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January - April 2023

Issue No.

45

A newsletter published as a membership service of Asia Society Korea

Asia Society Korea

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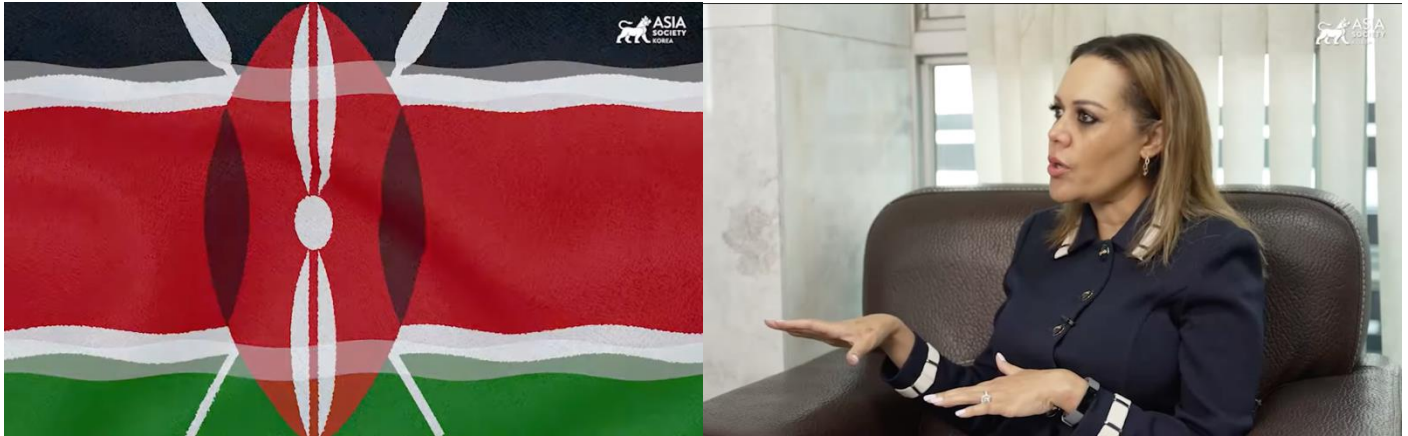
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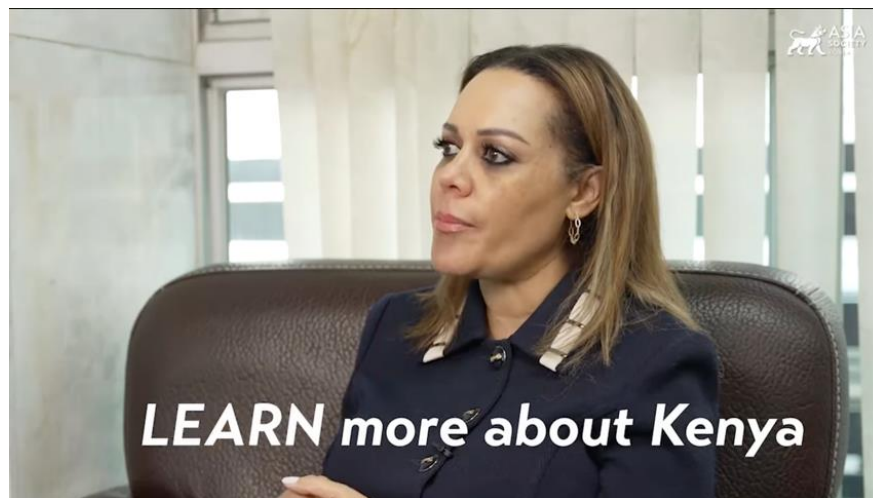
Ambassador Series

Interview with H.E. Mwende Mwinzi Ambassador of Kenya to the Republic of Korea



Interview with H.E. Mwende Mwinzi, Ambassador of Kenya to the Republic of

January 24, 2023 — The Kenyan ambassador to South Korea, **H.E. Mwende Mwinzi**, has devoted her life's work to strengthening Kenya's reputation overseas in an effort to ensure that the quality of life for the average Kenyan improves. Through Twana Twitu, an organization she founded in 2001, Her Excellency has also been supporting Kitui County's vulnerable children who have been left orphaned by HIV/AIDS.



ABOUT H.E. MWENDE MWINZI, AMBASSADOR OF KENYA TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



A United States citizen by birth, **Mwende Mwinzi** was born in Milwaukee, Wisconsin in 1971 to Mary Christine Geil, an American, and Maluki Mwinzi- a Kenyan national. Her father, a renowned teacher and politician in Kitui, had flown to the US to pursue his undergraduate and then post-graduate degrees where he met her mother. Once his dalliance in the US was up, he left Wisconsin for Kitui County Kenya where Mwinzi was raised and educated. Like her father, she went to the US for her higher education and married Emeka Edozie, a Nigerian, with whom she has two sons: Uzoemezie “Mezz” and Nnameka Jaden. The couple lived in the US where Mwinzi worked as an Assistant Vice President for a Wall Street investment bank and served in the marketing department as a writer focusing on

business development.

The humanitarian has, over the years, dedicated her life and work to improving Kenya’s image abroad in a bid to ensure that the quality of life for the average Kenyan improves. In 2005, however, she resigned from her cooperate job so that she could give more to her people back home and supported vulnerable children orphaned by HIV/Aids in Kitui County through her organization Twana Twitu, which she founded in 2001. Referred to as “Kelitu Kaitu” – meaning our girl- by locals, Mwinzi has stayed true to this with the work she has done for her people.

Ambassador's Travel Guide



Ambassador's Travel Guide

January 25, 2023 — The skyway is now reopening as we encounter fewer COVID constraints. After being restrained from traveling for the past 2.5 years, the cold and deserted airports are finally bustling with eager travelers. Traveling is now the clearest indicator that individuals are finally overcoming their concerns and pandemic-related limitations. What would be a fantastic location to visit now that borders have reopened? From personally selected locations to regional foods, our ambassadors have shared with us a variety of suggestions for visiting their countries.

The top diplomats include **H.E. Chring Botum Rangsay** of Cambodia, **H.E. Khaled Abdelrahman Hassan Abdelrahman** of Egypt, **H.E. Sten Schwede** of Estonia, **H.E. Maria Theresa B. Dizon-De Vega** of the Philippines, **H.E. Khalid Ebrahim Al-Hamar** of Qatar, and **H.E. Abdulla Saif Al Nuaimi** of United Arab Emirates.



Interview with H.E. Ekaterini Loupas Ambassador of Greece to the Republic of Korea



Interview with H.E. Ekaterini Loupas, Ambassador of Greece to the Republic of

January 24, 2023 — A year into her stay in South Korea, **H.E. Ekaterini Loupas**, Ambassador of Greece to the Republic of Korea, has made great strides in building meaningful cultural and economic exchanges between the two nations. Not only has she partaken in putting on exquisite exhibitions showcasing the history of Greek apparel, but she has also worked on directing attention to where ROK-Greece relations are already going strong – the shipping industry. Her Excellency also shared personal reflections on living out the diplomatic mission as a female and a mother.



