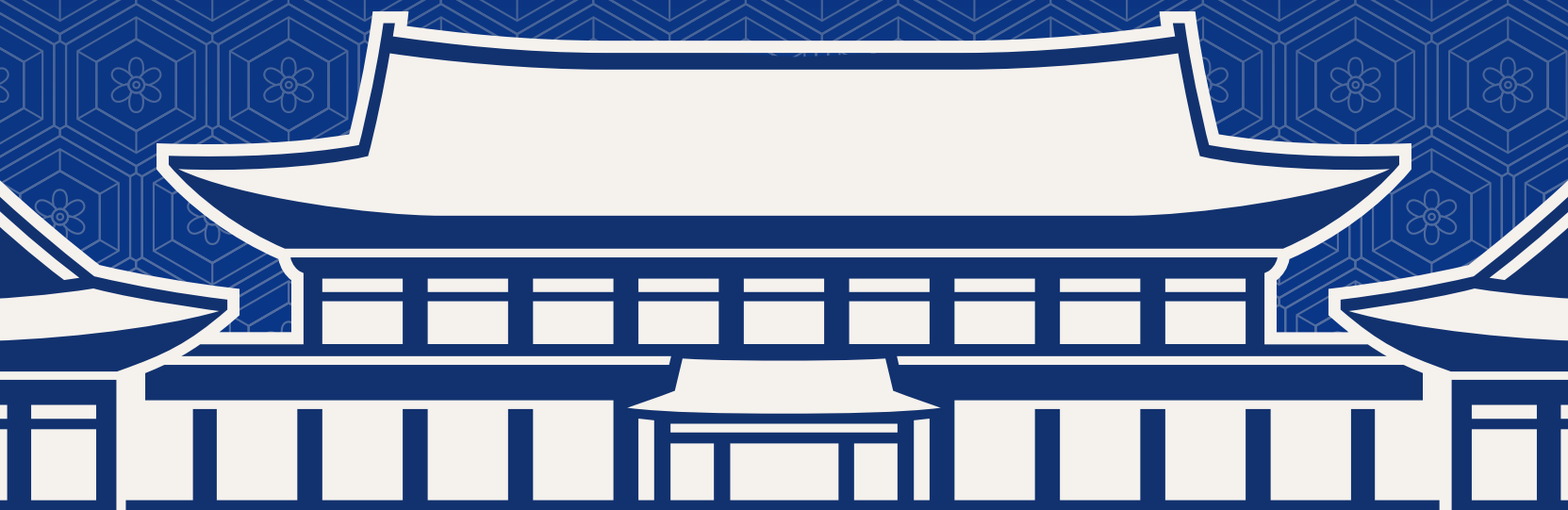


PRESIDENT
LEE JAE MYUNG
THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



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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 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
	2018-2021	Governor of Gyeonggi-do Province
	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 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

