



The 17th Canada-Korea Forum

October 22-23, 2020 (Canada) & October 23, 2020 (Korea)

KOREA CANADA RELATIONS IN A RAPIDLY CHANGING AND COVID-19 WORLD: THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

Opportunities for a Stronger Strategic and Bilateral Partnership

ANNOTATED AGENDA

Korea and Canada face a world that is changing fundamentally. The return of geopolitics, heightened China-US competition and tension, and a weakened post-war system of international governance are joined by technological revolutions led by breakthroughs in AI, hyper competition among advanced economies and companies, and now -- in 2020 and beyond -- by the major economic and health impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Five years after the creation of the Canada Korea Strategic Partnership and the coming into force of the Korea Canada Free Trade Agreement, this shortened Forum will focus specifically on where we should be going over the next 5 years given conditions and trends. What are the strongest areas of potential development in bilateral relations? Are we taking full advantage of the opportunities? Where can we work together strategically on the systemic challenges noted above, as well as on key issues such as regional security, climate change, protectionism, and now recovery from COVID-19 both in health and economic spheres?

Finally, do we have the right set of inter-governmental and non-governmental instruments in place to inspire and drive progress?

N.B. All proceedings of the Forum take place under the **Chatham House Rule** to encourage open and frank discussion. In this spirit, the sessions shall not be recorded by participants. The views expressed during the Forum's proceedings shall not be quoted or assigned even in more general form to a particular speaker or participant.



Session One

Ottawa, October 22, 7:30 pm/Seoul, October 23, 8:30 am.

Opening Remarks and Welcome: (30 minutes)

Co-Chairs Welcome

- Canadian Co-Chair: Leonard J. Edwards, former Ambassador to the Republic of Korea and former Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Canada
- Korean Co-Chair: Sung-Joon Yim, former Ambassador to Canada; former President of the Korea Foundation

Opening Remarks from Government (10 minutes each)

- Jong Kun Choi, 1st Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs, ROK.
- Marta Morgan, Deputy Minister (Vice-Minister) of Foreign Affairs, Canada

Thank You Remarks

- Dr. Myung Ja Kim, President of The Seoul Forum for International Affairs
- Dr. Dana Brown, Dean, Sprott School of Business, Carleton University

Panel 1: Future Conditions and Prospects in Economic and Business Relations (2 hours)

The completion of the CKFTA in 2014 was the culmination of a long negotiation that has opened the way to new growth in trade and business activity, joined in 2016 by a Science, Technology and Innovation Agreement. Future prospects should be bright. However, the US-China “trade war” and contest for technological supremacy, and a weakened WTO and rules-based global system have introduced major disruptive factors with which Korea and Canada must now contend in pursuing their economic objectives. The concern in both our countries over the impact of climate change, and now the serious economic impacts of the COVID 19 pandemic attest to further uncertainties.

The Forum might therefore look at how each country’s policy thinkers and business communities assess these developments and what adjustments to national economic strategies and business partnerships might be necessary.



Some questions to consider:

- What in particular are the downside impacts of current global challenges to the future Canada/Korea economic and trade relations?
- On the other hand, where can we find opportunities within these de-coupling and other trends to create closer business or policy tie-ups bilaterally and in third markets, such as the USA, China and Asia more generally?
- How do we assess the economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and the best means of economic recovery?
- Is there a case for re-establishing a regular meeting of business community leaders so as to engage business more strategically and directly in advising governments and generating stronger interest generally in this key economic relationship?
- How could our business schools and students be more engaged in sustaining this partnership?
- Does potential exist for even closer policy coordination in fighting protectionism and promoting the open, rules-based trading system?

