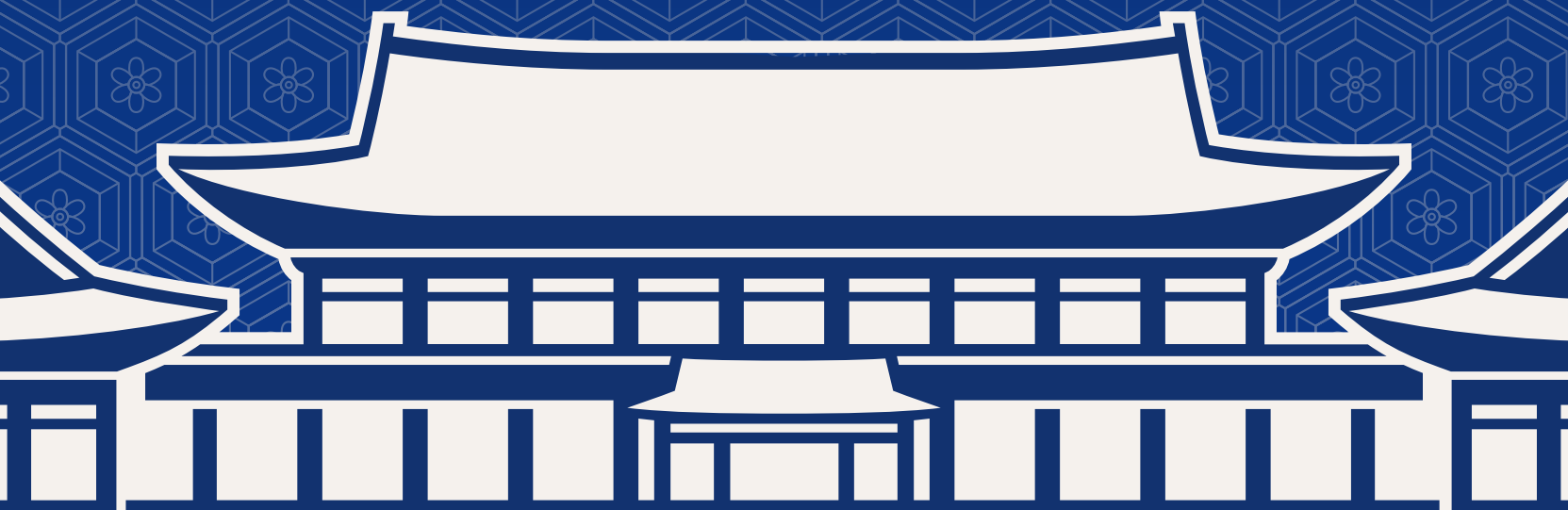


PRESIDENT
LEE JAE MYUNG
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



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This press kit contains selected excerpts from the President's speeches, carefully compiled and edited for official publication.



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**PRESIDENT OF
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA**



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
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 28 th National Judicial Examination
	1989	Completed the Judicial Research and Training Institute course (18 th 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
	2018–2021	Governor of Gyeonggi-do Province
	2022–2025	Member of the 21 st and 22 nd 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. However, 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 selfstudy, eventually obtaining a law degree from Chung-Ang University in 1986, at the age of 23. Later that same year, 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.

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S GREAT LEAP FORWARD WILL ULTIMATELY BE ACHIEVED BY THE PEOPLE

2026. 1. 1.

2026 New Year's Address by President Lee Jae Myung

As we ring in 2026, the goal of this people-centered government is clear. We will gallop powerfully like the Red Horse this year—the first year of a great leap forward for the Republic of Korea.

Across all sectors—politics, the economy, society, culture, foreign affairs and national security—we will achieve a major leap forward and sustained growth without fail.



The one and only standard for this great leap forward is the lives of the people. Building on the recovery forged through your perseverance and efforts, we will usher in a full-fledged era of fruition.

We must completely transform our growth paradigm. We will accomplish this great transformation by taking a shortcut—by switching from the familiar old path to a new one. Through this change, the Republic of Korea will enter a new future defined by a great leap forward. With this in mind, I would like to outline five paths for this transformation.

First, we will shift from growth centered around the Seoul metropolitan area to regionally led growth. Transitioning from a “unipolar, Seoul-centered model” to a “five-pole, three-specialized-zone framework” is not a favor to the provinces—it is an essential strategy for national resurgence. The farther a region lies from the Seoul metropolitan area, the stronger and more decisive the support it will receive.

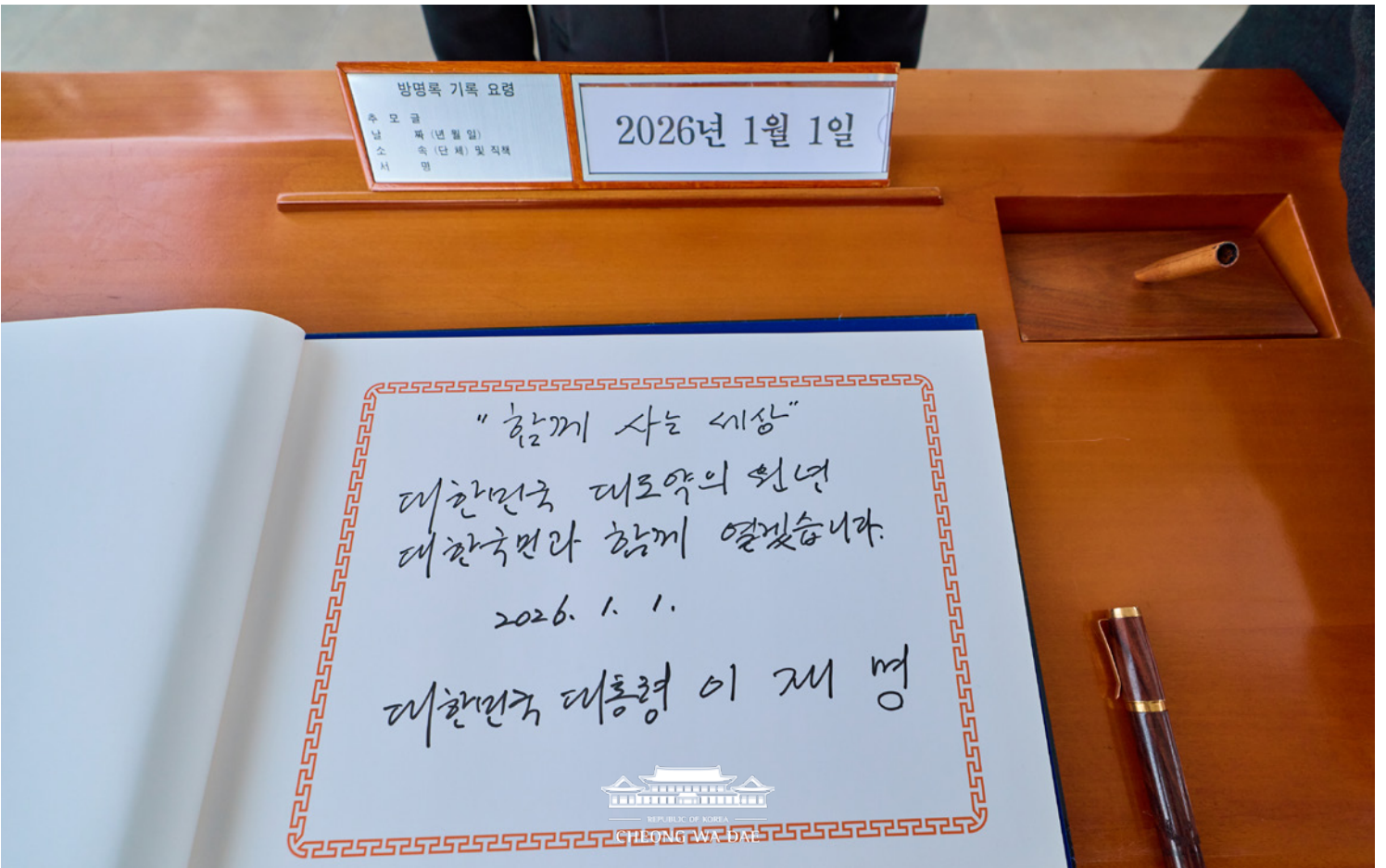
Second, we will shift dramatically from growth centered on a handful of large corporations to growth that benefits all, in which opportunities and the fruits of growth are shared equitably. As we transition from an employment-focused society to a startup-driven one, the government will spare no effort in enabling young entrepreneurs and business founders to take bold risks and pioneer new paths of innovation. We will build a nation where failure becomes an asset for future success, enabling one to rise again at any time. We will usher in a booming era of startups and business ventures where any idea can spark a startup and a golden age of SMEs.