ABOUT H.E. EKATERINI LOUPAS, AMBASSADOR OF GREECE TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Ambassador **Ekaterini Loupas** joined the Greek Diplomatic Service in 1984. Before assuming her duties in Korea, she was the Head of the Directorate of International Environmental Conferences, Climate Change, and Global Policies at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



Since 2019, she was the Coordinator of the Organization Committee of the International Conference on the Impacts of Climate Change on Cultural Heritage. She previously served as Ambassador to Norway and Iceland, and as Chief of Protocol and Director for Cultural Affairs in the Foreign Ministry. Before that, she served in several positions in the Embassies of Greece in Brussels, Prague, and Pretoria and the Consulates General in New York and Geneva.

Earlier in her career, she dealt with Turkey, Cyprus, and USA bilateral relations and was the Head of the Greek Delegations to CSCE and UNCTAD during Greek Presidencies of the European Union. During her career, she has been a member of the Governing Bodies of the European Cultural Centre in Delphi, the Hellenic Culture Centre, and the Hellenic Institute of Byzantine and post-Byzantine Studies in Venice, and an honorary member of several Associations and Committees in New York, Geneva, and Oslo. She has an outstanding and longstanding track record in organizing successful international events in the political, social, economic, and cultural fields.

Interview with H.E. Michelle Winthrop Ambassador of Ireland to the Republic of Korea



Interview with H.E. Michelle Winthrop, Ambassador of Ireland to the Republic of

February 27, 2023 — From must-read Irish literature to the next big pandemic of our time, our interview with **H.E. Michelle Winthrop**, Ambassador of Ireland to the Republic of Korea, was packed with compelling topics relevant to the times. Her Excellency also dove into her realm of passion, climate change; how it manifests in Korea, areas for improvement, and how she is advocating progress with her current work.

The conversation wove through the ambassador's other fields of interest, touching upon food taxonomy, gender equality in the workplace, golf, and her favorite travel spots in Ireland. Watch the full interview to catch her input on where the grass is truly greener – Ireland!



ABOUT H.E. MICHELLE WINTHROP, AMBASSADOR OF IRELAND TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



Ambassador **Michelle Winthrop** took up her role as Ireland's Ambassador in Korea in August 2022, with the aim of continuing to strengthen the economic, political, and cultural relations between Ireland and Korea and to support greater trade and investment links.

Before being posted to Seoul, Ambassador Michelle Winthrop was the Policy Director in the Development Cooperation and Africa Division in the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. She was previously the Climate and Resilience Policy Lead. Prior to joining the Irish Government, Michelle was Director of Programmes for Farm Africa, a British NGO working with agriculture, forestry, and market development in Africa. Michelle worked for many years prior to that as a livelihoods and climate adviser within the UK's Department for International Development, in the UK. This involved postings in East Africa (on secondment to the World Bank), Indonesia, and Central America, as well as positions at HQ in the UK, including one working on gender and multilateral reform.

A Unique Collection of Insights from Female Ambassadors



March 9, 2023 — Asia Society Korea is taking March to commemorate and celebrate the contributions made by women over the course of history. We are honored to relay the words of wisdom shared by select members of our foreign diplomatic community in the latest edition of our Ambassador Series.

Collected insights cover tactics for the advancement of women in positions of power in business and politics, applying a top-down approach in examining gender equality, and pointers for today's young women in the workforce, both within and beyond the home. Check out the video above to watch today's leaders continue to pave the way for aspiring female leaders.

Featured ambassadors are **H.E. Maria Castillo-Fernandez** of the European Union, **H.E. Ekaterini Loupas** of Greece, **H.E. Michelle Winthrop** of Ireland, **H.E. Mwendu Mwinzi** of Kenya, and **H.E. Yasmin d. Amri Sued** of Rwanda.

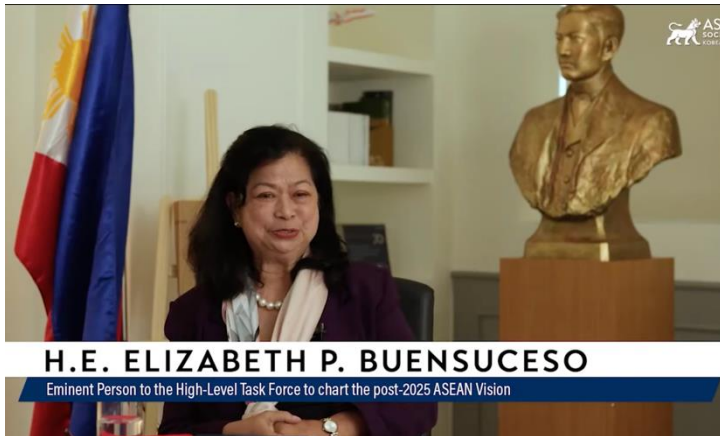
Outlooks on the advancement of
women in positions of power

Examining gender equality
#top-down-approach

Victories for women in the workplace

Balancing life

Interview with H.E. Elizabeth Buensuceso, Eminent Person to the High-Level Task Force on ASEAN Post-2025 Vision



Interview with H.E. Michelle Winthrop, Ambassador of Ireland to the Republic of

March 27, 2023 — As part of Asia Society Korea's ongoing celebration of women's month in March, we met with **H.E. Elizabeth Buensuceso** who enthusiastically recounted her experiences living as a female diplomat. She formerly held the positions of Permanent Representative and Ambassador to ASEAN for more than six years, as well as Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs. Her Excellency put her heart out serving the Philippine Foreign Service for more than 42 years, taking on significant duties as a diplomat in the Philippines and in the ASEAN. H.E. Elizabeth Buensuceso was eager to share her professional and personal experiences.

Join us as Her Excellency passionately imparts her knowledge as a female diplomat, her own viewpoint on working women, her observations on the contemporary youth, and the influence of Hallyu on the Filipino youth.



ABOUT H.E. ELIZABETH BUENSUCESO, EMINENT PERSON TO THE HIGH-LEVEL TASK FORCE ON ASEAN POST-2025 VISION



Ambassador **Elizabeth Buensuceso** is currently a Foreign Affairs Adviser (FAA) of the Department of Foreign Affairs, representing the Philippines as Eminent Person to the High Level Task Force to chart the post-2025 ASEAN Vision. She was until recently, the Undersecretary for Bilateral Relations and ASEAN Affairs and Permanent Representative /Ambassador to ASEAN for over six years. She has been with the Philippine Foreign Service for more than 42 years. She was formerly Ambassador to Norway, with concurrent accreditation to Denmark and Iceland. She was also Ambassador to Laos. Her other previous postings include Brussels, Beijing, Singapore, and Hongkong. In the Home office, she supervised Philippine-European relations as Assistant Secretary for European Affairs and had stints at the ASEAN, economic diplomacy, and policy (political) offices.

