

LEE JAE MYUNG

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



— REPUBLIC OF KOREA —
CHEONG WA DAE

Contents

- 04 President of the Republic of Korea
- 06 Inaugural Address by the 21st President
- 14 On-site Meeting on the Elimination of Unfair Trade Practices
- 15 Shaping a New Future Through Change and innovation
- 16 Marking the 75th Anniversary of the Korean War
- 18 Address to the National Assembly on the Government's Supplementary Budget Bill
- 20 Supporting Arts and Culture:
The First Step Toward a Cultural Powerhouse
- 22 30 Days of Recovery and Restoration:
A Nation by the People, Fulfilled with Responsibility
- 24 Address by President Lee Jae Myung on
Korea's 80th Liberation Day



- 26** Ushering in the Golden Age of the ROK-U.S. Alliance Together, Making It Shine Brighter than Ever
Speech at the U.S. Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)
- 28** Restoring Lost Dreams:
Let's Make the Miracle of 'MASGA' a Reality
Congratulatory Address at the Christening Ceremony for the State of Maine Training Vessel at Hanwha Philly Shipyard
- 30** Address by President Lee Jae Myung at the 80th Session of the UN General Assembly
- 32** National Tasks
- 34** K-Heritage, Upholding Noble Traditions
- 35** K-Culture, Creativity with a Worldwide Resonance
- 36** Republic of Korea Overview



PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



The resolve of one person
can alter the tides of history.
Be that person.
Be the beginning of change.

PERSONAL DATA

Full Name: Lee Jae Myung

(Hangeul: 이재명 / Hanja: 李在明)

Date of Birth: December 22, 1964

Family: Married to Kim Hea Kyung with two sons

Religion: Christianity

EDUCATION

- Aug. 1978 Passed the High School Equivalency Examination
- Apr. 1980 Passed the College Entrance Equivalency Examination
- Feb. 1986 B.A. in Law, Chung-Ang University

CAREER

- 1986 Passed the 28th National Judicial Examination
- 1989 Completed the Judicial Research and Training Institute course (18th class)
- 1989 Opened a law firm and began private practice
- 1989 Member of the International Solidarity Committee, MINBYUN (Lawyers for a Democratic Society)
- 1990–1994 Director of Icheon Labor Counseling Center and Gwangju Labor Counseling Center
- 1994–2005 Executive Director of Seongnam People's Solidarity; Director of Seongnam Anti-Corruption Reporting Center
- 2010–2018 Mayor of Seongnam (5th and 6th popularly elected terms)
- 2018–2021 Governor of Gyeonggi-do Province (7th popularly elected term)
- 2022–2025 Member of the 21st and 22nd National Assembly (Gyeyang-eul District, Incheon)
- 2022–2025 Leader of the Democratic Party of Korea
- 2025- President of the Republic of Korea

AUTHORED PUBLICATIONS

- 2018 A Factory Boy's Diary
- 2022 The Road We Walk Together Is Not Lonely
- 2022 The Dream Which Led Me Here
- 2025 In the End, the People Do It

“No matter what has happened, the future is better than the past; the future is better than the present; it will always be and that is why we have every reason to be hopeful.”

Lee Jae Myung stands as a powerful symbol of hope and resilience. His inspiring journey from factory worker to transformative political leader captures the imagination of a generation eager for authentic, compassionate, and effective leadership. With a distinguished record of advocacy, civic leadership, and progressive governance, Lee exemplifies a new generation of pragmatic, principled leadership—one committed to equality, opportunity, and building a more inclusive society for all. Lee’s vision for a fairer society continues to resonate far beyond Korea, reflecting universal aspirations for justice, opportunity, and dignity.

Born on December 22, 1964, in Andong, Gyeongsangbuk-do Province, Lee grew up in challenging circumstances as the fifth of seven siblings.

Lee’s educational journey is a testament to his exceptional determination and resilience. After graduating from Samgye Elementary School in 1976, his family relocated to Seongnam – where he would later launch his political career. A poverty-stricken family background compelled him to leave formal education and begin working in factories at the young age of 13. He endured harsh working conditions without formal employment documents—due to legal age restrictions— but he never lost sight of education as his path to freedom.

While working tirelessly, he passed the high school equivalency exam through self-study, eventually obtaining a law degree from Chung-Ang University in 1986. At the remarkable age of 23, Lee passed the challenging Korean bar examination. Completing judicial training at the Judicial Research and Training Institute in 1989, he immediately began practicing law.

Rather than using his talents to pursue wealth or privilege, Lee dedicated himself to advocacy, becoming a human-rights lawyer committed to protecting workers and the vulnerable. In 1989, he joined the Lawyers for a Democratic Society. He played key roles in civic activism, leading

labor counseling offices and anti-corruption initiatives and passionately fighting for justice and equality.