Third, we will transform growth that disregards human life and accepts risk as inevitable into sustainable growth that puts safety first. With the highest rate of industrial fatalities among OECD countries, our status as the world’s 10th-largest economy cannot be a source of pride. We will ensure that safe working environments and a culture of respect for life take firm root by increasing the number of labor inspectors by 2,000 and introducing a new workplace safety guardian system. Growth built on safety is a genuine form of sustainable growth that guarantees people’s happiness.

Fourth, we will make a great transformation from product-driven growth to attractive growth led by culture. In an era where K-content exports surpass even those of secondary batteries and electric vehicles, investment in culture is no longer a social contribution—it is a core growth strategy. Culture itself is the economy and a future growth engine, and it has become a linchpin of national competitiveness. To ensure K-culture does not remain a passing fad, we will strengthen the entire cultural ecosystem, including the fine arts that underpin popular culture. Building on the expanded 9.6 trillion-won culture budget, we will ensure K-content permeates the world more broadly and deeply.

Fifth and finally, we will replace unstable growth constrained by the threat of war with stable growth supported by peace. Steadfast peace is synonymous with growth, and robust security is the driving force behind prosperity. By converting the cost of hostility into the dividends of peace, we can transform the current “Korea risk” into a “Korea premium” in the future.

I will put my faith solely in the people so that we can move forward step by step and 2026 can be recorded as the “first year of remarkable progress made through a grand transformation.” Just as we stood together to advance democracy last year, let us now work together to establish a new global standard for growth and progress. The Republic of Korea’s great leap forward will ultimately be achieved by the people! Thank you.



NOW IS THE TIME FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

2026. 1. 21.

Opening Remarks at 2026 New Year's Press Conference

Growth led by local regions; growth for all, in which opportunities and the fruits of growth are shared equitably; sustainable growth in which safety is a priority; attractive growth led by culture; and stable growth supported by peace. These five paths of great transformation that I outlined are a shortcut toward a new future for Korea's great leap forward, setting a new model of growth and advancement for the whole world.

First, the great transformation toward regionally led growth has already begun. For each region to take the lead in driving the Republic of Korea's growth, it must operate on the right scale. The ongoing metropolitan integration of Daejeon with Chungcheongnam-do Province and Gwangju with Jeollanam-do Province is the symbolic starting point of regionally led growth and a national survival strategy that has to succeed. Let me make an unequivocal promise today: The direction of metropolitan integration will never, under any circumstances, be swayed by political advantages or disadvantages.

With metropolitan integration as our foundation, the Republic of Korea's territorial structure—long defined by a unipolar, Seoul-centered system—will be newly reorganized, using a five-poles-and-three-specialized-regions framework that will drive regionally led growth. The overarching principle—that the farther it is from the Seoul metropolitan area, the more support a region will receive—will be fully woven into every government policy.

Second, through growth for all, in which opportunities and the fruits of progress are shared equitably, we will overcome K-shaped growth, where one side advances rapidly and the other remains mired in stagnation. The key players in carrying out this critical task will be start-ups and business ventures that will create new growth engines through endless innovations. To enable young entrepreneurs and business founders to take on bold challenges and freely forge new paths of innovation, we will usher in a booming era of start-ups and business ventures and address concrete policies.





Third, sustainable growth grounded in safety will be more firmly established as a core principle of national governance. We will steadfastly implement concrete measures—including the addition of 3,500 labor inspectors and the introduction of a new workplace safety guardian system—to ensure that safe working environments and a culture of respect for life take firm root across society. We will fully implement every measure available within the existing system, and when necessary, we will revise relevant laws and regulations, as well as establish new ones. If we create a framework in which the costs and consequences of disregarding human life are far higher than they are now, we will be able to bring about substantive change, leading to a reduction in industrial accidents.

Fourth, through “attractive growth led by culture,” we will cultivate new growth engines, expand the horizons of our diplomacy and further strengthen our national competitiveness. K-culture, which makes people around the world laugh and cry, is no longer merely a cultural phenomenon. This is because, in this era of unbridled competition and extreme nationalism, K-culture is proving that universal human empathy is possible, and thus helping bring the world together again. Support for and investment in culture will become a key growth strategy, fostering future growth engines and even enhancing our national brand.

First of all, as a “pacemaker,” I will make every diplomatic effort to ensure that North Korea–U.S. dialogue takes place as soon as possible, while steadily and gradually creating the conditions for the resumption of inter-Korean talks. We will restore the Agreement on the Implementation of the Historic Panmunjom Declaration in the Military Domain to prevent accidental clashes between the two Koreas and build political and military trust. Moreover, we will continue seeking creative solutions that bring the benefits of peace to both Koreas.

