

KOREA-SINGAPORE FORUM 2017: A NEW-AGE PARTNERSHIP FOR A WORLD IN TRANSITION

Event Report
19 July 2017

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19 July 2017
Marina Mandarin Singapore

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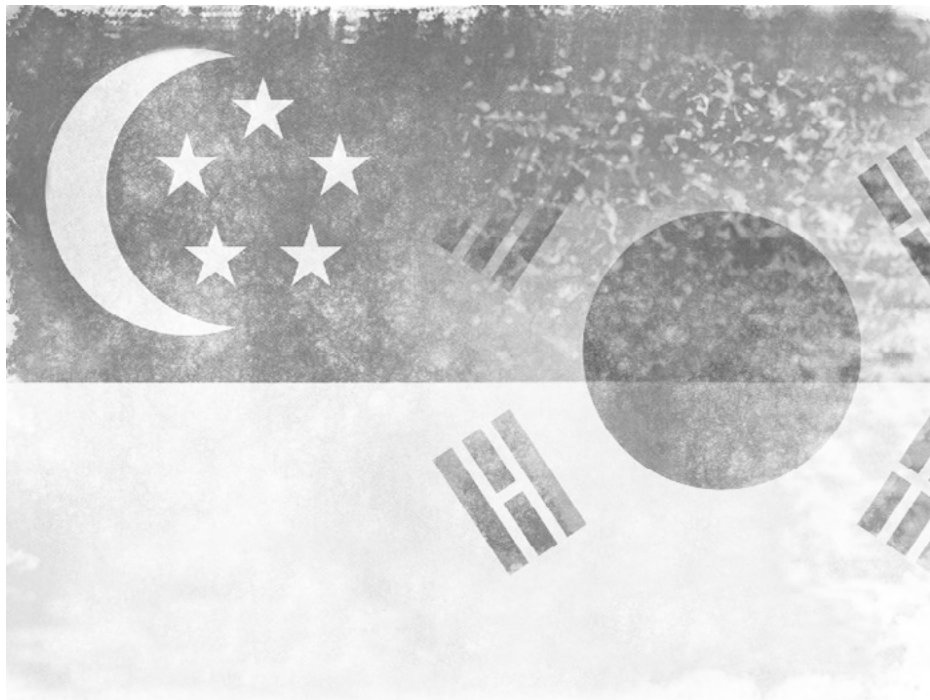
Report of the 3rd Korea-Singapore Forum co-organised by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), The Korea Foundation and the Korean Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (KISEAS).

Rapporteurs:

Shawn Ho and Nah Liang Tuang

This report summarises the proceedings of the forum as interpreted by the assigned rapporteurs. Participants neither reviewed nor approved this report.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The 3rd Korea-Singapore forum was co-hosted by the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), The Korea Foundation and the Korean Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (KISEAS) on 19 July 2017, at the Marina Mandarin Singapore. Titled “A New-Age Partnership for a World in Transition”, the forum was organised under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Singapore. Policymakers, government officials, and representatives from academia, think tanks, businesses and the media from both countries participated in the closed-door forum.

With the aim of using this forum to enhance Korea-Singapore ties, the forum saw participants engage in lively discussions about the evolving dynamics in the Asia Pacific region as well as the prospects for regional and bilateral cooperation particularly in the area of the digital economy. The forum’s delegates agreed that there was potential for the Republic of Korea and Singapore to work together on a wide range of issues including the fight against climate change and the championing of free trade in an increasingly protectionist world.

OPENING SESSION

Amb Ong Keng Yong and Amb Lee Si-hyung welcomed all dignitaries and delegates to the 3rd Korea-Singapore Forum. They expressed their hope that the 3rd Korea-Singapore Forum would help the two countries develop a closer cooperative partnership for mutual benefits during this period of transition in the world.

Mr Liang Eng Hwa and Mr Lee Seok-hyun opined that the theme for this forum was timely and opportune given the context of a rapidly changing world, including a shifting centre of gravity in the world economy, the breakdown in the global consensus on free trade, and the dynamic geopolitical environment in East Asia. Both speakers highlighted the fact that the two countries share a common outlook on a variety of regional and international issues and that there is still room to further develop the bilateral economic and people-to-people links.

Mr Ng Teck Hean emphasised in his keynote speech that Singapore and the Republic of Korea are similar in many ways and both countries will need to work together to deal with the growing security and trans-boundary challenges such as global terrorism and climate change. He also mentioned that on the day before the forum, he had co-chaired the inaugural policy consultation between the two countries with Mr Lee Jeong-kyu, the Republic of Korea's Deputy Minister for Political Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Mr Ng shared about the potential for bilateral cooperation in the economic sphere and that business interests from both sides have been strong and growing, in particular in the fields of biomedical science and technology cooperation.