For over a decade (1994-2005), Lee actively led civic organizations dedicated to transparency and anti-corruption, notably serving as Executive Chairman of Seongnam Citizens’ Coalition for Economic Justice and Director of the Seongnam Anti-Corruption Reporting Center.

Realizing he could do more from within the political system, Lee transitioned from activism to public office with a mission to create meaningful change. Lee was elected mayor of Seongnam, serving two successful terms from 2010 to 2018 and transforming it into one of the Republic of Korea’s most innovative and inclusive municipalities. Building upon this success, he became governor of Gyeonggi-do Province (2018–2021), the Republic of Korea’s most populous province, where he was noted for his progressive, welfare-oriented policies and transparent governance.

His dedication and effectiveness propelled him to national prominence. Lee was elected Member of the National Assembly representing Gyeyang-gu (Incheon) in 2022, subsequently re-elected, and simultaneously served as Chairman of the Democratic Party (2022–2025). Notably, he was the first person since former President Kim Dae Jung to serve consecutive terms as the Democratic Party chairman, highlighting deep confidence in his leadership and vision. In 2025, Lee was elected the 21st President of the Republic of Korea, garnering widespread support from the Korean people across the country.

Beyond politics, Lee is a dedicated family man whose pastimes include hiking, playing go, fishing, and taking long walks. He is an avid reader, and often speaks openly about his belief that life’s struggles are opportunities to grow stronger. Guided by his personal motto, “Do your best and leave the rest to fate,” he maintains a lifelong commitment to personal growth and social responsibility.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS BY THE 21ST PRESIDENT

Beloved fellow Koreans,
I, Lee Jae Myung, am deeply
honored to stand before you
as the 21st president of the
Republic of Korea, chosen
by your trust and support.

June 4, 2025

I stand here today with an overwhelming sense of responsibility and profound gratitude. Carrying in my heart the millions of aspirations and hopes entrusted to me by our 52 million citizens, today I take my first step as the 21st President of the Republic of Korea toward building a true democratic republic.

The future is calling us forward. Now is the time to revive all the people's livelihoods, which are hanging by a thread, and to resuscitate growth in order to create a tomorrow where everyone is happy. It is time to rebuild national security and peace, which have been reduced to tools for instigating political strife; to revive the economy and livelihoods, which have collapsed due to indifference, incompetence and irresponsibility; and to restore democracy, which has been undermined by armored vehicles and automatic rifles.

It is time to end the hatred and confrontation that have divided us by building bridges of coexistence, reconciliation and solidarity. It is time to open wide an era of happiness for all that overflows with hopes and dreams.

As writer Han Kang said in her Nobel Prize lecture, the past helps the present, and the dead save the living. Now, it falls to us – the ones who in future days will belong to the past – to help protect future generations.



Office of the President Republic of Korea Official Photo

Ours is the only nation among those liberated from colonial rule to have achieved both industrialization and democratization, a nation that now stands as the world's 10th-largest economy, the fifth-strongest military power, and a cultural leader on the global stage.

Before the people, I pledge to answer the solemn command to let hope bloom upon deep, vast wounds and respond to the earnest yearning to build a whole new country. Following the true calling of the presidency to bring about greater unity regardless of whom people supported in this presidential election, I will become a "President for all," embracing and serving all citizens.

Even today, the Republic of Korea is writing a new chapter in its history. It is the only country among those liberated from colonial rule to succeed in both industrialization and democratization, a country that boasts the world's 10th-largest economy and fifth-strongest military force, a country whose K-culture is at the global forefront. This proud country of the East has opened a new page in the history of democracy by using nothing but bare hands and cheering sticks to stifle a military coup staged by the holder of the highest office. People around the world are watching the Republic of Korea's great journey, the Korean people's great capabilities, with wonder. The Revolution of Light – K-democracy in action – has become a shining model for people worldwide seeking a new path forward amid democratic crises.

Fellow citizens,

We now stand at the crossroads of great change. The old order is retreating and a new order, a civilizational transformation, has begun. We have embarked on a new era of civilization – an unprecedented era of cutting-edge science and technology, an era of limitless AI competition where change happens in the blink of an eye. The climate crisis has placed humanity under threat and created an urgent need for industrial transformation. Our very survival is threatened by rapid changes in the international order such as a greater focus on protectionism and a supply chain realignment.

