

**Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's Visit to the
Republic of Korea
November 29-30, 2011**



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Public Affairs Section
822-397-4637*

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Important Phone Numbers

Dialing Instructions:

1. Ground lines to Cell phones:
Dial all 10 (or 11) digits including 010, 011, 016, 017, 018 or 019
2. Ground lines to Ground lines:
Dial the numbers without Busan's area code (051)
3. Cell phones to Cell phones:
Dial all 10 (or 11) digits including 010, 011, 016, 017, 018 or 019
4. Cell phones to Ground lines:
Dial the numbers with Busan's area code (051)

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*Fax service is available at the hotel business center.

Background Note: South Korea

(Source: www.state.gov and www.korea.net)

PROFILE

Official Name: Republic of Korea

- Capital City: Seoul (10 million)
- National flag: Taegeukgi
- National flower: Mugunghwa (Rose of Sharon)
- Currency: won
- Language: Korean (Written form: Hangeul)

Geography

- Location: Strategically located at the crossroads of Northeast Asia. Korea lies between Japan, the Russian Far East and China.
- Area: 98,480 sq. km. (38,023 sq. mi.)
- Cities (2009): Capital--Seoul (10.3 million). Other major cities--Busan (3.6 million), Daegu (2.5 million), Incheon (2.8 million), Gwangju (1.4 million), Daejeon (1.5 million), Ulsan (1.1 million).
- Terrain: Partially forested mountain ranges separated by deep, narrow valleys; cultivated plains along the coasts, particularly in the west and south.
- Climate: Temperate, with rainfall heavier in summer.

People

- Nationality: Noun and adjective--Korean(s).
- Population (2010): 48,636,068.
- Annual population growth rate (2010): 0.258%.
- Ethnic groups: Korean; Chinese minority (about 20,000).
- Religions: Christianity, Buddhism, Shamanism, Confucianism, Chondogyo.
- Language: Korean; English widely taught in junior high and high school.
- Education: Years compulsory--9. Enrollment--11.5 million. Attendance--middle school 99%, high school 95%. Literacy -- 98%.
- Health (2010): Infant mortality rate -- 4.24/1,000.
- Life expectancy: 78.81 yrs. (men -- 75.56 yrs; women -- 82.28 yrs).
- Total labor force (2009): 24.37 million.
- Labor force by occupation (2007): Services -- 67.7%; industry -- 25.1%; agriculture --7.2%.

Government

- Type: Republic with powers shared between the president, the legislature, and the courts.
- Liberation: August 15, 1945.
- Constitution: July 17, 1948; last revised 1987.
- Branches: Executive -- President (chief of state); Prime Minister (head of government).
Legislative -- unicameral National Assembly. Judicial -- Supreme Court and appellate courts; Constitutional Court.
- Subdivisions: Nine provinces, seven administratively separate cities (Seoul, Busan, Incheon, Daegu, Gwangju, Daejeon, Ulsan).
- Political parties: Grand National Party (GNP); Democratic Party (DP), formerly known as United Democratic Party (UDP); Liberty Forward Party (LFP); New Progressive Party (NPP); Pro-Park Alliance (PPA); Renewal Korea Party (RKP).
- Suffrage: Universal at 19.
- Government budget (2009): Expenditures -- \$227.2 billion.
- Defense (2008): 2.5% of GDP.

Economy

- GDP (purchasing power parity in 2009): \$1.364 trillion.
- Real GDP growth rate: 2007, 5.1%; 2008, 2.3%; 2009, 0.2%.
- GDP per capita (2009, current U.S. \$): \$17,074.
- Unemployment rate (2009): 3.6%.
- Inflation rate (consumer prices): 2008, 4.7%; 2009, 2.8%.
- Natural resources: Coal, tungsten, graphite, molybdenum, lead, hydropower potential.
- Agriculture: Products--rice, root crops, barley, vegetables, fruit, cattle, pigs, chickens, milk, eggs, fish. Arable land -- 16.58% of land area.
- Industry: Electronics, telecommunications, automobile production, chemicals, shipbuilding, steel.
- Trade (2009): Exports--\$363.5 billion: semiconductors, wireless telecommunications equipment, motor vehicles, computers, steel, ships, petrochemicals. Imports-- \$323.1 billion: crude oil, food, electronics and electronic equipment, machinery, transportation equipment, steel, organic chemicals, plastics, base metals and articles. Major export markets (2009)--China (23.2%), U.S. (10.1%), Japan (5.8%), Hong Kong (5.3%), Singapore (3.6%). Major importers to South Korea (2009)--China (16.8%), Japan (15.3%), U.S. (9.0%), Saudi Arabia (6.1%), Australia (4.6%).

PEOPLE

Population

Korea's population is one of the most ethnically and linguistically homogenous in the world. Except for a small Chinese community, virtually all Koreans share a common cultural and linguistic heritage. South Korea has one of the world's highest population densities (48.6 million people). Major population centers are located in the northwest, southeast, and in the plains south of the Seoul-Incheon area. Korea has experienced one of the largest rates of emigration, with ethnic Koreans residing primarily in China (2.4 million), the United States (2.1 million), Japan (600,000), and the countries of the former Soviet Union (532,000).

Language

The Korean language is related to Japanese and Mongolian. Although it differs grammatically from Chinese and does not use tones, a large number of Chinese cognates exist in Korean. Chinese ideograms are believed to have been brought into Korea sometime before the second century BC. The learned class spoke Korean, but read and wrote Chinese. A phonetic writing system ("hangeul") was invented in the 15th century by King Sejong to provide a writing system for commoners who could not read classical Chinese. Modern Korean uses hangeul almost exclusively with Chinese characters in limited use for word clarification. Approximately 1,300 Chinese characters are used in modern Korean. English is taught as a second language in most primary and secondary schools. Chinese and Japanese are widely taught at secondary schools.

Religion

Freedom of religion is protected under South Korea's constitution. Roughly half of the South Korean population actively practice some form of religion. Most religious believers in South Korea follow Christianity (29.2% of the population) and Buddhism (22.8%). Although only 0.2% of South Koreans identify themselves as Confucianists, Korean society remains highly imbued with Confucian values and beliefs. A small minority of South Koreans practice Islam, Shamanism (traditional spirit worship), and Chondogyo ("Heavenly Way"); 46.5% of South Koreans practice no religion.

HISTORY

The myth of Korea's foundation by the god-king Tangun in BC 2333 embodies the homogeneity and self-sufficiency valued by the Korean people. Korea experienced many invasions by its larger neighbors in its thousands of years of recorded history. The country repelled numerous foreign invasions despite domestic strife, in part due to its protected status in the Sino-centric regional political model during Korea's Chosun dynasty (1392-1910). Historical antipathies to foreign influence earned Korea the title of "Hermit Kingdom" in the 19th century.

