

VIRTUAL VISITING DIPLOMAT PROGRAM

ORGANIZED BY THE INTERNATIONAL STUDIES CONSORTIUM OF GEORGIA (ISCOG)* -
CELEBRATING 30 YEARS OF SERVICE TO THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY

proudly presents

LET'S TALK ABOUT THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

WITH



HONORABLE KIM SUKWOO
DEPUTY CONSUL GENERAL
ATLANTA

Diplomat Kim received a B. A. in Economics from Seoul National University, Seoul, Korea, and an M. A. in International Relations from the University of Virginia. During the course of his more than two decades of diplomatic service, he has served in Seoul at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs as Director of East Asian Economic Affairs Division and in other capacities at the Environmental Cooperation and World Trade Organization Divisions. Before joining the Consulate General of Atlanta in February 2023, he served as Minister Counselor, Counsellor/Consul General and Consul, and First Secretary at the Embassies of South Korea in Hungary, People's Republic of China and Japan and at the permanent mission in Geneva, Switzerland.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2024 – 2:00 – 3:30 P. M. (EASTERN TIME)

Meeting ID: 993 7284 1207/Passcode: 375581

<https://columbiauniversity.zoom.us/j/99372841207?pwd=ZVBjL0FySmdUR2d5RlBGRVRUL2M3dz09>

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Please contact Consortium Executive Director raj.sashti@reinhardt.edu for any additional information.

***Consortium Universities and Colleges:** Reinhardt University, Abraham Baldwin Agricultural College, Albany State University, Alcorn State University (MS), Andrew College, Clayton State University, Columbus State University, Dalton State College, Edward Waters College (FL), Fort Valley State University, Georgia Highlands College, Gordon State College, Houston Community College System (TX), Jacksonville State University (AL), Middle Georgia State University, South Georgia State College, Tennessee State University, University of North Georgia.

The Virtual Visiting Diplomat Program

The main objective of the Virtual Visiting Diplomat Program is to have a direct impact on the talented and accomplished students at Consortium and other universities/colleges and increase their knowledge and understanding regarding a country or a region or a global topic. The focus of the 90-minute interactive program (one hour of presentation followed by 30 minutes of question and answer) will be international and cross-cultural in nature. Visiting Diplomats will serve as presenters and resource persons for the program and will introduce the region/country and its social, cultural and economic footprint in the United States in general and the Southeast in particular.

As a part of the program, the featured presenter will share his/her professional career trajectory to stimulate students to be creative and innovative and encourage them to aspire and reach higher levels of leadership as they pursue their own academic and professional goals. The purpose of the program is to provide students with unique experiences and opportunities not available in a textbook or in a classroom setting. The ultimate goal of the program is to assist young men and women to understand the local-global connections and acquire global competency skills to adapt and succeed in a dynamic and highly-interdependent global economy.

Why Should American Students Learn About South Korea?

An Asian Tiger, South Korea (population 51.8 million) has developed into one of Asia's most affluent countries since partition in 1948. The Communist North has slipped into totalitarianism and poverty.

In the 1960s, South Korea's per capita gross domestic product was comparable to the poorest countries in Asia and Africa. But in the four decades since then, the country has observed substantial growth. As of April 2023, South Korea had a total GDP of \$1.72 trillion and a per capita GDP of \$33,390 with a growth rate of 1.5% and a population of 51.6 million.

South Korea Country Profile – bbc.com -- <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-asia-pacific-15289563>

South Korea: Background and U.S. Relations

South Korea (officially the Republic of Korea, or ROK) is one of the United States' most important strategic and economic partners in Asia. The U.S.- ROK Mutual Defense Treaty, signed in 1953 at the armistice of the Korean War, commits the United States to helping South Korea defend itself, particularly from North Korea (officially the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, or DPRK). Approximately 28,500 U.S. troops are based in the ROK. The economic relationship is bolstered by the U.S.-South Korea Free Trade Agreement (KORUS FTA), entered into effect in 2012. In 2022, South Korea was the United States' seventh-largest trading partner (goods and services trade combined), and the United States was South Korea's second-largest trading partner, behind the People's Republic of China (PRC, or China). Over the past decade, congressional interest in U.S.-ROK relations often has focused on U.S.-ROK cooperation on North Korea issue, Indo-Pacific policies, the U.S.-ROK alliance, and U.S.-South Korea trade and investment flows.

Three words succinctly describe the tight bond between the U.S. and South Korea: **We go together**. Now, seven decades into the alliance, the three words carry added significance to denote a durable partnership between the two nations and a pledge to continue to stand together in the face of pressing challenges. Over the past seven decades, the U. S. – South Korea alliance has grown stronger and more capable, and the cooperation between the people, and commitment to one another has grown deeper across every aspect of our partnership," President Joe Biden said in April as he welcomed South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol to the White House for an official state visit marking the 70th anniversary of the alliance. Biden also noted that the tried-and-true partnership offers proof of a "future filled with unimaginable opportunity and endless possibility."

Georgia -Korea Country Connection:

The state of Georgia has had continuous representation in Korea since 1985 and Atlanta is home to the Korea Southeast U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Korean American Chamber of Commerce, and the Korean American Coalition.

Korean Companies in Georgia: Korean Americans in Georgia operate more than 2,000 businesses. And in the last 15 years alone, Korean companies like Hyundai-Kia Motors Group, SK Innovation and Hanwha Qcells had been among those who decided to make new investments in Georgia. Georgia Companies in Korea: 19 Georgia companies with operations in Korea, including but not limited to: American Megatrends, First Advantage Corporation, InComm, Novelis, Unicoi Systems, and UPS.

Academics: In the Fall semester of 2023, 1,910 Korean students were enrolled in USG schools. The University System of Georgia (USG) offers 46 study abroad programs to South Korea in programs such as language, engineering, computing,

business and education. Emory University provides faculty-led study abroad programs to Seoul as well as an exchange student program with Yonsei University. Georgia Tech offers a summer language intensive program as well as exchange programs. Reasons to Study Abroad in Korea: <https://www.bestcolleges.com/blog/why-study-abroad-korea/>

Arts and Culture: Atlanta Ballet Company member Sujin Han is from South Korea. Eric Nam, the internationally recognized K-pop phenomenon, was born and raised in Atlanta, where he was a member of the prestigious Atlanta Boy Choir. Atlanta Symphony Orchestra musicians Dae Hee Ahn (Second Violin) and Yang-Yoon Kim (Viola) are from South Korea. Every year the Korean American Association of Greater Atlanta hosts a three-day Korean Festival. The annual event attracts thousands. In October 2018, the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Atlanta and The Korean American Association of Greater Atlanta sponsored the “Korean American Friendship Concert” in Duluth, Georgia to celebrate 50 years of the Korean community in Atlanta.

Why Every Student Should Experience South Korean Culture:

<https://thelearningadventure.com/2022/01/why-every-student-should-experience-south-korea-culture/>

Southeast U. S. Korean Chamber of Commerce: <https://seuskcc.org/>