

Fifty Years of Korea-Japan Relations

On a final note, 2015 is a monumental year, marking the 50th anniversary of the re-establishment of Korea-Japan diplomatic relations. Since the two nations normalized relations in 1965, Korea and Japan have steadily strengthened their symbiotic relationship on various fronts, including the realms of politics, economics and international security. Korea-Japan exchange has also dramatically improved, with over 5 million people traveling between our two nations every year. Through 2015's celebration of 50 years of normalized Korea-Japan diplomacy, I hope we can continue expanding our countries' range of mutual understanding in a multitude of areas, and elevate friendly relations to a higher level, thus laying the groundwork for another prosperous 50 years.

I understand that President Park recently told a group of Japanese businesspersons on a courtesy visit that she supports the Korea-Japan summit. I firmly believe we need to continue working to allow future generations of both countries to be more effective in bringing our two nations together.

[Keynote Speech]

Regional Conflicts Not to Be Unavoidable

John Howard Former Prime Minister of Australia



May I start by saying that it is a great pleasure to share this platform with you, and I am particularly honored and pleased to share the platform with my good friend Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, former President of Indonesia. When Bambang was the president of Indonesia and I was the Prime Minister of Australia. We worked together very closely. We are two nations with vastly different ethnic, cultural and religious backgrounds, yet in so many areas we found common cause. And speaking for Australia I will not forget the wonderful cooperation that our country received from security forces of Indonesia in the fight against the terrorism and efforts made to capture those responsible for the murder of so many Australians and others in the Bali attack of October, 2002.

When I listened this morning to former Chancellor of Germany Gerhard Schröder speak of the reunification of his country in the wake of the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the fall of the Soviet Communism in the late 1980's and the early 1990's, I was reminded the two great transforming political events that have affected the geopolitics of the world.

Firstly it's been the collapse of Soviet communism and the end of Soviet empire, and also the end of any pretense that there was a genuine contest between the command economic model championed out of the philosophy of Marx and Engels and the practice over the decades with great increasing futility by the Soviet Union and her satellite countries largely, but not exclusively in Eastern Europe. That was the truly transforming event with multiple repercussions around the world.

The other great transforming event that has economic, social and political consequences has, of course, been the rise of the Asian region as the economic and development powerhouse of the world. There is little doubt that the economic future of the world does lie in this part of the globe.

My country Australia has been a companion along that journey as far back as 1957. A commerce agreement was signed between Australia and Japan just 12 years after the end of the Second World War. And an agreement that proved of an enormous significance in the 1960s as Australia discovered minerals and found ready customers in

Japan, which made an enormous contribution to the growth and development of Australian economy.

Although now in 2015 and for several years China has been Australia's biggest export destination, the beginning of the opening of Australia's trading relationship with Asia was established in our partnership with Japan.

Korea is a remarkable example of what happens with the benefits of globalization. When you look at the transformation of the economy of this remarkable country since 1950's—extraordinary growth and expansion of the middle class—one is reminded the huge benefits of globalization and of the spread of competitive capitalism.

Of course the major example of this economic transformation by depth of a size and growth has been China. The growth of China has been not only good for the people of china but it has been good for the world. We should unqualifiedly see the growth of China's economy and the growing contribution of China to the economics and politics of the world in a positive light.

In the last 20 years more people have been liberated from poverty, and the great bulk of people liberated from poverty has been in this part of the world, very particularly, china than at any other time recorded since the Industrial Revolution. So when one looks at the expansion of the Asian region has been one of the two great transforming events of world history since the end of World War II, we have to look at it in an overwhelmingly positive light.

I believe that for the foreseeable future, the most significant bilateral relationship for the whole region will be that relationship between China and the United States. The United States, in my view, will remain the most powerful economically-speaking and militarily-speaking nation in the world for the foreseeable future. That is a basic reality and it's also basic reality that the nation like China which has risen and grown their economy in such remarkable way will understandably seek to be more assertive in a political and military fashion. The history of the world in 19th century with the rise of Germany and the rise of the United States is the evidence of that.

If I make one point of any lasting significance in my remarks—that is to exalt people not to fall for this false notion that a conflict between China and the U.S. in this part of the world is inevitable. I don't believe it is, and even more importantly, I don't believe it is in the interest of any of us to accept the notion in some way that conflict is inevitable.

I think it's important for all of us to understand that continued presence of the United States in this part of the world is overwhelmingly desired by countries such as Japan, Korea, certainly by Australia and other nations of Southeast Asia. We must understand how important growing export market of China and understandable assertiveness of China in this part of the world is a natural consequence of China's economic growth.

My message here today as a former Minister of Australia is that last 30 years has been a remarkable chapter not only in the history of nations of Asia but in the history of the world and the extraordinary benefits that all of us had, derived from globalization and competitive capitalism. Let us maximize the benefit of that. Let understand the avoidance of conflict should be one of the goals that all of us seek in the years ahead.

May I finally thank the Governor of this beautiful province and more generally people of Korea for the wonderful hospitality that has been extended to all of us who are involved in this wonderful Jeju Forum for Peace and Prosperity. Thank you.

[Keynote Speech]

Middle Powers Better Suited for Mediator Role

Joe Clark Former Prime Minister of Canada



I am honoured to be back in the Republic of Korea and to participate in the Jeju Forum. I celebrate the forward-looking and inclusive approach which this Forum takes to improving the security and strength of Asia Pacific.

This is a troubled time, when much of the world is tempted to turn inward. Yet the Jeju spirit is to reach outward, and to encourage different countries, with different capacities, to face rising challenges—and to face them together—making the Asia-Pacific region as a whole much stronger than its considerable parts. I will pursue that theme of building our capacity to grow together.

The partnership between Canadians and Koreans reaches back into the 19th century, and has grown materially as times have changed. More than 25,000 Canadians served in the Korean War, and more than 500 died, re-enforcing a profound human bond between our peoples. More than 170,000 Koreans have chosen to live in Canada, and are among the most accomplished of our citizens, and a key part of a thriving cultural bridge across continents. Canada is proud to be an immigrant nation and, for decades, now, the largest proportion of our new citizens—more than 50% last year—comes from Asia-Pacific, with the result that Canada's population and perspective become more Asian every day.

A signal development in the Canada-Korea partnership is the new Free Trade Agreement between our countries which came into effect on January 1, this year. It is Canada's first free trade agreement across the Pacific—and it accompanies a new strategic partnership which is broader than trade, and will stimulate our growing cooperative on other common interests, including international development, modernized multilateral arrangements, and the innovation and technology to safely develop the Arctic.

A quarter century ago, multilateral and regional initiatives in Asia-Pacific were relatively rare, outside ASEAN. Today, trade and other agreements, and multilateral cooperation, have been catalysts of unparalleled economic growth and integration. Multilateralism and prosperity grew together. Security cooperative has been slower and, as international turbulence increases, we all must emphasise that vital dimension of our cooperative action, both among formal governments and on track two levels.