Her book, *ASEAN Centrality: An Autoethnographic Account* by a Philippine Diplomat, was published by the Singapore-based Yusuf Ishak ISEAS in December 2021.

Observing Ramadan in Korea



Photographs from the iftar banquet hosted by H.E. Abdulla Saif Alnuaimi, Ambassador of UAE to the Republic of Korea.

To those participating in Ramadan, and to those who would like to know more about Ramadan, ‘Ramadan Mubarak’! (‘Happy Ramadan’!)

Ramadan is the ninth month of the Muslim calendar and the holy month of fasting, one of Islam's Five Pillars. According to Islamic belief, Allah gave the Qur'an to the Prophet Muhammad during Ramadan. Serving as guidance for the people, it is one of the holiest months for Muslims. Ramadan is an occasion of meditation, prayer, and Quranic reading. It is also a time when Muslims are encouraged to donate to charity, to be courteous, and patient.



Fasting is more than simply *not eating*. Muslims can eat during this period, just not from dawn until sunset. As the sun rises, they are forbidden from eating or drinking anything, even water. They celebrate the breaking of the fast with close friends and family with a feast known as *iftar*, which non-Muslims can also attend. Ramadan is not merely about abstaining from hunger and thirst, however. It also requires people to refrain from food, drink, sexual activity, impure or unkind thoughts, and all forms of immoral behavior. This encourages Muslims to become conscious of their physical, spiritual, and psychological growth.

During Ramadan, the Muslim community in Korea visit the mosques closest to them for *iftar*. However, the biggest gathering occurs at Seoul Central Masjid, the largest mosque in the country. The Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs hosts an Iftar dinner every year to show solidarity and deepen the friendship between Korea and Muslim and Islamic countries.

Did you know? Have you ever felt uneasy about eating in front of Muslims while they are fasting? There is no need to be. If you are polite and can avoid arranging work lunches during this time, this is wonderful. Being flexible with your schedule around prayer time and avoiding misconceptions about fasting merely being a weight-loss practice is also a marvelous way to understand Muslim people and their traditions more respectfully.

Observing Passover in Korea

Special thanks to H.E. Akiva Tor, Ambassador of Israel to the Republic of Korea, for contributing to this article.



Passover, *Pesach* in Hebrew, is one of the most beloved and widely observed holidays of the Jewish people. Passover commemorates the exodus of the Jews from slavery in ancient Egypt. Also known as the Festival of Unleavened Bread, all leavened bread is forbidden throughout the seven festival days (eight days when celebrating outside of Israel). Bread, cakes and grain products cannot be eaten except for unleavened bread, known as *matzah*, which symbolizes the Hebrew people's flight from slavery, during which they did not have time to wait for the bread to "rise," the matzah depicts both the hardships and speed with which they departed Egypt.

On the opening night of Passover, family and friends gather for the *Seder* to tell the story of Moses's mission, the plagues on Egypt, Pharaoh's stubborn refusal to free the slaves and the escape to freedom. The exodus is commemorated by telling the story and by acting out expressions of freedom. The Seder

participants read the *Haggadah* (literally "the telling"), four cups of wine are drunk in a reclining position in the manner of free women and men. To keep the children interested, the afikoman, the last matzah eaten at the end of the Seder meal, is hidden and searched for kind of like Easter eggs.

The Passover story of Exodus from Egypt has served as an inspiration for oppressed people's everywhere, especially the African-American slaves in pre-Civil War United States. The holiday always occurs at the end of winter and is also called the Festival of Spring. Probably because of its deep emotional and ethical import, Passover is the most celebrated of Jewish holidays by religious and secular Jews alike. In Israel, over 90% of Israeli Jews attend a Passover Seder. In the US, about 70% celebrate, in both cases far more than fast on *Yom Kippur*.

The Jewish people arrived in Korea for the first time during the Korean War when Chaplain Chaim Potok and approximately four thousand Jewish soldiers came to this land. Since then, the Jewish community has continued to exist as a modest but significant part of Korean society. Over time, the annual Jewish holiday has become increasingly recognized by Korean society and efforts have been made to respect and support this important occasion.

In the midst of the Korean War in 1952, the US Armed forces organized a Passover Seder in Seoul in which some 600 Jewish military personnel participated. A copy of the specially printed Haggadah is in the collection of the Israel National Library, the only Haggadah known to have ever been printed in Korea. Due to the printer's unfamiliarity with Hebrew, some of the Hebrew text was printed upside down!

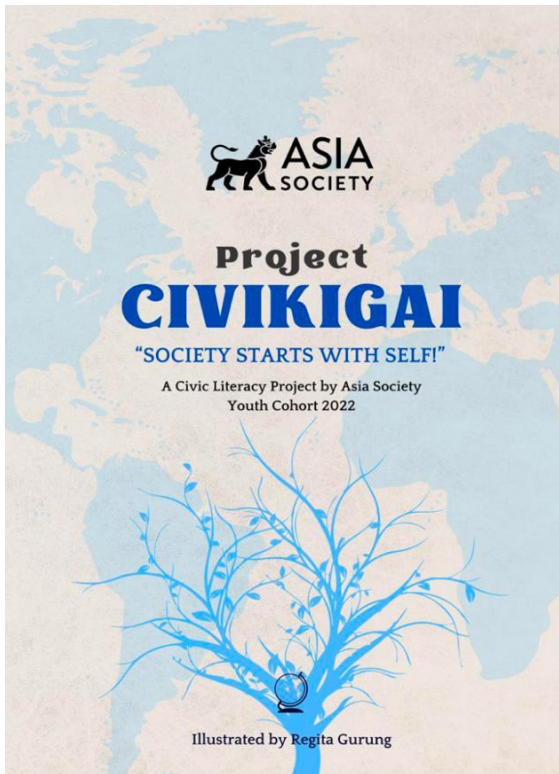
Founded in 2008, Chabad Korea is a Jewish outreach group that actively supports the Jewish community in Korea during Passover by providing meals and helping with Seder preparation. With strict dietary restrictions in-place during Passover, such organizations have been of considerable assistance to Jewish people living in Korea for many years.



Interesting Fact: Did you know that even pets can receive special food during Passover? Because of the strict restrictions on eating *chametz* (leavened grain), there are now a variety of Passover-friendly pet foods available. This means that people and their pets can both modify their diets during this important holiday.

Student Program

2022 Asia Society Korea Youth (ASK-Y)



March 29, 2023 — Asia Society Korea held its annual “Asia Society Korea Youth” final presentation on Wednesday, March 29, 2023. The applicants, representing various parts of the world, created an educational program for Asia Society Korea, called "CIVIKIGAI". The participants worked together to establish CIVIKIGAI as a program that can equip the following generation of young leaders to become agents of civic regrowth. Furthermore, the final project covered a range of subjects that were addressed throughout the 2022 ASK-Y sessions.

The six fellows each presented their perspective on the “CIVIKIGAI” educational program and explained their involvement in its development.