PART

1



Politics & Society

ADDRESS TO THE NATION ON THE REVOLUTION OF LIGHT'S FIRST ANNIVERSARY

2025. 12. 3.

Special Address to the Nation on the Revolution of Light's First Anniversary

It was one year ago today that the Revolution of Light commenced.

It is momentous that our people—through peaceful means and in full accordance with constitutional and legal procedures—faced down the unlawful imposition of martial law and ousted an unjust power. This will remain a landmark event in the history of global democracy. I am confident that the great people of the Republic of Korea—who used peaceful means to overcome a crisis of democracy that was unprecedented in world history—truly deserve the Nobel Peace Prize.

In this uncertain era marked by threats to democracy and a rapidly changing world order, the international community has taken note of the great courage and determination demonstrated by our people. The Republic of Korea is now writing a new page in world history. The shining example set by the Korean people through the Revolution of Light is establishing a new standard for democracy around the world.

We will always remember the meaningful reason why the government of popular sovereignty was created.

We will boldly move forward—while putting faith in our people—to complete the Revolution of Light and build a nation of truly popular sovereignty. We will certainly build a nation that is more prosperous, robust and humane.

I trust that our people will stand by us as reliable companions on this hopeful journey, as we write a new chapter in the history of the great Republic of Korea.



MAY THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S RESTORATION OF DEMOCRACY BECOME A HISTORIC EXAMPLE FOR THE WORLD

2025. 12. 3.

Opening Remarks at the Press Conference for Foreign Correspondents *“A Renewed Democracy: One Year On”*

The Republic of Korea has undergone several unique experiences in its modern history. Most recently, on December 3, 2024, our people launched the Revolution of Light, astonishing the world by overcoming an attempted self-coup and restoring democratic governance

Though the National Assembly exercised its constitutional authority, the true source of power came from the people. I am deeply grateful to the media for the role they played through this journey.

I also extend my sincere gratitude to citizens around the world. It was extremely shocking that a completely retrograde military self-coup occurred in the Republic of Korea—a cultural, economic and military powerhouse. However, thanks to your concern and support, the Republic of Korea's civil revolution, the Revolution of Light, unfolded successfully.

I hope this beautiful and peaceful civil revolution in the Republic of Korea and our restoration of democracy will set a historic example for the world. I extend my gratitude and offer words of encouragement to all the citizens and democratic leaders around the world who continue to struggle for democracy. May you continue to hold on to hope.

BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WITH THE PEOPLE

2026. 1. 23.

Opening Remarks at the Town Hall Meeting in Ulsan

The strategy of concentrating development in the Seoul metropolitan area has led to deepening polarization and regional imbalances. The capital region has reached its limits, while local regions are losing both opportunity and vitality.

Now is the time to change our approach. We must move away from the strategy of concentrating everything in one area and become a nation where multiple regions grow together. This is not about giving the provincial regions special consideration but about opting to secure a sustainable future for the Republic of Korea.

Change inevitably draws resistance, but together with the people, I am confident that we can complete this journey successfully.



AS A “PRESIDENT FOR ALL,” I WILL STEADFASTLY MOVE FORWARD, USING THE PEOPLE’S VISION OF THE COUNTRY AS A MILESTONE

2026. 2. 17.

2026 Lunar New Year Greetings

My beloved fellow Koreans, I hope you are all enjoying time with your families and having a wonderful Lunar New Year, Seollal.

Thanks to the people’s concerted efforts over the past year, we are seeing a return to normalcy in every corner of society more quickly than expected. I extend my deepest gratitude to all of our sovereign citizens for safeguarding this nation, whether on the streets, at home, or at work.

My beloved fellow Koreans, Since we all lead our own unique lives in different places, our perspectives and thoughts on the world around us may differ. Yet, no matter how or where we live, we all desire a better world for our children to grow up in. We all hope that our families and neighbors enjoy good health, and this hope is shared by youth and senior citizens alike.

This morning, as the Lunar New Year of the Red Horse dawns, I renew my commitment as a “President for all,” who embraces and serves every citizen. I will steadfastly move forward step by step, using the people’s ideal vision of the Republic of Korea as a milestone.

We encouraged one another and overcame challenges over the past year. I hope that, this year, our society will advance together on a foundation of compassionate solidarity and trust. I wish all of you and your families good health and great happiness this year. Happy Lunar New Year.



IN THE SPIRIT OF THE MARCH FIRST REVOLUTION LET US OPEN THE PATH TOWARD PEACE AND DEMOCRACY, MUTUAL BENEFITS AND COMMON PROSPERITY

2026. 3. 1.

Address on the 107th March First Independence Movement Day

On this day 107 years ago, shouts of “Long live Korean independence” echoed across the world.

On that day, we all stood as one. There were no divisions in social class or status, no differences in age or gender. The Gyeongsang-do and Jeolla-do provinces stood together, and there was no divide between left and right. In Pyongyang, in Seoul, in Busan, in Sinuiju—all the way from Hallasan Mountain to Baekdusan Mountain—the entire nation was indeed filled with cries of “Long live Korean independence.”



Had it not been for those who gave everything for the independence of our homeland and for the hope of a better tomorrow for their descendants, the free and prosperous Republic of Korea we enjoy today could never have existed.

Yet today, a century later, the world once again faces another period of cataclysms. The international norms established over the past eighty years—since the end of World War II—are being seriously threatened by power politics.

If we are to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past, we must draw lessons from history.

Let us now begin, here on the Korean Peninsula, the efforts of realizing the dream of peace and coexistence that our forebears earnestly yearned for. Building a peaceful Korean Peninsula—where we can grow together through coexistence and cooperation, not hostility, and on a foundation of trust, not mistrust—is the true way to fully uphold the spirit of the March First Revolution.

Let us put an end to this era of confrontation and conflict that has persisted for well over half a century and usher in a Korean Peninsula of peaceful coexistence and shared prosperity.

we respect the North's system and will neither engage in any type of hostile acts nor pursue any form of unification by absorption. We will make every effort to convert the armistice system to a peace regime by substantively easing tensions between the two Koreas and working with relevant countries. It is my hope that the shouts of “Long live Korean independence” by our forebears, who longed for world peace, will once again resonate as a joint pledge by the two Koreas to realize a “Korean Peninsula of peace and shared prosperity.”

