The PCI News

3rd Annual William J. Perry Lecture Series

The 3rd Annual William J. Perry Lecture Series at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea took place on Thursday, September 27, 2018. This year’s guest lecturer, Dr. Siegfried S. Hecker is a professor emeritus in the Department of Management Science and Engineering and a senior fellow emeritus at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI) at Stanford University. His internationally recognized expertise in plutonium science, global threat reduction, and nuclear security attracted a large crowd, filling up the auditorium with students, professors, and the media. Dr. Hecker spoke on: “North Korea’s Nuclear Weapons: A Treasured Sword or An Unnecessary Burden?”

PCI board members Professor Sohn Jie-ae and Professor Moon Chung-in gave opening remarks and introduction of Dr. Hecker. Dr. Hecker has visited North Korea seven times and was invited to tour its nuclear facilities, one of the few people outside of the country to do so. He discussed the history and meaning behind North Korea’s nuclear arsenal and how and why it has been used. He went into detail about the three steps of denuclearization and delved into an analysis of North Korea’s political behavior.

Dr. Hecker concluded his lecture with an emphasis on ‘Phased approach to denuclearization and normalization’ and the importance of cooperative measures to achieve verification.

PCI Chair, Ambassador Kathleen Stephens appointed as President & CEO of KEIA

The Korea Economic Institute of America hosted a Welcome Reception for Ambassador Kathleen Stephens on Thursday, September 13, 2018 at the KEI Conference Facility in Washington, D.C. as Ambassador Stephens officially took office as its President and CEO.

South Korean Ambassador to the US Cho Yoon-je, along with acting Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Marc Knapper, welcomed Ambassador Stephens. Ambassador Stephens on her new role as KEI President and the US-ROK relationship said, “I have never seen interest in Korea as high as it is now in the United States.”

SAVE THE DATE!

2019 PCI Annual Award Dinner

Date: Thursday, Feb. 28, 2019

Venue: InterContinental Hotel, Century City

Reception 6:00 pm
Dinner 7:00 pm
PCI board member and JoongAng Media Chairman, Hong Seok-hyun delivered a keynote address at the East-West Center (EWC) International Alumni Conference held in Seoul, South Korea on August 23, 2018. In his address entitled, “The Start of Peace and Prosperity on the Korean Peninsula”, Mr. Hong reflected on state of affairs on the Korean Peninsula and urged key players to build inter-Korean trust as well as trust between the United States and North Korea.

Korea Matters for America

The report was updated and launched by East-West Center Washington, Embassy of the ROK in the USA and the Congressional Korea Caucus on Wednesday, September 12, 2018. Ambassador Stephens was one of four speakers participating in a panel discussion and Q&A session.

The report will function as a practical resource for political leaders, the media, students, and the general public and features infographics that illustrates the importance and impact of U.S.-Korea relations at the national, state, and local levels.

This opinion piece by PCI Vice President, Prof. Tom Plate appeared in South China Morning Post on August 28, 2018.

Criticism of China by Malaysia’s Mahathir resonates around East Asia, and with Beijing

By Thomas Plate

Over the decades, China’s leaders have been known to greatly respect the tell-it-like-it-is political instincts of Malaysian maestro Dr Mahathir Mohamad. But now you have to wonder how much love may have been lost of late.

No one in Beijing or anywhere else doubts even today that the young country doctor who was to rise to prominence as the modernising leader of Malaysia is still one crazy smart Asian. Of the most remarkable figures I’ve met in a long journalistic career, Dr M – as I call him – is anything but the buttoned-up prime ministerial stereotype. Compare him, for instance, to Sir John Major, leader of the United Kingdom between 1990 and 1997 – so very much the English gentleman, dapper in tendering fair-minded and politely expressed opinion, charming even in disagreement. Dr M was – and is – nothing like that. Now 93 and prime minister of Malaysia for a second time, it is not even clear that he has mellowed much with age. Compare him to a sport and you’d have him more like Australian football than cricket.

The former boss of all bosses of the massive, money-infested monster that was Malaysia’s oft-dominant party has since become the “young insurgent” toppling that party, and Dr M’s views have new sting since becoming leader anew. His first go as prime minister ran for 22 years, the Malaysian record, ending in 2003. But way back when, at least before the September 11 terror attacks, one of Islam’s craftiest, secular political minds was all but ignored by Western journalists. Asia then was an “Oriental” story, with the Asians in the spotlight usually crazy, poor and clueless … or communist. And this Malaysian Asian was, to some, either an authoritarian crank, an anti-Semite or a bizarre Muslim Machiavelli.

That began to change in 1997, when Dr M lashed out at the International Monetary Fund, triggering regional applause. When the brutal Asian financial crisis hit, when currencies and economies from Thailand to South Korea were leaning over cliffs, and the cash-rich but cruel IMF only proffered loans with conditions reminiscent of a mafia loan shark, Dr M told the Washington-based organisation to bug off with its venomous bailout money. Instead, his government outmanoeuvred Western currency speculators, their short

PCI Board Members, Founders and Fellows often contribute to the media. The opinions expressed are solely those of the individuals involved and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Pacific Century Institute.
Opinion Editorial

This opinion piece featuring PCI board member, Chung-in Moon appeared in Wall Street Journal on August 22, 2018.

Seoul Deploys Secret Weapon to Sell North Korea Engagement

By Andrew Song

SEOUL—As the U.S. and North Korea track an unsteady course toward a nonnuclear North, Seoul is trying to sustain the engagement by deploying a veteran adviser with the distinction of being respected in both Washington and Pyongyang.

Moon Chung-in, special adviser to South Korean President Moon Jae-in, said in an interview that U.S.-North Korea talks are stalled—and that Seoul aims to prod both sides to keep moving in the direction of disarmament and peace.

While “the U.S. is demanding North Korea front-load vows to declare and accept inspections of its nuclear arms” before easing sanctions, South Korea encourages mutual concessions that can build trust—and is trying to ease the process, he said. South Korea, for instance, has offered to host talks between U.S. and North Korean officials.

President Trump has repeated assurances that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un is committed to denuclearization, after the two met in Singapore in June. But some U.S. officials, such as national security adviser John Bolton, have expressed skepticism. North Korea has said it dismantled a nuclear testing site, but outside monitors accused Pyongyang of failing to halt development of nuclear weapons.

Meanwhile, Seoul is preparing for the third meeting this year between President Moon and Mr. Kim, to be held in Pyongyang in September.

The U.S. Embassy in Seoul declined to comment on progress of engagement with the North.

Mr. Moon, 67 years old, has built relationships in both countries over the years. In 2000, North Korea allowed him to appear alongside South Korea’s future unification minister Lee Jong-seok on a panel in a live television broadcast from Pyongyang. In talks with South Korea, Pyongyang’s delegates often single out Mr. Moon’s recent published articles for praise, Mr. Lee said.

He lived in the U.S. for nearly two decades, studying and later teaching at colleges from 1978 until returning to Seoul in 1994. His son is an American citizen.

“The South Korean president has relatively few North Korea experts who are fluent English speakers and who know Americans well,” said a former senior U.S. diplomat in Seoul.

“This social capital is immensely valuable to the Moon administration, because [Moon Chung-in] has friends and colleagues across the political spectra in almost every country that matters to the Korean issue,” said Peter Hayes, director of the Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability, a research center in Berkeley, Calif., who coedited a book with Mr. Moon.

Mr. Moon has played a role in steering public debate, and potentially influencing policy makers, through public comments that have tended to foretell the Seoul government’s direction.

During a period of heightened tension with North Korea last year, he said Seoul should reconsider conducting U.S.-South Korean military exercises in return for a halt to Pyongyang’s missile tests. The comments enraged South Korean conservatives. The government in Seoul didn’t publicly support Mr. Moon’s comments at the time.

The U.S. has traditionally called its exercises with South Korea “defensive in nature,” although Mr. Trump in June said they were “provocative,” a term commonly used by North Korean state media to describe the exercises.

Months later, the proposition became policy when President Moon sought to delay and downsize the exercises. In June this year, President Trump said he was suspending joint exercises and wanted to bring U.S. forces home.

“I would definitely say he’s close” to the South Korean president, a person in Seoul’s diplomatic circles said of Mr. Moon. “It’s not always clear when he’s speaking on guidance from the Blue House or somebody else. But it’s pretty clear that he is relevant.”

In late April, days after the first inter-Korean summit, Mr. Moon traveled to New York and Washington to hear what key American foreign affairs specialists had to say about the event. He visited the Council on Foreign Relations in New York and the Atlantic Council in Washington. He also huddled with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

Daniel Sneider, a Stanford University lecturer who has known Mr. Moon since the early 2000s, said the South Korean is a supreme networker who knows how to sell Seoul’s “progressive agenda in a way that is more palatable to Americans.”

“He is there as a publicist more than as a policy maker,” he said.

Mr. Moon has drawn criticism, however, for comments that (continued on page 4)
Criticism of China by Malaysia’s Mahathir resonates around East Asia, and with Beijing (Continued from page 2)

fangs drooling, and sent Wall Street wolves packing. (Hong Kong also out-foxed predators by working behind the scenes with premier Zhu Rongji.)

The Mahathir play got Beijing’s respect. Largely buffered from the crisis (which lasted from 1997-1999) by having pointedly ignored Washington’s ideologically pious (but Wall Street-serving) advice to lift the currency curtain and let the good times roll, the Beijing expertariat never forgot this Malay man who could say no – judging him as craftily unobeholden to the West as anyone.

Beijing, it was sometimes said, secretly favoured his Malaysia more than Singapore, in part because of the latter’s intimacy with Washington, of which Dr M could never be accused. But that was then and now we have something new: in his re-emergence as prime minister, the good doctor is now offering measured criticism of China. Like others in the region, Malaysia has maritime issues with Beijing, and concerns about previously negotiated bilateral development deals. Dr M has raised questions about its pushiness in the (increasingly appropriately named) South China Sea and perceived neo-colonial style, particularly in rolling out the ambicious (if potentially helpful) Belt and Road Initiative with peculiar financing and contracts. Dr M’s advice, as I decode it, is to slow down, stop bragging, be considerate of others’ interests and show flexibility.

Zhongnanhai does not appreciate this sort of chatter – imagine the nerve of this tiny Asian deer of a country instructing the big elephant on what to do! China is legendary for not lusting for savage sovereignty over others, but seeking to conjure a less vulgar form of continuing influence – which the elegant French have a word for: suzerainty.

One does not brazenly run over other countries with tanks or dictate their actual form of government (for example, the US invasion of Iraq or the US post-war imposition of an American-style government on Japan). The preferred way is to hover over semi-unobtrusively and earn near-worshipful respect as the de facto hoverer-in-chief with whom one does not ever mess.

A widespread question around Asia these days is how low the hovering will go, for at too low a height, hovering can become smothering, rendering China more neo-colonial than neo-wonderful. And that is where the regional image of China seems to have settled in some minds, at least for the moment. Beijing should thus consider respecting this re-risen sage, but these days it is not seeing things as clearly and unemotionally as it might.

The result is not that Mahathir has a problem; at 93, this proven politician is clearly having the time of what is left of his lengthy life by putting his chips on the table. It is Beijing that has a problem, not only because the Mahathir critique is not idiosyncratic and increasingly resonates in East Asia, but also because, in East Asia, is there a political figure (with the exception of Lee Hsien Loong, Singapore’s prime minister since 2004 and the late Lee Kuan Yew’s son) who has more earned the right to be listened to?

Over the decades Mahathir has given us all much to think about, even when not enough of us thought so much of him. And now he is trying to cheer China on, to continue to become rich and Asian, but without becoming crazy – and driving everyone else crazy while doing it. There must be a way.

Seoul Deploys Secret Weapon to Sell North Korea Engagement (Continued from page 3)

appeared to rationalize North Korean aggression, such as when he said the former South Korean government provoked a North Korean artillery barrage in 2010 that destroyed homes and killed four South Koreans.

Mr. Moon is “typical of South Korean progressives who... systematically ignore the brutal nature of the regime to present it as a purely rational actor,” said Mr. Sneider.

In the interview, Mr. Moon stressed that he considered the attack unjustifiable, but defended his past comments.

Similarly, he has criticized the North’s weapons program but puts it in a broader context. “North Koreans believe that the nuclear weapon is the only way to protect themselves from an American nuclear threat,” he said.

Mr. Moon’s straightforward yet subtle character was evident in his youth. In high school, he was a judo and shot-put champion who didn’t tolerate bullies, but also had a softer side, said longtime friend Koh Choong-suk. “He ghostwrote love letters for friends, and knew how to say the right words to girls,” Mr. Koh said.

Other acquaintances of Mr. Moon, who is from the resort island of Jeju, describe him as approachable and gregarious.

“The rice wine and liquor in Jeju are wonderful,” said Mr. Hayes. “He and the other Korean hosts can drink most international guests under the table.”
PCI Collaborates in Singapore Media Conference: What is News Now?

By Ambassador Raymond F. Burghardt

The Pacific Century Institute supported a timely and intellectually stimulating conference held in Singapore June 24 - 27 titled “What is News Now?” The international media gathering, organized by the East-West Center and held at the Law School of Singapore Management University, was attended by 350 Asian, Pacific Island and American journalists, media professionals and experts on a range of regional and global issues.

Like the five previous biannual East-West Center media conferences, this one made an in-depth examination of current issues in the Asia-Pacific region as well as challenges and trends faced by the media industry in the digital age. In addition to the EWC and PCI, key supporters were the Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, Doris Duke Foundation, Facebook, Google and Straits Times. As PCI President, I co-hosted the welcoming reception held at the National Gallery Singapore. Coming only ten days after the historic Trump - Kim summit in the same city, the conference provided a good opportunity to inform attendees about PCI’s long history of encouraging US - DPRK engagement.

A special focus of this media conference was on the challenges posed by disinformation campaigns and fake news, especially through social media. More than one session was devoted to efforts by governments and companies such as Facebook, Google and Tencent to counter the proliferation of disinformation sites sponsored by governments, political organizations and individuals. Social media companies described their continuous process of canceling hundreds of thousands of accounts dedicated to the spread of disinformation. Participants noted that this phenomenon poses a grave challenge to trust in government, social institutions and the rule of law.

In one specially lively session, US Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs Michelle Guida described US Government efforts to tackle disinformation at home and abroad, prompting questions from the audience concerning President Trump’s harsh criticism of media he dislikes as “fake news.” Some participants contended that these presidential attacks might be affecting press freedom and public trust in media. For forty minutes, Guida fended off these questions by emphasizing that the constitutional protection of American press freedom assured that people could post whatever opinions they wished on social media or elsewhere.

Other lively and informative sessions included one concerning China’s alleged strategy to restructure the reporting environment at home and abroad in an effort to promote self-censorship. Another session looked at the challenges and dangers faced by the Philippine press during the Duterte administration. The East-West Center gave an account of the organization’s program to promote communication between historically estranged Indian and Pakistani journalists.

In addition to media industry issues, the conference looked at big geopolitical issues in the Asia-Pacific region today -- shifts in the Sino-American contest for influence, the US - China “trade war”, the South China Sea, and the future of the Korean peninsula, as well as Singapore’s status as a “smart city” and hub for tech giants. The discussion on North Korea was led by journalists from Joong-Ang Ilbo and the Washington Times. I served as moderator for a wide-ranging discussion of the “Indo-Pacific” policy of the Trump administration presented by Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Walter Douglas.

The conference received excellent coverage in the Singapore press, some of which was picked up by international news outlets. The hundreds of journalists who attended also filed reports on conference sessions of interest to their audiences. Like all East-West Center conferences this one was a valuable networking opportunity among a talented and influential group of people as well as an opportunity to increase understanding of some important subjects.
50-State, 100-City, 90-Day to Honor Vets and Promote Peace

On Friday, April 27, 2018, Hannah Y Kim, a PCI fellow and former congressional aide with a mission, began her journey to all 50 States throughout America, to visit a Korean War Memorial in nearly 100 cities, and to say thank you to almost 1,000 Korean War veterans.

The purpose of her ambitious three-month journey was to honor and remember those who served in the so-called “Forgotten War” (1950-53), and to help promote peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Given the recent breakthroughs in the region today, her mission could not be timelier.

This odyssey mirrors her worldwide odyssey of last year, traveling around the world to visit Korean War Memorials and document the stories of Korean War veterans across six continents in a total of 27 countries that participated in the Korean War — including those that fought on the opposite side, China, Russia and even North Korea.

Kim hopes that journey will raise awareness about the Wall of Remembrance, the long-overdue addition to the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington, D.C. The Wall was approved by Congress in 2016, but a lack of funding has delayed its construction for two years. As a result, the names of the nearly 37,000 Americans who died in Korea are languishing to be inscribed for posterity.

“There were casualties in every state in the union, including the 8,000 still unaccounted for,” she stated. “I want to help all of America to understand and viscerally feel that “Freedom Is Not Free.”

She has concluded the US tour, and is currently on her last Journey, across the Pacific, which includes visits to the islands of Hawaii, Guam and the American Samoa. In South Korea, Hannah will also undertake a 7-day tour to 30 memorials that commemorate the contributions of the 21 UN nations in the major battles sites during the Korean War (1950-53). She will ultimately culminate the Journey at the annual Korean War Veterans Association convention in Orlando, Florida on October 20, 2018.

A recent graduate of Loyola Marymount University’s Bellarmine College of Liberal Arts, Aashna Malpani is the recipient of the Pacific Century Institute’s Asia Media Internship, awarded annually by the PCI to an LMU Asia Media student of great promise.

Aashna plans to pursue professional graduate school and then careers after her ‘Gap Years’ at Asia Media – in international journalism. She is already an experienced Asia Media staffer – newly appointed managing editor of Asia Media International, and is well known and highly regarded among the university’s growing international student body. She works directly under the leadership of the founder and editor in chief Tom Plate, LMU’s Distinguished Scholar, and Pacific Century Institute Vice President.

“The PCI-AMI alliance has been a tremendous complement to the university’s International Immersion efforts. We are lucky indeed to have PCI as a close and immensely supportive partner,” says Tom Plate.

Four panelists, featuring past Youth Ambassadors, talked about how the program experience and their role as Youth Ambassadors have influenced their lives, studies and career interests – and opportunities they now have to pay it forward.

Panelists include:

- Tracy Luong (2005-2006, Youth Ambassador; 2016-2017, Group Leader)
- Kevin Tang (2010-2011)
- Katie Xing (2014-2015)
- Litzy Santoyo (2017-2018)

Follow FOK on Facebook @FoKorea or visit: www.friendsofkorea.net
Partnership with Other Organizations

This year, with a new partnership with Concordia Language Villages’ (CLV) Sup sogûi Hosu, the PCI board approved a fully subsidized 2-week language immersion summer program for our very own Project Bridge (PB) Youth Ambassadors. Three recent PB graduates, Thomas Chung, Adrianna Rodas, and Litzy Santoyo were awarded the scholarship and embarked on a journey to develop their Korean language proficiency in the north woods of Minnesota.

Since its establishment in 1961, more than 150,000 villagers have joined CLV in the mission to inspire courageous global citizens. Celebrating their 20th summer of immersion, Sup sogûi Hosu welcomed special guests this summer including our very own PCI Chair, Ambassador Kathleen Stephens. This year, Sup sogûi Hosu was awarded a large donation, making it the first permanent Asian language village at Concordia.

The following is a brief reflection of this year’s villagers.

**Thomas Chung**

“The program was so great for learners at every level and helped expand my interest into Korea/Korean language. In the moment, I hated that it was going by so fast and that I couldn’t do anything about it. My advice for villagers would be to “enjoy it while you can because you’re going to miss it a lot once it’s gone.” The program was great in terms of cultural immersion and in language learning, I wouldn’t change anything about it in that aspect. Aside from changing free time periods to become more constructive and fun, I don’t think anything else could be improved. I now know how to read Hangul and can also speak a few phrases. I miss the camp a lot and sometimes randomly sing the songs that were ingrained into my head. The experience was amazing and unforgettable.”

**Litzy Santoyo**

“...we had to take a survey kind of test that determined our level of fluency. I was placed at the highest one which was a little bit of a struggle...The fact that you are spoken to in Korean whether you know it or not really helps you learn faster. I found myself really getting immersed in the program. One interesting and fun event we got to go to was I-Day (International Day) where we go to one camp (specifically the German camp) and meet with all of the other language camps. It was refreshing to see the performances the other camps had done as well as getting to try food from different cultures... The camp really allowed me to gain more friends with similar goals as me which was the best as we could relate to one other. This also made me realize how much harder I have to study in order to become fluent. I can say with confidence that the 2 week session was a positive experience in which I grew, as a person, along with my language skills. This really sparked my motivation to study all the harder at home.”

**Adrianna Rodas**

“Before entering Sup Sogûi Hosu, I only knew two Korean words and didn’t understand any phrases. As a novice Korean learner, I was afraid that I would have lots of trouble picking up the language. But, to my surprise, I learn bits and pieces of Korean through the constant Korean being spoken and the learning workshops. Slowly, of course, and I’m still not proficient in the language. But I believe that I’ve improved over the course of two weeks. I, now, know the alphabet and a few Korean phrases. Through the learning workshops, I was able to enjoy the language and still process and learn it. During each meal was especially an important time for my learning because I was familiarized with numerous Korean phrases such as “what is your name?” Also, I got to understand, in more depth, the history behind the Korean language which was interesting to me. Another aspect that I found helpful in my Korean learning was not having my phone. Not reading English forced me to pay attention to Korean and learn it. I also was kind of fond of not having social media for two weeks.”

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Apply to be the next Youth Ambassador!

The PCI invites prospective Youth Ambassadors to apply for the 2018-2019 Project Bridge program. The goal of Project Bridge is to instill a sense of understanding and respect to “bridge” the gap between cultures.

For more info, please email PCI@PacificCenturyInst.Org

Follow us @Project_Bridge_LA

Pacific Century Institute
Korean Peninsula Affairs Center at Maxwell School of Syracuse University presents:

“Three-Party Talks on Peace and Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula" by University of Washington's Jackson School of International Studies Visiting Scholar, K.A. “Tony” Namkung on October 4, 2018 at Maxwell School of Syracuse University.

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“War or Peace on the Korean Peninsula: Is the Peace Process Feasible?” by Mansfield Foundation Senior Fellow, Alexander Ilitchev on October 17, 2018 at Maxwell School of Syracuse University.

School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS) and Korea-Pacific Program (KPP) of UCSD presents:

“Summit Diplomacy in Northeast Asia: Political and Economic Tracks” | Oct. 18 -19, 2018 |

The two-day conference will commence with a public event covering the topic, “The Singapore Summit Process: Regional Perspectives”, followed by series of panel discussions.

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“What’s next for the Korean Peninsula” by Professor Young-jun Kim on October 11, 2018 at School of Global Policy and Strategy, University of California San Diego.