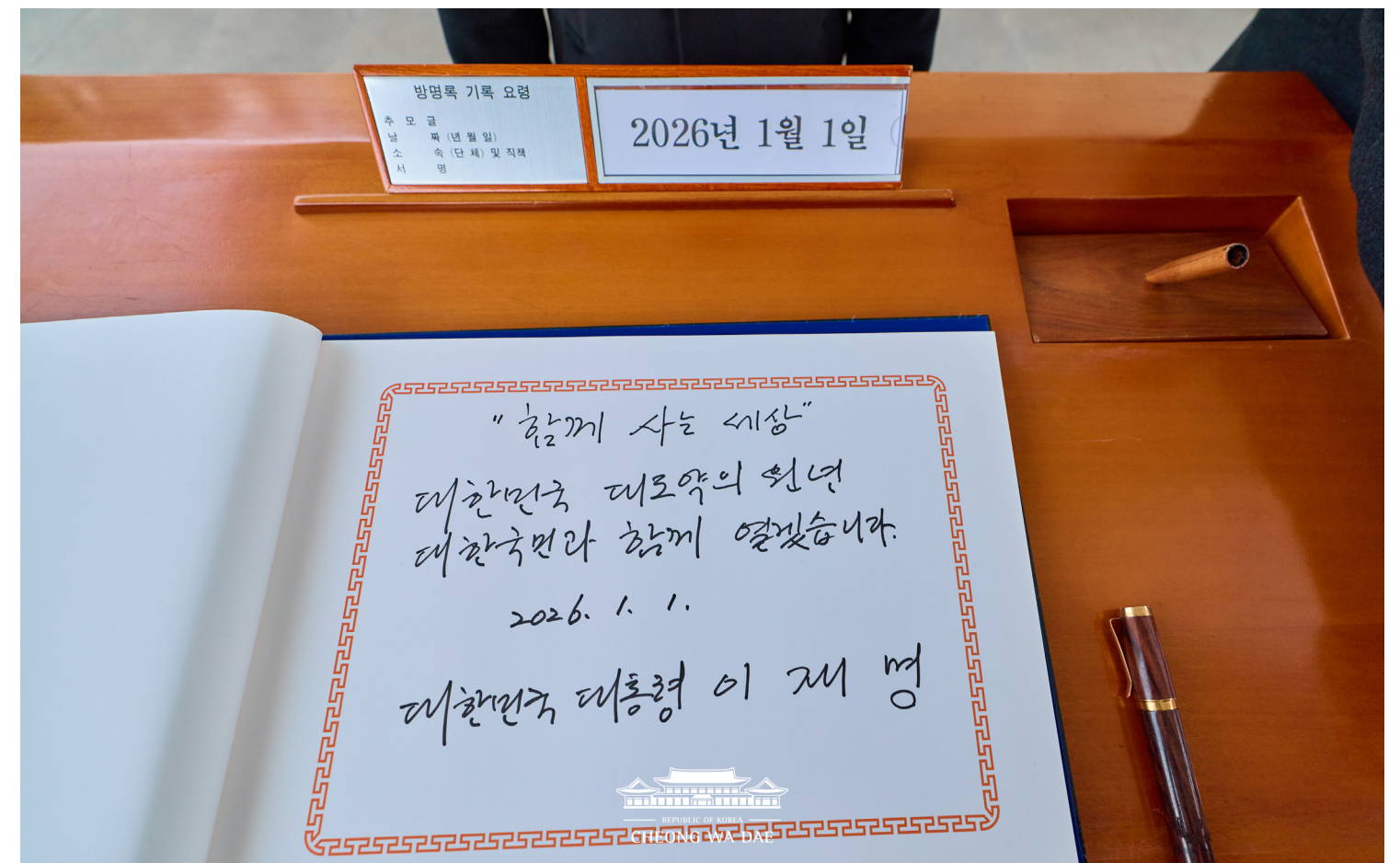
As we ring in 2026, the goal of this people-centered government is clear.

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.

We will ensure that the fruits of growth achieved through this giant leap are shared by all, rather than monopolized by a privileged few. To this end, we will make all-out efforts to eliminate the rule-bending and unfair practices that persist throughout society and devote ourselves to building a society free of deceit and unjust privilege.

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.

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.

Although this year's budget allocation for culture has been raised considerably to 9.6 trillion won, we are still far from being considered a culturally advanced nation.

Support for and investment in culture will become a key growth strategy, fostering future growth engines and even enhancing our national brand.

Fifth, through stable growth supported by peace, we will move steadfastly toward a future of peaceful coexistence and shared growth, enabling our economy to make another major leap forward.

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

National Unity

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.

PART

2

Innovation-Driven Economy

LET'S MAKE APEC 2025 KOREA A STAGE FOR COOPERATION, SOLIDARITY, AND LEAPING INTO THE FUTURE

2025.10.29.