Mr Lee Jeong-kyu, delivering his keynote speech, commented that sustaining the present rules-based international order is vital for countries like Singapore and the Republic of Korea. He said that the greatest regional challenge is the nuclear and missile threat posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. He added that the new Moon Jae-in administration will make every effort to achieve the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula using all means including sanctions, pressure and dialogue. Regarding the Republic of Korea's relations with ASEAN, the Moon government has pledged to elevate them to new heights. This reflects the government's position that cooperation between the Republic of Korea and ASEAN is very important in coping with the threat posed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and global economic uncertainty.

REGIONAL ORDER IN A CHANGING WORLD

The international order is currently characterised by hyper uncertainty. Western protectionism, growing Chinese power and North Korean provocations add to this uncertainty. Currently, the inward looking foreign policies of Western nations have created a leadership vacuum on important issues like climate change and disaster management. This reaction to globalisation and liberalism is being fuelled by economic inequality leading to polarised politics. For the sake of regional stability, these challenges have to be negotiated and resolved.

The liberal economic order characterising contemporary history has resulted in a resurgent China. In Southeast Asia, the Chinese economic juggernaut has displaced most other countries in terms of trade and investment. President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) best encapsulates China's ambition to play a global role, developing infrastructure to promote trade and investment in surrounding countries. For regional states, the issue would be about the South China Sea territorial disputes. While all countries want to resolve the disputes peacefully, whether this can be achieved will depend on two central tenets governing the region's geopolitics: ASEAN centrality and stable U.S.-China relations.

Regarding the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its nuclear and missile adventurism, the Moon Jae-in government has clearly communicated to Pyongyang that the Republic of Korea will not seek regime change but would work to realise its verifiable nuclear disarmament. This would be done by working with external partners to implement sanctions and apply maximal pressure while leaving the door to dialogue open. The Moon Jae-in government's proposed regional architecture vision, "Northeast Asia+ and Responsible Community", could play a role in this regard.

Even though they are not major powers, the Republic of Korea and Singapore can still make contributions to regional peace and stability. Firstly, they could assist China and the U.S. (since the Trump administration threatens to turn America inwards) in global economic integration. It is also hoped that the Republic of Korea will join Singapore in playing an active role in the BRI.

REGIONAL COOPERATION AMIDST CLIMATE CHANGE AND DEGLOBALISATION

Countries need to work together to deal with the numerous challenges posed by climate change and deglobalisation. Regarding climate change, both Singapore and the Republic of Korea can do more to promote the use of energy efficient appliances/systems as well as do joint research in areas such as heat islands, green buildings, public housing and intra-urban brown challenges. Singapore and the Republic of Korea can also share their technical expertise with other countries in water recycling, desalination and water storage.

To deal with migration-related challenges, there is a need to establish pan-Asian organisations and guidelines since there is a growing need for cooperation in areas such as border control, infectious diseases, terrorism and human rights protection. East Asian countries should also do more joint academic and policy research in areas aimed at improving the well-being of migrants and to ensure the sustainable development of countries through immigration.

In this age of uncertainty, Singapore and the Republic of Korea are facing similar socio-economic challenges and ASEAN can provide the external economic space that both countries could benefit from. There are numerous business opportunities in ASEAN that both countries can capitalise on as ASEAN progresses towards its ASEAN Economic Community 2025 targets. The potential areas for bilateral cooperation would include special economic zones, financing for Micro, Small & Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), urban solutions and in plugging the skills gap in ASEAN.

Turning to the topic of a cashless society, there are actually many benefits of having a cashless society where e-payment is ubiquitous. ASEAN should set a goal of providing e-payment services for all the people in the ten ASEAN member states and the Republic of Korea can help ASEAN member states to develop their e-payment systems.

THE DIGITAL ECONOMY: THE FUTURE OF BILATERAL COOPERATION

Given the 4th Industrial Revolution and the rapid changes in the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) environment, hard work alone will not be enough for countries to ensure success in the next phase of development.

In a hyper-connected society, new value is created by utilising extensive data generated from both online and offline connections as well as the interaction among people, things and spaces. Since the strategic intent and approach taken by both Singapore and the Republic of Korea is similar with regards to their Research, Innovation and Enterprise (RIE) portfolio, both countries can work together in this field in areas such as Science and Technology, Industry Development and Digital Transformation.