Let us join forces to build an advanced, exemplary democratic nation; a peaceful Korean Peninsula free from fears of war; and a Republic of Korea where culture flourishes and prospers—the country our fallen patriotic forebears and independence activists envisioned and gave their lives for.

In the spirit of the March First Revolution, let us open the path toward peace and democracy, mutual benefits and common prosperity.

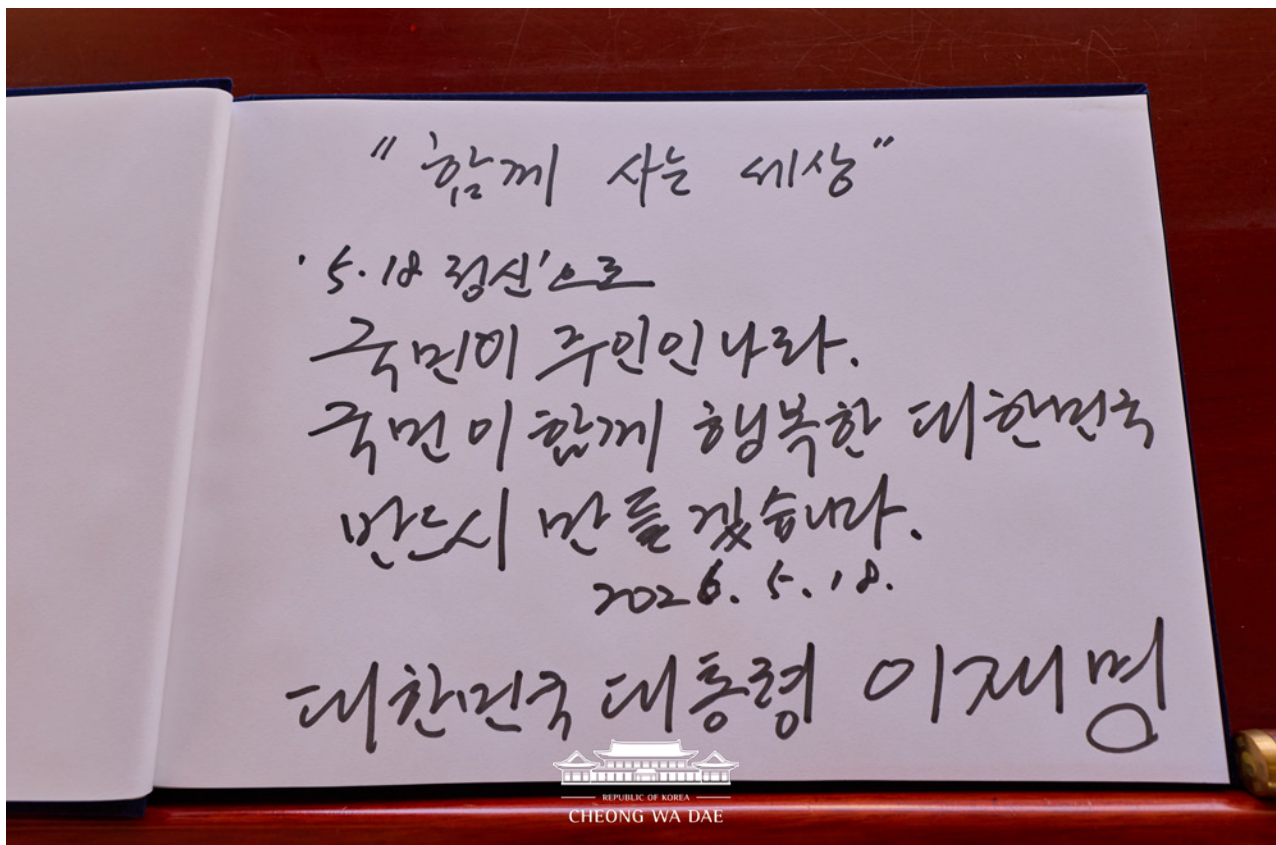
THE SPIRIT OF MAY 18 IS THE NAME OF HOPE FOR A BETTER TOMORROW

2026. 5. 18.

Address on the 46th Anniversary of the May 18 Gwangju Democratization Movement

This marks the forty-sixth May since the uprising—May that has risen above the deep scars of state violence and endured the spirit of solidarity and unity. Because of you that our democracy did not collapse at the turning points of our turbulent modern history. Because of you, it rose again and again. We shall never forget that noble spirit, nor the sacrifice and devotion.

This government, founded on popular sovereignty, will continue to document, compensate, and honor the May 18 Democratization Movement, so that the Gwangju



of 1980, which saved today's Republic of Korea, may continue to safeguard our nation's future. In the process, we will ensure that the lives sacrificed are justly compensated and held in the highest esteem. Before the souls of May and before the people of Korea, I make three pledges today

First, we will do everything in our power to enshrine the spirit of May 18 in the preamble of the Constitution. The spirit of May—both the driving force that affirmed popular sovereignty and a source of immense pride in modern Korean history—must take even deeper root in our society. To that end, the democratic ideals of the May 18 Democratization Movement must be firmly and proudly inscribed in the Constitution of the Republic of Korea.

Second, we will transform the restored former Jeollanam-do Provincial Government building, which officially opens today, into a living shrine of K-democracy, where people from around the world can come to learn and remember together. The Gwangju of May is being reborn as a universal value remembered by people around the world through its inscription on the UNESCO Memory of the World Register and in writer Han Kang's novel *Human Acts*. The government will provide its full support to ensure that the spirit of sacrifice and solidarity preserved in the former Jeollanam-do Provincial Government building is passed down as a source of pride for the Republic of Korea and as a lasting value for future generations.

Third, we will establish a government-led system to register those honored for their contributions to the May 18 Democratization Movement, so that not a single sacrifice is ever overlooked. Now, the government will serve as a family member of each and every single victim of state violence.

I see the future and hope for the Republic of Korea in the path that Gwangju has walked. The memory of May and the spirit of May 18 are not merely legacies and relics of the past. They are the name of hope for a better tomorrow.

Drawing on the spirit of freedom, equality and unity bequeathed by Gwangju in May, we will do everything in our power to overcome the current crises before us and pass on a brighter and more glorious future to the next generation.

PART

2



The Economy & Industry

THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IS RETURNING TO PREDICTABLE NORMALCY

2026. 2. 13.

Social Media Post on Real Estate



A screenshot of a social media post by Lee Jae Myung, a verified account with the handle @Jaemyung_Lee. The post contains three paragraphs of text discussing the real estate market in the Republic of Korea. The text is as follows:

...

As our nation gradually regains normalcy—reviving its long-undervalued stock market and restoring economic fundamentals and social justice—we cannot let the real estate sector alone continue slipping backward toward a “lost 30 years.”