If we lag behind changes, we will become a weary follower. If we take the lead with making changes, we will enjoy boundless opportunities. Unfortunately, though, at this critical moment, we are facing a polycrisis that is like a tangled ball of thread. This applies in every area, including livelihoods, the economy, diplomacy, security and democracy. The Republic of Korea's present and future are under attack at the same time. Saving the livelihoods of exhausted citizens, restoring democracy and peace, recovering growth and properly

reclaiming our national prestige will require an unimaginable amount of sweat, tears and patience. However, like June roses that stubbornly seek the light and bloom even under the shade of walls, our people have found a way to move forward even amid chaos and despair. Guided by the will of the sovereign people, we will advance even if it means crossing treacherous mountains and cutting through brambles. We will start with recovering people's livelihoods and reviving the economy.

Firmly resolving to win a war against a recession, we will immediately implement an Emergency Economic Monitoring Task Force. Using national finances as a pump primer, we will set the economy back into a virtuous cycle. The newly launched government of the ruling Democratic Party – the Lee Jae Myung administration – will govern in an upright, unified, flexible and pragmatic manner. Unity indicates competence, while division exposes a lack thereof. Only political forces without the ability and will to change people's lives resort to sowing division and hatred to maintain power.

I will be a president who ends divisive politics. Using national unity as our driving force, we will overcome the crisis. We will recover what has been destroyed and lost through an insurrection – livelihoods, the economy, security, peace and democracy – and create a society that is ever growing and developing. An insurrection by forces that use the guns and swords entrusted by the people to steal popular sovereignty must never happen again. Through a thorough fact-finding process, we will hold those involved accountable and firmly establish measures to prevent a recurrence.

By building on the values of coexistence and unity, we will restore communication and dialogue, and we will revive a politics of concession and compromise. Let's now consign old ideologies to the dustbin of history. From now on, there will be no exclusively progressive issues or exclusively conservative issues. There will only be issues concerning the people of the Republic of Korea. If found necessary and useful, we won't hesitate to use the policies of either former conservative President Park Chung-hee or former liberal President Kim Dae-jung.

The Lee Jae Myung administration will be pragmatic and market-oriented. Our government will support and encourage, not control and interfere. To make sure that businesses operate

creatively and proactively, we will approve first and regulate later. We will provide strong support so that entrepreneurs can freely start businesses, expand and compete in the global market. We will never allow profit to be gained through rule-breaking and damage to be suffered through lawful behavior. We will have no tolerance for threats to people's lives and safety, the trampling of workers' legitimate rights, unjust oppression of the weak or threats to the market order through stock price manipulation and other forms of unfair trading.

A country where all citizens' basic needs are guaranteed, a country where people boldly take risks thanks to a strong "social security mattress" – only such a country can achieve innovation and fresh growth. Individuals and the nation itself must achieve growth first in order to reap shared benefits. Through pragmatic, national interest-based diplomacy, we will turn the crisis of a drastically changing global economy and security environment into an opportunity to maximize our national interest. Based on the solid ROK-U.S. alliance, we will strengthen ROK-U.S.-Japan cooperation and approach relations with neighboring countries from a pragmatic, national-interest-centered perspective. We will expand our diplomatic horizons, raise our international stature and extend the Republic of Korea's economic reach.

We are mandated by the great
Revolution of Light to go beyond
ending the insurrection and
build a shining new nation.
I will solemnly uphold the people's
mandate for a new nation of hope.



First, I will create a country that truly belongs to the people.

The Republic of Korea is a democratic republic, and sovereignty lies with the Korean people. I will create a truly democratic republic where the government communicates constantly with the people, regardless of time or place, and where the people's will to exercise their sovereignty is routinely reflected in state affairs. I will steadfastly pursue the social reform tasks that were demanded in the Plaza of Light.

Second, I will create a country that grows and develops robustly once again.

A vicious cycle persists, with access to opportunities and resources becoming increasingly unequal and growth being held back by widening gaps and polarization. With sluggish growth resulting in fewer opportunities, mutually beneficial competition has given way to an eat-or-be-eaten environment.

Young people forced into an extreme state of competition have reached the point where men are pitted against women. An unequal society where losing out in competition is akin to a death sentence has merged with divisive politics to create a brand of antisocial extremism that threatens the survival of society. We will open the door to a better world by fostering new growth engines and the sort of fair growth that yields shared opportunities and mutual benefits.

Today's Republic of Korea was created through the efforts of our parents' generation, who defied poverty by selling their rice paddies and fields in order to fund their children's education. Likewise, the government will step forward to prepare for, support and invest in the dawning future.

Through massive investment and support for cutting-edge tech industries like AI and semiconductors, we will leap forward as an industrial powerhouse and take the lead in the future. Following the global imperative of responding to the climate crisis, we will quickly transition to a renewable energy-centered society. In addition to strengthening corporate competitiveness through energy import substitution and preparing for RE100, we will make it possible to produce renewable energy anywhere in the country through our initiative to build a comprehensive Energy Highway network. This will help revive rapidly depopulating parts of the country.