With declining Chinese power and a weakened domestic posture at the end of the 19th century, Korea was open to Western and Japanese encroachment. In 1910, Japan began a 35-

year period of colonial rule over Korea. As a result of Japan's efforts to supplant the Korean language and aspects of Korean culture, memories of Japanese annexation still recall fierce animosity and resentment, especially among older Koreans. Nevertheless, import restrictions on Japanese movies, popular music, fashion, and the like have been lifted, and many Koreans, especially the younger generations, eagerly follow Japanese pop culture. Aspects of Korean culture, including television shows and movies, have also become popular in Japan.

Japan's surrender to the Allied Powers in 1945, signaling the end of World War II, only further embroiled Korea in foreign rivalries. Division at the 38th parallel marked the beginning of Soviet and U.S. trusteeship over the North and South, respectively. On August 15, 1948 the Republic of Korea (R.O.K.) was established, with Syngman Rhee as the first President. On September 9, 1948 the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (D.P.R.K.) was established under Kim Il Sung.

On June 25, 1950, North Korean forces invaded South Korea. Led by the U.S., a 16-member coalition undertook the first collective action under United Nations Command (UNC) to repel that invasion. Following China's entry on behalf of North Korea later that year, a stalemate ensued for the final two years of the conflict. Armistice negotiations, initiated in July 1951, were ultimately concluded on July 27, 1953 at Panmunjom, in what is now the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ). The Armistice Agreement was signed by representatives of the Korean People's Army, Chinese People's Volunteers, and U.S.-led United Nations Command (UNC). Though the R.O.K. supported the UNC, it refused to sign the Armistice Agreement. A peace treaty has never been signed. The war left almost three million Koreans dead or wounded with millions more homeless and separated from their families.

In the following decades, South Korea experienced political turmoil under autocratic leadership. President Syngman Rhee was forced to resign in April 1960 following a student-led uprising. The Second Republic under the leadership of Chang Myon ended after only one year, when Major General Park Chung-hee led a military coup. Park's rule, which resulted in tremendous economic growth and development but increasingly restricted political freedoms, ended with his assassination in 1979. A powerful group of military officers, led by Lieutenant General Chun Doo Hwan, declared martial law and took power.

Throughout the Park and Chun eras, South Korea developed a vocal civil society that led to strong protests against authoritarian rule. Composed primarily of students and labor union activists, protest movements reached a climax after Chun's 1979 coup and declaration of martial law. A confrontation in Gwangju in 1980 left at least 200 civilians dead. Thereafter, pro-democracy activities intensified even more, ultimately forcing political concessions by the government in 1987, including the restoration of direct presidential elections.

In 1987, Roh Tae-woo, a former general, was elected president, but additional democratic advances during his tenure resulted in the 1992 election of a long-time pro-democracy activist, Kim Young-sam. Kim became Korea's first civilian elected president in 32 years. The 1997 presidential election and peaceful transition of power marked another step forward in Korea's democratization when Kim Dae-jung, a life-long democracy and human rights activist, was elected from a major opposition party. The transition to an open, democratic

system was further consolidated in 2002, when self-educated human rights lawyer, Roh Moo-hyun, won the presidential election on a "participatory government" platform. Most recently, South Koreans voted for a new president in December 2007. Former business executive and Mayor of Seoul Lee Myung-bak's 5-year term began on February 25, 2008.

GOVERNMENT AND POLITICAL CONDITIONS

The Republic of Korea (commonly known as "South Korea") is a republic with powers nominally shared among the presidency, the legislature, and the judiciary, but traditionally dominated by the president. The president is chief of state and is elected for a single term of 5 years. The 299 members of the unicameral National Assembly are elected to 4-year terms. Suffrage is universal at age 19 (lowered from 20 in 2005).

Principal Government Officials

(Last updated November 2011)

- President: Lee Myung-bak
- Prime Minister: Kim Hwang-sik
- Minister of Strategy & Finance: Park Jae-wan
- Minister of Education, Science & Technology: Lee Ju-hoo
- Minister of Foreign Affairs & Trade: Kim Sung Hwan
- Minister of Unification: Ryu Woo Ik
- Minister of Justice: Kwon Jae Jin
- Minister of National Defense: Kim Kwan Jin
- Minister of Public Admin. & Security: Maeng Hyung-kyu
- Minister of Culture, Sports & Tourism: Cho Kwang Sik
- Minister of Food, Agriculture, Forestry & Fisheries: Suh Kyu Yong
- Minister of Knowledge Economy: Hong Seok-Woo
- Minister of Health & Welfare: Rim Chaemin
- Minister of Environment: Yoo Young Sook
- Minister of Employment and Labor: Bahk Jae-wan
- Minister of Gender Equality & Family: Lee Chae-pil
- Minister of Land, Transport & Maritime Affairs: Kwon Do-youp
- Director of the Nat'l Intelligence Service: Won Sei-hoon
- Ambassador to the U.S.: Han Duk-soo
- Ambassador to the UN: Choi Young Jin

Korea maintains an embassy in the United States at 2450 Massachusetts Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20008 (tel. 202-939-5600). Consulates General are located in Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, Honolulu, Houston, Los Angeles, New York, San Francisco, Seattle, and Hagatna (Agana) in Guam.

ECONOMY

Over the past several decades, the Republic of Korea has achieved a remarkably high level of economic growth, which has allowed the country to rise from the rubble of the Korean War into the ranks of the Organization for Cooperation and Development (OECD). Today, South Korea is the United States' 7th-largest trading partner and 15th-largest economy in the world.

In the early 1960s, the government of Park Chung Hee instituted sweeping economic policy changes emphasizing exports and labor-intensive light industries, leading to rapid debt-financed industrial expansion. The government carried out a currency reform, strengthened financial institutions, and introduced flexible economic planning. In the 1970s Korea began directing fiscal and financial policies toward promoting heavy and chemical industries, consumer electronics, and automobiles. Manufacturing continued to grow rapidly in the 1980s and early 1990s.

In recent years, Korea's economy moved away from the centrally planned, government-directed investment model toward a more market-oriented one. South Korea bounced back from the 1997-98 Asian financial crisis with assistance from the International Monetary Fund (IMF), but its recovery was based largely on extensive financial reforms that restored stability to markets. These economic reforms, pushed by President Kim Dae-jung, helped Korea return to growth, with growth rates of 10% in 1999 and 9% in 2000. The slowing global economy and falling exports slowed growth to 3.3% in 2001, prompting consumer stimulus measures that led to 7.0% growth in 2002. Consumer over-shopping and rising household debt, along with external factors, slowed growth to near 3% again in 2003. Economic performance in 2004 improved to 4.6% due to an increase in exports, and remained at or above 4% in 2005, 2006, and 2007. With the onset of the global financial and economic crisis in the third quarter of 2008, annual GDP growth slowed to 2.3% in 2008 and just 0.2% in 2009.

