

SPECIAL EVENTS

In 2007, The Korea Society marked the 50th anniversary of its founding by General James A. Van Fleet in 1957. Several special events were held throughout the year both to commemorate the achievements of the past five decades and to renew our commitment to strengthening the U.S.–Korea relationship.



THE KOREA SOCIETY 50TH ANNIVERSARY Co-hosted by The Korea Society and Security Management Institute



February 2

The Korea Society commemorated its past by looking ahead at a conference on the future of U.S.-ROK relations held at the Westin Chosun Hotel in Seoul. Co-organized by the Security Management Institute, the conference drew an array of officials, analysts and other observers of U.S.-ROK relations. Participants included former U.S. ambassadors to South Korea **James T. Laney** and **Thomas C. Hubbard**; former Korean ambassadors to the U.S. **Yang Sungcheol**, **Han Seungjoo**, **Hyun**

Hong-Choo and **Park Kun Woo**; The Korea Society's chairman and its president, **Donald P. Gregg** and **Evans J.R. Revere**; and **Kim Young-lyong**, vice minister of National Defense.

The morning session was chaired by **Chung-in Moon**, South Korea's ambassador for international security and a professor at Yonsei University. It featured two keynote presentations: *The South Korean-United States Alliance: Vagaries of a Future Relationship—A Personal View*

by **David I. Steinberg**, director of Asian Studies at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service (and TKS board member) and *Vision and Tasks for the Future of the ROK-U.S. Relationship* by professor **Sung-han Kim** of the Institute of Foreign Affairs and National Security.

The discussion continued during a closed afternoon session where other leading experts on ROK-U.S. relations joined with panelists from the morning session to explore issues such as the DPRK's nuclear

weapons program, wartime operational control of ROK armed forces and security in Northeast Asia. Participants agreed that in order to endure, the U.S.-ROK relationship needs to adapt to new political realities and begin to encompass economic and cultural dimensions as well as security concerns. The experts' principal recommendation was that a blue ribbon panel should be established to study the issues confronting the U.S.-ROK relationship in greater depth.



50th Anniversary Gala Dinner in Seoul *February 3*

The Korea Society launched its 50th anniversary commemoration with a gala dinner at the Grand Hyatt Hotel in Seoul. The event, which drew 600 guests, brought together many important figures from Korea's diplomatic, legislative and business communities who have lent their steadfast support to The Korea Society.

A video presentation traced the origins and development of The Korea Society over the last five decades, and **Donald P. Gregg**, who was stepping down as president of The Korea

Society, a position he had held since 1993, used the dinner to formally introduce his successor, former senior State Department diplomat **Evans J.R. Revere**.

Remarks were delivered by **Lee Hee-Beom**, chairman and CEO of the Korea International Trade Association and the Korea-U.S. Economic Council as well as chair of The Korea Society's 50th anniversary celebrations; **Stanley C. Gale**, chairman of Gale International and chair of the gala dinner; U.S. ambassador to

South Korea **Alexander Vershbow**; and the prime minister of the Republic of Korea, **Han Myeong Sook**.

Song Min-soon, Korea's minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade, spoke about the evolving U.S.-Korea relationship with an optimism that mirrored the attitude in the room.

"The house of the ROK-U.S. alliance is currently under repair for further expansion and improvement," said Song. "The noises that we sometimes hear are nothing more than the sound of progress."

50th Anniversary Commemoration in Los Angeles *April 26*

The Korean American community in Southern California celebrated The Korea Society's 50th anniversary at a gala dinner on April 26 at the Westin Bonaventure Hotel in downtown Los Angeles. Organized by the Korean American Coalition, the dinner drew over 1,000 guests.

The gala was attended by Los Angeles mayor **Antonio Villaraigosa**, who praised The Korea Society for the role its programs have played in healing the divisions that arose between the city's African-American, Latino and Korean communities during the 1992 riots.

In recognition of its contribution to inter-ethnic reconciliation in the spirit of Villaraigosa's remarks, the Korean American Coalition honored The Korea Society with its annual Bridge Builders Award.



50TH ANNIVERSARY GALA DINNER IN NEW YORK CITY

Mr. William R. Rhodes



H.E. Ban Ki-Moon



Mr. Lee Hee-Beom

Over 500 corporate leaders, policymakers, officials, scholars and media figures celebrated The Korea Society's 50th anniversary at New York City's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

United Nations Secretary-General **Ban Ki-moon**, the evening's keynote speaker, congratulated The Korea Society on its 50th anniversary, and laid out an agenda for his office, noting the importance of the Six-Party Talks

and long-term development in North Korea alongside issues such as climate change and Darfur.

"As the first Asian secretary-general since U Thant, I am also committed to working for an expanded role for Asia in the international arena in the twenty-first century," Ban said. "In that mission, The Korea Society has an important part to play."

Amb. Chris Hill



(l-r) Mr. Houghton Freeman & Mrs. Doreen Freeman



Amb. Yim Sung-joon



Ms. Rose Jang

The 2007 James A. Van Fleet Award was shared by two sets of recipients: **Doreen and Houghton Freeman**, of the Freeman Foundation; and The Korea Foundation, represented by its president, Ambassador **Yim Sung-joon**. Both The Korea Foundation and the Freeman Foundation have supported educational programs about Korea and Asia on an unparalleled scale, greatly contribut-

ing to the bedrock of cultural knowledge and exchange that bind the U.S. and Korea together.