Third, I will help build a country where everyone thrives together.

The resource-lacking Republic of Korea achieved rapid growth, becoming the world's 10th largest economy, through an unbalanced development strategy that involved concentrated investment in specific regions, companies and social classes. However, this unbalanced growth strategy has now reached its limit, and polarization driven by inequality has begun impeding growth. Now, to unlock sustainable growth, we must make a major pivot in our growth and development strategy. We must move toward balanced development, a fair growth strategy and an equitable society.

We must ease the concentration in the Seoul metropolitan area and aim for balanced national development; we must create an industrial ecosystem where large, medium, small, venture and start-up companies all cooperate organically. We must usher in a fair society, one without privileges and preferential treatment. Fair distribution of opportunities and the fruits of growth is the path toward sustainable growth. Just as growth and sharing are complementary, not mutually exclusive, corporate development and respect for labor can undoubtedly coexist.

Fourth, I will create a country where culture flourishes.

"The only thing that I desire in infinite quantity is the power of a highly developed culture," wrote independence activist Kim Gu (pen name: Baekbeom). His dream is now becoming a reality. Korean culture is captivating the world through K-pop, K-dramas, K-movies, K-beauty and K-food. Culture is the economy, and culture is international competitiveness. We must make use of the K-culture craze worldwide in order to advance our culture industry and create good jobs. I will expand the Republic of Korea's culture industry even further. Through active support for culture and the arts, we will leap forward as a cultural powerhouse. Through this active support, we will help Korea emerge as one of the top five nations in terms of soft power and a cultural powerhouse that rewrites the world's standards for content.

Fifth, I will help build a safe and peaceful country.

Safety and peace are major prerequisites for national happiness. Safety is our daily bread, and peace is the economy. We will clearly uncover the truth behind national tragedies like the Sewol Ferry sinking, the Itaewon crowd-crush disaster and the Osong underpass incident. In doing so, we will build a safe society where people's lives and property remain secure. We will heal the wounds of division and war and map out a future of peaceful prosperity. No matter how expensive peace is, it is better than war. More important than winning a fight and more important than winning without a fight is building a state where fighting is unnecessary – that is, creating peace. With our defense spending equivalent to twice North Korea's GDP and with the world's fifth strongest military force, plus strong deterrence based on the ROK-U.S. military alliance, we will remain poised to defend against North Korean nuclear weapons and military provocations. At the same time, though, we will open communication channels with North Korea and build peace on the Peninsula through dialogue and cooperation. We will restore the military's honor and the public trust that was damaged by an illegal declaration of martial law. Also, we will ensure that the military is never again mobilized for political reasons.

Beloved fellow citizens,

Through countless life-or-death crises, sustained only through faith in the people, I have come this far by following the path you laid for me. Now, I hope to carry out the mission you have entrusted me with. Our people have always been strong when united, and when united, we have overcome all adversity. We stood against Japanese oppression with the March First Independence Movement and established the Provisional Government of the Republic of Korea. And we overcame the pain of division and the ruins of war to achieve an industrialization that awed the world.

We fought against harsh dictatorships and achieved democracy. We also reclaimed popular sovereignty through two beautiful, bloodless revolutions that remain unparalleled in world history. Through their great capabilities, our people can overcome any crisis. A country that leads the world through the power of its sophisticated culture and a country that spearheads change through advanced technology, the Republic of Korea will serve as a world model in terms of its

exemplary democracy. When the Republic of Korea does it, it will become the world standard.

Fellow Koreans,

The ultimate purpose of growth and recovery is the happiness of the people – the true masters of this land. Let's create a truly democratic republic where the national capacity is exercised entirely for the people's sake. Setting aside petty differences to acknowledge and respect one another, let's create a country that truly belongs to the people, a country that brings happiness to the people. Let's advance together and realize the Republic of Korea's true potential.

All of you, the people who resisted an armed insurrection and opened up a world of hope with your beautiful light, are the protagonists of this great historic journey. As a faithful servant of the sovereign people of the Republic of Korea, a deputy entrusted with the lives of 52 million people and the nation's future, I will faithfully fulfill the responsibilities vested in the Republic of Korea's 21st president.

Thank you.



Office of the President Republic of Korea Official Photo



Office of the President Republic of Korea Official Photo

ON-SITE MEETING ON THE ELIMINATION OF UNFAIR TRADE PRACTICES

June 11, 2025

Our stock market has long faced criticism for being unfair and opaque. Now, we must overhaul all the faulty practices and structures to create an environment where people can confidently invest over the long run. The Lee Jae Myung administration will never tolerate the acquisition of illegal gains in the stock market. Anyone who gains unfairly through illegal activities will be required to pay several times that amount and be sternly punished. For unfair trading, like stock price manipulation, we will introduce a “one-strike rule.” We will also work to close institutional loopholes and blind spots that have recklessly been left unattended. We will use every legislative and administrative tool at our disposal to ensure that illegal acts and irregularities cannot take root in the stock market. We will not fail to restore trust in the Republic of Korea’s stock market.