Economists are concerned that South Korea's economic growth potential has fallen because of a rapidly aging population and structural problems that are becoming increasingly apparent. Foremost among these structural concerns are the rigidity of South Korea's labor regulations, the need for more constructive relations between management and workers, the country's underdeveloped financial markets, and a general lack of regulatory transparency. Korean policy makers are increasingly worried about diversion of corporate investment to China and other lower wage countries, and by Korea's falling foreign direct investment (FDI). President Lee Myung-bak was elected in December 2007 on a platform that promised to boost Korea's economic growth rate through deregulation, tax reform, increased FDI, labor reform, and free trade agreements (FTAs) with major markets. President Lee's economic agenda necessarily shifted in the final months of 2008 to dealing with the global economic crisis. In 2009, the economy responded well to a robust fiscal stimulus package and low interest rates.

North-South Economic Ties

Two-way trade between North and South Korea, which was first legalized in 1988, rose to almost \$1.82 billion in 2008 before declining sharply thereafter. Until recently, South Korea

was North Korea's second-largest trading partner after China. Much of this trade was related to out-processing or assembly work undertaken by South Korean firms in the Kaesong Industrial Complex (KIC). Much of the work done in North Korea has been funded by South Korea, but this assistance was halted in 2008 except for energy aid (heavy fuel oil) authorized under the Six-Party Talks. Many of these economic ties have become important symbols of hope for the eventual reunification. For example, after the June 2000 North-South summit, the two Koreas have reconnected their east and west coast railroads and roads where they cross the DMZ and have improved these transportation routes. South Korean tour groups have used the east coast road to travel from South Korea to Mt. Geumgang in North Korea since 2003, although the R.O.K. suspended tours to Mt. Geumgang in July 2008 following the shooting death of a South Korean tourist by a D.P.R.K. soldier. Unfortunately, these North-South economic ties have been seriously damaged by escalating tensions following North Korea's torpedoing of the South Korean warship Cheonan in March 2010. In September 2010, South Korea suspended all inter-Korean trade with the exception of the Kaesong Industrial Complex. As of mid-November 2010, economic ties had not seen signs of revival.

FOREIGN RELATIONS

South Korea joined the United Nations in August 1991 along with North Korea and is active in most UN specialized agencies and many international forums. The Republic of Korea has also hosted major international events such as the 1988 Summer Olympics, the 2002 World Cup Soccer Tournament (co-hosted with Japan), and the 2002 Second Ministerial Conference of the Community of Democracies. In 2010, South Korea hosted the R.O.K.-Japan-China Trilateral Summit and will host the G-20 Seoul Summit in November.

Economic considerations have a high priority in Korean foreign policy. The R.O.K. seeks to build on its economic accomplishments to increase its regional and global role. It is a founding member of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, which it chaired in 2005.

The Republic of Korea maintains diplomatic relations with more than 170 countries and a broad network of trading relationships. The U.S. and Korea are allied by the 1953 Mutual Defense Treaty. Korea and Japan coordinate closely on numerous issues. This includes consultations with the United States on North Korea policy.

Korean Peninsula: Reunification Efforts

For almost 20 years after the 1950-53 Korean War, relations between North and South Korea were minimal and very strained. Official contact did not occur until 1971, beginning with Red Cross contacts and family reunification projects. In the early 1990s, relations between the two countries improved with the 1991 "Agreement on Reconciliation, Nonaggression and Exchanges and Cooperation between the South and the North," since known as the "Basic Agreement," which acknowledged that reunification was the goal of both governments, and the 1992 "Joint Declaration of the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula." However,

divergent positions on the process of reunification and North Korean weapons programs, compounded by South Korea's tumultuous domestic politics and the 1994 death of North Korean leader Kim Il-sung, contributed to a cycle of warming and cooling of relations.

Relations improved following the 1997 election of Kim Dae-jung. His "Sunshine Policy" of engagement with the D.P.R.K. set the stage for the historic June 2000 inter-Korean summit between President Kim and North Korean leader Kim Jong-il. President Kim was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 2000 for the policy, but the prize was somewhat tarnished by revelations of a \$500 million dollar "payoff" to North Korea that immediately preceded the summit. Before ending his term in office, former President Roh Moo-hyun engineered a similar summit in North Korea in October 2007, but results from that summit did not materialize. Engagement continued during Roh Moo-hyun's presidency, but declined following the inauguration of President Lee Myung-bak in February 2008.

Korean Peninsula: Nuclear Tensions and Recent Developments

Relations worsened following North Korea's acknowledgement in October 2002 of a covert program to enrich uranium for nuclear weapons. Following this acknowledgement, the United States, along with the People's Republic of China, proposed multilateral talks among the concerned parties to deal with this issue. At the urging of China and its neighbors, the D.P.R.K. agreed to meet with China and the United States in April 2003. In August of that year, the D.P.R.K. agreed to attend Six-Party Talks aimed at ending the North's pursuit of nuclear weapons that added the Republic of Korea, Japan, and Russia to the table. Two more rounds of Six-Party Talks between the United States, the Republic of Korea, Japan, China, and the D.P.R.K. were held in February and June of 2004. At the third round, the United States put forward a comprehensive proposal aimed at completely, verifiably, and irreversibly eliminating North Korea's nuclear weapons programs. A fourth round of talks was held in two sessions between July and September 2005.

A breakthrough for the Six-Party Talks came with the Joint Statement of Principles on September 19, 2005, in which, among other things, the D.P.R.K. committed to "abandoning all nuclear weapons and existing nuclear programs and returning, at an early date, to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and to IAEA safeguards." The Joint Statement also committed the United States and other parties to certain actions as the D.P.R.K. denuclearized. In addition, the United States offered security assurances to North Korea, specifying that it had no nuclear weapons on R.O.K. territory and no intention to attack or invade the D.P.R.K. with nuclear or other weapons. Finally, the United States and the D.P.R.K., as well as the D.P.R.K. and Japan, agreed to undertake steps to normalize relations, subject to their respective bilateral policies.

However, following D.P.R.K. protests against U.S. Government money-laundering sanctions on D.P.R.K. funds held at Macao's Banco Delta Asia, the D.P.R.K. boycotted the Six-Party Talks during late 2005 and most of 2006. On October 9, 2006, North Korea announced a successful nuclear test, verified by the United States on October 11. In response, the United Nations Security Council, citing Chapter VII of the UN Charter, unanimously adopted Resolution 1718, condemning North Korea's action and imposing sanctions on certain luxury

goods and trade of military items, weapons of mass destruction (WMD)-related parts, and technology transfers.