Eight distinguished judges were in attendance to evaluate the research:

- **H.E. Maria Theresa B. Dizon-De Vega**, Ambassador, Embassy of the Republic of the Philippines
- **H.E. Akiva J. Tor**, Ambassador, Embassy of Israel
- **Mason Richey**, Senior Contributor, Asia Society Korea

The online event saw all six participants perform exceptionally well, delivering informative research results and thought-provoking discussion points to the judges. Each presentation and research report were then assessed and graded in terms of its contents, planning, applicability, delivery, and sustainability.

Asia Society Korea has long fostered talented young minds, providing them with the space to voice their thoughts and share their concerns about the future of the world we inhabit. It brings us great pleasure to continue the Asia Society Korea Youth program with such dedicated participants, and it remains an honor to work alongside such esteemed judges.

We are proud to announce the winners of this year’s event. In a near-unanimous decision, the first prize was awarded to Ritu Tripura, second to Regita Gurung, and third to Kit Nicholson. Congratulations to all the fellows!

- 1st: **Ritu Tripura**, Asia University for Women, BS in Environmental Science
- 2nd: **Regita Gurung**, Asia University for Women, BA in Politics, Philosophy, and Economics
- 3rd: **Kit Nicholson**, The SDA Bocconi School of Management, MA in Arts Management & Administration

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Monthly Lecture Series

Deterrence Dilemmas on the Korean Peninsula



February 28, 2023 — Prompted by growing tension, Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Korea **H.E. Maria Castillo-Fernandez**, Senior Fellow at the ASAN Institute for Policy Studies **Dr. Go Myung-Hyun**, and Reuters Senior Correspondent **Josh Smith** address the increasingly intricate issues of extended deterrence on the Korean Peninsula and their impact on regional security and nonproliferation.

Embedded in the context of a nuclear North Korea and the US-ROK alliance, the topic also raises questions of credibility. What about it is making conservatives rally for South Korea to acquire its own nuclear deterrent, and will these measures be sufficient to strengthen the deterrent message to North Korea?

Moderator and Professor Mason Richey facilitated the discussion as our panelists pulled from their respective fields of expertise to comprehensively assess major indicators, areas of concern, and expected implications.



ABOUT THE MODERATOR



Mason Richey is a senior contributor at Asia Society Korea and an associate professor of international politics at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Seoul, South Korea). Dr. Richey has also held positions as a POSCO Visiting Research Fellow at the East-West Center (Honolulu, HI) and a DAAD Scholar at the University of Potsdam.

His research focuses on U.S. and European foreign and security policy as applied to the Asia-Pacific. Recent scholarly articles have appeared (inter alia) in *Pacific Review*, *Asian Security*, *Global Governance*, and *Foreign Policy Analysis*. Shorter analyses and opinion pieces have been published in *War on the Rocks*, *Le Monde*, the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, and *Forbes*, among other venues.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS



H.E. Maria Castillo Fernandez, European diplomat/official of Spanish nationality, is now Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Korea. Previously, she served as EU Ambassador in Malaysia from 2016-2020, as Head of Division for India, Nepal, Bhutan, and Bangladesh since September 2012 at the European External Action Service of the European Union, in charge of managing and coordinating the European Union's overall relations with these South Asian countries as well as with the South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC). From 2008 to September 2012, she was posted in Hong Kong, representing the EU as the Head of the Office of the European Union accredited to Hong Kong and Macao SARs. From September 2005-2008, she worked as Deputy Head of Mission at the EU Delegation in Seoul (Republic of Korea) in charge of EU political relations and economic cooperation activities with the Republic of Korea and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Prior to this, Ambassador Castillo was responsible, in Brussels, for the European Commission's overall relations with the Korean Peninsula, including both Republic of Korea and DPRK (2000-2005).



Dr. Go Myong-Hyun is a senior research fellow at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies. Previously, Dr. Go was a postdoctoral researcher at the University of California, Los Angeles. His research applies quantitative perspectives to traditional and non-traditional security issues, with a special focus on North Korea, sanctions enforcement, and security and strategic dimensions of technology. Dr. Go's latest publications include *Not Under Pressure: How Pressure Leaked of North Korea Sanctions* (2020) and *The Rise of Phantom Traders: Russian Oil Exports to North Korea* (2018). Dr. Go received a B.A. in Economics and M.A. in Statistics from Columbia University in the City of New York, and a Ph.D. in policy analysis from the Pardee RAND Graduate School in Santa Monica, California. He is a Munich Young Leader of Munich Security Conference 2015, and is currently a member of the Advisory Committee of the ROK Ministry of National Defense, Senior Adjunct Fellow at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS), and an Associate Fellow at the Royal United Services Institute (RUSI).



Josh Smith oversees political and general news coverage of North and South Korea, including Pyongyang's missile advancements, the unprecedented summits between Kim Jong Un and Donald Trump, and the fraught alliance between Seoul and Washington. In 2018 Josh reported on the ground in North Korea on Kim's new message of economic advancement and international engagement. Previously, he spent nearly five years based in Kabul, covering the war in Afghanistan as well as the fight against ISIS in Iraq.



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to promote Asia awareness to the
world BECOME A MEMBER NOW!**

If you want to become a member, please do not hesitate to contact us!

Webinars

International Cybersecurity Challenges: From Threats to Cooperation



March 30, 2022 — Asia Society Korea brought together three experts to discuss the increasingly critical topic of international cooperation for countering cybersecurity risks. Participants included **H.E. Michael Reiterer**, former Ambassador of the European Union to South Korea and distinguished professor at the Centre for Security, Diplomacy, and Strategy at Vrije Universiteit Brussel; **Cai Cuihong**, Professor of International Relations at Fudan University; and **Lee Sangho**, Professor of Politics and Diplomacy at Daejeon University. Asia Society Korea senior contributor **Mason Richey** moderated the conversation.

Beginning with a comprehensive look at the international cyber threat landscape to the possibility of international cooperation to mitigate those threats, the webinar highlighted the importance of building bridges between the technical and political spheres in an international context now more than ever. The webinar also served as an opportunity to discuss H.E. Michael Reiterer's new edited volume *Cybersecurity Policy in the EU and South Korea from Consultation to Act*.



ABOUT THE MODERATOR



Mason Richey is a senior contributing writer to Asia Society Korea and an associate professor of international politics at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Seoul, South Korea). Dr. Richey has also held positions as a POSCO Visiting Research Fellow at the East-West Center (Honolulu, HI) and a DAAD Scholar at the University of Potsdam. His research focuses on U.S. and European foreign and security policy as applied to the Asia-Pacific. Recent scholarly articles have appeared (inter alia) in *Pacific Review*, *Asian Security*, *Global Governance*, and *Foreign Policy Analysis*. Shorter analyses and opinion pieces have been published in *War on the Rocks*, *Le Monde*, the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, and *Forbes*, among other venues.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS



H.E. Michael Reiterer is Former Ambassador of the European Union to the Republic of Korea, and most recently held the position of Principal Advisor at the Asia and Pacific Department at the European External Action Service (EEAS) in Brussels, where he oversaw strategic and security matters. He previously served as EU Ambassador to Switzerland and the Principality of Liechtenstein (2007–2011), Minister/Deputy Head of the EU Delegation to Japan (2002–2006), and ASEM Counselor (1998–2002). In addition to holding degrees in international relations from the Graduate Institute of International Studies in Geneva and the Johns Hopkins University/Bologna Center, Ambassador Reiterer studied law at the University of Innsbruck (Dr. Juris). In 2005, he was appointed adjunct professor (Dozent) for international politics at the University of Innsbruck. Time permitting, he teaches at various universities and specializes in EU foreign policy, EU-Asia relations, and interregionalism, areas in which he has published extensively.