If policymakers show clear resolve and secure public support, it is possible not only to address the problem but also to induce a desirable outcome through regulatory and tax measures, as well as the authority to control supply and demand.

Taking a leap forward through new policies is important, but the foremost task for the Republic of Korea’s survival is normalizing everything that is abnormal.

We already know the consequences if we leave the real estate market unchecked as it speeds toward “lost 20 years.” Though no government can defeat the market, it is also true that no market can defeat the government. What makes this contradictory statement significant is the balance between the normalcy of the situation and the legitimacy of government policy

....



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WE WILL SAFEGUARD PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA AND AROUND THE WORLD

2026. 3. 25.

Congratulatory Remarks at the Rollout Ceremony for the First Mass-Produced KF-21 Fighter Jet

Today, the first mass-produced unit of the KF-21 rolls out—Korea’s state-of-the-art fighter jet designed with homegrown technology and built by our own hands.

The fighter jet standing proudly before you today embodies our fervent aspiration for self-reliant national defense—a dream that we have pursued for more than half a century. The success of the KF-21 represents far more than a strengthening of our national defense capabilities. It signifies that the Republic of Korea has secured a new engine of growth that will enable us to compete confidently with the world’s leading defense industry powers.

The KF-21 has already attracted keen interest for its outstanding performance, low maintenance costs and highly adaptable platform. The government will build on the success of the KF-21 as a solid stepping stone to propel the Republic of Korea into the ranks of the world’s top four defense industry powers.

The Republic of Korea has already demonstrated world-class defense technology and production capabilities through the K9 self-propelled howitzer, the Cheongung medium-range surface-to-air missile and other advanced weaponry. We have now become a true defense and aerospace powerhouse, capable of independently designing and producing even fighter jets.

We will continue to take on bold new challenges through constant research and development. In doing so, our technological prowess will help safeguard peace of the Republic of Korea and around the world, while bringing greater prosperity to our people.

My administration will continue advancing toward the realization of the self-reliant national defense we have long envisioned. We will also work toward a Republic of Korea that contributes to global peace and prosperity.



THE GOVERNMENT AND I, TOGETHER WITH ALL PUBLIC SERVANTS, WILL LEAD WITH A SENSE OF UTMOST URGENCY AND RESOLVE

2026. 4. 2.

Address to the National Assembly on the Government's 2026 Supplementary Budget Proposal

I stand here with a profound sense of urgency, determined to safeguard our economy and the lives of our people from the grave crisis caused by the war in the Middle East.

First, we will invest over 10 trillion won in a tripartite package to ease the hardships and burdens caused by high oil prices for the public. We will also bolster energy welfare support for low-income households and vulnerable groups including farmers and fishery workers, the ones most directly affected by high energy prices.



Second, we have put in place a 2.8 trillion won package of livelihood stabilization measures to provide strong support for those facing economic hardship. Crises affect the vulnerable more severely. This is why it is important to provide stronger protection for those who bear the initial brunt of a crisis.

We will give greater attention to the issue of a K-shaped economy—widening polarization across social groups, generations and industries. In particular, this crisis is bound to hit young people at the start of their careers especially hard. An important part of the solution will be creating more jobs by helping expand the number of entrepreneurship and employment opportunities.

Third, we will minimize the damage to our industries and stabilize the supply chains that directly affect our economic security. We will be able to safeguard our economy's future only if our export companies and hard-hit industries stand resilient and successfully weather the current crisis. Most of all, taking this energy crisis as both a lesson and an opportunity, we will expedite the renewables-centered energy transition.

Most of all, taking this energy crisis as both a lesson and an opportunity, we will expedite the renewables-centered energy transition.

Because we do not know when this crisis will end, we must adopt a long-term perspective. This will help us prevail over the current crisis and prepare for the future. We will respond firmly, with zero tolerance, to those who exploit this crisis for unfair gain through price-fixing, hoarding, or similar acts.

Our people have overcome many national crises and turned them into opportunity. I ask that we once again show that strength.

Let us conserve together, share the burden together, and overcome this crisis together.

PART

3



Foreign Affairs & Security

CHARTING A RENEWED COURSE FOR KOREA-CHINA COOPERATION IN THE SPIRIT OF BYEONGNANDO

2026. 1. 5.

Keynote Address at the Korea-China Business Forum

Byeongnando, the port of the Goryeo Dynasty, served as a major hub of international trade and was the center of maritime exchanges with the Song Dynasty. True to its name—meaning a dock where blue waves surge—Byeongnando was more than a place where goods were traded. It was a vibrant place of exchange where people, technologies, ideas and cultures flowed back and forth.

Korea-China cooperation today must bring together our strengths through industrial innovation and stable supply chains, so that we can open new opportunities beyond respective markets. To this end, I would like to highlight two areas for cooperation.



The first is innovation and cooperation in manufacturing. The Korean government is advancing Manufacturing AX—that is, the integration of AI across the entire manufacturing sector—to create an environment where businesses can concentrate on technological innovation and the upgrading of production capabilities. As our two countries seek to secure a new competitive edge in manufacturing through innovation, it is vital for companies to share success stories, learn from one another’s policies and technologies, and explore new areas of cooperation, even while competing with each other.

Secondly, we need more active cultural exchanges. Recently, mutual visits have surged, particularly among young people from both countries. The trend is opening up new possibilities for cooperation across all types of everyday services, including content, games, performances and cultural platforms. Collaboration in services and content also serves as a critical link—helping with trustbuilding between companies and leading to investment in manufacturing and consumer goods and the development of new markets.

Distinguished business leaders from Korea and China, According to a saying, “It takes a boat to cross the water, but it’s the people who resolve to set sail.” I would like to ask all of you here to help launch the boat of Korea–China cooperation.

Also, the Korean government will continue to cooperate with the Chinese government to establish the necessary legal framework and environment for businesses from both countries to expand routes for cooperation.

As the saying goes, a good neighbor is worth a thousand pieces of gold. And that’s exactly what you are to each other—neighbors more valuable than any amount of gold.

TOWARD THE NEXT 30 YEARS WITH CHINA, AN “INSEPARABLE COOPERATIVE PARTNER”

2026. 1. 6.

Social Media Post on State Visit to China



A screenshot of a social media post by Lee Jae Myung, the President of South Korea. The post is in Korean and discusses his first overseas visit to China in 2026. The text is as follows:

...

China marks my first overseas visit of 2026. This diplomatic event holds special significance as it marks the first State Visit of the year for both Korea and China.

