



TOWARD A COMPREHENSIVE GLOBAL ALLIANCE

By Minister of Foreign Affairs Yun Byung-se

Back in 1953 – at the time of the Korean Armistice and the year of my birth – the Republic of Korea (ROK) was a war-stricken, destitute country reliant on U.S. military and economic assistance for its survival. Now, more than sixty years later, as the minister of foreign affairs, I take pride in the ROK's remarkable metamorphosis – not only into a robust democracy with a thriving economy, but also into an active and responsible member of the international community and a trusted partner of the United States.

During this transformational process, the ROK-U.S. alliance has played a pivotal role. Based on a shared commitment to universal values – such as freedom, human rights and the rule of law – the alliance has contributed to

stability in the Asia-Pacific.” Indeed, this sentiment was eloquently reflected in the latest Congressional Research Service Report on U.S.-South Korea Relations, which stated that relations are “at their best state in decades.”

That is not mere rhetoric. As a matter of fact, such an excellent relationship manifests itself in many different and diverse areas.

Regarding North Korea, the combined defense posture of the ROK and the United States has successfully met the security challenges on the Korean peninsula.

The ROK and the United States are also firmly united on North Korea, including its nuclear problem. Secretary Kerry and I have reaffirmed on many occasions that “there is not an inch of daylight” between our two countries.

In particular, the United States strongly supports President Park Geun-hye's steadfast and principled approach to North Korea, and the international community is standing with us.

And as the ROK government steps up its efforts to overcome the division of the Korean

Peninsula – now in its seventieth year – and to pave the way for unification, the United States is a staunch supporter, with President Barack Obama stating that “the deep longing for freedom and dignity will not go away, and the Korean people, at long last, will be whole and free.”

Our alliance has evolved into a comprehensive strategic one. Our cooperation encompasses not only security, but also economic and social issues.

In this regard, the KORUS Free Trade Agreement (FTA) embodies the commitment of the ROK and the United States to a shared future of growth and prosperity.

As we celebrate the third anniversary of the KORUS FTA this year, the overall trade volume of both manufactured goods and services has increased, providing more opportunities for the people of both countries. The KORUS FTA serves as a useful model free-trade agreement for the region, including the Trans-Pacific Partnership Agreement.

Another indispensable element of our comprehensive strategic alliance is our global partnership.

President Park has long believed that our alliance should aim far – that it should ultimately contribute to a more peaceful and prosperous world.

In fact, the ROK and the United States, as global partners, stand shoulder-to-shoulder in tackling the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, terrorism, the Ebola outbreak, piracy, cyberattacks, climate change, and poverty.

Additionally, our collaboration covers newly launched multilateral initiatives, with the United States and Korea taking turns in hosting the Group of Twenty meeting, the Nuclear Security Summit, as well as the upcoming Global Health Security Agenda meeting.

I am confident that the U.S.-ROK alliance will continue to play a crucial role in achieving sustainable peace and ultimate unification in the Korean Peninsula.

In a turbulent, fast-changing world, Korea, together with the United States, will make every effort to further strengthen our alliance and usher in a new kind of Korea, a new kind of Asia-Pacific, and a new kind of world.



Yun Byung-se, minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Korea

peace and stability not only on the Korean peninsula, but also in the Northeast Asian region and beyond.

As U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and I publicly declared at the Foreign and Defense Ministers' Meeting held in Washington, DC last October: “Our alliance is stronger than ever before, developing into more than the linchpin of peace and

A partnership for a secure region and a richer world

In March 2012, the United States and the Republic of Korea (ROK) signed a comprehensive free-trade agreement (KORUS FTA). At that time, it was considered the most significant deal of its kind that Washington had signed in nearly two decades.

As the first U.S. trade deal of with a North Asian country, the KORUS FTA is being held as the model for other trade agreements under negotiation with other U.S. partners in Asia-Pacific and reflects Washington's unwavering commitment to the region.

During the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) summit held in Beijing in November 2014, U.S. President Barack Obama and ROK President Park Geun-hye reaffirmed their pledge to strengthen the strategic partnership between their two countries and discussed steps to boost security in the Korean Peninsula.

Although the KORUS FTA has unmistakably improved the existing business climate for Korean and American companies, it

also opened up several new sectors for investment, particularly in information and communications technology (ICT), clean energy, as well as in science and technology.

Three years on, the KORUS FTA is said to account for between \$10 billion and \$12 billion of the yearly gross domestic product (GDP) of the United States, and valued at around \$10 billion of the annual goods exports of South Korea.

Through more extensive cooperation with the United States – in security, economic, and even cultural spheres – South Korea is certain it will further consolidate its status as an important regional and global power.

Spearheading efforts to expand relations between American and South Korean businesses has been the American Chamber of Commerce (AMCHAM), currently led by Amy Jackson, a former U.S. government trade representative for Japan and Korea.

“When the KORUS FTA was



Hanil E-hwa makes car trim for global car giants, including homegrown Hyundai and Kia, as well as Nissan, Ford, and Volkswagen

launched, the AMCHAM had been already a firm supporter and in fact, an advocate of the agreement,” recalled Jackson.

Two years after, AMCHAM South Korea has devoted a lot of time to publicizing how the two sides have benefited from the sweeping trade agreement.

“Some times after FTAs are implemented, there is not enough reporting on the positives. So, we are working on a follow-up since the agreement's implementation. We are seeing that trade flows are up in areas where there were tariff reductions under the FTA. Flow areas have increased more for Korea than elsewhere, that will change,” Jackson also said.

South Korea is determined to become a hub for global trade that will rival the busiest ports in Europe and North America.

Should South Korea finalize a free-trade deal with economic powerhouses, China and Japan, its FTA coverage will amount to 83 percent of the world's GDP.