He is currently serving as Distinguished Professor for International Security and Diplomacy at the Institute of European Studies in Vrije Universiteit Brussel (VUB), as Adjunct Professor of International Politics at the University of Innsbruck and as Adjunct professor at Libera Università Internazionale degli Studi Sociali "Guido Carli" (LUISS) in Rome. He also serves as Associate Fellow for the Global Fellowship Initiative at the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), Senior Research Associate at the Vienna Institute for International Economic Studies and Senior Advisor to the Center for Asia Pacific Strategy (CAPS), Washington D.C.



Sangho Lee is Professor of Politics and Diplomacy at Daejeon University, ROK. He previously served as an assistant administrator of the ROK Navy Development Committee and as chairman of the Korea Cyber Peace and Security Forum. He is the Vice President of The Korea Association of National Intelligence Studies. Lee was a researcher in the Department of Security Strategy Studies at the Sejong Institute, ROK; at the Korea Research Institute for Strategy (KRIS); and at the Centre for Defence Studies, King's College London, UK.

Previously, he also served as an adjunct professor at Gyeonggi University and Hannam University, ROK. Lee received his Ph.D. in War Studies from King's College London.



Cuihong Cai, Ph.D., is a professor of international relations with the Center for American Studies at Fudan University. She received her B.S. (1993) and M.S. (1996) in biophysics as well as her Ph.D. (2002) in international relations from Fudan University. She was a visiting scholar at the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2002, and at the University of California, Berkeley in 2007, as well as an invited fellow in the 2007 program on the U.S. National Security sponsored by the U.S. State Department.

Dr. Cai is the author of *Cyberpolitics in U.S.-China Relations* (English 2021, Chinese 2019), *Political Development in the Cyber Age* (2015), *U.S. National Information Security Strategy* (2009) and *Internet and International Politics* (2003), as well as several dozen articles and papers on cyberpolitics, cybersecurity strategy, cyberspace governance, and U.S.-China relations.

Spooky Action at a Distance: US Espionage in East Asia and Beyond



April 27, 2023 — Professor **Christian Kaunert** from Dublin City University, Dr. **Daniel Pinkston** from Troy University, and Senior Research Fellow **Bruce Klingner** from the Heritage Foundation Asian Studies Center, discuss the extensive subject of intelligence and espionage with Asia Society Korea, focusing on the recent intelligence leak in the United States and how US allies should view this issue. **Mason Richey**, Senior Contributor at Asia Society Korea, facilitated a thorough debate on the wealth of intelligence data that exists in the modern world and went on to further examine the "spooky" concept of how nations spy on one another, on allies, and on adversaries.

The panel actively discussed how intelligence may support nations in asserting, defending, upholding, and advancing their interests as well as the advantages and disadvantages of having in-depth knowledge of state intelligence.

ABOUT THE MODERATOR



Mason Richey is a senior contributing writer to Asia Society Korea and an associate professor of international politics at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (Seoul, South Korea). Dr. Richey has also held positions as a POSCO Visiting Research Fellow at the East-West Center (Honolulu, HI) and a DAAD Scholar at the University of Potsdam. His research focuses on U.S. and European foreign and security policy as applied to the Asia-Pacific. Recent scholarly articles have appeared (inter alia) in *Pacific Review*, *Asian Security*, *Global Governance*, and *Foreign Policy Analysis*. Shorter analyses and opinion pieces have been published in *War on the Rocks*, *Le Monde*, the *Sueddeutsche Zeitung*, and *Forbes*, among other venues.

ABOUT THE PANELISTS



Prof Dr **Christian Kaunert** is Professor of International Security at Dublin City University, Ireland. He is also Professor of Policing and Security, as well as Director of the International Centre for Policing and Security at the University of South Wales. In addition, he is Jean Monnet Chair, Director of the Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence and Director of the Jean Monnet Network on EU Counter-Terrorism (www.eucter.net). He has also previously been the Editor of the Journal of Contemporary European Research (JCER), on the Executive Committee member of the University Association for Contemporary European Studies (UACES), and an Expert for the European Parliament. He is also on the editorial board of the journal European Politics and Society (EPS) and the Journal of European Integration (JEI).



Bruce Klingner specializes in Korean and Japanese affairs as the Senior Research Fellow for Northeast Asia at The Heritage Foundation's Asian Studies Center. Klingner's analysis and writing about North Korea, South Korea and Japan, as well as related issues, are informed by his 20 years of service at the Central Intelligence Agency and the Defense Intelligence Agency. From 1996 to 2001, Klingner was CIA's Deputy Division Chief for Korea, responsible for the analysis of political, military, economic and leadership issues for the president of the United States and other senior U.S. policymakers. In 1993-1994, he was the chief of CIA's Korea branch, which analyzed military developments during a nuclear crisis with North Korea.



Dr. **Daniel A. Pinkston** is a lecturer in international relations with Troy University. Previously he was the Northeast Asia Deputy Project Director for the International Crisis Group in Seoul, and the director of the East Asia Nonproliferation Program at the James Martin Center for Nonproliferation.

Events

Asia Society Korea 15th Anniversary



February 15, 2023 — Asia Society Korea hosted a special dinner to kick off its 15th anniversary festivities. The cozy gathering took place in the heart of the city at Lotte Hotel Seoul, with members of the diplomatic community and the Asia Society family in attendance to join the celebrations.



Chairman and founder of Asia Society Korea, **Mr. Dong-Bin Shin**, addressed those in attendance with a comforting welcoming message. He was followed by Foreign Minister of the Republic of Korea, **H.E. Jin Park**, who addressed the center's role in furthering U.S.-ROK relations and promoting the values of diversity, equality, and understanding in the Asia-Pacific region. The evening, however, began with an important moment of silence held in tribute to those who lost their lives in the devastating earthquake in Türkiye and Syria. Both the Chairman and the Foreign Minister offered their condolences to those who have suffered as a result of the tragedy, and H.E. Jin Park detailed the operations Korea was conducting in sending help and assistance to the region.

