



The PCI News



Presentation of Building Bridges Award to Gen. Stackpole (left) by PCI President Kenneth Tuggle (right)

Annual Award Dinner 2004

The annual award dinner is one of the highlights of the year for the Pacific Century Institute (PCI) and its partners. This event serves as an opportunity to honor an individual who has through his life and work exemplifies the core principles of PCI. It is also a time for the members and supporters of PCI to gather and strengthen relationships. Lastly, the dinner is an occasion to introduce PCI to the broader public.

This year's recipient was Lt. General H.C. Hank Stackpole USMC (Ret.). As stated on the award plaque presented to him, General Stackpole was honored for his "distinguished service to America and Asia as a brave warrior, dedicated peacemaker and serious scholar." In his address entitled "Northeast Asia, the Korean Peninsula and Multilateralism", General Stackpole spoke on the emergence and benefits of regional multilateral cooperation in Northeast Asia with the role of the US as key partner, especially in light of security issues brought on by the "War on Terrorism" and the nuclear crisis with North Korea.

Program highlights included: an introduction of 2004 Project Bridge participants, a clip from the film "Democracy on Trial", and the presentation of the "Building Bridges" Award to Gen. Stackpole.



Award dinner attendees



Presentation of the flag by 2004 Project Bridge participants

PCI is grateful to and wishes to thank all the participants and supporters of this year's dinner. Especially, we would like to recognize the generous contributions of the following sponsors: Squire Sanders & Dempsey, the Wells Fargo Foundation, Center Bank, Neufeld Jaffe LLP, the RAND Corporation and P. Chan & Edwards Inc.

New Opportunities in Vietnam

Following-up on last year's visit to Vietnam by PCI board member Desaix Anderson, the board of directors of PCI has agreed to further explore opportunities to "build bridges" with the people and country of Vietnam. An initial budget for such purposes was approved.

In light of this effort, PCI was honored to support a recent visit by Madam Ton Nu Thi Nihn, Vice-Chairperson, Foreign Affairs Committee of the National Assembly of Vietnam, to the United States. Her visit included a study tour, sponsored by the Asia Foundation, to examine the legislative process of the United States at the federal, state, and local levels, in an effort to better understand the development of U.S. foreign trade policy and to gain new insights for possible application in Vietnam.

Project Bridge Update

Project Bridge is an annual event sponsored by PCI and The Korea Society. Participants are high school juniors and seniors from New York, Los Angeles and, beginning with the 2003-2004 program, Washington, D.C. The primary goal is to create relationships between Americans of diverse ethnic backgrounds and foster mutual understanding between different cultures. Activities during the year-long program include: monthly workshops on multicultural youth leadership issues and relations; seminars covering Korean history, language and culture; field trips; community service; and a ten day educational study tour of Korea.



The 2003-2004 Project Bridge culminated on June 5, 2004 with a graduation ceremony held at the White Eagle Ranch (continued on page 2)



Project Bridge

(continued from page 1)



in Thousand Oaks, California. Students and group leaders united once again together with family and members of PCI as well as the extended community to celebrate the students' many achievements of the past year. A buffet style luncheon was held and Federal Magistrate Judge Patrick Walsh presented each student with a graduation certificate naming them Youth Ambassadors dedicated to building bridges and furthering cultural awareness. However, the clear highlights of the ceremony were the individual student presentations wherein each Project Bridge participant gave a short lecture on topics ranging from the authentic Korean cuisine sampled on the study tour to the role of technology in modern day Korea. While this was an opportunity for the students to exhibit the knowledge and perspective gained through their Project Bridge experience, it was evident that the community at large has much to learn from these high-school juniors as well. Each presenter exuded charm, intellect, humor and insight, which reminded everyone in attendance that bridges built may be crossed two ways. These students devoted a great amount of study and time to enrich themselves by learning about Korea, a country steeped in tradition and history. Yet this new generation undeniably shows that they too shall create indelible and invaluable marks on the traditions and history of their time. The ceremony was not only a gathering of our Youth Ambassadors, but also our future leaders.

