everyday individuals who accomplish heroic acts in moments of their normal daily lives. Co-presented, respectively, by Borders Books in Arlington, VA and the Korean Program at the University of Maryland in College Park.



Wayne Patterson, November 4.

Korea in the Crisis of Transition

NEW YORK, November 18 – In this meeting of the Seminar on Contemporary Korean Affairs, ROK Ambassador Hong Koo Lee highlighted South Korea's successful transformation over the last four decades into a democratic capitalist nation. Citing democratization and globalization as twin challenges facing South Korea since the late 1980's, Lee noted that by 1995 South Korea had come to rank as the 11th largest economy in the world with a per capita income of \$10,000 and an export volume of \$100 billion. But the major setback experienced in 1997, due to the Asian financial crisis, brought home the need to adjust to changing conditions—financially and technologically—as the world becomes increasingly globalized and business transcends national boundaries. At the same time, Lee stressed, changes in business practices and social structure, while needed, should not be implemented at the expense of a loss of cultural identity and distinctiveness. Noting that the Korean people have demonstrated an agility, resilience and ability to deal with crisis, Lee stated his firm conviction that these qualities will enable Korea to secure her own prosperity along with that of her neighbors by becoming one of the most globalized nations in the Asia Pacific region. The Seminar on Contemporary Korean Affairs is a program of the Center for Korean Research at Columbia University. In an on-going collaboration with the Center, The Korea Society annually co-presents one session of the seminar.

The Internet Revolution: Perspectives on Culture and Business from Korean American Entrepreneurs

NEW YORK, November 30 – This panel discussion explored the phenomenon of the internet revolution and its impact on the evolution of a truly global corporate environment as well as its transforming influence on society and culture as a whole. The program featured presentations by two prominent Korean American entrepreneurs in the field of internet technology: Steve Y. Kim, the co-founder of Xylan, who served as its president, CEO and chairman of the board from its inception in July of 1993 until it was acquired by Alcatel for approximately \$2 billion in April 1999; and Joseph C. Park, who co-founded Kozmo.com in July 1997, and has successfully built and managed the company as it plans to be in over thirty markets by the end of 2000. They spoke of their personal experiences in co-



Joseph C. Park, November 30.

founding their respective companies and provided their assessments of where they see the internet revolution heading in the future. The moderator of the program was Mr. Victor J. Lee, chairman of the Korean American Society of Entrepreneurs (KASE) East Coast Chapter. Co-presented by KASE in cooperation with Citibank and ExcitePR.

North Korean Negotiating Behavior

NEW YORK, December 3 – In a luncheon forum presentation based on his just published book, *Negotiating on the Edge: North Korean Negotiating Behavior*, Mr. Scott Snyder outlined the principal features of his analysis of North Korean negotiating behavior. Drawing on interviews with an eminent cast of U.S. officials and his own extensive research on North Korea, Snyder demonstrated his masterful command of the historical and cultural roots of North Korea's negotiating behavior. Co-presented with the Asia Society.

U.S.-Korean Relations: Retrospective and Prospects

ARLINGTON, VA, December 13 – Mr. W. Robert Warne, the then president of the Korea Economic Institute, and Amb. Donald P. Gregg were the featured speakers at the final gathering of the Korea Club for 1999. Both speakers provided insights into Korea's economic and political progress over the last 50 years, which laid the groundwork for a thoughtful and focused assessment of Korea's future role in East Asia. Warne pointed out that Korea's economic restructuring and growing stability has been a remarkable achievement, but emphasized that further reforms were necessary in order to ensure prosperity and lasting stability. In his assessment, Warne gave equal significance to Korea's development into a constitutional democracy saying that in the future, Korea was likely to become the center of North East Asia as a political and economic power. This forecast was strongly supported by Gregg's positive assessment of the political advances made by President Kim Dae-jung within the region as well as the economic strides Korea has made over the last year. Gregg concluded his remarks by alluding to the perceptual gap between the view from within South Korea and the view from the outside, which suggests that the Korean people still do not feel fully confident about the progress which has been made in overcoming the effects of the financial crisis.



Donald P. Gregg and W. Robert Warne, December 13.