



Press Release

March 13, 2014

For Immediate Release

Total of 1 Page

Contact Point:

Ms Kahye Oh

02-3701-7377

communications@asaninst.org

South Korean View on Current/Future Economics and Security

- From March 10-12, 2014 the Asan Institute for Policy Studies conducted a public opinion survey on the importance of various countries to both the current and future economy and security of Korea.
- A clear plurality (47.7%) cites China as the most important country for Korea's current economy compared to 34.2% for the United States. Those in their 20s (33.8%) and those in their 60s and older (35.6%) were least likely to cite China. A majority of those in their 20s (53.1%) cited the United States. Self-identified conservatives (54.5%) were more likely than progressives (47.6%) to cite China as more important to Korea's current economy. This is an unusual finding considering conservatives are traditionally more favorable toward the United States.
- For Korea's future economy, 57.9% cited China as more important compared to 21.3% for the United States. A majority of all age cohorts cited China, except for those 60 or older. While 38.6% of this cohort cited China, and 25.1% cited the United States, 31.4% did not know.
- A majority (56.6%) cited the United States as being more important for Korea's current security versus 15.5% that cited China. A majority of all age cohorts cited the United States as did a majority of self-identified conservatives (55.4%) and progressives (61.6%). Once again, this was an unusual finding considering conservatives are generally more favorable toward the United States. (9.2% of all respondents cited North Korea.)
- In terms of future security, a clear plurality (46.9%) cited the United States versus 26.0% for China. Those in their 20s were the only age cohort in which a majority cited the United States. Those in their 30s (36.6%) and 40s (34.6%) were the most likely to cite China. A slim majority of both progressives (51.1%) and conservatives (51.8%) cited the United States. (8.3% of all respondents cited North Korea.)
- The sample size of each survey was 1,000 people over the age of 19. The margin of error was $\pm 3.1\%$ at the 95% confidence level. The survey employed RDD for landline and mobile telephones.

About the Asan Institute for Policy Studies

The Asan Institute for Policy Studies is an independent think tank that provides innovative policy solutions and spearheads public discourse on the core issues in Korea, East Asia and the world. Our goal is to assist policymakers to make better informed and mutually beneficial policy decisions. The Asan Institute, established in 2008, has successfully hosted a series of international conferences including the Asan Plenum, the Asan China Forum and the Asan Nuclear Forum and published a number of books such as *China's Foreign Policy*, *Japan in Crisis*, *The Arab Spring*, *Escape From Camp 14* and *The Orphan Master's Son*.

The Asan Institute for Policy Studies ranked 6th in "Top 45 Think Tanks in China, India, Japan and the Republic of Korea" and was the only domestic think tank that was selected in the "Best Think Tank Conference" by Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program at the University of Pennsylvania.