

The KF-VUB Korea Chair



The KF-VUB Korea Chair (henceforth 'the Chair') is a project conducted by the Korea Foundation and the Institute for European Studies of the Vrije Universiteit Brussel (IES-VUB).

The Chair will serve as an independent platform in Brussels to advance academically rigorous and informed discussions on policy questions that are of relevance to the Republic of Korea (ROK) and Europe. To this end, it shall further cooperation between relevant think tanks, academic institutions and businesses in Europe and Korea. These links between Brussels and Seoul will provide mutually beneficial analytical prisms for studying the evolution of regional and global dynamics.

Being based in Brussels, the IES-VUB offers direct access to various institutions of the EU and NATO and other transnational networks, as well as to the diplomatic and business communities of EU member states and third countries. In addition, the IES-VUB co-hosts the United Nations University Institute for Comparative Regional Integration Studies. This provides for numerous synergies; particularly bringing a comparative and global perspective to issues that are of common importance to the ROK and Europe.

Objectives

The Chair aims to fulfil three sets of objectives:

1. Increase awareness in Europe about current security and geopolitical challenges affecting the Korean peninsula
2. Provide a platform to enhance common understanding between Korea and Europe, and enhance mutual awareness about geopolitical, strategic and economic developments in East Asia and Europe
3. Solidify the strategic partnership between Europe and the Republic of Korea (ROK)

Activities

With a view to fulfilling these objectives, the Chair is conducting the following activities:

1. The publication of academically rigorous and policy relevant analyses;
2. The organization of public conferences and expert workshops for in-depth discussions amongst key European and Korean policy-makers and business leaders, and the dissemination of research findings;
3. The organization of a training programme aimed at the next generation of European academic, policy and business leaders working on Korea and East Asia.

Involvement of stakeholders

The activities of the Chair are guided and informed by a high-level Advisory Committee, consisting of a number of senior government and business representatives from the EU and the ROK. Moreover, the Chair is aiming to create a broader community of stakeholders for the project from the outset. The stakeholders will be asked to participate in subsequent events and comment on the deliverables produced over the project's lifetime.

This community of stakeholders also ensures that the project's output is grounded in the contemporary practices of Europe-ROK relations. The most relevant institutional and non-institutional actors (including individuals and groups) who can influence or affect policy processes are being mapped. Where possible, a semi-formalized and ongoing contact with them will be introduced through an associate stakeholders' network.

Stay tuned

Updates on the project will be posted on www.ies.be. If you want to be informed about new events / publications / etc. related to the project, fill in your contact details (and tick the 'KF-VUB Korea Chair box) here: www.ies.be/newsletter/signup

