

# American

## NEWS & VIEWS

*A Daily Newsletter from Public Affairs, American Embassy*

---

---

July 25, 2011

---

---

Visit of North Korean Vice Foreign Minister to New York.....	1
President Obama: Norway Attacks Show Need for Global Security Cooperation.....	1
Secretary Clinton Meets with Southeast Asian Ministers.....	1
Secretary Clinton Promotes Priority of Lower Mekong Initiative.....	2
Breyer: Next Tunisian Constitution Must Meet Needs of Tunisians .....	3
Afghanistan, South Asia Would Benefit from Economic Integration .....	3
Anhui and Maryland Celebrate Their Sister-State Relationship .....	4

**Visit of North Korean Vice Foreign Minister to New York**

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
Office of the Spokesperson  
July 24, 2011  
2011/1231

**STATEMENT BY SECRETARY CLINTON**

Visit of North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kae-gwan to New York

I had a very productive trilateral meeting yesterday with Foreign Minister Kim of the Republic of Korea and Foreign Minister Matsumoto of Japan. We had a chance to consult and coordinate our diplomatic efforts and approaches with North Korea.

Following the first round of denuclearization talks between the nuclear negotiators of the Republic of Korea and North Korea, the United States has invited North Korean Vice Foreign Minister Kim Kae-gwan to New York later this week.

Vice Foreign Minister Kim will meet with an interagency team of U.S. officials for discussions on the next steps necessary to resume denuclearization negotiations thru the Six Party Talks.

This will be an exploratory meeting to determine if North Korea is prepared to affirm its obligations under international and Six Party Talk commitments, as well as take concrete and irreversible steps toward denuclearization.

As we have stated repeatedly, we are open to talks with North Korea, but we do not intend to reward the North just for returning to the table. We will not give them anything new for actions they have already agreed to take. And we have no appetite for pursuing protracted negotiations that will only lead us right back to where we have already been.

The U.S. position remains that North Korea must comply with its commitments under the 2005 Joint Statement of the Six Party Talks, relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions, and the terms of the Armistice Agreement.

As always, we will remain in very close coordination with the Republic of Korea and other partners.

**President Obama: Norway Attacks Show Need for Global Security Cooperation**

By Stephen Kaufman | Staff Writer

Washington — President Obama expressed condolences to the Norwegian people after terror attacks targeted their government's headquarters in Oslo and a youth camp outside the city, and he urged the international community to work together on security cooperation to help prevent terrorism.

In remarks with New Zealand Prime Minister John Key at the White House July 22, Obama said the United States will "provide any support that we can" to Norwegian authorities as they investigate the attacks.

Earlier in the day, a bomb detonated outside of Oslo's main government buildings, reportedly killing seven people and seriously wounding two. The incident was followed by a shooting attack on young people attending a camp in Utoeya, an island outside of Oslo, which reportedly killed at least nine people. Norwegian police have reportedly said the shooter who was arrested has ties to the bombing in Oslo.

The president offered his personal condolences to the Norwegian people and said the attacks are "a reminder that the entire international community has a stake in preventing this kind of terror from occurring."

It also demonstrates that "we have to work cooperatively together both on intelligence and in terms of prevention of these kinds of horrible attacks," he said.

Prime Minister Key said that if the attacks are found to have been an act of global terrorism, then "what it shows is no country, large or small, is immune from that risk."

"That's why New Zealand plays its part in Afghanistan as we try and join others like the United States in making the world a safer place," he said.

**Secretary Clinton Meets with Southeast Asian Ministers**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr. | Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton praised the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and China for achieving a draft agreement on conduct among nations with competing claims in the South China Sea.

The secretary on July 22 also praised North Korea and South Korea for holding consultations aimed at eventually resuming the Six-Party Talks that seek to convince Pyongyang to end a nuclear weapons and long-range missile development program.

Clinton is attending the ASEAN Post-Ministerial Conference, the ASEAN Regional Forum, and the East Asia Summit Informal Foreign Ministers' Consultations at the Indonesian resort island of Bali July 21-23. She is also attending a meeting of the U.S.-Lower Mekong Initiative Ministerial, which is being held in Bali.

Clinton also will participate in the U.S.-Indonesia Joint Commission Meeting in Bali with Indonesian leaders.

In brief remarks before her meeting with Chinese Foreign Minister Yang Jiechi, Clinton said that she "wanted to commend China and ASEAN for working so closely together to include implementation guidelines for the declaration of conduct in the South China Sea."

China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Brunei and Malaysia have advanced overlapping claims for more than a decade in varying degrees over the South China Sea, which is believed to be rich in oil and natural gas reserves. The South China Sea is also a significant maritime waterway in which a third of the world's shipping and cargo passes annually.

Maintaining peaceful sea lanes is a crucial U.S. national security concern, and one that is regarded as essential to regional stability and economic prosperity. ASEAN Secretary-General Surin Pitsuwan noted that the United States is a highly commercial nation with considerable trading interests passing through the South China Sea.

"They just don't want any instability," Surin told reporters.

Clinton said that she and Yang would also discuss "our mutual desire for peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula."

