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The PCI News



2016 PCI Annual Awards Dinner

The Rise of China and the Future of the American Role in Asia

By Hong Seok-hyun



JoongAng Media Network Chairman Hong, Seok-hyun delivers his address at PCI Annual Building Awards Dinner on February 26, 2016

The rise of China is a new development in East Asia which has altered the accepted geopolitical reality of a relatively weak China that has been true since the Opium Wars in the 19th century, if not before. The unexpectedly rapid rise of China not only poses challenges for China itself, which often lacks the expertise to support its new global role, but also poses many challenges for the future development of other nations in East Asia, specifically for Korea and Japan. The challenge of engaging China is also very real for the United States. In the

case of Korea, a country which finds itself in close geographical proximity to China while it remains a staunch U.S. ally, the rise of China is a matter of vital concern and how that rise will unfold will have profound impact on Korea’s future and on its potential.

There is a Chinese proverb, “One mountain cannot accommodate two tigers” (il shan bu rong ho 一山不容二虎). This saying suggests that there can only be one dominant power in a region. If this saying applies to East Asia, then we can assume that China and the United States will inevitably get into various irresolvable conflicts in East Asia because each country will strive to be the dominant power. But is that saying really applicable to the situation in East Asia, which has its own unique characteristics? More importantly, what steps can we take to make sure that the inevitable differences in perspective that arise between the two tigers do not result in a serious geopolitical struggle? How can we make sure that the two tigers coexist without fighting for dominance over a mountain? Of course the proverb about the tigers is an apt analogy for the political process in China in which a victor who establishes a unified dynasty after long years of vying for dominance between rivals, must establish his unquestioned authority. In traditional Chinese political thought, there can only be one lord of the realm, and of the state. If there is no singular force to establish order (“zhi”(治)) the realm will descend into chaos (“luan”(亂)). The Chinese consider a unifying singular force as essential to an orderly political system.

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Clockwise from top left:

Top Left: PCI Annual Award attendees reciting the Pledge of Allegiance;

Top Right: Father William Fulco, S.J. of Loyola Marymount University giving invocation;

Bottom Right: Project Bridge Youth Ambassadors meeting with Ambassadors Gregg, Stephens, Mr. Spencer Kim, Mr. Charles Morrison of East West Center, and Mr. Frederick Carriere;

Bottom Left: PCI Senior Fellow Frederick Carriere and Fulbright Korean-American Educational Commission Executive Director Mrs. Shim, Jai-ok receiving the institutional Building Bridges Award on behalf of Fulbright KAEC from Chairman Donald Gregg.

(Intercontinental Hotel in Los Angeles, February 26, 2016.)



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The Chinese geopolitical order also assumed that there should be one singularly powerful kingdom that occupied the top of the hierarchy, and that this hierarchy wherein tributary states paid honor to the Chinese dynasty, was essential to maintaining peace and stability in the realm. According to this view, there will be a high likelihood of turbulent times in East Asia if the realm is not authoritatively unified under one hegemonic power.

This traditional Sino-centric view of external affairs was subject to a tremendous challenge after the incursions of imperialism in the 19th century. Suddenly the unquestioned master of the realm was humiliated at the hands of the British during the Opium Wars and eventually reduced to a state of semi-colonialism. The supreme power of East Asia was humbled by the technology and the financial instruments employed by the imperialists who ruthlessly pursued prosperity through the law of the jungle. The Chinese to this day are deeply aware of the century of humiliations as a semi-colonized state that they suffered through.

The drive for economic development in China is a direct result of the passions stirred up by that humiliation. China has focused its energy on achieving a national revival and on regaining the dominance it once enjoyed. The devastation and humiliation resulting from the imperialist conquest of China in the 19th century, first by Europeans and then by Japan, have made the Chinese feel acutely that they cannot afford to be perceived as the loser in any contest for supremacy. This awareness is in line with the traditional Chinese view of China's appropriate place in the world and its relations with its neighbors. Behind this Chinese perspective on international relations lurks that concept that two tigers cannot co-exist on one mountain.

But the world has undergone tremendous change, which suggests that we are looking at a very different game today. Imperialism has found its place in the dust bin of history after the debacles of the First and Second World Wars showed its limitations. In place of that vertical order, a new Western, international order has been established that holds up equality among sovereign nations and territorial integrity in accordance with the charter of the United Nations. That new, complex and multilateral world, which has its origins in the Treaty of Westphalia and was fulfilled at the San Francisco Conference of 1945 with the founding of the United Nations, has been transplanted into East Asia.

