

Korea Chair Monitor

June 16 - June 29, 2016

The Korea Chair team takes a biweekly look at events of interest in Washington, Seoul, and the region.

ECONOMICS AND TRADE

AIIB's Board of Governors' First Annual Meeting

On June 25, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) Board of Governors held its first annual meeting, attended by 46 founding members along with signatories and observers from partner institutions. Participants include Vice Premier Zhang Gaoli of China, Minister of Finance and Chairman of the AIIB Board of Governors Lou Jiwei of China, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Strategy and Finance Yoo Il-ho of the ROC, Minister of Finance Pawel Szalamacha of Poland, and President Jin Liqun of the AIIB.

10th Round of Trilateral Talks on FTA

On June 27, the 10th round of negotiations on the ROK-China-Japan trilateral free trade agreement was held in Seoul to discuss the priority terms of trade for goods and services, international investments, customs, and other trade issues. The heads of delegations were Vice Minister of Commerce Wang Shouwen of China, Assistant Minister for Trade Negotiations Kim Hak-do of the ROK, and Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs Keiichi Katakami of Japan.

13th ROK-EU Joint Economic Committee

On June 23, the 13th ROK-EU Joint Economic Committee met in Seoul, reaffirming commitments to expand overall economic cooperation. Delegation heads were ROK deputy minister for economic affairs Lee Tae-ho and European External Action Service (EEAS) managing director for Asia and Pacific Gunnar Wiegand. They discussed Information Communication Technology (ICT) and the Global Navigation Satellite System Agreement. The Committee previously met in November 2014.

GLOBAL RELATIONS

South Korea and Brexit

On June 24, following the United Kingdom's EU referendum, the ROK Ministry of Strategy and Finance held an emergency meeting and said risks could be addressed by implementing initiatives such as operating a 24-hour government-wide Monitoring and Response System. On June 27, President Park convened a secretarial meeting in response to Brexit. On June 29, ROK first vice minister of foreign affairs Lim Sung-nam met with UK ambassador to the ROK Charles John Hay and EU ambassador to the ROK Gerhard Sabathil to discuss Brexit, affirming it would not compromise the ROK's strategic partnership with the UK and EU. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized a task force led by the ROK deputy minister for economic affairs Lee Tae-ho.



United States, Japan, and Korea Conduct Joint Exercise

On June 28, the United States, Republic of Korea, and Japan held the first joint missile defense exercise, Pacific Dragon (PD) off the coast of the Pacific Missile Range Facility (PMRF) in Kauai, Hawai'i. The U.S. Navy, the ROK Navy, and Japan Maritime Self-Defense Force focused on trilateral ballistic missile defense (BMD) to improve tactical and technical coordination of three countries through information sharing.

Photo credit: [Dhilung Kirat Flickr photostream](#).



New Website: CSIS and Korean Unification

On June 30, CSIS released a new website focused on bringing transparency and understanding to Korean Unification. *BeyondParallel.csis.org* features new data, satellite imagery, innovative tools, and expert analysis. Beyond Parallel addresses the issues intrinsic to long-term planning rather than the short-term specifics of any particular unification scenario.

Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue (NEACD) in Beijing

From June 21 - 23, Track 1.5 Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue was held in Beijing to discuss security issues in Northeast Asia. Participants included U.S. special representative for North Korea policy and deputy assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs Sung Kim, deputy director general of U.S. affairs Choe Son-hui of North Korea, and director general of Asian and Oceanian affairs Kenji Kanasugi of Japan.

ROK Hosts Nuclear Suppliers Group 26th Plenary Meeting

From June 20 to 24, the 26th Plenary Meeting of the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) was held in Seoul. On June 23, ROK minister of foreign affairs Yun Byung-se gave an address saying North Korea is the most serious threat to the global nonproliferation regime, and NSG will play an important role in cooperation vis-à-vis North Korean nuclear issues. He emphasized the ROK will support and facilitate an international nonproliferation regime.

NORTH KOREA

North Korea Fires Two Ballistic Missiles

On the morning of June 22, North Korea fired two Musudan inter-range ballistic missiles (IRBMs) from Wonsan to the east coast of Korea. The first was assumed unsuccessful, while the second flew about 400 kilometers. On the same day, President Obama extended a state of national emergency. This is an expansion of Executive Order 13466, first declared by President George W. Bush in 2008. Obama extended it previously with five other Orders.

Kim Jong-un Awarded Additional Title

On June 29, the Supreme People's Assembly of North Korea awarded Kim Jong-un the title "chairman of the State Affairs Committee." Kim Jung-un already holds the titles chairman of the Workers' Party of Korea, first chairman of the National Defense Commission of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and supreme commander of the Korean People's Army.

House Foreign Affairs Committee Approves North Korea Bills

On June 16, the House Foreign Affairs Committee approved H.R. 5484, the State Sponsors of Terrorism Review Enhancement Act introduced by Representative Ted Yoho(R-FL), to enhance congressional oversight and increases the period a designated country must refrain from sponsoring terrorism (from 6 to 24 months) before the president removes a designation. H.R. 5208, the North Korea State Sponsor of Terrorism Designation Act of 2016, introduced by Representative Ted Poe(R-TX), would require the State Department to report to Congress on North Korea's designation.



High-Level ROK Delegates Visit Cambodia and Laos

From June 27 to July 1, ROK vice minister of national defense Hwang In-moo visited Cambodia and Laos to discuss the strengthening of defense cooperation and North Korea sanctions. On June 28, the first ROK-Cambodia Joint Economic Committee was held in Seoul. ROK deputy foreign minister for economic affairs Lee Tae-ho and secretary-general of the Council for the Development of Cambodia Sok Chenda Sophea served as the heads of their respective delegations.

Photo credit: [Wikimedia Commons](#).



President Obama Nominates Deputy USFK Commander

On June 27, U.S. secretary of defense Ash Carter announced President Obama has nominated U.S. Air Force Maj. Gen. Thomas W. Bergeson, currently the director of the Air Force secretary's legislative liaison, as the new deputy USFK commander, deputy UNC Korea, and commander of Air Component Command, ROK-U.S. CFC. If confirmed, Bergeson will succeed Lt. Gen. Terrence J. O'Shaughnessy.

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Looking Ahead

Our Friday morning preview of events to watch in the weeks ahead.

- **Early July** | 10th ROK-China Meeting on Fisheries Cooperation.
- **July 23-24** | Third G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting in Cehngdu, China.
- **August 9** | Saenuri Party Convention to elect the new party floor leader.
- **August 27** | Minjoo Party Convention to elect the new party floor leader.

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