South Korean chief nuclear envoy Wi Sung Lac held a meeting with the newly appointed North Korean envoy Ri Yong Ho on the sidelines of the ASEAN meetings July 22. The meeting was aimed at reopening talks that have been on hold since December 2008. China — which chairs the Six-Party Talks — Japan, North and South Korea, Russia and the United States convened the diplomatic meetings with the aim of removing nuclear weapons from the Korean Peninsula.

Before their meeting, Yang told reporters that "anything we can do together to promote a better atmosphere and a good dialogue among the parties concerned, and to work together to restart the Six-Party Talks will be in the best interest of peace, stability and security of the region."

In opening remarks at the ASEAN ministerial meeting, Clinton said the Obama administration for more than two-and-a-half years has prioritized engagement with

ASEAN and the region "because we believe it is an important commitment to peace, progress, and prosperity, not only in the Asia-Pacific region, but throughout the world."

The ASEAN nations account for nearly 600 million people, living in the most populous region of the world, and the nations of Southeast Asia represent America's sixth-largest export market.

"From our perspective, ASEAN is where the United States wants to be, which is why we have elevated our relationship," Clinton told the ASEAN foreign ministers.

### **Secretary Clinton Promotes Priority of Lower Mekong Initiative**

By Merle David Kellerhals Jr. | Staff Writer

Washington — Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton says the Lower Mekong Initiative is seeking greater ways to help the countries along the Mekong River improve their infrastructure, education, health and environment.

The Initiative, launched by Clinton in 2009, includes Cambodia, Laos, Thailand and Vietnam. It is a subregional group begun to help build capacity. In 2011, the United States is providing \$221.25 million in four core areas.

"In Cambodia in March, our nations drafted a Lower Mekong Initiative concept paper and plan of action, which lays out our principles and specific goals for the next five years under each of the four pillars, including targeting infectious diseases, fostering dialogue between environmental scientists and policy makers, and mobilizing private sector funding for infrastructure projects," Clinton said at a meeting of the initiative's foreign ministers July 22 on the Indonesian resort island of Bali.

"The Lower Mekong Initiative reflects the commitment of the United States to the well-being of the people and the long-term success of the nations in the Mekong River area," she added.

For 2011, the United States is providing assistance for education totaling \$3.25 million, \$69 million for environmental programs, \$140 million for health-care assistance, and \$9 million for infrastructure development, a State Department fact sheet said.

But Clinton noted concern about projects to build dams on the main Mekong stem. "This is a serious issue for all the countries that share the Mekong River, because if any country builds a dam, all countries will feel the consequences in terms of environmental degradation, challenges to food security, and impacts on

communities," she said.

More than 60 million people in four countries live in the Lower Mekong Basin, which is an area of approximately 606,000 square kilometers in Southeast Asia. The Mekong River Commission has reported that climate change will most likely increase flooding throughout the region, which will in turn affect food production and food security.

The Lower Mekong Initiative was launched in July 2009 at the ASEAN forum meetings in Phuket, Thailand. The program's objective is to promote the equitable, sustainable and cooperative development of the Mekong River, which is the world's largest inland fishery and a transboundary resource, according to Timothy Hamlin, a research associate at the Washington-based Stimson Center's Southeast Asia Project.

The region faces the twin challenges of climate change and its impact on the river's ecosystems, and the impact of expanding populations, the Mekong River Commission says.

A sister-river partnership was announced between the Mekong River Commission and the Mississippi River Commission, which aims to improve the management of transboundary water resources. Work continues on the development of "Forecast Mekong," which is a modeling tool to show the impact of climate change and some other challenges to sustainable development in the river basin.

### **Breyer: Next Tunisian Constitution Must Meet Needs of Tunisians**

By Phillip Kurata | Staff Writer

Washington — U.S. Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer has told a gathering of constitutional scholars in Tunis that it is vital that the next Tunisian Constitution have the support of the Tunisian people.

"The result of your efforts [to draft a new constitution] must be Tunisian," Breyer said via satellite from Boston to a group of scholars in Tunis July 22. "You must have a system that responds to the needs of Tunisia."

Speaking in French, he urged the scholars gathered in Tunis to seek out the views of all sectors of Tunisian society because it is important that the Tunisian people feel that they have "participated" in the drafting of their constitution.

Breyer praised the example of Kemal Ataturk, the founder of modern Turkey, for his extensive research on all forms of constitutional government before adopting a constitution that met Turkey's needs. A Turkish constitutional scholar participated in the deliberations in

Tunis, which were transmitted via a digital video conference sponsored by Almadanya, a Tunisian group devoted to development, and the U.S. State Department's Bureau of International Information Programs.

Breyer listed five points of paramount importance for the next Tunisian Constitution. It should:

1. Establish a state that governs by laws, not arbitrarily.
2. Create a democratic system that enacts laws that reflect the will of the people.
3. Protect the basic liberties of men and women.
4. Guarantee equality.
5. Provide for the separation of powers of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of government.