During the 20th century, relations between countries gradually evolved beyond the imperialist hegemonic struggle for survival of the fittest and embraced a new model of maximization of mutual benefit through exchange and cooperation. This new paradigm for a world order is expanding in the 21st century as dramatic breakthroughs in science and technology increase economic integration. Deepening mutual dependence in economic and trade relations have become the key to peace and prosperity in our world. But the emergence of a new system is unmistakable. It is true, of course, that there remain significant gaps in development depending on the region. The forefront of this shift can be observed in Europe, the region that has embraced global economic systems for the longest period of time. In Europe today, the supremacy of one particular state is no longer a significant concern. Instead, the main concern of nations which form a community is the pursuit of co-prosperity and mutual benefit. The stakeholders have clear roles and responsibilities in the resolution of common problems and that process assures stability and predictability.

East Asia may not have reached that degree of institutional and cultural integration yet. Nevertheless, the development of shared financial institutions

and the launch of the Trilateral Cooperation Secretariat (Korea, China and Japan) in 2011 suggest that East Asia is heading in that direction. That said, the unique historical legacy of East Asia, and certain cultural characteristics, make the current situation in East Asia a confusing mix of new trends and past vestiges. A stable and peaceful order may well emerge in Northeast Asia, but it will be culturally and structurally distinct from Europe.

Therefore, the essential question we need to ask when we consider China's rise and the continuing role of the United States in East Asia is this: Given the historical vestiges of the old order, how can we orchestrate a smooth transition to a horizontal order in East Asia based on reciprocal relations? We must guard against a struggle between nations for supremacy, a struggle that will not only undermine the global trend towards reciprocal nations in East Asia. It is my sincere wish that East Asia not revert to out-moded models of the past. We can make real progress if we envision and establish a new order in East Asia based on mutual respect, co-existence and co-prosperity. Relations between nations should be horizontal and our perspective should be future-oriented. I believe that there are many in China, Korea and Japan who are ready to embrace such a vision. To realize this goal, the United States must take on new and innovative roles in East Asia to present this powerful vision. We must include China in that vision and that we should make clear what contributions China should make.

If we look at the history of the past century in East Asia, we see many precedents for cooperation between the United States and China and they provide concrete examples of what a stable East Asian order might be. When China was in decline and subject to exploitation at the hands of Western imperialism, U.S. policies with regard to China were clearly different from those of the imperialist powers. The United States promoted the "open door policy" of Secretary of State John Hay in 1899, demanding that European powers allow free trade with China. In addition, the United States was practically the only superpower with no territorial ambitions for expansion into China. Quite the opposite, the U.S. played a major role in the Second World War, in which it was allied with China, in defeating Imperial Japan and freeing China from the semi-colonialism of a century.

Of course, there were profound changes in the relationship of the United States and China after the Chinese Communist Party took power in 1949 and Washington backed the Kuomintang party which fled to Taiwan. The resulting Cold War created a new geopolitical order wherein America intervened and engaged more deeply in East Asian affairs, often with a positive effect, but also with the assumption that there was a threat from "communist" China that had to be countered. The United States and China even clashed militarily on the Korean Peninsula, and a continued state of tension and confrontation haunted a divided East Asia for decades.

But a welcome shift began in the 1970s when the United States improved relations with China and encouraged Beijing to become an active member of the international community. Encouraged by the new opportunity for trade and for economic growth, China made the historic decision to set out on the road of economic growth by joining the international trading order and entering the U.S. market in earnest. China seized the opportunity and emerged as a major economic force after concentrating on domestic politics in the 1960s and 1970s. For its part, the U.S. made strides politically, diplomatically and economically in bringing China into the international community, culminating in China's joining the World Trade Organization in 2001. In short, America's role in China's rise has in general been amicable and positive. The experience of history strongly suggests that it is possible for the United States and China to maintain mutual cooperation during China's rise even granted that there will inevitably be disagreements and misunderstandings

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concerning specific issues.