Office of the President Republic of Korea Official Photo

SHAPING A NEW FUTURE THROUGH CHANGE AND INNOVATION

June 21, 2025

The Republic of Korea has passed through a period of astronomical growth and now stands at the threshold of a new crisis. Numerous challenges lie ahead of us: uncertainty in the global economy, competition for technological supremacy, rapid demographic changes, the climate crisis and more.

What matters now is the choices we make and how we move forward. The power to turn crises into opportunities comes from a spirit of bravely embracing challenges. It is time to boldly prepare for a new tomorrow through change and innovation.



Office of the President Republic of Korea Official Photo

MARKING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR

June 25, 2025

In 1953, when the Korean War ended, our country's average annual income per capita was a meager US\$67. We have now risen into the ranks of the global top 10 economic powerhouses with yearly per capita earnings topping US\$36,000. In the history of the OECD, we are the only country that has gone from being a major aid recipient to being an aid donor, and we are considered a role model for developing countries worldwide. Alongside economic growth, we have achieved remarkable development in terms of education, healthcare, science, technology, culture and various other fields. We are the world's 10th-largest economy, have the world's fifth-strongest military and are leading global culture with K-culture.

Today's Republic of Korea did not come about as a matter of course. It was made possible through the sacrifices and dedication of the military personnel and veterans who fought on battlefields, the bereaved families of fallen heroes and all the citizens who endured and lived through the wounds of war.

The highest level of security is a state where fighting is unnecessary, and this is accomplished through an enduring peace. Gone is the era of defending the nation by relying solely on military force. It is more important to win without fighting than to win through fighting. This is an era when peace is the economy itself, when peace is directly linked to our people's survival. I pledge to firmly build a system for peace on the Korean Peninsula so that the economy can remain stable and the people can live securely and safely, with peace of mind.





Office of the President Republic of Korea Official Photo



Office of the President Republic of Korea Official Photo

ADDRESS TO THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ON THE GOVERNMENT'S SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET BILL

June 26, 2025

To alleviate polarization and inequality and build a society where everyone prospers together, we must open the door to a new era of fair growth – one that generates new growth engines and ensures that both opportunities for growth and the fruits of that growth are shared by all.

The capital market must be normalized. Restored transparency and fairness in the capital market will help revive the economy and enable businesses to grow and develop properly in a virtuous cycle, throwing the door wide open for an era that all Koreans desire – an era of the KOSPI rising above 5,000 points.

We have to make massive investments in cutting-edge tech industries such as artificial intelligence and semiconductors. We also need to respond to the climate crisis and the RE100 initiative by swiftly completing the energy transition, which centers on renewable energy. In addition, we have to make the Republic of Korea a global leader by driving innovation in the biohealth industry and manufacturing, and also by actively fostering our culture industry.

Diplomacy transcends ideology. It is not about being progressive or conservative. The only guiding principle should be whether a particular choice serves the national interest. We must respond wisely to changes in the international order – including trade and supply chain issues – through pragmatic diplomacy that focuses on our national interests.

A fair society – where no one gains by breaking the rules and no one loses out by following them – is only possible if we all work together. We must build a just and reasonable society that applauds the type of success that has been earned legitimately through integrity and hard work.



Office of the President Republic of Korea Official Photo

SUPPORTING ARTS AND CULTURE: THE FIRST STEP TOWARD A CULTURAL POWERHOUSE

June 30, 2025

The power of culture, that is, cultural power, is a new growth engine that enables the Republic of Korea to stand proudly on the world stage.



In fact, there were times when I doubted whether the sentiments so familiar and natural to us Koreans could really resonate with people around the world. However, seeing things we thought were too Korean actually being passionately embraced overseas, I grew convinced that we are in a new era where the world loves the same things we do.

A nation's future no longer depends solely on military power or economic power. The power of culture, that is, cultural power, is a new growth engine that enables the Republic of Korea to stand proudly on the world stage. Right now, we are on the cusp of becoming the "cultural powerhouse" that Kim Gu so earnestly dreamed of.

However, many in the field of culture and the arts are still struggling to balance their livelihood and creative work. Now, it is the nation's turn to add wings to their creativity. We will ensure a stable environment where they can focus entirely on creative activities without having to worry about making a living.