The 2007 annual dinner was chaired by William R. Rhodes, chairman, president and CEO of Citibank, N.A.; and Lee Hee-Beom, chairman and CEO of the Korea International Trade Association. It was supported by an impressive list of benefactors and patrons,

including **Dong-jin Oh**, president and CEO, Samsung Electronics North America; **Ray Ferguson**, CEO, Standard Chartered Bank in the Americas; **Maurice R. Greenberg**, chairman and CEO, C.V. Starr & Company; **Bill Hwang**, managing partner and CEO, Tiger Asia Management; **Edward T. Cloonan**, vice president, American International Group; and **Stanley C. Gale**, chairman, Gale International.



Luncheon with Kim Dae-jung

September 25

South Korean president Kim Dae-jung launched a new era in inter-Korean relations when he held an unprecedented summit meeting with the leader of North Korea in 2000. As the two Koreas prepared for a second historic summit meeting in early October, former-president Kim shared his thoughts on the direction of inter-Korean relations, the current state of the U.S.-Korea relationship, the Six-Party Talks and the search for sustainable peace and stability in Northeast Asia at a luncheon given in his honor by The Korea Society.

Held at the Waldorf=Astoria Hotel in Manhattan, the luncheon drew nearly 100 distinguished guests and numerous press representatives. Kim thanked The Korea Society

for awarding him its 2006 James A. Van Fleet award for his efforts to promote democracy and peace on the Korean Peninsula and praised the organization for its activities to promote inter-Korean reconciliation.

Kim expressed confidence that the upcoming summit between the North and South would facilitate further progress on the nuclear issue as well as long-term inter-Korean reconciliation.

“I believe both Koreas will agree to support the efforts of the Six-Party Talks that are aimed at resolving the North Korean nuclear issue,” Kim said. “At the same time, such items as the peace treaty and South Korea’s participation in the recovery of the North Korean economy will

also be heavily discussed. The discussion on economic cooperation will be focused on how to pursue mutual benefits that do not depend on unilateral aid.”

Kim suggested that after the North Korean nuclear issue is resolved, the structure of the Six-Party Talks should be institutionalized to serve as a regional security mechanism.

“The long period of uncertainty is disappearing on the Korean Peninsula,” Kim said in closing. “The concerns of a nuclear war and illegal proliferation of nuclear arms are also vanishing. As peace on the Korean Peninsula draws near, let us, Korea and the U.S., further cooperate closely so that we will be able to achieve the mutual interests of peace and prosperity.”

2007 Van Fleet Golf Tournament Awardees

Low Gross – Van Fleet Award

Sam Roh

Low Gross – Second Place Individual

Kris Byun

Low Net – First Place Individual

Jin-min Kim

Low Net – Second Place Individual

Jang Hyun Kwon

Longest Drive

Dae Ki Min

Closest To The Pin

Peter Jenkins

Low Net – First Place Team

Jin-min Kim

Hyeongno Lee

Kyu Chul Oh

Yong Nam Park

Low Net – Second Place Team

Cheol Kew Park

Roger An

Moongie Kim

Sam Roh

Most Honest Golfer

Yong Sung Cho

17TH ANNUAL VAN FLEET GOLF TOURNAMENT

October 15

After a long absence, the Van Fleet Golf Tournament returned to the Alpine Country Club in Demarest, New Jersey, in 2007. The 87 golfers, playing in 22 teams, tested their skills on the club's beautiful and challenging course. Preceded by a sumptuous breakfast, the day's play produced some remarkable scores and a chance for friends and supporters of The Korea Society to network and strengthen relationships. Top players and teams were recognized at an awards ceremony held during the dinner that brought the tournament to a close.

Each winner received valuable prizes from The Korea Society's generous sponsors. The award ceremony was followed by a raffle. As per tradition, Hyundai's hole-in-one prize—a 2008 Hyundai Veracruz—went unclaimed.





Year-End Party

December 18

As the year drew to a close, The Korea Society threw a special year-end party to thank all those who had made 2007—its 50th anniversary year—such a success.

Over 250 guests met and mingled over drinks, Korean food and live jazz at The Korea Society's offices in New York. Drawing a mixed crowd of members and first-time visitors to The Korea Society, the reception provided an ex-

cellent forum for guests to network, meet old friends and make new ones. It also offered those who haven't recently been to The Korea Society a chance to see our newly expanded and renovated space, including our new gallery.

As the party got underway, Ambassador **Donald P. Gregg**, chairman of The Korea Society, greeted the guests and thanked all those who had supported The Korea Society and its mission.

Following Ambassador Gregg's remarks, **Evans J.R. Revere**, president and CEO of The Korea Society, described the numerous changes that The Korea Society had undergone during its anniversary year, highlighted key initiatives for the coming year, and urged all those who weren't yet members to join as The Korea Society prepares for an even more exciting and successful 2008.