



Embassy of The
Republic of Korea

Round-Table

Northeast India: Republic of Korea- India Special Strategic Partnership and the Way Forward

Asian Confluence Center, Shillong
April 18, 2023

Concept:

South Korea- India relations are at an all time high. The launch of South Korea's first Indo-Pacific vision document, namely the "Strategy for a Free, Peaceful and Prosperous Indo-Pacific," in December 2022 has raised expectations for enhanced momentum in South Korea's strategic ties with India . India and Korea are significant "like-minded" partners in the region. 2023 is a landmark year when South Korea and India celebrate 50 years of diplomatic ties and India hosts the G20 of which South Korea is a member. The synergy of the respective FOIP visions will provide momentum for such an event.

The trade and economic relations between India and Republic of Korea (Korea) have gathered momentum in recent years with annual bilateral trade reaching US\$23.7 billion in 2021 (as per data from Korea International Trade Association), highest ever bilateral trade figure till now. The bilateral Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement (CEPA), set in place since 2010, has spurred the trade and investments both ways. In 2021, Korea's investment to India recorded US\$218 million. Korea's total FDI to India from 1980 up to December 2021 stands at US\$7.27 billion. Investments from India to Korea are to the tune of approx. US\$3 billion led by Tata Daewoo, Ssangyong and Novelis.

The cultural connect in the youth of North east India with Korea is significant. The Buddhist connect is significant as is the youth connect. Manipur University is offering Diploma courses in Korean Language. The Growing people-to-people exchanges between India and Korea are being facilitated by a number of Korea based influential organizations. They have been growing in number. Their members represent a vast section of the Korean society including authors, artists, Buddhists, academics, businessmen and former government officials. Korean DVDs and CDs are flooded in the market of NER. It has become so popular that some are dubbed in the local language. Mizoram hosted the North East Round of the K-Pop Contest India, 2015, to strengthen the cultural ties between India and Korea. Mizoram's capital Aizawl reflects glimpses of South Korea in terms of clothing, hairstyles, cosmetics, food, and even furniture.

Asian Confluence in collaboration with the embassy of South Korea New Delhi proposes to host a round table seminar on the theme: “**Northeast India: Republic of Korea- India Special Strategic Partnership and the Way Forward**” at the Asian Confluence Center in Shillong on April 18, 2023. Representatives of state government, academia, and civil society will be invited to deliberate on the subject.

Agenda:

5:30 pm to 7: 30 pm, 18th April 2023

Felicitations: Asian Confluence

Welcome: Sabyasachi Dutta, ED Asian Confluence

Inaugural Address: Ambassador Chang Jae-bok, Ambassador of South Korea

Introduction to the Theme of the Conclave by Chair:

Chair:

Riva Ganguly Das, Former Secretary East, MEA, and member Asian Confluence Governing Council

Participants: (Not in any particular order)

- **Dr. CHO Choongjae**, Korea Institute of Public Policy
- **Ms. Shakuntala Gamlin**, former Chief Secretary, Arunachal Pradesh, Member Governing Council, Asian Confluence
- **Shri K. Moses Chalai**, Secretary of North Eastern Council (NEC)
- **Mr. Lee Hyo Hee**, Counsellor, Science & Tech, RoK Embassy, New Delhi
- **Mr. Jeon Chan Ho**, 2nd Secretary, RoK Embassy, New Delhi
- **Ms. Ahn Hye Sun**, Political Section, RoK Embassy, New Delhi
- **Dr. Kriezo Yhome**, Senior Fellow Asian Confluence
- **Dr. Binayak Dutta**, Senior Fellow Asian Confluence
- **Amb. Riewad Warjri**, Distinguished Fellow Asian Confluence
- **Amb. River Wahllang**, Distinguished Fellow Asian Confluence
- **Dr. Nalin Mehta**, Director, NEIGROMS
- **Dr. Shankar Kumar Jha**, Director, National Institute of Fashion Technology, Shillong
- **Munish Singh**, Zonal Director, Indian Council for Cultural Relations
- **Ms. Patricia Mukhim**, Journalist

- **Dr. Reuben Lyngdoh**, Synod College
- **Dr. Soumen Chakraborty**, St. Edmunds College
- **Dr. Samudragupta Kashyap**, Chief Information Commissioner, Assam
- **Dr. Sriparna Baruah**, Advisor (NEHHDC)
- **Dr. Prasenjit Biswas**, Associate Professor, NEHU
- **Winfred Warshong**, Deputy Director, Commerce and Industry Department, Government of Meghalaya.

Closing Remarks

7:30 pm:

Networking Reception.