Op-Ed Excerpts and Responses

The following is taken from a column published in the Korea Herald on April 23, 2004 by Richard Halloran, who serves as a board member of PCI. It is entitled, "The Rising East: Democracy Gains Solid Foundation." (Portions reprinted here with permission)

As the dust settles after South Korea's legislative elections of April 15, it is clear that the results were not just a landslide that brought a new party to power but an earthquake whose tremors are being felt in the United States and China and, to a lesser extent, in North Korea and Japan. Moreover, the outcome of the election shows that the democracy for which many South Koreans struggled from 1960 to 1990 has a solid foundation and has even become robust in all its quarrelsome and muddled splendor.

During the oppressive days of Park Chung-hee's regime almost 40 years ago, Korea's foremost constitutional

scholar, Yu Chin-o, asserted in a private conversation that democracy was not just a Western political system but a universal order to which Koreans could aspire. He contended to a skeptical listener that Korea, despite its long history of authoritarian rulers, would fashion its own brand of democracy that would take into account its Confucian values and ways of making decisions. Korean democracy would be home grown, not imported. In the last decade, Korea has had three peaceful transfers of power from the old guard represented by the military to leaders of what had been opposition parties, first to President Kim Young-sam in 1993, then to President Kim Dae-jung in 1998, and finally to President Roh Moo-hyun in 2003. If those transfers of power and the tumultuous legislative election of 2004 mean anything, they have proven that Yu Chin-o was right and his skeptical listener was wrong.

Responses

Editor's note: The following unsigned responses are from various members, supporters, and friends of PCI.

This is fascinating and underscores the need urgently to re-evaluate US policy toward Korea. Thanks for sending these.

...the changes in Korea are dramatic, unexpected, and very exciting in terms of future prospects, aren't they! Maybe the dark cloud hanging over the Korean peninsula now has a silver lining after all, and the key will be Korea's younger generations. It grieves me that the US administration continues to drop the ball, time after time, in east Asian foreign policy (not to mention the Middle East!).

The next piece is from an opinion published in the LA Times on April 25, 2004 by Frank Gibney, the 2002 recipient of PCI's Building Bridges Award, and is entitled, "As South Koreans Look Ahead, U.S. Policy Is Stuck in the Past." (Portions reprinted here with permission)

The cumulative indignation of a young, affluent and self-confident generation of South Koreans toward the leadership of their elitist elders has reshuffled the country's National Assembly and opened up the possibility of dramatic political change.

While their parents and grandparents were content to perpetuate the political establishment, young Koreans questioned and argued. With only the dimmest recollection of the Korean War, they doubted their elders' horror stories of the totalitarian North, instead trusting in former President Kim Dae Jung's "sunshine policy" of eventual unification of North and South. Similarly, the young increasingly challenged their parents' support, dating from the Korean War, for a U.S. military presence. To them, the U.S. 8th

(continued on page 3)



Op-Ed Excerpts

(continued from page 2)

Army was less liberator than foreign occupier. As upsetting to their parents is the fact that the invader China, now South Korea's principal trading partner, is regarded as new and exciting, one reason why Chinese is preferred to English by many foreign-language students.

Roh is this younger generation's favorite politician, though he is no wide-eyed revolutionary. What the young find attractive about him is that he wants South Korea to be an independent international player rather than a U.S. client state.

The South Koreans continue to urge hard-liners on both sides [of the North Korean nuclear crisis] to start talking, and the outcome of the National Assembly elections greatly strengthens their voice. The North Koreans, furthermore, have lately seemed increasingly eager for real negotiations. For all their bluster, Kim Jong Il's bureaucrats, their brutalized population still suffering from famine, appear ready to disarm for some kind of quid for their quo. Two weeks ago, in an informal meeting with Americans in California, the North's ambassador to the United Nations referred to what he saw as the confusing American attitude. Alluding to the nine months of secret negotiations with Libya that led to that country's abandonment of its nuclear-weapons program, he suggested that nine months of similar talks with his government could produce something far better.