Office of the President Republic of Korea Official Photo



Office of the President Republic of Korea Official Photo

30 DAYS OF RECOVERY AND RESTORATION: A NATION BY THE PEOPLE, FULFILLED WITH RESPONSIBILITY

June 30, 2025



Office of the President Republic of Korea Official Photo

**My fellow Koreans,
We have taken the first hard-won
step toward restoring normalcy
in our country. However, the
path ahead remains bumpy
and steep. Our very survival is
being threatened by a complex,
multilayered crisis at home
and by a great transformation
of civilization abroad.**

First, our top priority is to ease the people's daily hardships and build a growing nation that can leap forward once again. We will mobilize every possible means to stabilize our people's livelihoods and to alleviate the burden of high living costs.

Only when we secure sustainable growth engines by surmounting today's challenges will we be able to usher in a mutually prosperous society.

From high-tech industries such as AI and semiconductors and the renewable energy industry, which will carry out an "energy highway" project, through to the culture industry, we will spare no investment to brighten our country's future.

We will see to it that our companies take the lead in the global market and that our people have opportunities to invest in our growing firms, thereby building greater national wealth.

We will achieve "growth for all" through balanced national development that helps address the overdominance of the Seoul metropolitan area, which serves as the center of everything. We will also pursue balanced industrial growth. Large corporations as well as small and medium-sized enterprises will cooperate and thrive together, as will established companies, business ventures and startups.

Second, we will safeguard citizens' lives with a strong, thick "social security mattress" that can support everyone.

We must build a nation where everyone has a chance to rise again from failure. Only then can we achieve true recovery, growth and innovation.

We will build a stronger and more tightly woven social safety net to protect the vulnerable in our society – all those facing relentless hardships and struggling to make ends meet with nothing but their bare strength – and prepare to move toward a society where every citizen's basic livelihood is secured.

Third, we will fulfill the state's foremost duty – to safeguard the citizens' safety and peaceful daily lives. From uncovering the truth behind social disasters to preparing measures to prevent common industrial accidents from reoccurring, we will never abandon our solemn duty to build a society where safety comes first.

Building upon these formidable defense capabilities, we will maintain thoroughgoing preparedness against any provocation. At the same time, we will restore severed lines of communication with the North and pave the way for peace and coexistence on the Korean Peninsula through dialogue and cooperation. With pragmatic, national interest-focused diplomacy grounded in an ironclad ROK-U.S. alliance, close trilateral cooperation among the Republic of Korea, the United States and Japan and the swift improvements of our ties with China and Russia, we will safeguard peace and our people's lives. We will transform the so-called "Korea Discount" into a "Korea Premium" without fail.

Due to the climate crisis and shifts in the international trade order, the conditions for our farmers are becoming increasingly challenging. Given the extraordinary significance of agriculture as a national strategic industry, I will personally attend to matters concerning our farmers and the agricultural sector as a whole.

The wisdom of our people – the true embodiment of collective intelligence – is the guiding light that will illuminate our path forward. We will move toward a nation that truly belongs to the people, both in name and reality, by making direct communication with our citizens a part of everyday governance and our institutional framework, while actively reflecting their voices in the running of state affairs.

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT LEE JAE MYUNG ON KOREA'S 80TH LIBERATION DAY

August 15, 2025

Now is the time to move beyond outmoded Cold War mentalities and confrontation and usher in a new era of peace on the Korean Peninsula. Everyone knows that this ongoing hostility helps no one on either side of the Korean peninsula. Through our history, we have bitterly experienced the misfortunes that arise when peace is disrupted.



Office of the President Republic of Korea Official Photo

Peace is the foundation of a secure daily life, the bedrock of democracy and a prerequisite for economic development. More important than winning a fight and more important than winning without a fight is building a state where fighting is unnecessary – that is, creating peace.

Now, we are all in the midst of a vortex of monumental changes. We must wisely navigate the polycrisis of realigned supply chains and sudden shifts in the trade order, the great industrial transformation driven by competition in cutting-edge technology and the energy transition necessitated by the climate crisis. Fall a single step behind, and you become a weary follower; move just half a step ahead, and you become a leader with boundless opportunities. We must actively respond to changes by fostering the development of cutting-edge science and technology such as semiconductors and artificial intelligence. We must boldly usher in the future by accelerating the energy transition, including initiatives like the Energy Highway. We must also further develop our culture and take the global lead in soft power. Only then can we usher in a new century of progress.

With this year marking the 80th anniversary of liberation, now is an opportune time to end the era of confrontation and hostility and jointly usher in a new era of peaceful

coexistence and shared growth on the Korean Peninsula. I hope that North Korea will reciprocate our efforts to restore trust and revive dialogue.