Canadian Team

Moderator:

- Mme Marie-Lucie Morin, Vice-Chair of the Board, Asia-Pacific Foundation of Canada

Panelists:

- Mr. Goldy Hyder, President and CEO of the Business Council of Canada
- The Hon. Jean Charest, Partner, McCarthy Tétrault
- The Hon. Pierre Pettigrew, Executive Adviser, International at Deloitte Canada

Korean Team

Moderator:

- Dr. Ku-Hyun Jung, Chief Research Officer of J Campus; Former President of The Seoul Forum for International Affairs; Professor Emeritus of Yonsei University

Panelists:

- Mr. Tae-shin Kwon, Vice Chairman and CEO of the Federation of Korean Industries; President of the Korea Economic Research Institute
- Prof. Byung-il Choi, President of the Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies(KFAS); Former President of the Korea Economic Research Institute
- Prof. Yongjune Kim, Dean Graduate School of China & Dean, Business School, Sungkyunkwan University
- Taeho Bark, Vice President, The Seoul Forum for International Affairs; former Minister for Trade



SESSION 2

Ottawa, October 23, 07:00 am; Seoul, October 23, 8:00 pm

Special Address: (16 minutes)

Dr. Hong-Koo Lee, Former Prime Minister of Korea; Chairman of The Seoul Forum for International Affairs

Thank You: The Honourable Yonah Martin, P.C., Senate of Canada

Panel 2: Future Conditions and Prospects in Security and Political Relations (2 hours)

Building on over a century of economic, political-military and people-to-people ties, the Canada Korea relationship has moved from one largely dominated by bilateral elements to one of both bilateral and international cooperation. In 2014 our governments recognized the extent of these components by designating our relationship as a “Strategic Partnership”. Given the worrisome global trends of the past few years, the value of that “Partnership” has never been more important.

As democracies, developed market economies and G20 participants we have a common interest in fending off recent threats to the post-WWII rules-based order and institutions. We share a commitment to an international values system that promotes peaceful modes of inter-state conduct and respect for human rights.

In addition, the rise of China to challenge American supremacy has created a very uncertain geopolitical framework. Both Korea and Canada have long-standing and close security and economic relationships with the United States. Sitting next door to China, Korea is placed in a particularly challenging position. Even at its greater distance from Beijing, Canada’s core national interests are also being directly affected.

The situation on the Korean Peninsula remains highly uncertain, with the North Korean leader returning to his more aggressive stance following the failure of the Trump/Kim dialogue since 2017.



Some questions to consider:

- What is the South Korean assessment of the situation on the Korean Peninsula, and what can Canada and Korea's friends do in this circumstance? Where does China sit?
- How do we assess Chinese foreign and security policy trends under Xi Jinping's apparent plan to extend and strengthen his leadership position?
- What are our foreign and security policy options for dealing with growing aggressiveness in the exercise of Chinese power? Would the use of collective security and a globalized "alliance system" be a strategic option for democracies in this respect?
- How do we respond to the uncertainties that we both face in our vital relationships with the United States, especially given the likely continuation, even under a post-Trump Administration, of a more self-interested America preoccupied with China's challenge?
- How can we further deploy our Strategic Partnership in working together to preserve and reform the international liberal order, and deal with the most pressing global issues?
- Do we see areas where further intergovernmental agreements and instruments would help us further strengthen our long term partnership?
- Where could we improve non-governmental engagements, such as this Forum's work, inter-parliamentary exchanges, youth and gender topics, the promotion of human rights, dealing with climate change, etc.?

Korean Team

Moderator:

- Ambassador In-kook Park, President, Chey Institute for Advanced Studies (CIAS); Former Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the UN

Panelists:

- Prof. Sung-Han Kim, Dean and Professor of Graduate School of International Studies, Korea University; Former Vice-Minister of Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Prof. Jae Ho Chung, Professor of Political Science and International Relations, Director of the Program on US-China Relations, Seoul National University
- Prof. Shin-wha Lee, Professor of International Relations and Director of Peace & Democracy Institute, Korea University.



Canadian Team

Moderator:

- Margaret Biggs, Chair, Board of Governors, International Development Research Centre

Panelists:

- The Honourable V. Peter Harder, P.C., Senate of Canada
- Dr. Fen Hampson, FRSC, Chancellor's Professor, Carleton University
- Dr. Kyung-Ae Park, Director, Canada-DPRK Knowledge Partnership Program (KPP), University of British Columbia

Closing Remarks and Next Steps: (14 minutes)

Korean Co-Chair: Sung-Joon Yim

Canadian Co-Chair: Leonard J. Edwards