

IFANS 국제문제회의 기조연설 ('22.11.2.)

Good morning, everyone.

Professor John Mearsheimer,

Professor Soeya Yoshihide,

Professor Wang Dong,

Chancellor Hong Hyun-Ik of IFANS,

Honorable Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Distinguished Guests,

It is my great pleasure to be here

at the 2022 IFANS Conference on Global Affairs.

I especially welcome the participation

of the acclaimed experts and renowned scholars

from the Republic of Korea and abroad.

Your input will be greatly appreciated

in exploring this year's conference theme,

“Global Pivotal State: Visions and Strategies.”

Before going further, please allow me to draw attention

to last Saturday's tragedy in Seoul's central district of 이태원.

**I would like to take this opportunity to once again pray
for those who lost their precious lives in the tragic accident,
and express my deepest condolences
to the families who lost their loved ones.**

**Korea has entered a weeklong period of national mourning
that will last until this Saturday.**

**President Yoon Suk Yeol, in his first United Nations General
Assembly**

**keynote speech in September, laid out his diplomatic vision,
emphasizing freedom and solidarity
as answers to the global crisis.**

**He urged nations to stand together in solidarity
to defend the freedom of any citizen or nation
in the global community when it comes under threat.**

**He made it clear that Korea is committed
to playing its role and discharge due responsibilities
for the freedom of global citizens
and the prosperity of the international community.**

**Today, we are witnessing
the revival of traditional geopolitics:**

**the heightened U.S.-China great power competition
and Russia's armed invasion of Ukraine.**

**Other transnational challenges, including
the COVID-19 pandemic, food and energy
crises, climate change, and supply chain disruptions, are
also impacting our everyday lives in an unprecedented
manner.**

**And, of course, North Korea's nuclear weapons and
missile provocations remain a direct threat to the
region and beyond.**

**The Korean government is acutely aware
of the complex security environment surrounding us.
It is in this context that we are seeking to realize the vision
of becoming a "global pivotal state," or GPS, as we call it.**

**The GPS vision we embrace will expand and advance
our diplomacy in accordance with Korea's stature today,**

**contributing to a free, peaceful, and prosperous world.
Korea recovered from the ashes of the war
seven decades ago, becoming one of the world's top
economic powerhouses in just over half a century.**

**In 2009, Korea became the only OECD country
that transitioned from an aid recipient to an aid donor.**

**The Republic of Korea ranks as the 10th largest economy
in the world, 9th in energy consumption,
8th in defense exports,
7th in trade volume and space exploration technology,
6th in nuclear power and military strength,
5th in car manufacturing and EV technology,
4th in internet penetration rate, patent registration and
Movie Box office sales
3rd in manufacturing competitiveness,
2nd in R&D expenditure per GDP, and
1st in the use of industrial robots as well as
in the Bloomberg Innovation Index.
Korea now stands shoulder to shoulder
with the G7 countries in many ways.**

More importantly, Korea emerged from once

**an authoritarian country to a leading democracy in Asia.
The 2021 Economist Intelligence Unit Democracy Index
listed Korea as one of the world's top 20 democracies
and one of the five full democracies in the Asian region
together with Australia, New Zealand, Taiwan and Japan.**

**The winning combination of economic success
and free democracy has served
as a critical driving force behind our soft power.**

**From the K-pop super group “BTS”
to the K-drama “Squid Game”,
Korea became a cultural magnet.
as its pop culture has taken over the world.**

**However, we cannot realize the GPS vision alone,
as cooperation with the international community is essential.**

**In this context, we will endeavor to upgrade
our ties of cooperation with countries worldwide.**

**Our alliance with the United States,
forged in blood during the Korean War
and firmly rooted in shared common values,**

has been the linchpin of peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region.

In May this year, President Yoon Suk Yeol and U.S. President Joe Biden met in Seoul less than two weeks into President Yoon's office.

The two presidents reaffirmed their unwavering commitment to peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and beyond.

The two presidents agreed to reactivate the high-level Extended Deterrence Strategy and Consultation Group (EDSCG) amid the escalating North Korean nuclear and missile threats .