A peaceful Korean Peninsula must be free of nuclear weapons and founded on friendly cooperation with neighboring countries. Denuclearization is a complex and difficult task that cannot be resolved quickly. However, inter-Korean and U.S.-North Korea dialogue as well as international cooperation will help us approach a peaceful resolution. At the same time, we will strive to broaden international support and build consensus for Peninsular peace and the advancement of inter-Korean relations.

Japan is our neighbor across the sea as well as an indispensable partner in our economic development. When Korea and Japan normalized diplomatic relations 60 years ago, only about 10,000 people traveled between the two countries annually. These days, however, that figure has reached 12 million.

Our national clout has also grown incomparably stronger than it was back then. Korea and Japan have achieved industrial development in tandem. As such, we will be able to overcome the challenges of the artificial intelligence era, which is marked by competition to secure a commanding lead, when our two countries pursue future-oriented cooperation based on mutual trust. Guided by the principle of pragmatic, national interest-focused diplomacy, we will seek forward-looking, mutually beneficial cooperation with Japan while holding frequent meetings and frank dialogues through shuttle diplomacy. The stronger the trust, the higher the quality of cooperation. I hope that the Japanese government will squarely face up to our painful history and strive to maintain trust between our two countries. I believe that such efforts will bring greater shared benefits and a brighter future for both sides.

USHERING IN THE GOLDEN AGE OF THE ROK-U.S. ALLIANCE TOGETHER, MAKING IT SHINE BRIGHTER THAN EVER

Speech at the U.S. Center for
Strategic and International
Studies (CSIS)

August 26, 2025

The Republic of Korea is, as I have stated, the only country among those liberated from colonial rule to have achieved both industrialization and democratization. Our country is also a cutting-edge technological power that will shape humanity's future and a cultural powerhouse that is setting new global standards in content and touching hearts around the world. Central to the Republic of Korea's brilliant achievements are the competency and determination of our people, who have turned crises into opportunities at every critical historical juncture. However, the Republic of Korea could not have become what it is today without the contributions of the United States and the international community.

**The Republic of Korea,
which has benefited from growth
and development as a member
of the liberal democratic bloc,
will fulfill its roles and responsibilities
in this capacity going forward.**

I believe that the optimal solution is pursuing pragmatic, national interest-focused diplomacy – responding to global affairs with flexible thinking and a strategic perspective while also nimbly keeping up with the times. And what undergirds our pragmatic, national interest-centered diplomacy is the ROK-U.S. alliance, which has played a pivotal role in prosperity and peace. Korea and the United States have fought together as comrades-in-arms on various battlefields to defend our shared values of peace and prosperity. This is what makes ours a security alliance. The Republic of Korea, which developed in part through American aid, has now become the top “greenfield investor” in the United States, helping further enrich the lives of U.S. citizens. This is what makes ours an economic alliance. In addition to our security alliance and economic alliance, I am committed to opening new horizons with President Trump for a pragmatic, national interest-focused alliance.

Our future-oriented, comprehensive strategic alliance will shine brighter still – based on the pillars of security, our economies and advanced technology – effectively furthering our two countries’ pragmatic goals and interests.

Obligations under the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) must be strictly observed on the Korean Peninsula, and doing so clearly serves the interests of both South and North Korea. The Republic of Korea will comply with the NPT regime and thoroughly honor its denuclearization commitment. The principle of pragmatic, national interest-focused diplomacy also applies to inter-Korean relations.

I am convinced that reconciliatory and cooperative inter-Korean relations would benefit not only both Koreas but also, by extension, the United States.

Together with President Trump, I will help forge close ROK-U.S.-Japan cooperation based on an ironclad ROK-U.S. alliance. Our three countries will jointly respond to North Korea’s nuclear and missile threats and work harder to achieve peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and beyond.



Office of the President Republic of Korea Official Photo

RESTORING LOST DREAMS: LET'S MAKE THE MIRACLE OF 'MASGA' A REALITY

Congratulatory Address at the Christening Ceremony for the
State of Maine Training Vessel at Hanwha Philly Shipyard

August 27, 2025

The Make American Shipbuilding Great Again project is not just a vision for building massive warships and cutting-edge vessels. It is also a grand vision for restoring lost dreams. The shipbuilding industry has been synonymous with growth and opportunity, with hopes and dreams, for countless young Koreans throughout the history of the Republic of Korea. Likewise, the Hanwha Philly Shipyard will be remembered in the same manner by American youth.

Business leaders and workers from both Korea and the United States, Humanity has always viewed the ocean as a space of challenge and opportunity.

The MASGA project, set to unfold on the global stage, represents a new sea of opportunities that the Republic of Korea and the United States will sail together.

Here at Hanwha Philly Shipyard, we will be writing a new chapter in the 72-year-old ROK-U.S. alliance, transforming it into a future-oriented, comprehensive strategic partnership encompassing collaboration in security, our economies and technology.