The Six-Party Talks resumed in December 2006. Following a bilateral meeting between the United States and D.P.R.K. in Berlin in January 2007, yet another round of Six-Party Talks was held in February 2007. On February 13, 2007, the parties reached an agreement on "Initial Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement" in which North Korea agreed to shut down and seal its Yongbyon nuclear facility, including the reprocessing facility, and to invite back International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) personnel to conduct all necessary monitoring and verification of these actions. The other five parties agreed to provide emergency energy assistance to North Korea in the amount of 50,000 tons of heavy fuel oil (HFO) in the initial phase (within 60 days) and the equivalent of up to 950,000 tons of HFO in the next phase of North Korea's denuclearization. The six parties also established five working groups to form specific plans for implementing the Joint Statement in the following areas: denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, normalization of D.P.R.K.-U.S. relations, normalization of D.P.R.K.-Japan relations, economic and energy cooperation, and a Northeast Asia peace and security mechanism. All parties agreed that the working groups would meet within 30 days of the agreement, which they did. The agreement also envisioned the directly-related parties negotiating a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula at an appropriate separate forum. As part of the initial actions, North Korea invited then-IAEA Director General ElBaradei to Pyongyang in early March for preliminary discussions on the return of the IAEA to the D.P.R.K. A sixth round of Six-Party Talks took place on March 19-23, 2007, in which the parties reported on the first meetings of the five working groups.

At the invitation of the D.P.R.K., Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill visited Pyongyang in June 2007 as part of ongoing consultations with the six parties on implementation of the Initial Actions agreement. After the Banco Delta Asia funds were released in July 2007, the D.P.R.K. shut down the Yongbyon nuclear facility as well as an uncompleted reactor at Taechon, and IAEA personnel returned to the D.P.R.K. to monitor and verify the shut-down and to seal the facility. Concurrently, the R.O.K., China, U.S., and Russia initiated deliveries of HFO and other energy-related assistance per the agreement. These four parties continued to provide shipments of HFO and other energy assistance as the D.P.R.K. implemented disablement steps during 2007 and 2008. All five working groups met in August and September 2007 to discuss detailed plans for implementation the Initial Actions agreement's next phase, and the D.P.R.K. invited a team of experts from the U.S., China, and Russia to visit the Yongbyon nuclear facility in September 2007 to discuss specific steps that could be taken to disable the facility. The September 27-30 Six-Party plenary meeting resulted in the October 3, 2007 agreement on "Second-Phase Actions for the Implementation of the Joint Statement."

Under the terms of the October 3 agreement, the D.P.R.K. agreed to disable all existing nuclear facilities subject to abandonment under the September 2005 Joint Statement and the February 2007 agreement. The parties agreed to complete by December 31, 2007 a set of disablement actions for the three core facilities at Yongbyon: the 5-MW(e) Experimental Reactor, the Radiochemical Laboratory (Reprocessing Plant), and the Fresh Fuel Fabrication Plant. The D.P.R.K. also agreed to provide a complete and correct declaration of all its

nuclear programs in accordance with the February 2007 agreement by December 31, 2007 and reaffirmed its commitment not to transfer nuclear materials, technology, or know-how.

In November 2007, the D.P.R.K. began to disable the three core facilities at Yongbyon and completed many of the agreed disablement actions by the end of the year. Assistant Secretary of State Christopher Hill visited Pyongyang again in December 2007 as part of ongoing consultations on the implementation of Second-Phase actions and carried with him a letter from President George W. Bush to Kim Jong-il. While the D.P.R.K. missed the December 31 deadline to provide a complete and correct declaration, it belatedly delivered its declaration to the Chinese on June 26, 2008. The D.P.R.K. also imploded the cooling tower at the Yongbyon facility in late June 2008 in the presence of international media and U.S. Government officials. Following the D.P.R.K.'s progress on disablement and provision of a declaration, President Bush announced the lifting of the application of the Trading with the Enemy Act (TWEA) with respect to the D.P.R.K. and notified Congress of his administration's intent to rescind North Korea's designation as a state sponsor of terrorism, a step which the Secretary of State followed through on in October 2008. However, efforts to move forward on verification steps soon met with D.P.R.K. resistance.

Despite overtures from President Obama after his inauguration in January 2009, the situation began to deteriorate. On April 5, 2009 the D.P.R.K. announced the successful launch of its Taepodong-2 Unha missile and successful placement of a satellite in orbit (supposedly playing patriotic music). U.S. officials note that the missile failed to reach orbit. Defiant, North Korea continued to ratchet up tension in the region, conducting what was apparently its second underground nuclear weapon test on May 25, 2009. The U.N. Security Council (UNSC) unanimously condemned North Korea's second nuclear test and adopted Resolution 1874, which toughened existing sanctions (under Resolution 1718) to strengthen the arms embargo and called for inspection of cargo and other vessels suspected under 'Reasonable Grounds' to contain prohibited items. Reaction from North Korea continued to be increasingly belligerent.

North Korea's provocative behavior culminated in North Korea's attack on the South Korean Navy corvette the *Cheonan* on March 26, 2010. And thorough, scientific and objective investigation, prepared by the Joint Investigative Group (JIG), a commission of Korean and international experts, led to what Secretary Clinton referred to as the "inescapable" conclusion that the *Cheonan* was sunk by an underwater explosion caused by a torpedo from a North Korean submarine, with those results announced on May 20. On May 24, in an address to the nation, President Lee Myung-bak ordered a halt to all trade with North Korea, with the exception of trade proceeding through the inter-Korean economic zone in Kaesong.

North Korea rejects the findings as a fabrication and warned that it would wage "all-out war" if it were punished. Currently South Korea is engaged in diplomatic efforts to broaden the understanding of the facts surrounding the sinking of the *Cheonan* and North Korea's involvement in that action. On November 23, North Korea hit Yeonpyeong Island with artillery, killing two civilians and wounding 13. This incident has increased complications and tensions between the North and South.

Secretary of State Hillary Clinton has called on North Korea to take concrete, irreversible denuclearization steps toward fulfillment of the 2005 Joint Statement, comply with international law including UNSCRs 1718 and 1874, cease provocative behaviors, and take steps to improve relations with its neighbors.

U.S.-KOREAN RELATIONS

The United States believes that the question of peace and security on the Korean Peninsula is, first and foremost, a matter for the Korean people to decide.

Under the 1953 U.S.-R.O.K. Mutual Defense Treaty, the United States agreed to help the Republic of Korea defend itself against external aggression. In support of this commitment, the United States has maintained military personnel in Korea, including the Army's Second Infantry Division and several Air Force tactical squadrons. To coordinate operations between these units and the over 680,000-strong Korean armed forces, a Combined Forces Command (CFC) was established in 1978. The head of the CFC also serves as Commander of the United Nations Command (UNC) and U.S. Forces Korea (USFK). The current CFC Commander is General Walter "Skip" Sharp.