The anniversary event also featured the ceremony for this year's Ambassador of the Year awards. These were presented to **H.E. Maria Theresa Dizon-De Vega**, Ambassador of the Philippines to the Republic of Korea, and **H.E. Vu Tung Nguyen**, Ambassador of Vietnam to the Republic of Korea, who were both in attendance. The awards were given in acknowledgement of the continued dedication and valuable commitment to the Korea Center both Ambassadors have made.

The awards were presented by **H.E. Joon Oh** and **Dr. Hong-Koo Lee**, board members of Asia Society Korea. The two Ambassadors shared the joyous moment by hosting a raffle event in which some stunning cultural pieces were introduced and then gifted to three lucky recipients.



Spirits were lifted even higher by North Korean-born pianist **Sang-Hyeok Hwang** and violinist **Hyung-Joon Won**'s marvelous renditions of classical pieces, culminating in the stirring sounds of "Unification Arirang." A further delight was the celebratory video covering the history of Asia Society, with a focus on key moments from the 15 years since the founding of Asia Society Korea. Familiar faces from several Asia Society centers around their world sent in their congratulatory remarks and took part in the event, albeit remotely.



The final toast was given by board member **Mark Tetto**. He took the time to reiterate Asia Society Korea's ongoing mission to be at the forefront of Asian dialogue and thought, while also paying tribute to the years of dedication put in by the honorable Board of Directors and the center's Executive Director **Yvonne Kim**.

Despite the heavy hearts many of us feel because of the ongoing global tragedies, we were warmed by each other's presence and the strong sense of fellowship created by Asia Society Korea and all those who attended.



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to promote Asia awareness to the
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The Glitch

#5 The Self-Isolated Youth: Living Alone in Korea

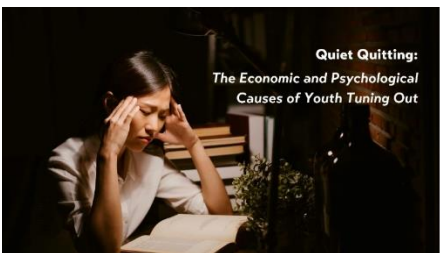


By David Tizzard, Asia Society Korea Senior Contributor and Michelle Ju Sihyun, Digital Content Development Officer

January 30, 2023 — Would you prefer to live alone forever? An increasing number of young people all around the world have declared that they would not marry or have children. As a result, the proportion of single-person households is increasing. To further comprehend this modern reality, Asia Society Korea Senior Contributor **David Tizzard** and Digital Content Development Officer **Michelle Sihyun Ju** examined current trends in single-person households and interviewed young Koreans who had varied perspectives on it. Single-person

households are a new cultural trend that is affecting countries economically and politically, and their long-term impact is uncertain.

#6 Quiet Quitting: The Economic and Psychological Causes of Youth Tuning Out



By David Tizzard, Asia Society Korea Senior Contributor and Michelle Ju Sihyun, Digital Content Development Officer

February 23, 2023 — In the sixth episode of The Glitch, Asia Society Korea Senior Contributor **David Tizzard** and Digital Content Development Officer **Michelle Sihyun Ju** explore a phrase that has been everywhere recently: Quiet Quitting.

While mainstream media has focused a lot on this term, they begin by asking what it means and whether young people around the world are actually using it in real life. They then investigate the economic and psychological causes and how it has in turn possibly led to the arrival of a whole new phenomenon: Quiet Hiring.

#7 Short-Form Korea: The Stolen Attention of Youth or a New World of Fun?



By David Tizzard, Asia Society Korea Senior Contributor and Michelle Ju Sihyun, Digital Content Development Officer

March 29, 2023 — In the seventh episode of The Glitch, Asia Society Korea Senior Contributor **David Tizzard** and Digital Content Development Officer **Michelle Sihyun Ju** investigate a term that has had journalists and medical professionals in Korea worried: short-form content.

Social media is constantly finding new ways to provide us with fun and entertainment, but what effect does this have on our attention span? How is short-form content affecting the lives of young people in Korea? And what can we do to win back our attention and focus more on real life? Find answers to these questions and more in the latest exploration of Korean youth culture.

#8 Stories of School Violence: Bullying, Culture, and the Way Forward



By David Tizzard, Asia Society Korea Senior Contributor and Michelle Ju Sihyun, Digital Content Development Officer

April 24, 2023 — In the eight episode of "The Glitch," Asia Society Korea Senior Contributor **David Tizzard** and Digital Content Development Officer **Michelle Sihyun Ju** tread carefully into the world of school violence and bullying. Prompted by the recent success of the Netflix drama *The Glory*, Tizzard and Ju speak with young people about the reality of this experience, and explore the importance of culture, the difference between psychological and physical violence, and future solutions.

The Glitch continues to provide you with data, analysis, and authentic Korean voices.

The New Lost Generation

By Nicholas Teeny, student in the International Studies department at Hanyang University



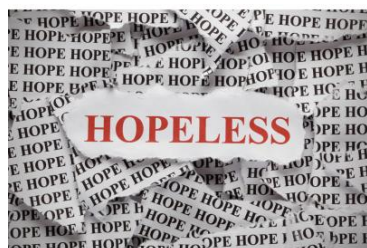
Although the worldwide obsession with Korean pop culture has certainly contributed to an improved global image of South Korea, it has also meant that an increasing number of eyes are on the negative aspects of the state that the government hopes to hide. Discussions about dramas and idols often lead to unfair contracts, the Korean view of mental health issues, academic pressure, and more. Such discussions also mean there is increasing international knowledge of Korean terms used to describe these issues. One of these such terms is the "n-po generation," translated as "generation giving up on (n number) of things." The number of things being given up is not static and has continued to grow since the term was first conceived as the "sam-po generation," or "giving up on three things generation." These three originals were courtship, marriage, and children. Since the emergence of the sam-po generation, "n" has grown to encompass ten things, the tenth being life itself. However, the n-po generation is not exclusively Korean. Instead, it is a distinctive Korean neologism describing global problems.

Take, for instance, the price of housing within the capital city of Seoul. High housing prices have led many Korean youths to give up on the idea of purchasing a house—and, by extension, that of marriage and raising a family. Yet such a problem is not unique to Korea. Indeed, data from the OECD itself shows that housing prices have been dramatically increasing in most countries. Such increases have created the so-called "boomerang generation" in the US and Europe, the youth who find themselves moving back to their family home after a failed period of independence. Marriage and childbirth are similar. While Korea has certainly set records for its headline-grabbing low marriage and fertility rates, data again shows the OECD as a whole has been facing decreases in both statistics since the 1970s. What about "hope" and "life," two of the more recent additions to the n-po generation? Although Korea has one of the highest suicide rates in the world, many other "modern" societies have also reported rises in rates of both mental illness and suicide, especially among young people. This is borne out by research released by the CDC, in which it was reported that the share of American high school students who admitted to "persistent feelings of sadness or hopelessness" had risen from 26% in 2009 to 44% in 2021. Yet another criterion of the n-po generation is giving up meaningful employment—an unfortunate side effect of having a very highly educated society all competing for the same jobs. However, even when considering Korea's unique educational context, the country seems to be relatively well off, being able to boast of having one of the lowest youth unemployment rates among G20 countries. Korea is also in an enviable position; both their semiconductor and battery industries are expected to keep growing in the future, and much of the country's underemployment issues stem from the social stigma attached to certain professions rather than from the true economic failure that can be seen in places like Russia, Iran, and Turkey.