Overall, the actions of America, as the dominant outside force in East Asia over the past century, have contributed to peace, stability and prosperity in the region. The United States offered an international order which was not imperialist in nature and which encouraged self-determination in the tradition of Woodrow Wilson. The precedents for a positive role for the United States hint at the potential for a new order that fully integrates China, engaging it as a major power with clear rights and responsibilities. That is to say, there is a way for two tigers to work together for peace, stability and co-prosperity in the realm.

Frankly speaking, I am skeptical that the countries in East Asia can create a new geopolitical order all on their own. Not only do East Asian countries not have the experience with modern international relations and regional cooperation that we have witnessed in Europe, there are serious concerns that past conflicts over history and territory may reignite at any time. What we have seen over the last century, starting with the "Open Door" policy is that when an outside force plays the role of an honest broker it becomes easier to build a stable and reciprocal order in East Asia. There is a geopolitical need to create a stable system to undergird bilateral relations. The United States has a clear and urgent task to encourage China to participate in a constructive manner as East Asia establishes an equal, reciprocal and cooperative order. That order will be similar to what we have witnessed in Europe, but it will have unique features dictated by the specifics of East Asia. And I believe the U.S. has the maturity and the experience to engage China in that process and assure China of its stake in the new order.

The U.S. has responded to China's rise with a policy known as the "pivot to Asia." I believe this policy is an important one and that the new economic importance of East Asia in the world demands Washington's focus. But China, because of its painful experience with imperialism, has displayed a tendency to misread any moves to increase U.S. engagement in Asia as a ploy to contain and encircle China.

We can understand, even if we disagree, why the Chinese tend to harbor skepticism towards the United States' intentions and retain a sense of victimization vis-a-vis external powers. Also, behind the obvious pride the Chinese take in their achievements, there remain concerns about domestic challenges produced by rapid economic growth. The combination of wariness about the intentions of outside forces and concerns over domestic issues are fanning nationalism in China. America needs to make sure it does not give the impression that its legitimate concerns for a stable and reciprocal order in East Asia are an attempt to subvert China's rise. If the U.S. gives the impression that it is trying to contain and encircle China through its actions, China will feel compelled to push back.

There is another ancient Chinese proverb that I would like to share with you. This proverb suggests another paradigm for imagining the future of East Asia. The proverb is "The cypress tree is happiest in a lush pine forest." (in Chinese Song mao bai yue (松茂栢悦), or in Korean "Song mu baek yeol"). If the international community wants to encourage China to cooperate with other nations and to contribute more to creating an open community in East Asia, the U.S. should take the lead in welcoming China's rise and continuing to engage China through dialog in diverse fields, and on every levels. If the U.S. welcomes a flourishing China, I believe that Beijing will respond and play a responsible role. China has shown it is capable of such growth before and it shows signs now that it will move toward a new order in the region based on mutual respect and co-prosperity. We can convince the Chinese that it is the trees on the mountain which grow together in a symbiotic manner, and not the hungry tigers that wander over the mountain that should be our mod-

el.

Let us talk a bit more concretely about what America's role in East Asia should be. The U.S. must play a leadership role in encouraging a common agenda for collaboration in East Asia and checking narrow-minded nationalism and chauvinism. In order to encourage collaboration and draw attention to common concerns in East Asia, the U.S. needs to pursue diverse engagement policies in the fields of business, finance and trade.

I hope that the U.S. will continue to advocate for mutual benefits to be realized through the encouragement of competition, efficiency and rationality. Anti-colonial nationalism remains a powerful force in East Asia today and it can disrupt many valuable efforts for multilateral cooperation. The best way to build a new order in East Asia in both name and in reality is to establish successful precedents for cooperation.

I believe that resolving the controversy over North Korea's nuclear program could be such a model case. North Korea's recent nuclear test, the fourth, demands a speedy and unified response from all the nations of East Asia. We should focus on the core values of nuclear non-proliferation and regional security, and we should engage closely with each other, while speaking seriously with the North Koreans.

Although the agenda of the Six-Party Talks so far has been limited to the question of North Korean denuclearization, it nonetheless has served as unprecedented venue for negotiations that include the major countries of Northeast Asia. If our joint efforts bear fruit this time around, the Six-Party Talks could serve as a precedent for meaningful multilateral governance. We can build on that collaboration, and other previous agreements for cooperation in the response to climate change and military exchanges, to set up a stable long-term vision for the relationship.