As Singapore plans to become the world's first Smart Nation, there are also cybersecurity risks associated with such a plan. The solution to dealing with these cybersecurity risks is not to do away with smart devices but rather to make systems more secure. Networks can be made more secure by reducing attack surfaces, enhancing situational awareness through technology and preparing for cyber breaches. There is also a need to train more cybersecurity professionals and to establish a professional cybersecurity workforce in Singapore to meet the growing demand. Singapore and the Republic of Korea should have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that focuses on cybersecurity cooperation.

WRAP-UP AND CLOSING

Prof Park Sa-Myung said that Singapore can collaborate with the Republic of Korea to “cool down the nuclear hot” Northeast Asia by opening a nuclear free North-South corridor from Southeast Asia to Northeast Asia. Singapore is the southern hub between mainland and island nations in Southeast Asia whereas the Korean Peninsula is the northern hub between continental and maritime powers in Northeast Asia. If the two regional hubs are closely connected with each other, they can produce enormous momentum for a new regional order.

Amb Ong Keng Yong said that Singapore and the Republic of Korea need to work together to preserve the liberal, rules-based order and to expand bilateral cooperation beyond trade and investment. Countries in the region also need to think of ways to manage the impact of the North Korean nuclear challenge, among other security issues. While Singapore and the Republic of Korea cannot do much to shape the international and regional order on their own, cooperation is vital not only with each other but also with other like-minded countries.

Participants of the forum were also invited to share any ideas they might have to help move bilateral cooperation forward. Some suggestions made by the delegates included: (i) The Korea Foundation and RSIS can work together to facilitate an informal Track 1.5 or Track 2 multilateral dialogue involving the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Republic of Korea, China, ASEAN member states and other major powers to discuss issues of the Korean Peninsula and to promote inter-Korean dialogue; (ii) Singaporean and South Korean news media and opinion leaders should take more active steps to promote tourism to each other’s country; and (iii) The business councils from both countries should work together to identify non-tariff barriers that can be removed.

Looking ahead, the delegates of the 3rd Korea-Singapore Forum said that they are looking forward to the 4th Korea-Singapore Forum which will be held in 2019 in the Republic of Korea.



Participants of the 3rd Korea-Singapore Forum



(L-R) Professor Park Sa-Myung, Ambassador Ong Keng Yong and Ambassador Lee Sihyung



Mr Liang Eng Hwa (left) with Mr Eric Teo



(L-R) Hon Lee Seok Hyun, Dr Pilky Hong and Mr Nahm Yoonho



Ambassador Lee Sang-Deok speaking at the welcome dinner



Ambassador Ong Keng Yong (left) with Mr Lee Jeong-Kyu



Mr Ng Teck Hean (left) with Ambassador Lee Sihyung



A panel session in progress



(L-R) Prof Park Sa-Myung, Dr Yoon Jin Pyo and Ambassador Ong Keng Yong



Mr Christopher Lim



Dr Lee Seungjoo



Dr Pilky Hong



Dr Yoon In-Jin



Ambassador Lee Sihyung (left) with Ambassador Ong Keng Yong exchanging gifts

Conference Programme

Tuesday, 18 July 2017

1800 - 1830 hrs

Registration

1830 - 2000 hrs

Official Dinner

Welcome Remarks

Amb ONG Keng Yong

Executive Deputy Chairman

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Nanyang Technological University

Republic of Singapore

Amb LEE Sang-deok

Ambassador

Embassy of the Republic of Korea to Singapore

Wednesday, 19 July 2017

0900 - 0930 hrs

Registration

0930 - 1000 hrs

Opening Session

Opening Remarks

Amb ONG Keng Yong

Executive Deputy Chairman

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Nanyang Technological University

Republic of Singapore

Amb Sihyung LEE

President of The Korea Foundation

Republic of Korea

Congratulatory Remarks

Mr LIANG Eng Hwa

Member of Parliament

Chairman, Singapore-Northeast Asia Regional Parliamentary Group

Chairman, Government Parliamentary Committee for Finance, Trade & Industry

Republic of Singapore

Mr LEE Seok Hyun

Member of the National Assembly

President, Korea-Singapore Parliamentarian Association

Republic of Korea

Keynote Speech

Mr NG Teck Hean

Deputy Secretary (Asia-Pacific)

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Republic of Singapore

Mr Jeong-kyu LEE

Deputy Minister for Political Affairs

Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Republic of Korea

1000 - 1030 hrs

Group Photo-taking and Coffee Break

1030 - 1200 hrs

Session 1 – Regional Order in a Changing World

Singapore and the ROK face common strategic challenges in a rapidly changing world. China and the U.S. are searching for a new modus vivendi in a period where both countries are confronted with pressing domestic issues. At the same time, the DPRK has continued to defy international sanctions and ramped up its provocations, while Japanese PM Shinzo Abe looks set to redefine Japan's security posture. What can Singapore and the ROK do to foster peace and stability in the region? How could both countries respond to the evolving features of the regional order in light of the major power interactions?