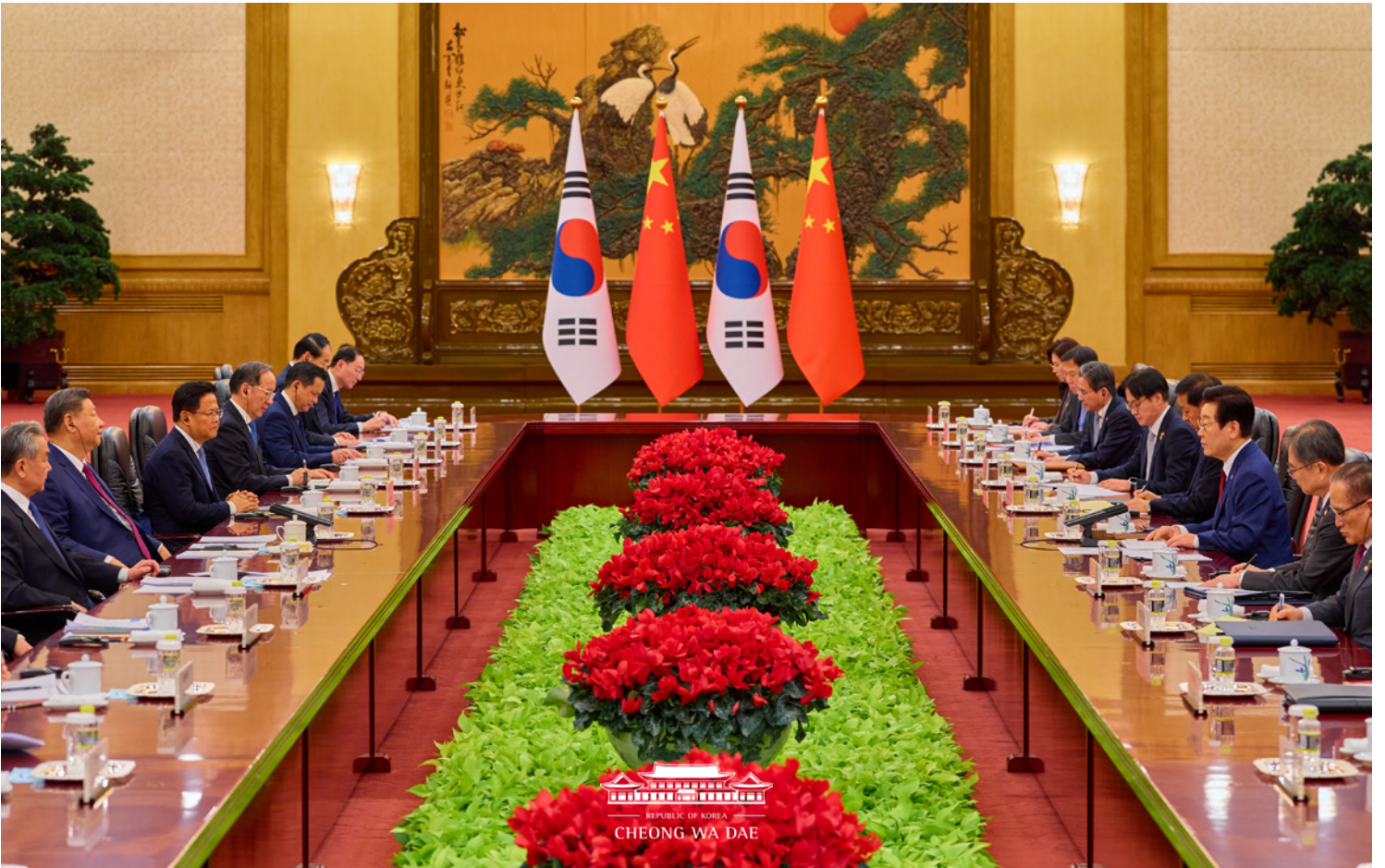
President Xi Jinping and I reaffirmed that the “Korea–China Strategic Cooperative Partnership” as a valuable diplomatic asset and agreed to hold regular summits at least once a year. We will gradually restore a range of strategic dialogue channels across sectors, including diplomacy and security.

We agreed to jointly explore ways to promote peace and stability in Northeast Asia. In particular, we will work together to turn the West Sea into “a sea of peace and shared prosperity,” closely cooperating to address illegal fishing and to maintain peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula.

This summit marks an important turning point as we make 2026 the inaugural year of the full restoration of Korea–China relations. The Korean government will further advance the Korea–China Strategic Cooperative Partnership in line with the evolving times, guided by the dual pillars of peace and people’s livelihoods.

We will stride confidently toward the next 30 years of Korea–China relations.

....



LET'S STRIDE BOLDLY TOWARD THE FUTURE!

2026. 1. 13.

Joint Press Statement by President Lee Jae Myung on the Occasion of Korea–Japan Summit in Nara

Deepening and expanding cooperation between Korea and Japan is a task of the times—one that we can no longer afford to put off.

At today's summit, building upon the foundation of shuttle diplomacy that has been firmly established over the years, Prime Minister Takaichi and I held extensive discussions on substantive measures for sustaining forward-looking cooperation between our two countries.

First, regarding the economy, we concurred on the need for more comprehensive cooperation. Such collaboration will go beyond the current focus on trade to include economic security, science and technology, as well as the joint shaping of international norms. We also agreed to continue holding working-level consultations to further strengthen bilateral cooperation in such areas as AI and the protection of intellectual property.

Next, we also engaged in in-depth discussions on areas of social cooperation that can tangibly benefit the people of both countries. Our two countries commended the fact that discussions have been held through the ROK–Japan Consultations on Common Social Issues, launched last year, regarding joint responses to social challenges, including low birth rates and aging populations, the need for balanced national development, agriculture and disaster management, and suicide prevention. We, the two leaders, agreed to continue working to deliver concrete and practical results to address common challenges such as regional growth.

Our two countries also agreed to strengthen joint responses to transnational crimes, including those related to online scams. This will help better safeguard Korean and Japanese nationals in third countries and enable our two nations to jointly contribute to addressing transnational crimes that pose a threat to countries across the globe.





With the number of people traveling between Korea and Japan reaching 12 million annually, we two leaders agreed that the enhancement of mutual understanding among young people is the foundation for forward-looking Korea–Japan ties. To this end, I proposed that we continue discussions on how to expand exchanges between members of the younger generation, both quantitatively and qualitatively. In particular, I suggested streamlining entry and exit procedures, encouraging school trips to one another’s country, and expanding mutual recognition of professional qualifications beyond the IT sector.

