

Impact Players

Park Ro-byug

By Na Young Lee

Who is he?

Park Ro-byug was appointed as South Korean Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Russian Federation by President Park Geun-hye on May 14. He served as South Korea's Special Representative for the U.S.-ROK Civilian Nuclear Energy Cooperation, also known as the 123 Agreement, which was announced on April 22. Serving in the capacity of Chief Negotiator, Ambassador Park has led the 123 Agreement negotiation process for 4 years since March 2011.

Park Ro-byug entered the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 1979 and served in a number of positions including Ambassador to the Ukraine (2008 - 2011), Director General of the European Affairs Bureau (2006-2008), and aid to the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (2004-2006). Ambassador Park received his Ph.D. in History from Diplomatic Academy of Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, M.A. from Seoul National University and the London School of Economics (LSE), and B.A. in International Relations from Seoul National University.

Why has he been in the news?

Following the agrément (the approval of a diplomatic representative) received from the Russian Government earlier this month, Ambassador Park's appointment was officially announced by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on May 14.

On the same day, at the Blue House, President Park formally presented Ambassador Park with his appointment as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Russian Federation. He is expected to leave for Moscow later this month to replace his predecessor Wi Sung-lac who is to retire after a three-year post in Moscow.

What can we expect from him?

Ambassador Park is a seasoned diplomat with multiple major postings under his belt. During his 37 years of experience as a diplomat, he was served in 20 posts, including 6 foreign posts in countries such as Russia, Uzbekistan, Myanmar, and Ukraine. Ambassador Park led prolonged negotiations for the U.S.-ROK Civilian Nuclear Energy Cooperation Agreement to a fruitful conclusion. With his experience as a diplomat and negotiator, Ambassador Park is expected to navigate the delicate waters of Russia-ROK relations, as Moscow continues its economic outreach to Pyongyang.



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