Several aspects of the U.S.-R.O.K. security relationship are changing as the U.S. moves from a leading to a supporting role. In 2004 an agreement was reached on the return of the Yongsan base in Seoul -- as well as a number of other U.S. bases -- to the R.O.K. and the eventual relocation of all U.S. forces to south of the Han River. Those movements are expected to be completed by 2016. The U.S. and the Republic of Korea agreed to reduce the number of U.S. troops in Korea to 25,000 by 2008, but a subsequent agreement by the U.S. and R.O.K. presidents in 2008 has now capped that number at 28,500, with no further troop reductions planned. The U.S. and R.O.K. also agreed to transfer wartime operational control to the R.O.K. military on April 17, 2012, but at their bilateral meeting in Toronto June 26, the U.S. agreed, per the R.O.K request, to delay the transfer of operational control in wartime until December 2015.

As Korea's economy has developed, trade and investment ties have become an increasingly important aspect of the U.S.-R.O.K. relationship. Korea is the United States' seventh-largest trading partner (ranking ahead of larger economies such as France, Italy, and India), and there are significant flows of manufactured goods, agricultural products, services and technology. Major American firms have long been major investors in Korea, while Korea's leading firms have begun to make significant investments in the U.S. The implementation of structural reforms contained in the IMF's 1998 program for Korea improved access to the Korean market and improved trade relations between the United States and Korea. Building on that improvement, the United States and Korea launched negotiations on the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA) on February 2, 2006. The KORUS FTA was signed by the United States and Korea on June 30, 2007.

In December 2010, President Barack Obama announced the successful resolution of outstanding issues in the agreement, which would eliminate tariffs on over 95% of industrial and consumer goods within 5 years; the agreement and was approved by Congress on October 12, 2011.

The KORUS FTA is the largest free trade agreement Korea has ever signed, the largest free trade agreement for the United States since the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) in 1992, and the United States' first FTA with a major Asian economy. Economists have projected that the FTA will generate billions of dollars in increased trade and investment between the United States and the Republic of Korea, and boost economic growth and job creation in both countries.

Principal U.S. Embassy Officials

- Ambassador: Sung Kim
- Deputy Chief of Mission: Mark Tokola
- Counselor for Political Affairs: James Wayman
- Counselor for Economic Affairs: Michael Kleine
- Counselor for Management Affairs: Bart Flaherty
- Counselor for Public Affairs: Brent Byers
- Consul General: Paul Boyd
- Counselor for Commercial Affairs: Jim Sullivan
- Counselor for Agricultural Affairs: Kathryn Ting
- Chief, Joint U.S. Military Advisory Group, Korea (JUSMAG-K) : Col. Ha Dong Chin
- Defense Attaché: Col. David Lovejoy
- DEA, Special Agent in Charge: Edward Fiocchi
- Open Source Center, Seoul Bureau Chief: Kristen Patel
- DHS-Citizenship and Immigration Services: Kenneth Sherman
- DHS-Homeland Security Investigations Attaché: KyungYul “Steven” Kim

The U.S. Embassy in South Korea is located at 32 Sejong-no, Jongno-gu, Seoul 110-710. The contact information for the U.S. Embassy is: American Embassy-Seoul, Unit 15550, APO AP 96205-5550 (tel.: 82-2-397-4114; fax: 82-2-738-8845).

The American Presence Post (APP) Busan is located on the 6th floor of the Lotte Gold Rose Building (also known as the Job Center Building), next to the Busan Metropolitan Police Agency and Busan Metropolitan City Hall. The contact information for Busan is: tel) 82-51-863-0731; fax 82-51-863-0734).

The U.S. Agricultural Trade Office (ATO) is located at 146-1, Susong-dong, Jongno-gu, Leema Bldg., Rm. 303, Seoul 110-140 (fax: 82-2-720-7921). The U.S. Export Development Office/U.S. Trade Center can be reached c/o U.S. Embassy (fax: 82-2-739-1628).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON KOREA

The following general country guides are available from the Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402:

- Library of Congress. *North Korea: A Country Study*. 1994.
- Library of Congress. *South Korea: A Country Study*. 1992.
- Department of State. *The Record on Korean Unification 1943-1960*. 1961.
- Department of the Army. *Communist North Korea: A Bibliographic Survey*. 1971.

Internet Resources on North and South Korea

The following sites are provided to give an indication of Internet sites on Korea. The Department of State does not endorse unofficial publications, including Internet sites.

- R.O.K. Embassy--<http://www.koreaembassyusa.org/>
- Korea Society--<http://www.koreasociety.org/>; links to academic and other sites.
- Nautilus Institute--<http://www.nautilus.org/>; produced by the Nautilus Institute in Berkeley, California, and includes press roundup Monday through Friday.
- Korea Web Weekly--<http://www.kimsoft.com/korea.htm>; links to North Korean sites.
- Korea Herald--<http://www.koreaherald.co.kr/>; South Korean English-language newspaper.
- Korea Times--<http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/>; South Korean English-language newspaper.
- (North) Korean Central News Agency--<http://www.kcna.co.jp/index-e.htm>
- CIA World Factbook-- <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- Korea's Official Website-- <http://www.korea.net/>
- Korean Politics-- <http://www.koreanpolitics.com/>; this website provides information on South Korean politics and links to South Korean Government sites.

Further Electronic Information

Department of State Web Site. Available on the Internet at <http://www.state.gov>, the Department of State web site provides timely, global access to official U.S. foreign policy information, including Background Notes and daily press briefings along with the directory of key officers of Foreign Service posts and more. The Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC) provides security information and regional news that impact U.S. companies working abroad through its website <http://www.osac.gov>.

Export.gov provides a portal to all export-related assistance and market information offered by the federal government and provides trade leads, free export counseling, help with the export process, and more.

STAT-USA/Internet, a service of the U.S. Department of Commerce, provides authoritative economic, business, and international trade information from the Federal government. The site includes access to the National Trade Data Bank.

BUSAN

Quick Facts about Busan

(Source: <http://english.busan.go.kr>)



Busan, a bustling city of approximately 3.6 million residents, is located on the southeastern tip of the Korean peninsula. The size of Busan is 767.35km² which is 0.8% of the whole land of the Korean Peninsula. The natural environment of Busan is a perfect example of harmony between mountains, rivers and sea. Its geography includes a coastline with superb beaches and scenic cliffs, mountains which provide excellent hiking and extraordinary views, and hot springs scattered throughout the city. Busan enjoys four distinct seasons and a temperate climate that never gets too hot or too cold.

Busan is the second largest city in Korea. Its deep harbor and gentle tides have allowed it to grow into the largest container handling port in the country and the fifth largest in the world. The city's natural endowments and rich history have resulted in Busan's increasing reputation as a world class city of tourism and culture, and it is also becoming renowned as an international convention destination.

BEXCO



BEXCO is a large international exhibition/convention center in Busan that features more than three football fields of floor space. Equipped with latest in advanced equipment, the convention center is ideal for international exhibitions, meetings, concerts, and sporting events. Past events held here include Group Drawings for the 2002 FIFA World Cup Korea-Japan, the 2003 ICCA Annual Conference, 2004 ITU Asia, and the 2005 APEC Summit.