Office of the President Republic of Korea Official Photo



Office of the President Republic of Korea Official Photo

ADDRESS BY PRESIDENT LEE JAE MYUNG AT THE 80TH SESSION OF THE UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

September 23, 2025

“The Revolution of Light”
that the people of
the Republic of Korea
achieved against the darkness
of the insurrection last winter
was a historic moment that
demonstrated the brilliant
achievement of the UN spirit.

Today, at the UN General Assembly, where world peace and humanity’s shared prosperity is discussed, I proudly announce that a new Republic of Korea, which will be a beacon of light for global citizens, has completely returned to the international community.

The Republic of Korea will fulfill its role as a responsible global power that steadfastly upholds the values of freedom, human rights, inclusiveness and solidarity championed by the United Nations.

The Government of the Republic of Korea clearly reaffirms that it respects the North’s current system, that it will not pursue any form of unification by absorption, and that it has no intention of engaging in hostile acts.

Through comprehensive dialogue centered on “Exchange,” “Normalization,” and “Denuclearization,” in other words, “END,” we must end the era of hostility and confrontation on the Korean Peninsula and usher in a new era of peaceful coexistence and shared growth.

The international community must gather its wisdom in a pragmatic and phased solution beginning with a “stop” in the sophistication of nuclear and missile capabilities, going through a “reduction” process and reaching “dismantlement.”



사진: 대통령실 제공

NATIONAL TASKS

NATIONAL VISION

**Be a Nation that Truly Belongs to the People,
a Republic of Korea Where Everyone Thrives Together**

GOVERNING PRINCIPLES

Public Engagement
and Social Cohesion

Fairness and Trust

Pragmatic Approach
and Results Orientation

POLICY GOALS

**Politics that
Unite the People**

1

Be free from the unilateral politics that exclude the citizenry and from the forces that prompt division and conflict so that the governance system is built upon public participation and cooperation, thereby putting into practice the politics that promote unity

**An Innovation
Economy that
Leads the World**

2

Overcome the economic slowdown by fostering new industries for the future such as artificial intelligence (AI), green energy and biohealth, thereby ushering in "another era of growth" that drives Korea's economic resurgence

**Balanced Growth for
Shared Prosperity**

3

Address regional and social disparities and build a "nation of balanced growth" where the Seoul metropolitan area and local regions, large corporations and SMEs, as well as workers and management, all grow together

**A Society Built on
Strong Foundations**

4

Provide the income, housing, healthcare and caregiving levels that ensure a decent quality of life as well as enable all citizens to enjoy creative, cultural activities and realize their full potential in a safe and respectful social environment

**National
Interest-focused
Diplomacy and
Security**

5

Maintain peace on the Korean Peninsula amid a rapidly changing world order and emerge as a leader in setting the international agenda through pragmatic, national interest-first diplomacy

대한민국정부

UPHOLDING NOBLE TRADITIONS

With around 5,000 years of history, Korea has an artistically sophisticated, creatively rich culture that has been passed on by many generations.

As of 2025, Korea's UNESCO recognitions comprise 15 cultural and 2 natural heritage sites on the World Heritage List, 20 entries on the Memory of the World Register and 23 inscriptions on the Representative List of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity.

Korea's national heritage is not just remnants of the past – it stands resplendently today as a shared legacy of humanity that continues to foster dialogue with the world.



K-Heritage

CREATIVITY WITH A WORLDWIDE RESONANCE

K-Culture has expanded beyond music, film and TV dramas to include food, beauty and other fields, and it is permeating the daily life of people around the world.

K-pop is opening new frontiers by forging engagement with fans worldwide, while Korean films and TV dramas are captivating audiences through their compelling storylines and stellar production quality. The vibrant flavors of Korea's cuisine and the exceptional quality of its beauty products have also been warmly received around the globe.

Far from being just a passing trend, K-Culture has grown to become a new cultural phenomenon that embodies Korean creativity and sensibility.



K-Culture

REPUBLIC OF KOREA OVERVIEW

Country Name	Republic of Korea
Capital City	Seoul Metropolitan City
Political System	Liberal democracy, Presidential system
Geographical Location	Korean Peninsula Latitude: 33°–43° Longitude: 124°–132°
National Territory Area	100,459 km ² (entire Korean Peninsula 223,404 km ²)
Population	51.68 million (as of July 2025)
Language	Korean
Official Script	Hangeul
Currency	Won (KRW)
National Symbols	National flag: Taegeukgi National anthem: Aegukga National flower: Mugunghwa (Rose of Sharon)



Map of the Republic of Korea



Taegeukgi



Mugunghwa (Rose of Sharon)