I also stressed the need for the Northeast Asian countries of Korea, China, and Japan to find as much common ground as possible and to communicate and cooperate with one another. Our two countries reaffirmed their commitment to the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the establishment of permanent peace. We agreed to continue cooperating closely on North Korea policy.

As today’s Korea–Japan summit demonstrates, the newly dawned Year of the Red Horse will serve as a starting point for reflecting on the past 60 years of Korea–Japan relations and preparing for the next 60 years.

I earnestly hope that, in turn, this year proves to be the first of another 60 in which our two countries genuinely draw closer through even more profound exchanges and cooperation and vigorously move together into the future.

LOOKING FORWARD TO A NEW 140-YEAR FUTURE TOGETHER

2026. 4. 3.

Joint Press Statement by President Lee Jae Myung on the Occasion of the Korea–France Summit

France has stood firmly by Korea’s side as a steadfast companion for the past 140 years, since our establishment of diplomatic relations in 1886. Building on this long-standing friendship and solidarity, President Macron and I agreed to elevate our bilateral relationship to a Global Strategic Partnership.

First, we agreed to strengthen our bilateral economic cooperation and further expand trade and investment between our two countries.

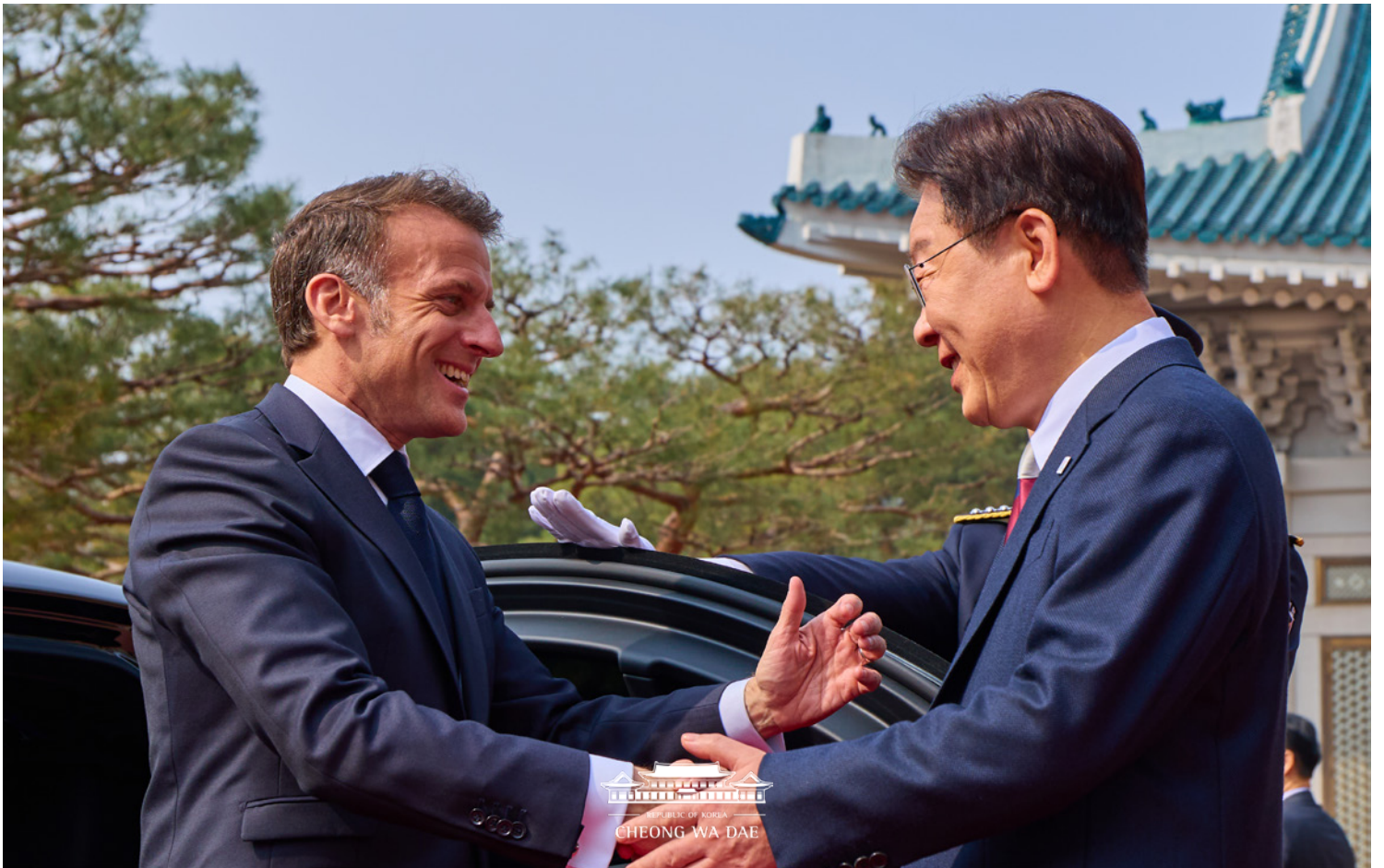
Second, we agreed to actively foster an environment conducive to joint growth in advanced science and future industries, enabling our two countries to rise together as leading innovators.

Third, we agreed to strengthen cultural cooperation—the cornerstone of our bilateral friendship—and to work toward ushering in an era of one million people-to-people exchanges.

Lastly, as global strategic partners, our two countries agreed to further strengthen joint efforts toward resolving global challenges. Moreover, we two leaders shared a profound understanding that peace on the Korean Peninsula has far-reaching implications not just in Northeast Asia and Europe but also the rest of the world.

We confirmed our commitment to bolstering energy security by expanding our cooperation in the nuclear and offshore wind power sectors, while collaborating to secure safe maritime transport routes through the Strait of Hormuz.

Going forward, I look forward to communicating closely with President Macron and shaping a new future together over the next 140 years.



KOREA AND JAPAN RESOLVED TO FURTHER EXPAND BILATERAL SUPPLY CHAIN COOPERATION

2026. 5. 19.

Joint Press Statement by President Lee Jae Myung on the Occasion of Korea–Japan Summit in Andong

This marks the first time for Korean and Japanese leaders to have visited each other’s hometowns, a rare occurrence anywhere in the world. The fact that such meaningful and historic exchanges took place in the span of just four months speaks to the depth and strength of the friendship and bonds that Korea and Japan now share.

Annual people-to-people exchanges between Korea and Japan have reached 13 million, and young people in both countries are actively visiting the regional cities of their neighboring country in search of their hidden charms. Korean–Japanese relations



are now widening beyond the capitals to reach every corner of our respective countries, opening new horizons for our partnership.