BIOGRAPHY



Sung Y. Kim
U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea

Sung Kim is the Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Korea. He was nominated by President Barack Obama on June 27, 2011, and confirmed by the United States Senate on October 13, 2011.

Prior to his appointment, Ambassador Kim was the Special Envoy for the Six-Party Talks with the rank of Ambassador. Before that, he headed the Office of Korean Affairs at the Department of State from August 2006 to July 2008. Ambassador Kim also served in a variety of positions in the East Asia Pacific region including overseas assignments in Seoul, Tokyo, Kuala Lumpur and Hong Kong. Ambassador Kim's Washington assignments have included stints as a desk officer in the State Department's Office of Chinese Affairs and Staff Assistant in the Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs. Prior to joining the Foreign Service, Ambassador Kim worked as a public prosecutor in the Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office.

Ambassador Kim was born in Seoul, Korea, and grew up in Los Angeles where he attended middle school and high school. He earned his undergraduate degree from the University of Pennsylvania and completed a degree in law from Loyola. He also holds a Master of Laws degree from the London School of Economics. He is married to Jae Eun and they have two daughters.



General James D. Thurman
Commander UNC/CFC/USFK

A native of Marietta, Oklahoma, General Thurman earned his commission through ROTC at East Central Oklahoma University in 1975. His first three commands were in Germany where he led a troop in the 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment, the 2nd Squadron, 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment; followed by the 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Infantry

Division. He then commanded 2nd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division at Fort Stewart, Georgia. His next assignment was as the Commander, Operations Group at the National Training Center and later as the Commanding General. He then commanded 4th Infantry Division at Fort Hood, Texas and Baghdad, Iraq. He also commanded V Corps in Germany. He most recently served as Commander, United States Army Forces Command.

General Thurman has significant Army and Joint staff experience, including Assistant to the Chief of Staff for Plans and Policy(J5), Allied Forces Southern Europe, Regional Command South in Italy; Director of Training, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3, Headquarters, Department of the Army; Chief, Operations, Coalition Forces Land Component Command, C3, in Kuwait; Director, Army Aviation Task Force, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-3, Headquarters, Department of the Army; and Deputy Chief of Staff, G3/5/7, Headquarters, Department of the Army.

He has extensive operational combat experience. His combat assignments were as a battalion executive officer in the 1st Cavalry Division during Desert Shield/Storm from 1990-91; the Chief of the Plans and Policy Division for Allied Forces Southern Europe in Kosovo from 1999-2000; the Chief of Operations, C3, for the Coalition Forces Land Component Command during the invasion of Iraq from 2002-03; and the Multi-National Division Commander responsible for all coalition operations in Baghdad in 2006.

General Thurman holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in History from East Central Oklahoma University and a Master of Arts in Management from Webster University. He has attended numerous military schools and is a graduate of the Command and General Staff College and the Army War College.

His military awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal (two oak leaf clusters), the Defense Superior Service Medal (one oak leaf cluster), the Legion of Merit (three oak leaf clusters), the Bronze Star Medal (one oak leaf cluster), the Meritorious Service Medal (five oak leaf clusters), the Army Commendation Medal and the Army Achievement medal (three oak leaf clusters). General Thurman is a Senior Aviator and has earned the Combat Action Badge, the Parachutist Badge, the Army Staff Identification Badge and the Joint Chiefs of Staff Identification Badge.

General Thurman assumed command of United Nations Command, Republic of Korea – United States Combined Forces Command, and United States Forces Korea on July 14, 2011.



Lee, Myung-bak
President of the Republic of Korea

President Lee Myung-bak was elected president on December 19th, 2007 and was sworn in as the 17th President of the Republic of Korea on February 25th, 2008. President Lee was born on December 19th (1941), his marriage to First Lady Kim Yoon-ok took place on December 19th and he was elected on December 19th, making this one his most memorable and auspicious day.

President Lee started work early on in life to help support his poor family. He worked his way through elementary and middle school, eventually finishing night classes at Dongji Commercial High School in Pohang, a port city located on the southeastern tip of Korea. In recalling the past, President Lee said "The chronic poverty that haunted my family never disappeared until after I was in my 20s." After graduating from high school, he enrolled in Korea University, at one point working as a garbage collector in order to pay for his tuition.

After graduating from Korea University with a degree in Business Administration, President Lee joined Hyundai Engineering and Construction as an entry-level employee. Hyundai would eventually become one of Korea's largest and most profitable companies but when President Lee first entered, it was just another medium-sized enterprise with limited staff and little overseas experience. However, his hard-working style, his determination and limitless creativity all led him to be promoted through the ranks and he became CEO of the company after only twelve years, making him one of the youngest CEO's at that time.

After wrapping up a successful career in the private sector, President Lee entered politics in 1992 and served as a proportional representative of the New Korea Party during the 14th National Assembly. In 1996, he was elected to the National Assembly by defeating former President Roh Moo-hyun in the Jongro district election in Seoul. In 2002, President Lee declared his intention to run for the Seoul mayoral race and was elected.

As Mayor of Seoul, President Lee embarked on an ambitious plan to rejuvenate Seoul, a vast metropolis with a population of roughly ten million. He began implementing his ambitious campaign pledges one by one, first beginning with the restoration of the Cheonggyecheon stream in central Seoul. Another of his ambitious project was the overhaul of the public transportation grid. Seoul, with its notorious traffic congestion and decrepit public transportation system, was in need of a transformation. Despite public skepticism, his vision was undeterred and finally these projects, and many others, were successfully completed with outstanding results.

After becoming the presidential nominee of the Grand National Party, President Lee won the presidential election on December 19th 2007.

As president, he has chosen Green Growth as the new national vision for Korea. This vision will create jobs, protect the environment and prepare Korea for the 21st century. On the international stage, President Lee has stated that he will steer Korea so that it becomes more

engaged with the international community, partaking in the global efforts to fight terrorism and climate change, eradicate poverty and reduce tension in the region. His pragmatic approach to North Korea will also usher in a new era of peace and stability on the Peninsula. Through the Six Party Talks framework, the North Korean nuclear issue will be peacefully resolved through vigorous and principled diplomacy. On the economic front, President Lee has carried out various regulatory reforms and will continue to do so, thus making Korea a truly business-friendly country.

President Lee and First Lady Kim Yoon-ok have three daughters and one son. They are proud grandparents with six grandchildren who can be found playing in the Presidential residence most days of the week. The President enjoys all kinds of outdoor activities and sports. In particular, he is an avid tennis player and enjoys swimming.



