

## IMPACT PLAYERS

**Oh Joon***By Ju Young Lee***Who is he?**

Appointed on August 22, 2013, Oh Joon is the new ambassador and permanent representative to South Korea's mission to the UN headquarters in New York. He previously served as ambassador to Singapore beginning from March 2010.



Ambassador Oh entered the public service in 1978, when he joined South Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. He went on to serve as deputy minister for multilateral and global affairs in what was then known as the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade from 2008 until his ambassadorial appointment to Singapore. In this capacity, Ambassador Oh organized South Korea's involvement in international institutions and coordinated policies regarding development, human rights, peace-keeping, and disarmament.

**Why has he been in the news?**

Ambassador Oh's appointment was one of many during a regular diplomatic reshuffle. On the same day, the foreign ministry also named the following individuals as new consul generals: Paek Gi-yup to Honolulu, Hawaii; Park Hwan-sun to Nagoya, Japan; Lee Ki-chun to Vancouver, Canada; and Hong Young-jong to Sao Paulo, Brazil.

After arriving in Singapore in 2010, Ambassador Oh was recognized for fostering warm relations between the two countries. He established a two-month Korea Festival that takes place every year in October on South Korea's National Foundation Day in order to educate local communities about Korean culture, capitalizing on the immense popularity of South Korean pop music. Ambassador Oh also celebrated the high volume of bilateral trade between South Korea and Singapore that burgeoned after the two countries signed an FTA in 2005.

**What can we expect from him?**

Ambassador Oh will be returning to familiar territory with a strong institutional memory due to his previous positions at the UN. Early on in his career, Oh served as second secretary of South Korea's permanent observer mission from 1985 to 1988 at the New York UN headquarters. As deputy UN permanent representative from 2005 to 2007, he also served as chairman of the General Assembly's Disarmament Commission from 2006 to 2007.

Furthermore, Ambassador Oh can draw from his diplomatic and weapons disarmament expertise to work on UN sanctions that were implemented in response to North Korea's December 2012 missile launch and February 2013 nuclear test, in addition to the July 2013 illegal shipments of weapons from Cuba. Lastly, South Korea's election as a rotational member of the UN Security Council for 2013 and 2014 places Ambassador Oh in an opportune position to maneuver not only how South Korea, but also the greater international community will deal with recent North Korean actions.



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