The reality of geography makes it inevitable that America and China are here to stay in East Asia. We expect that China will search for constructive ways to support co-existence and co-prosperity in the region and that such an effort will include a pragmatic acceptance of the U.S. presence in the region as a constant and stabilizing element. I hope that China will welcome America's role in East Asia and take the "cypress and pine tree approach" to the engagement of the two nations in the region and with each other. Both parties should recognize this reality and find an ideal balance with benefits for all.

As a middle power in Northeast Asia which has developed close multilateral relations with all its neighbors, Korea is a threat to no one. An ally of the United States, with deep-rooted relations with Japan, and a significant partnership with China and Russia, Korea is in the unique position to push forward the establishment of a community based on mutual respect, co-prosperity and interdependence among countries in the region. I also believe that Korea can function as a facilitator to create a new order built on common ground between the U.S. and China and East Asia as a whole. As a nation with no history of colonialism or imperialism, that role on the part of Korea would be welcomed by East Asian nations. It would raise Korea's stature and create a favorable environment in the region to support for efforts toward unification on the Korean peninsula.

In conclusion, the U.S. presence in East Asia over the last century is a geopolitical constant in East Asia and venturing an East Asian order without such an honest broker as a stakeholder runs the risk of returning to the old patterns of rivalry and conflict. The rise of China has also become a geopolitical constant. Therefore, the U.S. and China should embrace the zeitgeist of a highly networked global village in the 21st century and join forces to usher in a future-oriented order in East Asia based on true reciprocity.

Hong, Seok-hyun is a former South Korean Ambassador to the United States in 2005.



PCI Sponsored Program - Junior Research Fellows

Under the direction and supervision of PCI Senior Fellow, Dr. John Delury of Yonsei University, two students have undertaken PCI junior research fellowship programs during their Spring semester:

Kyu-eun Kim, a senior at Yonsei's Underwood International College, majors in Comparative Literature and Culture. A South Korean citizen, she spent the spring 2016 semester interning at the Woodrow Wilson Center's Cold War History Project. During her internship, she conducted research for Dr. Delury at the National Archives. Her primary responsibility was to look through State Department and CIA records from the 1950s and 1960s; in addition she did supplementary research at the Library of Congress.

Julie Zhu is an undergraduate at Yale University studying Political Science with a focus on International Relations and Law. She is currently interning in the San Francisco District Attorney's Office and working on her senior thesis: Sexual Harassment in the Workplace—a Comparative Study of the US, Denmark, and Japan. Julie's areas of research during the Spring semester included Yale in the 1940s and 1950s, looking at China studies, the debate over China policy, and the impact of the Korean War on campus. She used the Manuscripts and Archives collection of Yale Library.

Below are research descriptions from the junior fellows:



Kyu-eun Kim

I went to the National Archives at College Park, Maryland once or twice a week to gather related articles and primary sources on the incident. My research expanded to US-China relations and Third Force, a political force outside of Communist or Nationalist China. I learned how to search with the Central Decimal File as well as the CREST system. After I returned to DC, I exported the photos I took to my laptop and kept a record of my trips to NARA and the boxes I pulled out for the week. I

Working as a Junior Fellow at the Pacific Century Institute has been an inspiring learning experience. During my five months stay in Washington DC, I assisted Professor Delury with a research project on the abduction of John T. Downey and Richard Fecteau during their intelligence work in China. They were kidnapped and jailed in China in the middle of the Korean War, and were held captive until the 1970s, when President Nixon normalized US-China relations.

also used the CIA database for the research. Professor Delury and I had skype chat every other week to follow up on my trips to NARA. We also communicated through email, and the professor gave me helpful instructions.

This research was nothing like the research I have done for my university classes, which required readings and writing notes. It required my own judgment to decide what was useful or not. Through this fellowship opportunity, I was able to learn necessary research and organizing skills. Each trip was exciting as I found more pieces of the mysterious puzzle lying in front of me. This experience has helped me to become a more critical thinker and a better researcher.



Julie Zhu

During this project, I perused the resources in the Yale Manuscripts and Archives Library and Yale Divinity School Special Collections, looking specifically for indications of the Yale perception towards China and communism. I investigated various China faculty and China studies at Yale, as well as the University President's Papers during this time period. Each week, I ordered particular boxes using Yale's Aeon system and their online catalogs. When they were made available, I would go into the Reading Room to flip through the resources and take pictures of the relevant documents, which I later sent to Professor Delury in weekly chunks.