Kim, Sung-Hwan
Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Date of Birth Apr. 13, 1953

Family Married with two daughters

Education

Jun. 1987 University of London (School of Slavonic and East European Studies) London, United Kingdom

Feb. 1976 Department of Economics, Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea

Career

- Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Oct. 2010)
- Senior Secretary to the President for Foreign Affairs and National Security (Jun. 2008)
- Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade (Mar. 2008)
- Ambassador, Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Austria and Permanent Representative to the International Organizations in Vienna (Feb. 2006)
- Deputy Minister for Planning and Management, MOFAT (Jan. 2005)
- Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Republic of Uzbekistan (Aug. 2002)
- Director-General, North American Affairs Bureau, MOFAT (Jan. 2001)
- Senior Aide to the Minister, MOFAT (Jul. 2000)
- Deputy Director-General, North American Affairs Bureau, MOFAT (Feb. 2000)
- Counsellor, Korean Embassy in the United States of America (Dec. 1996)
- Director for Personnel, Office of Planning and Management, MOFA. (Dec. 1995)
- Aide to the Minister, MOFA (Feb. 1995)
- Director for East Europe Division, European Affairs Bureau, MOFA (Apr. 1994)
- First Secretary, Korean Embassy in the Russian Federation (Nov. 1990)
- First Secretary, Korean Embassy in the Republic of India (Dec. 1988)
- Assistant Secretary, Office of the President (Sep. 1987)
- Vice Consul, Korean Consulate General in Honolulu, U.S.A (Aug. 1980)
- Joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA) (Mar. 1977)
- Passed High Diplomatic Service Examination (Nov. 1976)



Kim, Kwan Jin
Minister of National Defense

Date of Birth 27 August, 1949

Family Wife, 3 daughters

Education

1972 Korea Military Academy (28th Class)

1969~1971 German Army Officer Academy

1968 Seoul High School

Career

'06 ~ '08 Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

'05 ~ '06 Commanding General, 3rd ROK Army (TROKA)

'04 ~ '05 Chief Director of Operations (J-3), Joint Chiefs of Staff

'02 ~ '04 Commanding General, 2nd Corps

'00 ~ '02 Deputy Chief of Staff, Planning & Management, Army HQ

'99 ~ '00 Commanding General, 35th Infantry Division

'98 ~ '99 Chief of Strategic Planning, Strategy & Planning, Army HQ

'96 ~ '98 Secretary, General Staff, Army HQ

'94 ~ '96 Assistant to the President for National Defense,

Office of the Presidential Secretariat

'92 ~ '93 Chief of Military Strategy, J-5 Directorate, Joint Chiefs of Staff

'90 ~ '92 Commander, 26th Mech Brigade, Capital Mech Division

'83 ~ '88 Battalion Commander and Division G-3, 15th Infantry Division

1972 Commissioned as Infantry Second Lieutenant



Kim, Kum-lae
Minister of Gender Equality and Family, Republic of Korea

Education

- 1997 Master in Science of Public Administration Graduate School of Policy Studies Sookmyung Women's University
- 1975 Bachelor in Social Science Ewha Women's University
- 1971 Ewha Girl's High School

Work Experience

- Mar '11 - Sep '11: Member, Congressional Special Committee on Pension Reform
- Jun '10 - Sep '11: Member, Congressional Committee on Health and Welfare
- Aug '08 - Sep '11 / Sep '08 - Mar '10: Member/Secretary, Congressional Committee on Gender Equality and Family
- Oct '08 - Aug '09: Member, Congressional Special Committee on Low Fertility and Population Ageing
- May '08 - May '10: Member, Congressional Committee on Culture, Sports, Tourism, Broadcasting & Communications
- May '08 - Jul '09: Chairwoman, Central Commission on Women's Affairs, Grand National Party
- May '08 - Sep '11: Member, 18th National Assembly
- Sep '06 - Jun '07: Standing Member, Seoul Foundation of Women and Family, Seoul Metropolitan City
- Sep '01 - Apr '04: Director, Women's Affairs Bureau, Grand National Party
- Mar '88 - Mar '97: Secretary-General, Korean National Council of Women

Publications

A Study on the Roles of Women's Organizations for Establishing Policies for Women's Development

Awards

1998 Mongnyeon Medal of National Honor
2011 Republic of Korea Grand Prize for Dedication

USEFUL INFORMATION

General Guidelines for Dining Out

1. Food in the Korean restaurants frequented by westerners is generally safe. As in traveling anywhere in the world, however, common sense should be exercised. Food in Korea can be considered safe if it is cooked thoroughly and served hot if meant to be eaten hot, or served cold if meant to be served cold. Avoid food that you suspect has been sitting out. Korean side dishes often consist of fresh vegetables served cold and lettuce for wrapping meat which are safe to eat. Eating raw or pickled fish, especially shellfish, is not recommended. Fruits purchased on the street should be peeled before eating.
2. While food and water in the major hotels are safe, the water supply in Seoul is not of consistent quality. Stick to bottled beverages or hot tea or coffee on the street.
3. It is possible to have a delightful and enriching experience by sampling the local cuisine. Prices for meals and the amount of tax vary among restaurants. Remember that the service charge is usually included in the bill. If you are concerned about the amount of your total bill, it is best to check with the manager or cashier before you order. Some places will not bring a bill to your table. When you are ready to leave, simply walk to the cashier and pay. Separate checks should be avoided.
4. Traditionally, Korean food is not served in courses, but instead it is all placed on the table at the same time. There is no set order in which to eat the food. And as there are usually several communal dishes, the guest is not obliged to clean his plate. The main dish is always accompanied by rice, soup, kimchi, and several side dishes, all included in the price. Koreans eat their rice and soup with a spoon and the side dishes with chopsticks. Many places also have forks if you have trouble with the slippery metal chopsticks.
5. Korean foods that western visitors especially enjoy are: *Bulgogi* (a beef dish cooked over a grill at the table); *Kalbi* (beef or pork ribs cooked over a grill at the table); *Mandukuk* (beef dumpling soup); *Mandu* (fried or steamed dumplings); *Kimbap* (rice and vegetables rolled up in seaweed and sliced); *Bibimpap* (cooked rice mixed with meat, seasoned vegetables, and egg); *Naengmyon* (cold noodles with vegetables and meat); and *Hanjongshik* (full course Korean meal with meat or fish, kimchi, and a variety of side dishes). Many Korean dishes are very spicy. Eating plain rice will ease any discomfort.
6. Koreans enjoy drinking alcohol as a way to socialize and solidify friendships. Favorites are beer (Mek-Ju), wine (poh-doh-ju), whiskey and local distilled rice beverages such as *soju* and *makoli*. *Soju* is very potent. It is impolite to pour your own drinks. Pour for your friends and hold the glass with both hands when someone is pouring for you.
7. Western-style restaurants are found in all of the major hotels, although hotel restaurants are, as a general rule, expensive compared to other restaurants. Seoul is full of western fast

food, pizza and other familiar franchises including Australian Outback and Friday's if you are craving a taste from home.