At today's summit, we agreed that close bilateral cooperation is needed more than ever amid the instability in supply chains and energy markets arising from the recent situation in the Middle East. Our two countries assessed the achievements of the Korea–Japan Supply Chain Partnership Arrangement concluded last March and resolved to further expanding our bilateral supply chain cooperation.

Amid the rapidly changing international landscape we reaffirmed the importance of bilateral cooperation between our two countries, as well as trilateral cooperation among Korea, the United States and Japan, in the interest of regional peace and stability. I also emphasized that, it is essential for Korea, China and Japan to respect one another, cooperate and pursue shared interests in order to achieve genuine peace and stability in the region.

I look forward to continuously developing new avenues for cooperation that can drive shared prosperity in both countries and deliver tangible benefits to the people of both nations.

Including today's meeting, Prime Minister Takaichi and I have met in person four times over the past seven months. This signifies that shuttle diplomacy—where the leaders of both nations meet and communicate whenever necessary without the constraints of formalities—has fully taken root.

Marking the 60th anniversary of normalized Korea–Japan relations, I look forward to further expanding future-oriented cooperation that tangibly benefits the people of both our nations.

PART

4



Culture & Tourism

WE WILL USHER IN THE ERA OF 30 MILLION INBOUND TOURISTS

2026. 2. 25.

Opening remarks at the 11th Expanded National Tourism Strategy Meeting

The growth of the cultural industries sparked by K-culture must ultimately lead to increased tourism to the Republic of Korea.

K-culture is making people around the world laugh and cry, rewriting global standards for content. For this enthusiasm to extend beyond the screen, people from around the world must be able to visit Korea and experience it firsthand. Only then can the explosive energy of K-culture translate into tangible growth and job creation.

A critical task for revitalizing the tourism industry is to boldly expand the horizons of tourism across all regions of the Republic of Korea. To achieve our goal of attracting 30 million foreign visitors annually by 2030, we must move beyond quantitative expansion and make a decisive shift toward qualitative growth.

Sustainable growth and development can only be achieved when the opportunities and benefits created by the tourism industry are shared with small businesses in local communities and microbusiness owners across the country. I also ask that you take the lead in innovating local tourism by leveraging the unique assets of each region, so that every corner of the country may offer compelling tourism experiences.

Above all, we must never forget that tourism is as much a cultural experience as it is an industry—one that helps people create cherished memories together. Price gouging, discourteous service and aggressive touting are serious problems that harm local economies and must be eradicated in advance.



HEARTFELT CONGRATULATIONS TO KPOP DEMON HUNTERS ON ITS TWO ACADEMY AWARDS

2026. 3. 16.

Social Media Post on the Academy Awards



A screenshot of a social media post by Lee Jae Myung, a verified account with the handle @Jaemyung_Lee. The post is a congratulatory message for the K-pop group Demon Hunters, celebrating their two Academy Awards. The text is written in a professional, serif font and is set against a light gray background. The post includes a profile picture of Lee Jae Myung, a verified badge, and a three-dot menu icon in the top right corner. The text of the post is as follows:

...

KPop Demon Hunters has demonstrated how culture can resonate with people around the world, transcending borders and languages. The blend of K-Pop's dynamic energy, Korean sensibilities and creative imagination brought fresh enjoyment and further broadened the global horizons of our culture.

Building upon today's achievements, the next generation of creators will now be able to pursue even greater dreams on a wider stage and at a faster pace. I will continue to pay attention to and support your new creative journeys going forward.

The nation that Korean independence movement leader Kim Gu once dreamed of—one that would become the source, the goal, and the model of a noble and new culture—is now becoming a reality. It is a truly proud achievement.

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PART

5



AI

WE WILL USHER IN A GREAT NEW “AGE OF AI EXPLORATION”

2026. 3. 2.

Opening Remarks by President Lee Jae Myung at the Korea–Singapore AI Connect Summit

Today, we stand at the center of a huge civilizational transformation driven by AI. AI has become a driving force of change that is affecting industrial frameworks, jobs and even our daily lives. It is also a strategic asset with a direct bearing on national competitiveness. This is why countries around the world are making every effort to secure AI capabilities.

Our two countries share the common experience of having overcome the constraints of limited territory and natural resources through the strength of our people and technology and of having achieved prosperity through unceasing innovation. Now is the time to apply the spirit of innovation embedded in our DNA to the AI industry, thereby opening new horizons for the digital economy together.

First, we will raise US\$300 million for a global fund-of-funds (K-VCC) in Singapore by 2030.

Second, we will support joint research that transcends national boundaries.

Third, we will further invigorate the AI industry ecosystem through cooperation led by the private sector.

Today’s launch of the AI Alliance marks the beginning of an open innovation ecosystem where companies, universities and startups share their knowledge and resources and collaborate. I believe this will become a solid foundation upon which creative ideas can become reality and young people can continue growing and taking on challenges.

I am confident that the shared growth of Korea and Singapore will extend beyond Asia, thus ushering in a great new “Age of AI Exploration,” and that our two countries will assume leadership in setting the course for the global AI industry.

Korea-Singapore AI Connect Summit

한·싱 AI 커넥트 서밋

2 March 2026 | Singapore



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S NEW FUTURE BEGINS IN SAEMANGEUM

2026. 2. 27.

Social Media Post on Saemangeum's Robotics, Hydrogen, and AI City Project



A screenshot of a social media post by Lee Jae Myung, a verified account with the handle @Jaemyung_Lee. The post features a profile picture of Lee Jae Myung and a three-dot menu icon in the top right corner. The text of the post is as follows:

...

Hyundai Motor Group is developing Saemangeum—an area 140 times the size of Yeouido—into a hub for high-tech industries and eco-friendly energy. The establishment of a robotics manufacturing cluster and an artificial intelligence data center will usher in a new era of growth for Korea's AI and robotics industries.

This major investment is a bold undertaking that will change the lives of future generations and reshape the destiny of the region. I am confident that it will serve as a decisive turning point not only for the economic landscape of Jeollabuk-do Province and the entire Jeolla region, but also for the Republic of Korea's strategy for balanced development.

I look forward to seeing this wave of change that began in Saemangeum spread across the nation, turning the vision of balanced national development into a reality.

...



새만금 로봇·수소 첨단산업 육성 및 시 수소 시티 조성을 위한
투자양해각서(MOU)

지환경부
 김환
 장관

산업통상부
 김정관
 장관

과학기술정보통신부
 배경훈
 부총리 겸 장관

HYUNDAI
 MOTOR GROUP
 정의선
 회장

국토교통부
 김윤덕
 장관

새만금개발청
 김의겸
 청장

전북
 김