When left untranslated, one would be forgiven for thinking of the "n-po generation" as uniquely Korean. However, the plights the n-po generation faces are not. It is important that we do not minimize the problems Korean youth are facing, but we also need to realize that they are problems youth the world over have grown up with. These are not issues unique to Korean youth; they are difficulties the modern globalized world is facing together. Although the words that Koreans use to express the generational struggle with these issues are unique, the generation itself facing these obstacles is not. It is global. And unless drastic action is taken, it is likely to keep growing. It is important to realize this. If we only conceptualize the idea of such a generation as one beyond our borders, we will fail to realize that it also exists within our own.

N-Po Generation: The Current System Does Not Work for the Young People



By Claudine Ukubereyimfura, recently graduated from the Yenching Academy of Peking University

The phrase "개천에서 용 나는 시대는 끝났다" (gae-cheon-e-seo yong-na-neun si-dae-neun kkeut-nass-da), which roughly translates as "the era of a dragon rising from a small stream has ended," captures the feeling of most young people in Korea. For them, the stories of "from rags to riches" are nothing but fairytales. The economic challenges that lead young Korean people to give up on many aspects of life, including buying a house, dating, getting married, and giving birth, are not unique to Korea. Young people around the world express a loss of hope for the future,

accompanied by mental health problems. Indeed, the phrases "tang ping" or "lying flat" used in China and "satori no sedai" or "resignation generation" used in Japan are examples of the shared hopelessness among young people across nations. Yet, looking at n-po generation choices as just a result of economic hardships would be too simplistic.

The n-po generation is contending with the status quo by giving up on marriage, childbirth, and homeownership. The current economic, public, and social institutions that used to work for previous generations do not work for young people, leaving them with no choice but to give up. Instead, young Koreans seek simple and attainable ways to find happiness, a desire expressed in some of the popular acronyms such as "wolabel," "YOLO," "sohwakhaeng," and "godsang." For example, while marriage used to be seen as a way to ensure stability, that is not the case anymore. Now, women worry about losing their freedoms and careers once they get married to raise their children.

The current education system is also failing young people. A large number of hagwons (private academies) in Gangnam district and the soaring monthly household spending on private lessons are indicators of the importance of education in Korea. Unfortunately, entering a prestigious university does not guarantee a stable future. Once you enter a SKY university (Seoul, Korea, Yonsei), you face strong competition in school, and many college students continue to go to hagwons. And the fierce competition follows you even after you join the job market. While many of my Korean classmates think working hard is just the norm and simply the Korean reality, it is still exhausting and unsustainable given that the returns of hard work have diminished significantly for the young generation.



Growing up in post-1994 Rwanda, I observed an era of growing opportunities for young people as the country was experiencing fast economic growth, a period comparable to Korea's "miracle of the Han River." South Korea has been an inspiration and a useful case study for developing countries like Rwanda. But now, the n-po generation is a manifestation of some of the major economic and social problems in Korean society, and how Korea overcomes these problems will offer practical lessons to other countries. To do that, Korea needs to re-evaluate and reform its institutions to represent the needs of the current and future generations, though it will not be an easy task.

[KoTEX Issue No.3, January]

Menstrual, Maternity, and Menopause Leave: The Work-Life Balance of Women in South Korea and Worldwide



By Suna Kim, Program Coordinator at Asia Society Korea

- **Menstrual Leave:** Menstrual leave is a form of time off from work that is granted to women who are experiencing painful or uncomfortable menstrual symptoms.
- **Maternity Leave:** Maternity leave is a leave of absence from work granted to a mother before and after the birth of her child.
- **Menopause Leave:** Menopause leave is paid time off from work for those experiencing psychological or physical symptoms associated with menopause.

Nearly every country in the world is accustomed to maternity leave, but what about the relatively new concept of menstrual and menopause leave? Menstrual leave is only permitted in a small number of nations, including Zambia, Korea, Japan, Taiwan, and Indonesia. Spain became the first country in Europe to approve paid menstruation leave in February of this year, and Ireland—more specifically, the Bank of Ireland—made history last year by implementing a paid menopause policy. Despite such advances, there is an ongoing debate over how to implement legislation that considers women's physiological needs.

In South Korea (hereafter Korea), where women have been allowed to take one day off per month for menstruation since 1953, women are under pressure not to take these days off, especially in male-dominated workplaces. There are uncertainties over what the law actually states—largely as a result of its complexity—and whether the allotted day is considered paid or unpaid. As a result, Korean women are also reluctant to have children because doing so would require extended absences and gaps in their careers. With one of the lowest fertility rates in the world and a significant number of modern women employed in a wide range of industries, women's work-life balance is quickly growing to be an urgent issue in Korea. Furthermore, it is critical to understand that women's leave policies in Korea present deep cultural challenges, particularly in light of changing perspectives on women's physiological conditions and motherhood.

Maternity leave has become undoubtedly evident as to why "leave" is necessary, but this is not the case for menstrual or menopause. In contrast to maternity leave, fewer nations consider other physiological parameters like menstruation or symptoms of menopause. Menstrual and menopausal leaves are still viewed with some skepticism due to women either feeling severe symptoms or, conversely, no symptoms at all. Despite several studies showing that women may feel excruciating pain or other serious symptoms, for some, it is

still debatable whether women should be excused from work on menstrual or menopausal leave. As a result, before a person can request leave, medical certification is occasionally requested. Moreover, while in some situations it might be treated as paid leave, like a typical sick day, in others it will be unpaid. Menstrual, maternity, and menopausal leaves for women are handled differently depending on the regulations and policies of each country.

While many nations now have paid maternity leave regulations in effect, menstruation and menopausal leave are still not universally acknowledged. A Washington Post opinion column suggested that menstrual leave is "stupid" because it is "paternalistic and silly", confirming that women's lives are biologically predetermined. Additionally, the ambiguity and tensions surrounding women's leave stem from the potential that all women experience this differently, and some women may not experience any symptoms at all. At the same time, however, there are many who experience the difficulties of chronic headaches, nausea, sweating, diarrhea, and trembling, which is not ideal when productivity is required. Dysmenorrhea, or painful periods, affects women of all ages and can be caused by a variety of reproductive disorders. While some women believe it is their right to take menstruation or menopause leave, others believe such benefits make them appear vulnerable and incapable of shouldering the responsibilities of their job.

CNN reports that Korean women used an average of 19.7% of their menstruation leaves in 2017, down from 23.6% in 2013. This data shows how menstrual leave is sometimes viewed as a taboo topic not to be discussed at work. Women in Korea, for instance, have openly discussed the challenges they face in requesting menstrual leave despite being legally entitled to do so. Menstrual pain is still not accepted as a valid reason for leave in workplaces where most employees are men. This results in some women being incredibly reluctant to use their rights—not because they don't want to, but out of concern for the additional burden their coworkers will have to shoulder while they are away.