Connected to the fifth point, Breyer said he is opposed to the election of judges because elected judges are prone to be influenced by the people who fund their election campaigns. He said a judicial system in which judges are appointed has greater independence. At times, judges make unpopular rulings that protect unpopular people, Breyer said.

The U.S. justice also recommended that the next Tunisian Constitution lay out general principles and avoid precise formulas. He said the constitutional concepts of equality, freedom and due process of law are general principles that do not change, but the circumstances of society do change. Interpreting and applying general principles to current circumstances is the job of the U.S. Supreme Court, the justice said.

### **Afghanistan, South Asia Would Benefit from Economic Integration**

Washington — The second round of the U.S.-India Strategic Dialogue allowed the two countries to chart ways of working more closely on integrating Afghanistan's economy into the South Asian region, as well as opening trade and investment opportunities for Indians and Americans in each others' countries.

Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asian Affairs Robert Blake said July 22 that Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton's call for a "new Silk Road" in South and Central Asia would benefit the region, but especially Afghanistan, and thereby improve stability in the country and security for its neighbors.

In their July 19-20 discussions, Clinton and her counterparts in the Indian government had a "good convergence of views" on Afghanistan, and agreed that reducing barriers to the free flow of goods in the region would help the centrally located country "stand on its own two feet economically," Blake said.

Blake said Clinton welcomed India's \$2 billion pledge to help Afghan development, particularly the country's infrastructure, and said investments by India, the United States and others will provide "the building blocks to establish a more vigorous private sector."

Clinton's vision of an economically integrated region, where people could drive and transport goods from countries such as Kazakhstan through Afghanistan and Pakistan south to India and Bangladesh "would be a real game changer not only for Afghanistan and Pakistan but for the entire region," Blake said.

The United States and India have also agreed to resume their discussions on a bilateral investment treaty in August. A treaty would benefit investors by enhancing transparency and predictability while supporting economic growth and job creation in both countries, according to a State Department fact sheet.

"It makes good sense to start as quickly as possible so we can get this done expeditiously," Blake said.

Both countries also want to work more closely together in the Asia-Pacific region, including in areas of mutual security concerns such as combating piracy and protecting sea lanes. Blake said the region's importance to the United States has grown to such an extent that "the center of gravity of all of our foreign policy is shifting to Asia."

"A growing proportion of world trade is now moving through these waters, from the Gulf and elsewhere through the Straits of Malacca and into the Asia-Pacific region," he said.

India and the United States, as the world's two largest democracies, two of the world's largest market economies, and with many converging values and interests, hope to "work extremely closely together on a lot of what are going to be quite a number of important issues in the Asia-Pacific region," Blake said.

### **Anhui and Maryland Celebrate Their Sister-State Relationship**

Annapolis, Maryland – In a ceremony at one of the United States' oldest government buildings, the state of Maryland and the Chinese province of Anhui celebrated the 31st anniversary of their sister-state relationship on July 18.

Describing the relationship as "the longest-lasting and most cherished of our sister-state partnerships," Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley welcomed a 50-person delegation led by Anhui Governor Wang Sanyun to Annapolis and proclaimed the date Anhui Day in

Maryland.

"The friendship between both sides has borne rich fruit," Wang said. "Now, more and more friends from Maryland have come to Anhui, and more and more people from Anhui have come to Maryland, and the bond of the sister-state partnership has closely connected our hearts together."

The meeting in Annapolis followed the first U.S.-China Governors Forum in Utah, where chief executives from American states and Chinese provinces discussed issues of mutual interest, including energy, the economy and the environment.

In Annapolis, Wang and O'Malley signed a joint statement on intensifying strategic cooperation between Maryland and Anhui. Representatives from both governments, joined by members of the private sector, then signed a number of economic cooperation agreements valued at \$1.54 billion.

"The agreements we are signing today, across several fields of education, investment and agriculture ... indicate our mutual desire to build a stronger relationship based on mutual respect and mutual benefit," O'Malley said.

"President George Washington once said: 'True friendship is a plant of slow growth,'" Wang said, with a nod to U.S. history. "Facing a new era, we want to work with you to continue building the bridge of friendship with sincerity and tolerance, lighting up the torch of cooperation with understanding and trust. We believe that through the efforts of both sides, the friendship between your state and our province will forever blossom, just like the black-eyed Susan in Maryland and the azaleas in Anhui."

Sister relationships between U.S. jurisdictions and their political equivalents in other nations are official links between local governments that are initiated by mayors and governors. Those official endorsements, with the support of citizen volunteers, academia and the private sector, empower a community to engage globally.

U.S. sister affiliations began shortly after World War II and developed into a national initiative that President Dwight Eisenhower proposed in 1956. His goal was to involve people and organized groups at all levels of society in personal, citizen diplomacy with the hope that people-to-people relationships, fostered through sister-city affiliations, would reduce the chance of future global conflicts.

More than 1,200 U.S. regional governments have sister relationships with nearly 2,000 partners in 120 countries, according to the office of the Maryland secretary of state.

(This is a product of the Bureau of International Information Programs, U.S. Department of State. Web site: <http://iipdigital.usembassy.gov>)