The 2+2 EDSCG meeting held in September highlighted the commitment of the two countries to strengthen extended deterrence cooperation using all elements of national power.

The two leaders also agreed to upgrade the alliance into a “global comprehensive strategic alliance” to jointly tackle the new challenges of the 21st century.

Our alliance is evolving from a traditional military alliance into an economic and technological alliance with a renewed focus on a broader range of issues.

Our two countries will continue to work hand-in-glove toward building a more free and prosperous world, upholding the rules-based international order through which we have co-authored unprecedented success stories as close partners.

Korea and Japan are the closest neighbors and key partners that share universal values, such as democracy and a free market economy.

With Japan, we should squarely face the past history and move toward a future-oriented partnership.

Back in August, President Yoon Suk Yeol mentioned in his National

Liberation Day speech that Japan is our partner as we face common threats challenging the freedom of global citizens.

He also mentioned that we could solve historical issues when our relations move toward a shared future.

**In late September, the two leaders,
President Yoon Suk Yeol and Prime Minister Kishida
Fumio,
met on the margins of the
UN General Assembly in New York City.**

**The meeting took a highly significant step
toward improved bilateral ties.**

**Also, I have met my Japanese counterpart,
Foreign Minister Hayashi Yoshimasa,
four times within the last five months,
to explore ways to improve our bilateral relationship.**

**We will work toward resuming
top-level shuttle diplomacy,
and continue to seek reasonable solutions for pending issues
based on restored trust between the two countries.**

**We are also committed to strengthening
ROK-U.S.-Japan trilateral cooperation
in the face of North Korea's ever-growing nuclear and
missile threats and evolving regional and global challenges.**

In this respect, 2022 has been a watershed year.

The leaders held the first Trilateral Summit in almost five years on the sidelines of the NATO Summit in June and reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening trilateral cooperation across shared interests.

The three foreign ministers from ROK, U.S, and Japan subsequently met in July in Phnom Penh and in September in New York to follow up on the Summit.

We will continue to collaborate on our common agendas and identify areas for substantial cooperation.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of bilateral diplomatic relations between Korea and China.

China is Korea's neighbor and largest trade partner.

We will seek to advance our shared interests based on mutual respect by working with China to expand our cooperation on supply chains, health, climate change, and the environment.

We will also strengthen our communication and strategic dialogue to avoid misunderstandings between the two countries.

We intend to conduct firm and unwavering diplomacy based on principles concerning national security, and our cultural and historical identity.

With China's new leadership in place now, we look forward to maintaining the momentum for high-level exchanges between the two countries.

We stand ready to enhance cooperation with ASEAN nations and expand our diplomatic horizons into the Indo-Pacific.

In this vein, we are participating in the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework and developing our own Indo-Pacific strategy with ASEAN at its heart.

Korea's Indo-Pacific Strategy will advance mutually beneficial and future-oriented cooperation.

**It will be anchored in the principles
of the ASEAN Outlook on the Indo-Pacific
and grounded on our respect for ASEAN centrality.**

**We will deepen strategic communications and upgrade
our mutually beneficial relationship with ASEAN
member states and countries in the Indo-Pacific region.**

**Frequent meetings with my ASEAN counterparts
demonstrate the importance we place in this region.**

**Since taking office in May, I have visited four
ASEAN countries – Singapore, Indonesia, Cambodia, and
Vietnam – and met with 8 foreign ministers from ASEAN.**

**And as you're probably aware, next week,
there will be a series of bilateral and multilateral
ASEAN-related meetings in Cambodia.**

**With regard to the Pacific region, ROK would like to
expand its diplomacy and economic and cultural
engagement with the island countries.**

I participated in the Partners in the Blue Pacific Foreign Ministers Meeting in New York in September, hosted by U.S. Secretary of State Tony Blinken.

Also, last week, I hosted the 5th Korea-Pacific Islands Foreign Ministers' Meeting in Busan, where we invited 14 foreign ministers from the Pacific Islands and discussed our mutual interests and concerns.

With Europe, we are focusing on health, green, and digital partnerships, expanding cooperation on economic security issues, including nuclear power, defense materials, semiconductors, and space.