Remarks at the APEC CEO Summit Korea 2025

“Connect” represents the power of solidarity that bridges an era of division.

As a responsible member of the global community,
Korea will contribute to restoring the bonds of regional trust and connection.
At the heart of this effort lies supply chain cooperation.

Next, “Innovate” is the key driving force behind future growth.
Today, artificial intelligence stands at the heart of innovation for sustainable development.

Finally, “Prosper” is a promise for future generations.

Now, to realize our dream of sustainable development and shared prosperity,
we must strive to ensure that opportunities and rewards of growth are shared by all.

Korea will remain committed to fulfilling its role and taking the lead
in sharing its experiences in economic growth and development with all.

Especially in times of crisis and uncertainty,
it is the power of unity and cooperation that leads us toward a brighter future.

The history of Korea — a story of challenge and resilience, rising from
the ashes of war to achieve industrialization, democracy and prosperity –
stands today as a source of inspiration and courage, reminding us that
together, we can overcome any crisis and build a brighter future.



COOPERATION AND SOLIDARITY ARE THE ONLY SURE AVENUES THAT CAN LEAD US TO A BETTER FUTURE

2025.10.31.

Opening Remarks at the Session 1 of the 32nd APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting

Since the establishment of APEC, the combined GDP of its members has increased fivefold, and trade volume tenfold.

On this solid basis of shared prosperity, the Republic of Korea has also truly emerged as a strong economic power.

I trust that the APEC spirit — one that has well proven the power of cooperation, solidarity, and mutual trust — will be fully demonstrated here in Gyeongju as well.

We stand together at a pivotal juncture, as the global order undergoes profound upheaval and rapid shifts.

The free trade order is undergoing a significant change.

There is deepening uncertainty in the global economy, and the efforts for trade and investment facilitation are losing momentum.

The technological revolution, exemplified by artificial intelligence, while bringing about unprecedented challenges, yet at the same time opens unprecedented opportunities.

Although the road ahead may not be easy, I believe the key to overcoming the challenges lies in APEC's own history.

Cooperation and solidarity are the only sure avenues that can lead us to a better future.

Given our own respective perspectives, clearly we cannot always see things in the same way.

However, in the pursuit towards our ultimate goal of achieving shared prosperity through our collective efforts, we can surely move forward together.



PART

3

People's Livelihoods

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

2026. 1. 23.

Town Hall Meeting in Ulsan

In the past, the strategy of concentrating development in the Seoul metropolitan area served as a major growth engine. Today, however, it has led to deepening polarization and regional imbalances. The capital region has reached its limits, while provincial areas are losing opportunities and vitality.

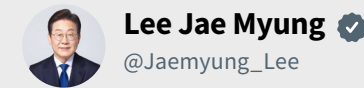
Now is the time to change our approach. We must move away from the strategy of concentrating everything in one area and become a nation where multiple regions grow together. This is not about giving the provincial regions special consideration but about opting to secure a sustainable future for the Republic of Korea. Change inevitably draws resistance, but together with the people, I am confident that we can complete this journey successfully.



THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA IS RETURNING TO PREDICTABLE NORMALCY

2026.2.13.

Social Media Post on Real Estate



Lee Jae Myung ✓

@Jaemyung_Lee



...

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.

...

WE WILL RESTORE TRUST IN THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA'S STOCK MARKET

2025. 6. 11.

On-Site Meeting on the Elimination of Unfair Trade Practices

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.



PART

4

K-Culture

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

2025. 6. 30.

Roundtable with Award Recipients from the Arts and Culture Community

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.