When it comes to maternity leave, more than 120 countries have endorsed maternity policies thus far, yet each country has a different policy. In Estonia, expectant mothers are entitled to 20 weeks of fully compensated maternity leave, followed by an additional 62 weeks of "bonus" parental leave. Austria, for instance, provides a minimum of 16 weeks at 100% pay, followed by an optional additional 44 weeks at 73.1% pay as an option. Finally, Korea pays 84.1% on average for 12 weeks, but utilizing this leave often results in lower income. Depending on the mother's or father's income, these optional weeks may pay a different percentage.



In 2001, Korea's total fertility rate (TFR) dropped below 1.3. It has been declining ever since. In 2022, the TFR was reported as an alarming 0.78. Thus, Korea will be home to a super-aging population as the number of deaths now outpaces the number of births. According to experts, factors contributing to these demographic transitions in the region include stressful work environments, stagnant earnings, growing living expenses, shifting views on marriage and gender equality, and rising youth dissatisfaction. Another important element that affects the fertility rate is the perception that having children is a barrier to women's careers, making it more difficult for them to return to and continue working in their chosen fields after childbirth. Furthermore, there is a rising belief that living alone and not having children puts women in a far better position for the future than following the conventional route of marriage and motherhood.

Korea has experienced rapid and significant changes to its working environment as a result of modernity, COVID-19, and the problems created by the world's lowest fertility rates. As a result, there is a rising awareness of how to provide a more sustainable work-life balance for women, particularly in terms of certain physical factors that should be taken into consideration. A 2022 study claims that low fertility will exacerbate economic issues in many developed nations and that maternity and parental leave are important pro-natal policies. One of the main causes of low fertility is gender disparity in the distribution of home and professional activity. Therefore, leave policies may help to equalize this distribution and enhance fertility. Although there is currently limited evidence on the relationship between women's leave and fertility, there is a growing need to better understand how to strike the appropriate balance between career and family for women in modern society.

While Korea is attempting to increase fertility, there is still a long way to go. Because of the exponential fall in birth rates occurring not only in Korea but also in other East Asian countries like Japan and China, it is difficult to see how the economy and society will adjust to these changing demographics. With issues such as low fertility rates that are heavily influenced by marriage and childbirth ideologies as well as persistent gender disparities in the workforce, it may be more important now than ever for Korea to consider how to manage work-life balance for women, who are especially susceptible to physiological changes throughout their lifetime.

In conclusion, many nations today are paying close attention to menstruation, maternity, and menopausal leave legislation, particularly as gender-equal work conditions, fertility rates, and the need to accommodate human physiological concerns become more important in modern societies. Whether women and men in the workplace agree that women's leave is an acceptable policy varies by country. It goes without saying that in today's society, where women are actively employed in a variety of fields, leaders and policymakers must take into account how the working environment, physiological demands, and fertility rate may be affecting one another.

Consciousness and Media: Addressing Contemporary School Violence Globally



By Suna Kim, Program Coordinator at Asia Society Korea

The United Nations estimates that 246 million girls and boys worldwide are victims of school violence each year (UN, 2022). Many countries have addressed school violence issues and developed programs to tackle this problem. However, dealing with school violence on a global scale can be challenging since it is defined and dealt with differently in nations across the globe. Moreover, patterns of school violence shift based on socioeconomic and cultural changes. As a consequence, despite years of research on the subject, most countries are still struggling to tackle the issue of school violence.

Physical bullying is the most prevalent type of bullying in Asia; females are somewhat more likely than boys to report psychological bullying; and physical appearance is regarded as the primary motivation for bullying. In Sweden and other Nordic nations, research on school violence has taken place from a psychological perspective and placed a particular emphasis on bullying. The United States, on the other hand, has focused its attention on cyberbullying, particularly among vulnerable student groups. Furthermore, the tragic number of school shooting incidents has continued to escalate, aggravating the nation's school violence crisis.

Four types of school violence are addressed worldwide: cyberbullying, psychological violence, sexual assault, and physical violence. School violence today might involve one student harming another student or a group of students harming several students. Such incidents are not limited to students, however. Teachers can also be found engaging in bullying or harming one or more students. Violence in schools may be brought on by a variety of factors, including drugs and alcohol. With the growing presence of technology in society, we are now also witnessing the recording and distribution of humiliating videos of victims. Because school violence can take many forms, it can be challenging for schools to identify and manage it, let alone decide how to even start addressing it. More importantly, patterns and trends in school violence can rapidly shift as a result of popular culture or changes in student attitudes toward school violence. For instance, physical bullying can sometimes be more obvious and easier to detect than psychological bullying. Teasing or gossiping is often far more difficult to observe. Cyberbullying is another kind of school violence that has grown in frequency as more students have access to smartphones and the Internet, making it more difficult to govern and control such behavior. Additionally, not all children report incidents of school violence, and when there is an imbalance of power—for example when teachers and administrators abuse students—it is extremely difficult to support student victims in schools.

As a result, media outlets frequently utilize accounts concerning adolescents who have been victims of school violence to raise awareness of this issue. The Glory, a popular recent South Korean Netflix series, demonstrates how school violence is committed, how it is dealt with, and the heartbreaking results. The story of Moon Dong-eun, a high school student who was brutally and ruthlessly abused by her classmates, instructors, and mother, may point to a reality experienced by many students today. The series demonstrates an even more sinister aspect of how school violence is dealt with in contemporary culture, demonstrating how young students who commit acts of school violence use their family status and/or privilege to get away with their crimes. Media portrayals of school violence have been around for a while, but more recent stories like The Glory have made them more visible. The Glory can also be read as a metaphor for a variety of global issues, including teen suicide, drug abuse, and parental neglect.



As a result of the drastically changing dynamics of schools and student demographics, it is anticipated that school violence will continue to be a significant problem in all societies and will require greater scrutiny. Although these concerns have received a lot of attention from many different facets of society, including the media and academia, it appears that more has to be done to address the issue at the federal and local levels. Doing so will allow for the application of preventative efforts targeted at a specific population of students who reside in the region. Additionally, discourse on the subject will help raise awareness as media outlets continue to spotlight school violence and headlines progressively feature explicit depictions of the reality of school violence.

Providing young students with a sense of safety in the classroom and reducing any side effects of school violence, such as depression and suicide, are the primary objectives of all anti-school violence initiatives. In light of this, it is more important than ever to monitor whether media coverage of school violence has a positive or negative effect. Furthermore, it is also necessary to observe patterns in school violence influenced by changes in popular culture. Although there is no perfect strategy for preventing school violence, educating the public about the many types of school violence and raising awareness of the problem through the media can be effective strategies for providing targeted assistance to victims.

[KoTEX Issue No.5, April]

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