Responses

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I think the U.S. is losing South Korea – certainly the young generation. Increasing numbers of young Koreans are studying in China. The U.S. looks out of touch. I worry.

I, for one, would be quite pleased to see the "dramatic political change" manifested in a much reduced (maybe total) USFK presence thereby allowing this new generation of leaders to foist upon the nation their ideals. It's time for Korea to take the lead on these things, within the context of what they believe is the way ahead for the Peninsula, and get US policy (whether it's outdated or not) onto the sidelines. Despite all the political change that may be on the horizon, I see no indication that the South Koreans are prepared to bite the bullet on this issue, instead prefer to have the US around as the "whipping boy". I think South Korea is terribly worried about what the future might hold under a North-South political settlement because the affluence of these new leaders would be quickly sucked up into the gaping hole of an infrastructure that cannot function even under it's own strict rules. Perhaps the recent train explosion will open their idealistic eyes to the real cost of

rapprochement! But in the end, it's time for Korea to be it's own master!

In this second piece by Frank Gibney, taken from an op-ed published in the LA Times on May 9, 2004, Mr. Gibney details his experiences and lessons learned during World War II as an intelligence officer interrogating Japanese prisoners. It is entitled, "The Nice Way of Q&A Paid-Off in World War II." (Portions reprinted here with permission)

Our reluctance to use force didn't mean that interrogation wasn't serious business. The camp, in the then-barren acres of Iroquois Point across from Pearl Harbor, was run for intelligence purposes. We handled all prisoners in the Pacific Theater thought to possess useful information. Equipped with a fairly detailed knowledge of Japanese army and navy units — and a shopping list of strategic questions — we asked POWs about war industries, regime personalities, home-front morale and future military strategies, as well as details about local units and their order of battle. Interrogators and prisoners spent time talking about personal histories and attitudes toward the war. We often ended up explaining a lot of recent history that had been withheld from them by their heavily censored press.

Some prisoners circulated freely within the heavily guarded camp perimeter. The interrogators — all young, idealistic and fairly good Japanese speakers — spent quite a bit of time with the prisoners, played Go and volleyball with them, and in the course of time learned a great deal about the once-mysterious enemy we were dealing with. After the Marianas fell in 1944, almost all prisoners knew that Japan's defeat was certain. Long before Gen. Douglas MacArthur brought "demokurashee," some thoughtful POWs in the camp were talking about the kind of democratic Japan they wanted to build after the war. A few helped craft leaflets for U.S. Army psych-warfare people to drop on their homeland.

After the war, some of us who went to Japan kept up our acquaintanceships with our former prisoners; for several years running, we had a camp reunion at a sushi restaurant owned by one of them. I have always cherished those two years at the camp — a learning experience for prisoners and interrogators that benefited both sides. For all our naive fraternizing, we managed to turn out a heavy tonnage of valuable information — military and political — that was of good service to the war effort. "We got the dope," as we used to say, without the use of torture or beatings. Our group of young lieutenants (junior grade) were proudest, as Americans, of the fact that most of our prisoners left the camp feeling that Americans were different, that this United States, for all of the bombing and hardships we visited on Japan, still stood for something independent and "free," a demokurashee worthy of emulation.

(continued on page 5)





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Op-Ed Excerpts

(continued from page 3)

Responses

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If we are really committed to developing a democracy in Iraq, Frank Gibney has some thoughtful ideas about what really counts--friendship and treating others as we want to be treated. So far I have not found anyone who was convinced by bombs and guns.

Thanks, this was extremely timely and I think Frank provides a very useful antidote to notions that what is going on in Iraq is "necessary" to gain information.

I have been speaking with former military personnel as well as folks from intelligence backgrounds for the last couple of weeks. Often their scenarios coincide pretty much with Gibney's version. One American who fought in the Korean War said the Regiment commander was so adamant in orienting its subordinate officers and the US Army soldiers to the rules of prisoner engagements and local citizens to the point that no one thought they could violate a local girl and survive the officer's harsh discipline. Everyone knew the rules and they won't dare violate them.