Moderator

Dr Jae Hyeok SHIN

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science and International Relations, Korea University; and

Director of General Affairs, Korean Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
Republic of Korea

Presenters

Mr HAN Fook Kwang

Senior Fellow

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Nanyang Technological University

Republic of Singapore

Dr Seungjoo LEE

Professor, Department of Political Science and International Studies

Chung-Ang University

Republic of Korea

1200 - 1330 hrs

Luncheon

1330 - 1530 hrs

Session 2 – Regional Cooperation Amidst Climate Change and Deglobalisation

Both Singapore and the ROK benefit from the regional economic architecture, including the various ASEAN-led platforms. The fundamental principles of these frameworks – openness, globalisation and trade liberalisation – have created opportunities as well as challenges. How can Singapore and the ROK leverage each other's strengths and take advantage of these opportunities to enhance regional cooperation? In particular, how can both sides capitalise on the ASEAN Community to encourage more cooperation at the ASEAN-ROK level, which would not only allow ASEAN economies to benefit from growing investments by ROK companies, but also provide ROK companies opportunities to tap into new markets and explore joint ventures in Southeast Asia? What can Singapore and the ROK do to address the challenges from trade liberalisation, and mitigate the negative impacts of nationalism and deglobalisation? In addition, how can Singapore and the ROK ensure sustainable development in light of climate change and other environmental challenges, even as both countries work to improve the competitiveness of their own economies and of the region?

Moderator

Mr Christopher LIM

Senior Fellow

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Nanyang Technological University

Republic of Singapore

Presenters

Dr In-Jin YOON

Professor, Department of Sociology

Korea University

Republic of Korea

Dr TAN Kim Song
Associate Professor Economics (Practice)
School of Economics
Singapore Management University
Republic of Singapore

Dr Choong Lyol LEE
Director General, Korean Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
Professor, Department of Economics
Korea University Sejong Campus
Republic of Korea

Dr Victor SAVAGE
Visiting Senior Fellow
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Nanyang Technological University
Republic of Singapore

1530 - 1600 hrs

Coffee Break

1600 - 1730 hrs

Session 3 – The Digital Economy: The Future of Bilateral Cooperation

In terms of bilateral economic cooperation, one future growth engine is in digital technologies. Singapore aims to be the world's first Smart Nation, while the ROK is among the most technologically advanced countries in the world. In what ways can Singapore and the ROK encourage start-ups and innovation in these industries, both domestically as well as in collaboration with other countries? Given the nature of technologically driven societies, how can Singapore and the ROK promote bilateral and regional cooperation to manage cybersecurity challenges?

Moderator

Dr Hyung Jong KIM
Assistant Professor, Department of International Relations
Yonsei University
Republic of Korea

Presenters

Mr Benjamin ANG
Senior Fellow, Centre of Excellence for National Security
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Nanyang Technological University
Republic of Singapore

1730 - 1800 hrs

Dr Pilky HONG

*Professor, Department of Business Administration
Seoul Digital University
Republic of Korea*

Wrap-up and Closing Remarks

Moderator

Dr Jin Pyo YOON

*Professor of Political Science
Sungshin University
Republic of Korea*

Closing Remarks

Prof Sa-Myung PARK

*Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Korean Institute of Southeast Asian Studies
Republic of Korea*

Amb ONG Keng Yong

*Executive Deputy Chairman
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Nanyang Technological University
Republic of Singapore*