Tipping

Tipping is not a traditional Korean custom. A 10% service charge is added to the bill at all tourist hotels on rooms, meals, and other services and is added to the bill, as well as certain restaurants, so tipping is not expected. It is not necessary to tip a taxi driver unless he assists with luggage or provides an extra service.

Tax

Value Added Tax (VAT) is levied on most goods at a standard rate of 10% and is included in the selling price. The VAT is also levied on services.

Taxis

Taxis are plentiful and inexpensive in Seoul (see note below). The fare is metered and based on the distance traveled and the time required. Fares for regular taxis are W2,400 for the first 2 km and W120 for each additional 168 m. If the taxi is going less than 15 km per hour due to traffic congestion, an additional charge of W120 per each 41 seconds is added to the basic fare. The fare increases 20% from midnight through 4:00 a.m. Receipts are given.

Deluxe taxis are recommended for foreign visitors as they are more reliable and offer a higher standard of service. They are black with a yellow sign on the top and the words 'Deluxe Taxi' written on the side. Fares are W4,500 for the first 3 km and W200 for each additional 205 meters or 50 seconds if the speed drops below 15 km per hour. Car phones are available and receipts are given. There is no late-night surcharge.

USEFUL CULTURAL INFORMATION

(Provided by the Korea National Tourism Organization)

Korean people are generally understanding and will usually judge you by your intentions rather than inadvertent breaches of etiquette. Here, however, are some general guidelines that will stand you in good stead if observed during your stay in Korea:

1. In Korea, the traditional Confucian social structure, although changing, is still prevalent. Age seniority is all important, and younger people are expected to follow the wishes of their elders without question. Therefore, it is often necessary to ask someone his or her age and marital status to find out his or her position relative to you. These questions are not meant personally, and you do not have to answer.
2. Greeting and saying thank you are important to Koreans. Words of greeting and thanks are always said with a bow of the head. (See greetings below)

3. Koreans do not appreciate an overly outgoing style, and they generally limit direct physical contact to a courteous handshake. However, as one gets to know Koreans better, a greater familiarity becomes possible. In fact, foreigners are often quite surprised to see men, especially young men, walking down the street with their arms around each other's shoulders, or women walking hand in hand. Touching close friends while talking to them is perfectly acceptable in Korea. Public displays of affection between the sexes, such as hugging and kissing, tend to be regarded as unseemly.
4. There are few public restrooms in Korea. It is perfectly acceptable to use the restrooms in office buildings, hotels and restaurants. Many restrooms are coed in restaurants and bars.
5. Koreans traditionally sit, eat, and sleep on the floor, and so shoes are always removed when entering a Korean home and many restaurants. Bare feet can be offensive to old people, so it is best to wear socks or stockings when going out.
6. There is no such thing as 'going Dutch' among Koreans; you should be prepared to be either host or guest. Separate checks are also a notion not well understood.
7. The Korean surname precedes the given names and it is the surname that you use with a person's title, position, trade, profession, or scholastic rank when addressing a Korean. Fortunately, Koreans exchange business cards upon meeting, which will help you keep the various Kims, Lees, Paks, and Ohs separate in your mind.

USEFUL KOREAN

The Korean language is believed to be a member of the Ural-Altaic family, related to Hungarian, Finnish, Turkish, and Japanese. Although linguistically distinct, Korean has absorbed an extensive vocabulary from Chinese, while its grammar parallels Japanese. Korea's unique phonetic alphabet (*Hangul*) was developed in the 15th century. *Hangul* is the standard written language, but Chinese characters are still used to write names and to convey precise and concise meaning in books and periodicals.

Greetings and Common Courtesy

Hello!	Yes.	No.
<i>Annyeonghaseo!</i>	<i>Ye.</i>	<i>Aniyo.</i>

How do you do?	Thank you.
<i>Choum peopgessoyo</i>	<i>Kamsahamnida.</i>

Good Morning (afternoon, evening).	You are welcome.
<i>Annyonghaseyo.</i>	<i>Chonmaneyo.</i>

I'm glad to meet you.	I am sorry.
<i>Mannaso pangawoyo.</i>	<i>Mianhamnida.</i>

Good-bye.
Annyonghi gaseyo.

Please help me.
Towajuseyo.

Directions

Will you show me the way to _____?
_____ *kanun kirul karucho chuseyo.*

Where is _____?
_____ *odi issumnikka?*

Where can I get a taxi?
Taekssirul odiso talsu issulkkayo?

Please go to _____.
_____ *ro kajuseyo.*

How long does it take to get there?
Kogik kaji shigani olmana kollimnikka?

What is this place called? Please stop here.
Yoginun odimnikka? Sewochuseyo.

How far is it to ___? Does this bus go to ___?
___ *olmana momnikka? Yi bosga ___ kamnikka?*

Places

Airport
Konghang

Police station
Pachulso

Department store
Paekwajom

Market
Shijang

Bank
Unhaeng

Post office
Ucheguk

Shopping

How much is it?
Olmajejo?

What's this?
Igosun muoshimnikka?

I am just looking around.
Kugyong chom hagessoyo.

That's too expensive.
Nomu pissayo.

Please give it to me.
Chuseyo.

Dining

Please bring me the menu.
Menyu chom chuseyo.

The bill, please.
Kesanso chuseyo.

What is this called in Korean?
Igosun hangukmallo muoshimnikka?

I will have Naengmyon.
Naengmyonul mokessoyo.

This is delicious.
Aju mashisumnida.

TIME DIFFERENCES/CONVERSION CHART

Seoul

02:00 a.m. November 29
03:00 a.m.
04:00 a.m.
05:00 a.m.
06:00 p.m.
07:00 a.m.
08:00 a.m.
09:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
Noon
01:00 p.m.
02:00 p.m.
03:00 p.m.
04:00 p.m.
05:00 p.m.
06:00 p.m.
07:00 p.m.
08:00 p.m.
09:00 p.m.
10:00 p.m.
11:00 p.m.
Midnight November 30
01:00 a.m.
02:00 a.m.
03:00 a.m.
04:00 a.m.
05:00 a.m.
06:00 a.m.
07:00 a.m.
08:00 a.m.

Washington

12:00 p.m. November 28
01:00 p.m.
02:00 p.m.
03:00 a.m.
04:00 p.m.
05:00 p.m.
06:00 p.m.
07:00 p.m.
08:00 p.m.
09:00 p.m.
10:00 p.m.
11:00 p.m.
Midnight November 29
01:00 a.m.
02:00 a.m.
03:00 a.m.
04:00 a.m.
05:00 a.m.
06:00 a.m.
07:00 a.m.
08:00 a.m.
09:00 a.m.
10:00 a.m.
11:00 a.m.
Noon
01:00 p.m.
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04:00 p.m.
05:00 p.m.
06:00 p.m.