Beyond South Korea's conglomerates, or chaebols, small and medium enterprises are contributing to the country's economic growth, thanks to the efforts of President Park, who has helped SMEs grow from domestic players to exporters.

With more investment opportunities brought about by the FTA, U.S. companies have also seen the benefit of partnering with South Korean SMEs and integrating these new players into the global supply chain.

In the service sector, the FTA has provided increased access both ways.

Staffed by 450 lawyers, Bae Kim & Lee LLC has built a reputation for delivering swift service and tailored advice to scores of

businesses and investors in every industry in Korea and China.

Partner Kevin Kim, who has had twenty-eight years of experience as a lawyer, was appointed the firm's head of international arbitration at BKL – the very first such practice in the country.

As a pioneer in the field, Kim was also appointed vice president of the International Court of Arbitration at the International Chamber of Commerce.

Aside from being a leader in international arbitration in Korea and Asia, BKL was also the first Korean law firm to open an office in China.

In Korea's automotive industry, exports to the United States have increased sharply since the implementation of the KORUS FTA. Also, there has also been a growth in the sales of American cars, which were a rare sight in the country until recently due to the restrictive tariffs.

Since it began business in 1972, auto parts supplier Hanil E-Hwa Co. has opened fourteen overseas subsidiaries and built up an impressive clientele.

A listed company in the Korea Stock Exchange, Hanil E-Hwa manufactures door trim, bumpers, consoles, package trays, pillar trims, screen accessories, and seats for various carmakers, including global giants such as Hyundai, Kia, Volkswagen, Ford, and Nissan.

Chairman Yang Seok Ryu has overseen the company's impressive expansion as he adopted the latest technology and maintained his passion to make world-class products for its partners.

With easier access to markets, including the United States, Ryu hopes to make Hanil E-Hwa a leader in the global automotive industry.



Bae, Kim & Lee LLC offers comprehensive services for businesses and investors in Korea and abroad. A firm of over 500 professionals, BKL is able to deliver swift, focused advice in every area of commercial interest. Specialized practice groups regularly assist on a wide span of cross-border transactions for our clients, among them many multinational enterprises and investor groups.

In addition to international arbitration, BKL's core practice areas include litigation, M&A, construction, securities, financial, tax, antitrust, maritime, labor, and corporate restructuring.

Commonly relied on for the more complex and demanding cases and transactions, BKL achieves consistent acclaim for an exemplary level of service, winning many industry awards and “top tier” rankings. In all our work, our purpose is to deliver expedient advice and resourceful advocacy, guided by an alert grasp of the commercial needs of our clients.

For more information, please visit us at www.bkl.co.kr

Korea's top legal eagles

Established in 1973, Kim & Chang has maintained its position as the country's best law firm by adapting to the evolving business environment through innovation and dedication, and by providing clients with creative and cost-effective solutions without sacrificing its focus on quality.

Kim & Chang is regularly involved in complex and challenging domestic and cross-border legal issues for the world's largest multinational corporations and financial institutions. In the past year, the firm represented clients in high-profile cases such as the initial public offering of Hyundai Rotem on the Korea Exchange, the acquisition by MBK Partners of ING Life Insurance Korea, and the purchase of the Four Seasons Hotel in Sydney by a Korean real-estate group.

Senior partner Kye-Sung Chung attributes Kim & Chang's success to the dedication and passion of its professionals. "Throughout the firm's history, we have played a central role

in developing how law is practiced in Korea, how lawyers are trained, and how business risk is managed. We have been and will always strive to be the firm of choice for clients with respect to their most challenging legal issues, most significant business transactions, and most critical disputes, in Korea and abroad," said Chung.

Kim & Chang offers a team-oriented approach and provides a one-stop legal service while upholding the highest standards of professionalism and integrity.

"Our structure and approach attract talented and entrepreneurial lawyers, who enable us to achieve excellent results for our clients in complex and critical matters," Chung also said.

"Drawing upon our strong practice areas across the board and the expertise of our professionals, we are able to provide invaluable legal and industry insight for our clients to help them successfully navigate through today's complicated business and regulatory environments," he added.

Korea's Premier Law Firm

Global Standards, Local Strengths at Work in Korea



Hanil E-Hwa, Global Supplier of Automotive Total Interior Products

Pursuing customer satisfaction with safe, comfortable, and high-quality products

Hanil E-Hwa, an affiliate of the Seoyeon Group, has been manufacturing automotive components for 43 years. Currently, Hanil E-Hwa has 14 overseas corporations in 8 countries. Thus, our global footprint is continuously growing.

Seoyeon Co.,Ltd, formerly Hanil E-Hwa, is a holding company with the vision of leading the Seoyeon Group as a global player in the automobile industry. The group has affiliates that form a product portfolio that includes automobile interior and exterior parts, electronic parts, seats, IT services etc

The United States is the center of the global automobile industry. In the United States, we have two plants in Alabama and Georgia, and a sales office in Detroit (Daedong America Corp.) To bring about customer satisfaction, we continuously strive to produce more new and convenient products by investing in R&D. Hanil E-Hwa wishes to be perceived as a partner supplier to The Big 3 car manufacturers in the United States.

Our Group is focusing on the following four areas: 1) weight reduction, 2) green technology, 3) high-sensibility, and 4) convergence with IT products. Looking to the future, we are always working to improve the quality of the lives of our customers.

We would like to offer our congratulations on the 3rd anniversary of the KORUS FTA, and we look forward to establishing more mutually beneficial partnerships. Thank you.



Chairman & CEO
Ryu Yang Seok



▲ Natural fiber Door trim



▲ IMX Instrument panel



▲ HB-E1 Interior designed with IT convergence and weight reduction materials