

**AMB. SUK-BUM PARK, CONSUL GENERAL OF THE
REPUBLIC OF KOREA
“THE FUTURE OF KOR-US RELATIONS”**



한글

**FROM LEFT:
CONSUL OH,
MIMI YU, AMB. PARK
AND JOHN FREDERICK,
PROVOST OF UTSA**

On Tuesday March 26, 2013 The East Asia Institute (EAI) hosted Ambassador and Consul General of the Republic of Korea, Suk-Bum Park for “The Future of KOR-US Relations” public lecture. More than 100 guests attended the event. The event began at 6:15 p.m. and was preceded by a reception for V.I.P. guests. On behalf of the East Asia Institute, we would like to extend our gratification to Amb. Suk-Bum Park for his very informative lecture and for his influential presence at UTSA.

The event commenced with a small reception for V.I.P. guests that lasted about an hour. The guests enjoyed the complimentary Korean cuisine and refreshments provided at the reception, during which the guests mingled amongst one another. Mimi Yu gave a small introduction to Councilwoman Elisa Chan, who then introduced the Consul General, Amb. Suk-Bum Park.

Following the reception, there was a lecture given by the Consul General, Amb. Suk-Bum Park. He began his presentation with a short film, “Touch Korea’s Diverse Dimensions”, which captured the essence and spirit of South Korea. Amb. Suk-Bum Park then began his lecture, “The Future of KOR-US Relations”. Five main points were included- 1) Primacy of trans-pacific relations, 2) Korea-U.S. alliance, 3) North Korean Dilemma, 4) Korea-U.S. FTA, 5) Future of Korea-U.S. relations. These contents highlighted recent major events, milestones and developments that have affected and affect the Korea- U.S. relationship.





V.I.P. reception



Amb. Park's lecture



Amb. Park giving his lecture to the audience



Amb. Park at the reception

They illustrated the importance of reinforcing the Korea-U.S. collaboration for the future. The primacy of trans-pacific relations included a Pivot to Asia- rebalancing the U.S. from the Middle East to Asia. Amb. Park asked to the audience, "In your view, which continent is more important to the U.S.- Asia or Europe?" The answer was conclusive that it used to be Europe although now it is becoming Asia, which is based solely on a trend. The three elements of the Pivot to Asia are a rise of China, retail in Japan and Korea becoming more of a major "player" on the world stage, economically. Amb. Park then mentioned how President Barack Obama has visited South Korea three times during the course of his presidency thus far and how it is setting up a "Global Partnership". "Global Partnership" was introduced to the audience by Amb. Park with a quote from Scott Snyder, the Council on Foreign Relations: "South Korea has developed from a consumer of security to a producer of security." The Korea-U.S. Alliance has become very important to the world stage since around the early 2000's. South Korea is ranked at 60% in supporting American Bases and Troops in other

countries, though only 1% of the U.S. budget is actually spent on South Korea. Amb. Park explained the significance of furthering focus on the Korea-U.S. Alliance; that it is valuable to both America's and South Korea's future.

Amb. Park then focused on the North Korean Dilemma. He incorporated two famous figures in America who have visited North Korea- Muhammad Ali and Dennis Rodman. The audience laughed at the sight of them, but Amb. Park reminded everyone that these two were once invited to visit Kim Jong Il and they planned on visiting again sometime in their lives. With all that is going on recently between the U.S. and North Korea, these two men are reminders that North Korea continues to be a threat to the U.S. no matter what happens. Kim Jong Un is now in power, after his father died last year, and he has made many changes. He has posed for a picture with his wife outside, which was put on media websites, and he has allowed the use of mapping North Korea. However, the most recent change is that of threatening the U.S. with nuclear weapons. The threat continues to grow and Amb.



Amb. Park giving lecture



Mimi Yu giving Amb. Park a gift



V.I.P. reception



Mimi Yu receiving a gift from Amb. Park



Amb. Park with Business Associate Dean Dr. Lisa Montoya (left) and UTSA business students



Amb. Park with Sherry Dowlatshahi, Director, International Affairs of City of S.A., Councilwoman Elisa Chan (from left)

5 IMPORTANT
ELEMENTS TO
THE FUTURE OF
KOR-US
RELATIONS:

- TRADE
- GLOBAL
PARTNERSHIP
- ENERGY
- SECURITY
- PEOPLE-TO-
PEOPLE

Park has long recognized this as a problem in regards to relations with the U.S. and South Korea. He urges that the U.S. and South Korea continue to work together to maintain stability between the two countries.

The next part of his lecture focused on the U.S.- Korea Free Trade Agreement. The U.S.-Korea FTA is celebrating one year since implementation. From an U.S. perspective, the benefits of this agreement include, 1) More export to Korea of Made-in-USA manufactured goods, 2) More export to Korea of agricultural products, and 3) More export to Korea of Services. Although this trade is extremely important to both countries, Amb. Park asked the question of is this trade under-appreciated. South Korea is the 7th largest trading partner of the U.S., but only 22% of Americans think South Korea is one of America's top 10 trading partners. Amb. Park wants this to change and wants South Korea to be well recognized in terms of trade in the U.S. The U.S.-Korea FTA led him to his last point in his presentation- The Future of Korea- U.S. Relations. He showed the audience two pictures of the current president of South Korea, Park Geun-hye. As the first woman president of South Korea, Park Geun-hye has reached an incredible milestone in her career and is an inspiration to all women. Amb. Park praised her accomplishments and mentioned that she has been in politics since she was in the twenties. Being the first woman president of South Korea, she is also a great influence to the politics in the U.S. as well. Amb. Park concluded his lecture with 5 important elements for the future relationship of Korea- U.S. relations. They include, 1) Trade, 2) Global Partnership, 3) Energy, 4) Security, and 5) People-to-People.

The presentation given by Amb. Park concluded with a Q&A with the audience. Many important questions were asked and answered in the most complete way by Amb. Park. After the Q&A, a few people gathered to speak personally to Amb. Park and take photos with him. All in all, the event was a success for Amb. Park and for the East Asia Institute. The goal of EAI is to promote awareness on these topics, and Amb. Park did a fantastic job at doing so. We hope to invite him back in the future and be able to host another event for him.

Presented by:



Hosted by:

