The Pacific Century Institute (PCI) is celebrating its 25th anniversary this year. To mark this milestone PCI hosted the PCI in Seoul 25th Anniversary Dinner on May 19 at the Millennium Seoul Hilton Hotel. We had 346 in attendance from across the political and social spectrums, including government officials, foreign affairs and unification experts, journalists, and representatives of various civil society groups.

The mission of the Pacific Century Institute has always been to build bridges of understanding and, where necessary, reconciliation, among the peoples of the Pacific Rim so that they may fully benefit from our Pacific Century.

In addition to being a celebration of the Pacific Century Institute’s quarter century of effort to further its mission, the theme of the dinner focused on the value, and necessity, of South Korea’s conservative and progressive political parties coming together to create a bipartisan, fundamental policy for dealing with North Korea and the issues surrounding rapprochement, unification and regional security.

Our keynote speaker was former German Defence Minister Volker Rühe. Minister Rühe was a major force in West Germany’s conservative Christian Democratic Union party when it worked with his country’s progressive Social Democratic party to develop the successful bipartisan “Ostpolitik” toward East Germany. Rühe said the first step for Korea must be a South-South dialogue that leads to a bipartisan policy on peninsular and regional security issues that can survive presidential elections. This would provide a stable platform for dialogue with the North and help lead to a regional security architecture under which the Korean peninsula can prosper.

PCI Chairman, and former US ambassador to Korea, Donald Gregg, described PCI’s twenty-five years of work. The Master of Ceremonies was PCI board member, and former US ambassador to Korea, Kathleen Stephens. In welcoming remarks, PCI board member Lee In-ho called for Koreans to abolish squabbling over how to deal with North Korea lest it become “a deep chasm over which not even a bridge can be built.”

The dinner was a highlight of PCI’s first twenty-five years, and an excellent example of its mission of building bridges of understanding for the peoples of the Pacific Rim.
(PCI in Seoul 25th Anniversary Dinner continued)

PCI in Seoul 25th Anniversary Dinner Pictures

(PCI Chairman, former Amb. Donald Gregg and current U.S. Amb. Mark Lippert)

(From left to right: Former Foreign Minister Gong Ro-Myung, former Prime Ministers Goh Kun and Han Myeong-sook, former Deputy Prime Minister Han Wan-sang and former Minister of Unification Lim Dong-won)

(Leader of the New Politics Alliance for Democracy party Moon Jae-in)

(From left to right: Former ROK Foreign Affairs official Sohn Chang-rae, former Defense Minister Kim Tae-young, PCI Board Member and former Amb. Lee In-ho, and Yonsei University President Jeong Kap-young)

(Keynote speaker and former German Defense Minister Volker Ruhe, PCI board member and former Amb. Kathleen Stephens, and South Chungcheong Province Governor Ahn Hee-jung)

(The Beautiful Mind Ensemble’s performance)
Former German Defense Minister Volker Rühe’s Talking Points at the PCI in Seoul 25th Anniversary Dinner

The Two Koreas – Lessons to learn from the Reunification of the two German States 25 years ago

1. 1984: Beijing “the big water will take along the small rivers” (Deng) on the future of the divided Germany.

2. Change in Moscow (big water), this is exactly how the historic change in Germany started.

3. Is this also true for the divided Korea?
   ◊ What are strategic differences?
   ◊ East Germany: 400.000 Soviet troops, member of the Warsaw pact
   ◊ West Germany: member of NATO/EU, presence of NATO troops
   ◊ The borderline between the two Germanyys was the dividing line between two military pacts. The division of Germany was considered by many as the result of the aggression of Germany in 1939.

4. What policies of West Germany were a prerequisite for keeping the German question open and finally achieve reunification?
   ◊ Reunification as part of a European architecture. A simply national approach would have failed.

◊ Keep and strengthen, wherever possible, the contacts and ties between the two German states in spite of division.
◊ In spite of antagonism between parties in a democracy keep a core of bipartisan positions on the issue of overcoming division of the nation.

5. What regards Korea: I am aware of the differences, but…
   ◊ The division is unnatural and will be overcome
   ◊ A security architecture in Northeast Asia is different from Europe but nonetheless necessary
   ◊ Strengthen the human ties between the two Koreas.
   ◊ Take permanent concrete initiatives.
   ◊ Find a core in bipartisan beliefs in domestic politics of South Korea regarding unity.
   ◊ The concrete way and speed to overcome division is completely open. Example:
     - Ten points of Chancellor Kohl in November 1989. Then believed it would take eight to ten years until reunification with interim steps like “confederation” of two states.
     - Reality: It took 12 months until the complete unity of Germany with no interim steps.
   ◊ If the two Koreas had a relationship like two EU states in the Schengen area, that would be a great “interim” and revolutionary progress.

(Keynote speaker Volker Rühe, Seoul, Millennium Hilton Hotel, May 19, 2015)

(Volker Rühe and PCI Chairman Donald Gregg, Seoul, Millennium Hilton Hotel, May 19, 2015)
PCI Welcomes New Board Members in 2015

Richard Drobnick

Dr. Richard Drobnick specializes in Pacific Rim economic and business issues and U.S. and Pacific Rim trade policies. He is the director of the IBEAR (International Business Education and Research) MBA program at the University of Southern California Marshall School of Business. He has led USC’s annual Asia/Pacific Business Outlook Conference for twenty-five years. The conference attracts over 300 participants from thirty US states for two days of presentations by 60 Asia business experts. Additionally, in partnership with the Asia Societies of Northern and Southern California and the Centers for International Business at USC and UCLA, he is helping to develop the Pacific Cities Sustainability Initiative (PCSI). The goal of PCSI is to help business leaders and city and regional policy makers think more clearly about sustainability challenges for their cities and to develop new ideas on how they can make their cities more sustainable.

Dr. Drobnick served as USC’s inaugural Vice Provost for International Affairs (1994-2005) and he was the inaugural Secretary General (1997-2002) and a member of the Steering Committee (1997-2010) of the Association of Pacific Rim Universities (APRU), an association of presidents of forty-five leading Pacific Rim research universities. He launched and led APRU’s Pacific Rim research programs on "Sustainability and Climate Change" and "Public Health" (2006-2010).

Dr. Drobnick is a graduate of Bradley University and received his PhD from USC. He is the author of numerous articles regarding international economics and business. He is a member of the U.S.-Asia Pacific Council, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Asia Society of Southern California’s Executive Committee, and is a director of the Japan-America Society-Southern California. As a Peace Corps Volunteer in Malaysia (1967-1969), he served as an economic advisor to the Malaysian Department of Agriculture’s Farmers Association Movement.

Volker Rühe

Former German Defense Minister Volker Rühe was born in 1942. He is married and has three children. He was educated at Hamburg University with State Examen in German and English Philology and Philosophy. Then he worked as teacher at a Gymnasium from 1970 to 1976. He joined the Christian Democratic Union (CDU) in 1963 and was elected to the Bundestag for his home city of Hamburg in 1976 and was a Member of the Bundestag until 2005. He held the position of Secretary General of his party from 1989 – during the period of re-unification until he assumed office as minister of defence under Helmut Kohl in 1992 and served in this position until 1998. From 2002 – 2005 he served as Chairman of the Foreign-Relations Committee of the German Bundestag.

In 2005 he did not run again for Parliament. Today he is working for international think tanks, does lecturing and consulting nationally and internationally.

2015 Jeju Peace Forum

Mr. Spencer Kim, Professor Moon Chung-in and Amb. Donald Gregg were participants in a five-man panel on the first day of the meeting entitled “Pioneers of the Jeju Forum.” The two other Korean participants were former foreign minister Gong Ro-myung, who has attended all ten meetings of the Forum, and former unification minister Lim Dong-won. Governor Won was the dynamic moderator of the panel. They talked of the Forum's evolution, and Jeju's emergence as an ideal place for summit meetings.

PCI had aided in the founding of the Jeju Forum in 2001. The 2001 meeting was modestly sized, with President Kim Dae-jung attending. Foreign participation was limited. The 10th session, involved over 4,000 participants, with former Chancellor of Germany Gerhard Schroeder as keynote speaker. Other foreign leaders included former prime ministers from Japan, Australia, and Canada, and a previous president of Indonesia.

PCI Board Members Amb. Donald Gregg, Kathleen Stephens, Professor Moon Chung-in, and PCI co-founder Spencer Kim attended the 10th Jeju Peace Forum from May 20 to 22.
PCI presented its annual Building Bridges Award to former Swedish Ambassador to North Korea Karl-Olof Andersson and the nonprofit global policy think tank the RAND Corporation on February 26 at the InterContinental Hotel in Los Angeles.

More than 250 guests attended to honor the awardees. The Master of Ceremonies was PCI Board Member Ambassador Raymond Burghardt. Invocation was given by Rev. Dr. Jeffrey Kuan, and welcoming remarks by PCI Board Member Ambassador Kathleen Stephens.

Ambassador Andersson was the individual recipient of the award. He spent two years in Pyongyang and traveled and represented not only his own country there but acted as the protecting power for American, Canadian and Australian citizens in the DPRK. The PCI delegation that visited the DPRK last February serendipitously met Ambassador Andersson at the Beijing airport on the way to Pyongyang and were deeply impressed by his knowledge and professionalism and were able to meet with him several times while in the country.

The RAND corporation is the original think tank. It is the first institutional recipient of the Building Bridges Award. Its mission is both simple and incredibly complex; it exists to “help policymakers make decisions that are based on the best available information.” RAND’s results are fueled by the best data, the strongest methods, and the brightest minds. PCI is lucky to have RAND nearby in Santa Monica and to be able to have had a long and productive collaboration with it.
Project Bridge 2014-2015 culminated in a ten-day study tour of Korea, where Youth Ambassadors explored Korea’s cultural, political and economic centers, accompanied by four group leaders and two program coordinators. Project Bridge Los Angeles had 9 workshops before the Study Tour took place from April 2 to April 12, 2015.

The purpose of the tour was to enable the students to see Korea and meet Koreans in their own societal context. The trip also enabled the students to explore the spectrum of cultural homogeneity and heterogeneity, as Korea remains one of the most ethnically homogenous of the world’s nations.

Thus, the tour enhanced the intercultural objectives of the program as a whole. Furthermore, by bringing two groups of participants from disparate areas of the U.S. together during the tour, Project Bridge extended the exploration of the meaning of diversity—both within America and with a nation different from their own.

During the study tour to Korea, Project Bridge students visited many places in Korea of historical and social significance, stayed with a host family, and engaged in open dialogue with Koreans.

Since last November, 16 Youth Ambassadors in New York and Los Angeles embarked on a journey of self-exploration and intercultural-leadership that culminated with ten days of total immersion in Korean culture. Upon return from the study tour this April, the students engaged in a series of group discussions examining the significance of their experience as Youth Ambassadors. Each student wrote personal essays evaluating and reflecting on their own team-building efforts in the past six months and their personal growth as an intercultural leader. On June 7, 2015, the Los Angeles based Youth Ambassadors shared and presented their experiences and expert topics in front of their families, friends, and PCI board members.

The presentation topics included: Korean Government and National Assembly; DMZ, Kimchi and Korean Cuisine; Education in Korea; Economic Take-off and Chae-bols in Korean Economy; Buddhism; People’s Lives in the Caste System of Choson Kingdom; and Gyongbok Palace and Royal Life in Choson Kingdom.

**Los Angeles Youth Ambassadors**

Benjamin Amaya  
Paula Dowdell  
Rachel Harvey  
Raquel Rodriguez  
Jason Tang  
Quentin Thomas  
Mason Tiratira  
Katie Xing

**ESAT High School**  
**San Pedro High School**  
**Crescenta Valley High School**  
**SOAR High School**  
**Abraham Lincoln High School**  
**Golden Valley High School**  
**Torrance High School**  
**Downtown Magnets HS**

**New York Youth Ambassadors**

David Alonso  
Jevhoy Bailey-Gordon  
Ama Fuwaa  
Anisa Marhull  
Nabila Nawrin  
Ivan Ramos  
Raven Waters  
Jason Wilks

**HS of Economics & Finance**  
**HS for Law, Advocacy, and Community Justice**  
**Bronx Leadership Academy**  
**NYC Lab School**  
**Urban Assembly School for Criminal Justice**  
**Landmark High School**  
**East West School of International Studies**  
**Professional Performing Arts HS**

**Special Thanks to:**

Caroline Kim  
Intern and Korean Language Instructor  
Tracy Luong  
Instructor  
Veeda Fernandes  
Angie Pak  
LA Group Leaders  
Judy Choi  
LA Program Coordinator

(PB 2014-2015 Los Angeles Youth Ambassadors, Group Leaders, Coordinators, and PCI Advisor Mr. Spencer Kim at the graduation, PCI Headquarters, Chatsworth, CA, June 7, 2015)
Apply to be the next Youth Ambassador!

The PCI invites prospective Youth Ambassadors to apply for the 2015-2016 Project Bridge program. The goal of Project Bridge is to instill a sense of understanding and respect to “bridge” the gap between cultures. The students all come from diverse backgrounds and all live in America, thus Project Bridge wants to inspire cultural awareness and the importance of understanding between cultures so that the Los Angeles Riots (SAIGU) will not take place again.

Application will be posted on the PCI website in October: http://www.pacificcenturyinst.org/
For more info, please email Judy Choi at Judy.Choi@PacificCenturyInst.Org

New PCI Representative in Korea

PCI welcomes Mr. Lee Sang-seok as its new representative in Korea. Mr. Lee was President-publisher of the Hankook Ilbo, a major national newspaper, until his recent retirement. He was earlier the Managing Editor of the Hankook Ilbo’s sister English-language newspaper, The Korea Times.

Mr. Lee’s long and distinguished career in journalism included an assignment as the Washington correspondent for the Korea Times from 1994 to 1997. Mr. Lee graduated from Kyong Hee University with a degree in English and then studied at the Columbia School of Journalism. Mr. Lee helped make the PCI in Seoul 25th Anniversary Dinner on May 19 the great success it was.

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