In Iraqi War, something really went badly at every level. Colin Powell's analogy with Mylai incidence in Vietnam was indeed a sad moment for all of us. I hope we learn for once and all through this nightmare and recover our national dignity someday soon.

Conference on Nuclear Crisis

A one-day conference of leading international scholars was convened on April 2, 2004 at the University of San Francisco campus to take stock of global concern about the nuclear crisis on the Korean Peninsula. First on the schedule was a session chaired by Peter Hayes (The Nautilus Institute) with participation by Victor Cha (Georgetown University) and David Kang (Dartmouth College), focused on the current state of the crisis and possible strategies of engagement. Following this session, during the luncheon, the keynote address was delivered by Bruce Cumings (University of Chicago) entitled "A Long Overdue Solution to the Korean Nuclear Crisis". Next was Scott Snyder's (The Asia Foundation) in-depth analysis of the South Korean perspective. The day ended with Rosemary Foot (Oxford University) chairing a session that discussed the roles of Japan (presented by TJ Pempel, UC Berkeley) and China (presented by Stephen Uhalley, USF).

PCI is appreciative of the informed and thoughtful analysis presented at the conference, and hopes that this event and others like it will aid in achieving the shared goal

of a constructive and peaceful resolution to this crisis. Highlighting issues and events such as these is part of PCI's mission to inform and educate concerning matters vitally important to the Pacific Rim region.

White Eagle Ranch Gathering

On March 15, 2004 the Korea Society and Pacific Century Institute jointly sponsored a closed-door, informal meeting at White-Eagle Ranch in Thousand Oaks, California. Discussions investigated complex Korean-American relations as they pertain to the nuclear presence on the Korean Peninsula. Ambassador Han Song Ryol of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea attended as special guest.

An immediate atmosphere of warmth was apparent as guests gathered on the White Eagle Ranch's wrap-around porch, due not only to the balmy weather but also the brotherly attention and care shared between guests. Introductions were made and enjoyed over hors d'oeuvres. One guest remarked that, "doing this in the type of informal and pleasant setting...is an excellent way to build bridges and begin to establish a basis for a restoration of confidence on both sides." Dignitaries and members of both societies came together to generate a "culture of gathering." Dinner was a forum for these "Track 2" talks where guests sat down with Ambassador Han to ask informed questions and receive frank answers. Because individuals came from diverse ethnic and professional backgrounds, coupled with an underlying common goal of achieving a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula, the dinner was an important opportunity to share perspectives and concerns about the critical issues facing the Korean Peninsula in a respectful and intellectual setting. While the nature of U.S. interest in Korean politics is an area where much disagreement and myriad of perspectives collide, attendees found Ambassador Han to be polite, sincere and an engaging man. While differences remain and there is work necessary yet to do, they left with an overall positive impression of Ambassador Han.

The evening was not only a pleasure and great event but also an eye-opener in that it served as a chance to explore the possibility of reaching some understanding through dialogue and interaction. Yet, there exists the enduring and inevitable question of where to go from here. The door is open but what steps to take? Many guests echoed the sentiment that the evening was an initiative that should be followed-up. It is with this crucial purpose we come to you now. Let us savor the evening's success but also use it as a catalyst for further exploration. Ambassador Han arrived with an ailing foot, but later commented "my foot is now completely cured..." Perhaps this expression is a small demonstration of the bridging between North and South,

(continued on page 6)



White Eagle Ranch Gathering

(continued from page 5)

East and West. Perhaps it also heralds the possibility that healing can occur on a grander scale. The March 15th dinner is evidence that more good intention and faith exists than

discordance and hazard. A memorable evening was born of this meeting of our distinguished guests, let us endeavor to build a memorable future.

**Save the Day**

PCI's 2005 Annual Award Dinner will be held on February 24. We will be honoring the Underwood family for 120 years of service to the nation of Korea.

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