PARTICIPANTS

Singapore Participants

- 1. Mr LIANG Eng Hwa**
*Member of Parliament
Chairman, Singapore-Northeast Asia
Regional Parliamentary Group
Chairman, Government Parliamentary
Committee for Finance, Trade & Industry*
- 2. Ambassador ONG Keng Yong**
*Executive Deputy Chairman
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*
- 3. Mr NG Teck Hean**
*Deputy Secretary (Asia Pacific)
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore*
- 4. Mr Eric TEO**
*Director-General, Northeast Asia Directorate
Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Singapore*
- 5. Mr TAN Seng Chye**
*Senior Fellow
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*
- 6. Dr TAN Kim Song**
*Associate Professor Economics (Practice)
School of Economics
Singapore Management University*
- 7. Dr KOH Keng We**
*Assistant Professor, History
School of Humanities
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*
- 8. Mr Mohamed Abdul AKBAR Bin Mohamed Abdul Kader**
*Deputy President, Singapore Malay Chamber
of Commerce & Industry (SMCCI), and
Chairman, SME Centre at SMCCI*
- 9. Mr PHUA Han Tian**
*Programme Director, Industrial Internet-of-
Things Initiative
Agency for Science, Technology and
Research (A*STAR)*
- 10. Mr Christopher LIM**
*Senior Fellow
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*
- 11. Mr HAN Fook Kwang**
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Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*
- 12. Mr Calvin EU**
*Adjunct Senior Fellow
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- 13. Dr Victor SAVAGE**
*Visiting Senior Fellow
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- 14. Mr Ravi VELLOOR**
*Associate Editor
The Straits Times*
- 15. Mr Benjamin ANG**
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- 16. Ms Sarah TEO**
*Associate Research Fellow, Regional
Security Architecture Programme
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Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*
- 17. Ms CHANG May Choon**
*South Korea Correspondent
The Straits Times*
- 18. Dr Bhubhindar SINGH**
*Associate Professor, Regional Security
Architecture Programme
S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies
Nanyang Technological University, Singapore*

19. Dr TAN Teck Boon

Research Fellow

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

20. Dr NAH Liang Tuang

Research Fellow, Military Studies Programme

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

21. Mr Shawn HO

Associate Research Fellow, Regional Security

Architecture Programme

S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies

Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Korea Participants

(Other than co-heads, listed in alphabetical order by surname)

1. **Ambassador LEE Sihyung**
President, The Korea Foundation
2. **Professor PARK Sa-Myung**
*Chairman of the Board of Trustees
Korean Institute of Southeast Asian Studies*
3. **Dr HA Jungyul**
*Vice-Chairman of Policy Committee
The Democratic Party*
4. **Dr HONG Pilky**
*Professor, Department of Business
Administration
Seoul Digital University*
5. **Dr KIM Hyung Jong**
*Assistant Professor, Department of
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6. **Dr KIM Jeong In**
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*Assistant Professor, Department of Political
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Dankook University*
9. **Mr LEE Jeong-kyu**
*Deputy Minister for Political Affairs
Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
10. **Ambassador LEE Sang-deok**
*Ambassador
Embassy of the Republic of Korea to
Singapore*
11. **Mr LEE Seok Hyun**
Member of the National Assembly
12. **Dr LEE Seungjoo**
*Professor, Department of Political Science
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Chung-Ang University*
13. **Mr NAHM Yoonho**
*Managing Editor
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*Assistant Professor, Department of Political
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15. **Dr YOON In-Jin**
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Korea University*
16. **Dr YOON Jin Pyo**
*Professor, Department of Political Science
Sungshin University*

About the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)

The **S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS)** is a professional graduate school of international affairs at the Nanyang Technological University, Singapore. RSIS' mission is to develop a community of scholars and policy analysts at the forefront of security studies and international affairs. Its core functions are research, graduate education and networking. It produces cutting-edge research on Asia Pacific Security, Multilateralism and Regionalism, Conflict Studies, Non-Traditional Security, International Political Economy, and Country and Region Studies. RSIS' activities are aimed at assisting policymakers to develop comprehensive approaches to strategic thinking on issues related to security and stability in the Asia Pacific.

For more information, please visit www.rsis.edu.sg.

About The Korea Foundation

The **Korea Foundation** was established in 1991 to promote awareness and understanding of Korea, and to enhance goodwill and friendship throughout the international community. As a representative international exchange organisation of Korea, The Korea Foundation implements a variety of activities and programmes, including support for Korean studies as well as intellectual and cultural exchanges.

About the Korean Institute of Southeast Asian Studies (KISEAS)

The **Korean Institute of Southeast Asian Studies** is a regional research centre dedicated to the interdisciplinary studies of Language and Literature, History, Anthropology, Politics, Economics, Sociology, Communications, Geology and other various fields in Southeast Asia. As an independent private research institute based on prominent scholars from diverse specialisations, the institute centrally aims to promote academic studies, policy recommendations, social diffusion, international exchanges and etc.

