



## Opening Ceremony

The Asan Symposium:  
“Celebrating Korea-US Relations: 140 Years and Beyond”  
<http://asansymposium.com>

**Session:** Opening Ceremony

**Date/Time:** June 3, 2022/09:00-10:00

**Welcoming Remarks:** Chung Mong Joon, The Asan Institute for Policy Studies

**Congratulatory Remarks:**

Henry A. Kissinger, Kissinger Associates, Inc.

Park Jin, Foreign Minister, Republic of Korea

Christopher Del Corso, U.S. Embassy Seoul

**Keynote Address:** Wendy Sherman, U.S. Department of State

The 2022 Asan Symposium opened with Welcoming Remarks by the Asan Institute for Policy Studies founder and honorary chairman Dr. Chung Mong Joon. Dr. Chung began by highlighting the 140-year friendship between Korea and the United States and acknowledged the common values shared between the countries. Dr. Chung expressed his gratitude for America’s role in the Korean War. He stated that South Korea once again finds itself caught between great powers and expressed his hope that these powers can work together with the Republic of Korea to resolve the global issue of North Korea’s nuclear weapons program.

Dr. Henry Kissinger presented congratulatory remarks via video on the lasting strengths of the ROK-U.S. relationship. Dr. Kissinger highlighted the courage and dedication of the Korean people that he witnessed during the Korean War and the U.S. commitment to prevent the domination of South Korea by outside powers. He emphasized that the ROK-U.S. military alliance has expanded into other areas since the war, bolstered by strong economic, cultural and political ties between the countries, including cooperation on new and advanced technologies.

Republic of Korea Foreign Minister Park Jin opened his remarks by reaffirming the ROK-U.S. alliance, which has lasted nearly 70 years, and remarked that the recent summit meeting between President Yoon and President Biden highlights the strength of this relationship. He said that the U.S.-ROK alliance is not just about security, but includes the promotion of democratic values, freedom, and human rights. Foreign Minister Park identified three key areas in which the recent summit was significant. First, the ROK and U.S. leaders reaffirmed their commitment to the defense of the ROK in the face of heightened threats from the DPRK, and reiterated their commitment to the DPRK’s complete denuclearization. Second, the two countries recognized the need to enhance policy cooperation on economic security issues. Third, they expressed their resolve to elevate the ROK-U.S. alliance to bolster the rules based international order. Foreign Minister Park concluded his remarks by stating that there can be no pause in the efforts of the two countries to continue the evolution of the alliance to prepare for future threats.

*\* The views expressed herein are summaries and may not necessarily reflect the views of the speakers or their affiliated institutions*

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Christopher Del Corso, Chargé d’Affaires ad interim at U.S. Embassy Seoul, spoke next, stating that the enduring ROK-US relationship laid a strong and stable base for the Korean people and built close ties for the future. Mr. Del Corso argued that expanding the alliance has made it more successful by focusing on human rights, democracy, and good governance at home and abroad. He emphasized that at the recent ROK-U.S. summit, Presidents Yoon and Biden affirmed their commitment to a free and open Indo-Pacific region and agreed to cooperate through the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework to ensure the continuation of the rules based international order.

The Keynote Address was delivered by U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Wendy Sherman. She acknowledged the success of the recent ROK-U.S. summit as a testament to the deep friendship between the countries. She stated that both the U.S. and South Korea are dedicated to a free and open Indo-Pacific region and are committed to upholding the rules based international order, recognizing the ROK’s role in coordinating a response to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. She spoke to the ironclad commitment of the US to protect the ROK and other allies, stressing that the US harbors no hostile intent to the DPRK and expressing her concern about the spread of COVID-19 in the DPRK and its effects on the North Korean people.

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