Governor Kim Moon-soo is a long-time politician of the ruling Saenuri Party. He has served as the governor of Gyeonggi Province for the past eight years. Before becoming governor, he served in the National Assembly as a three-term lawmaker representing Bucheon, Gyeonggi Province. Being a former labor and democratic activist, Governor Kim is regarded as one of the few leaders in Korea who stresses the importance of both inter-Korean exchange and North Korean human rights issue. In 2012, Governor Kim ran in the ruling party’s presidential primary to challenge then party leader and now current President Park Geun-hye, ultimately placing second in that race. Governor Kim earned his B.A. in business administration from Seoul National University.

Dr. Green, Mr. Snyder and senior members of CSIS.
It is my great pleasure and honor to meet Dr. Green and other distinguished scholars of Asian studies, especially in these impressive new surroundings. Thank you for allowing me to speak here today.

I understand that Admiral Arleigh Burke, the co-founder of CSIS, greatly contributed to promoting peace on the Korean Peninsula by serving as a senior representative in the Korean War Truce Talks. His legacy continues on today, and I would like to thank CSIS for its long-standing role in maintaining peace and stability in Northeast Asia.

As we all know, Northeast Asia continues to face many tough challenges, and today I would like to share my thoughts on these issues and hear your views as well.

Gyeonggi Province
This is already my eighth year serving as Governor of Gyeonggi Province, which has been at the heart of Korea's darkest and brightest moments since the Korean War.

Surrounding the capital of Seoul, Gyeonggi shares 67 miles of its border with North Korea.

For us, the North has long been a challenging counterpart for inter-Korean exchange as well as a genuine threat to our residents. The truce village of Panmunjeom and the majority of US military bases protecting Korea are located in our province.

At the same time, Gyeonggi has contributed to the nation’s most brilliant achievements with world-leading enterprises such as Samsung Electronics, LG Electronics and Hyundai-Kia Motors.

Personal Background
I myself experienced my share of dark and bright moments which led me to where I am today.
Upon entering college in 1970, I devoted myself to the nation’s democracy and labor movement and became one of the leaders of the fight for basic human rights. As a result, I was imprisoned for two and a half years.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, I became convinced that an open economy based on freedom and democracy was essential for Korea’s development. In order to make this belief a reality, I became a member of the Korean National Assembly in 1996, and went on to serve three terms until I was elected Governor.

When I look back on my political career, the issues that remain closest to my heart are those tied to North Korea: reunification and North Korean human rights.

**U.S.-Korea-Japan Security Relations and the Regional Situation**

Over the past seven decades, East Asia has witnessed dramatic changes; the rise of communism in North Korea, China and Vietnam, and the division and war on the Korean Peninsula to name a few.

During that period, the security assistance provided through the Korea-US and US-Japan alliances has laid a solid foundation for peace and stability in the region.

Cooperation among Korea, the US and Japan is also a key factor in maintaining peace in East Asia, and I hope the trilateral summit in The Hague will bring fruitful results.

We hope that Japan can someday set the historical record straight, and that the US will play a constructive role in that process.

**Unification of Korean Peninsula**

The Korea-US alliance based upon shared values will pave the way for the peaceful reunification of the two Koreas.

Reunification is a national priority that can no longer be postponed, and I am confident that our people will be ready to shoulder the responsibility when necessary.

Seven decades of unjust national division will finally be rectified with reunification.

A unified peninsula will also signify the end of all the international strife caused by North Korea, including the nuclear issue, human rights abuse, illegal arms trafficking and more.

It is our hope that, even after Korean reunification, the US will continue its role in protecting the peace and freedom of Northeast Asia.

**North Korean Human Rights Issues**

However, there is an even more urgent issue that I would like to address today, and that is North Korean human rights.
The North Korean people suffering from tyranny and hunger do not have the time to wait until reunification.

In the 1980s, the US and Western European countries protested human rights violations in the eastern bloc. Likewise, I believe that the international community must join together to address the human rights situation in North Korea.

When the US Congress unanimously passed the North Korean Human Rights Act in 2004, I felt ashamed. As a member of the Korean National Assembly, I felt that Congress did something that we ought to have done.

So in 2005, I submitted 5 North Korean human rights bills to the National Assembly. Despite all the efforts made over the past 9 years, the bills have yet to be passed, and the North Korean people are the ones that have to pay the price.

Conclusion
Now as I plan for a new beginning, I have but one dream remaining.

That is to devote the rest of my life to promoting democracy and human rights in North Korea, and eventually building a unified Korea.

We must shine the light of hope on the darkness suppressing the North Korean people. If we do not, what could we say to our brothers in the North when they ask after unification, “What did you do for us when we were in despair?”

I hope you can join me in answering their desperate cries.

Thank you.