PART

5

Foreign Affairs and National 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

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 trust-building 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

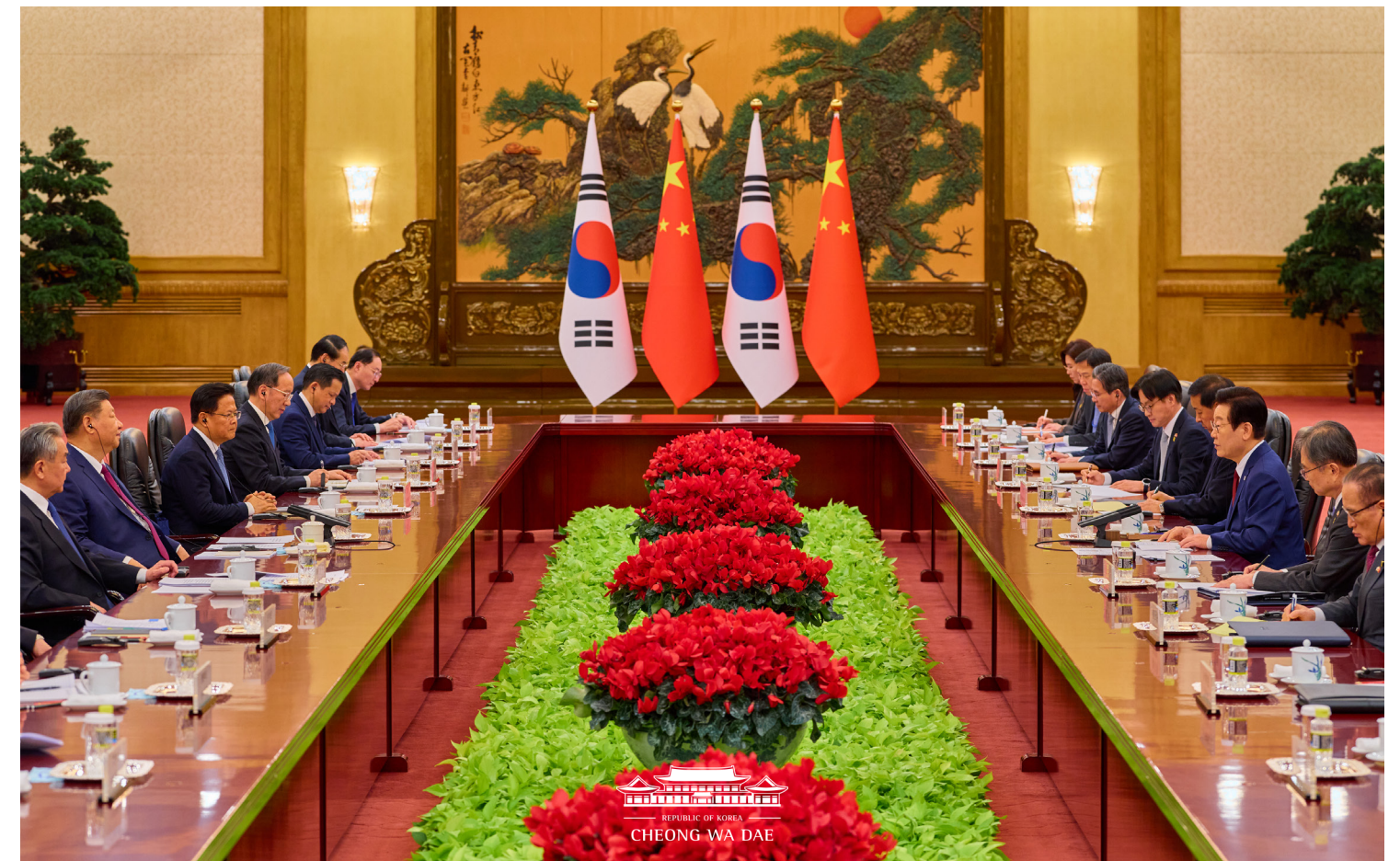
China marks my first overseas visit of 2026. This diplomatic event holds special significance as it marks the first State Visit of the year for both Korea and China.

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 TOGETHER!

2026. 1. 13.

Joint Press Statement by President Lee Jae Myung on the Occasion of the Korea-Japan Summit

**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.