Rooted in the shared values of democracy, freedom, human rights, and the rule of law, our relationships with Europe and Canada are essential for building a coalition of like-minded countries that promotes technology cooperation.

President 윤석열 attended the NATO Summit in Madrid, Spain, this June, as the first Korean president to be invited

to the forum.

Like-minded countries, including the U.S. and nations from Europe and the Indo-Pacific, reaffirmed their strong commitment to defending universal values for protecting rules-based international order.

In September, President Yoon made his first trip to the UK and Canada to work with partners that share common values of democracy, free market, human rights and rule of law.

I met with my counterparts from the Czech Republic and Poland in New York and my counterparts from the EU, Spain, and Germany in Bali, Indonesia to strengthen and deepen our partnership with European countries.

I also welcomed foreign ministers from the UK, the Netherlands, Canada, and Austria, to discuss global challenges that we face together.

We also see powerful partners in the Middle East and Africa, with whom we are preparing together for co-prosperity in the future.

We are working closely with Middle East countries to bolster economic partnerships in high-tech industries including energy, AI, health, and ICT.

I had meaningful meetings with my counterparts from Saudi Arabia and Qatar in Seoul.

Also, we will continue to seek to strengthen a mutually beneficial and future-oriented partnership with Africa.

In line with these efforts, President Yoon Suk Yeol held a bilateral summit with the President of Nigeria, while Prime Minister Han Duck-soo met with the Tanzanian Prime Minister just a week ago.

We will also foster tailored cooperation with Central America, South America, and Central Asia.

Also, commemorating the 60th anniversary of diplomatic relations with 15 Latin American countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs organized the Korea-LAC Future Cooperation Forum in late July in Busan.

As this year marks the 30th anniversary of our diplomatic ties with the five Central Asian countries, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosted the 15th Korea-Central Asia Cooperation Forum last week.

These efforts will help ROK pursue its global pivotal initiative in the Indo pacific and beyond.

Meanwhile, the peace and stability in the Korean peninsula have been threatened by the provocations of North Korea.

North Korea launched 46 ballistic missiles this year alone, including 6 ICBMs.

It once again demonstrated that Pyongyang's illicit nuclear and missile program poses a clear and present threat not only to the Korean Peninsula but also to the entire region and beyond.

North Korea has launched a record number of missiles this year and now stands on the verge of its seventh nuclear test.

Furthermore, North Korea adopted its new nuclear policy law that significantly lowered the threshold for nuclear use.

North Korea is threatening to use its tactical nuclear weapons, not only for deterrence purpose, but also for war-fighting capabilities.

Now, more than ever, a resolute and united response by the international community is needed.

North Korea should make a right decision for its own future by embarking on a substantive denuclearization and accepting the “Audacious Initiative” proposed by president Yoon Suk Yeol.

**We are living in an era of economic security, more than ever before –
where the economy, security, and technology**

are increasingly integrated.

**Countries seek reliability and stability,
formulating industrial policies to meet new challenges.**

ROK is at the forefront of these challenges.

**Korea should work closely with our like-minded
partners and friends, to ensure that our individual and joint
efforts will bring shared prosperity and strengthen mutual
economic security**

**Through bilateral and multilateral platforms, we are
collaborating on building resilient and diversified supply chains,
maintaining our leading edge in critical technologies, and
contributing to setting rules in new areas of cooperation.**

**In closing, I would like to emphasize that today's conference
is to explore strategies and visions for Korea's
international role as a "Global Pivotal State."**

**I hope today's conference will present wisdom and
insight for Korea's leadership in navigating
for peace and stability in the region.**

Since I served as a Navy officer, during my military service, I know how important it is to use the GPS for a safe navigation in the sea.

The GPS allows us to find where we are and shows us the direction to navigate in turbulent waters.

As we face a “Dangerous Decade,” as Richard Haass had termed it, I look forward to hearing your diverse and valuable thoughts today so that Korea can turn a crisis into an opportunity.

Once again, I thank all of you for participating in the 2022 IFANS Conference on Global Affairs.

Thank you very much. /END/