I am grateful to Professor Delury for providing me the opportunity and guidance to get hands-on experience doing this type of big-project, historical research, as well as the chance to discover the interesting stories that comprised Yale at this time. Lastly, many thanks to Pacific Century Institute for funding this research and making this entire experience possible.

This semester, I assisted Professor Delury in research regarding John Downey, a Yale graduate of 1951, specifically focusing on his undergraduate years at Yale. At the time, democratic and communist ideologies were butting up against each other on the international stage. My research examined how this international atmosphere was reflected and manifested in the Yale community in this time period.

PCI Sponsored Program - Mekong River Conference

Conference on Sustainable Uses of Mekong Water Resources

An international conference was held in Can Tho City, Vietnam on April 22nd and 23rd, 2016. The conference was attended by national and international experts, scholars and researchers from Norway, U.S., France, China, Thailand, Laos, Cambodia; representatives of local and international social and non-governmental organizations, research institutes, universities and businesses in the country.

Focusing on the crucial role that the Mekong River can have on Vietnam and its neighbors, the conference on Sustainable Use of Mekong Resources aimed at providing a multi-dimensional, multi-perspective forum involving diverse stakeholders, with an open cross-cutting approach incorporating national perspectives and regional vision.

In the past decade and more, various studies and scientific discussions took place to analyze and find responses to such challenges. One of the most contentious debates in both countervailing arguments and urgent topicality is the impact of hydropower dams - direct or indirect - on the riparian areas, especially the downstream areas of Cambodia and the Mekong River Delta in Vietnam.

The Mekong panel sessions included three topics:

- Hydropower on the Mekong: issues and conflicting interests
- Environment and climate change in the Mekong River Basin
- Various growth and development scenarios for the Mekong River Basin: implications for the livelihood of riparian communities and countries concerned

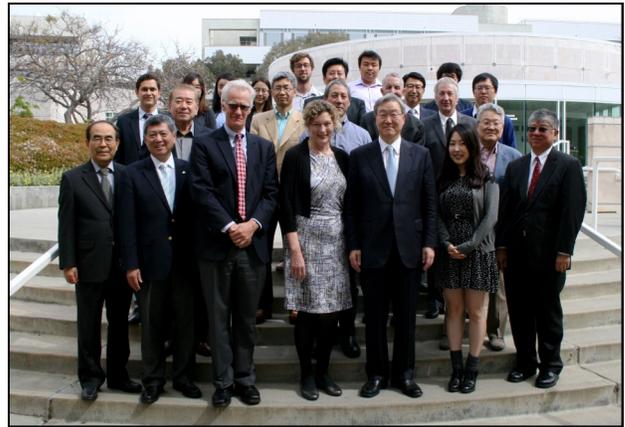
The timeliness of the conference organized at the height of the severe drought intensified broad public and expert interest. The conference was a great success in substance, organization and impact.



Board Member Activities



From left to right: PCI Board members Dr. Chung-in Moon and Ambassador Kathleen Stephens with Sung-hwan Kim and Stephan Haggard at March 3rd Conference at UCSD



PCI Board members Dr. Chung-in Moon, Amb. Kathleen Stephens, Mr. Lynn Turk and PCI co-founder Spencer Kim at March 3rd Conference at UCSD

University of California, San Diego School of Global Policy and Strategy (GPS) and the East Asia Foundation, in collaboration with the Pacific Century Institute and the 21st Century China Program, hosted workshop series on U.S.-China-South Korean Relations on March 3, 2016 at GPS located at UCSD. The purpose of the workshop was to consider the three legs of this strategic triangle—US-China-relations and South Korea's relationship with both the US and China—to consider the opportunities for trilateral cooperation in Northeast Asia. Topics covered were: The U.S., China and the Korean Peninsula: the Nuclear Issue, South Korea's "China Choice": The Development of China-South Korea Relations, Issues in the U.S.-Korea Alliance, The Politics of Foreign Policy in the U.S., South Korea and China, and a Public Event: "South Korea, China and the United States: Moving Forward." PCI Vice Chairwoman, Amb. Kathleen Stephens was a lead discussant and panelist along with PCI board member, Dr. Chung-in Moon.

Project Bridge Study Tour

By Angie Pak

I was first introduced to Pacific Century Institute's Project Bridge (PB) program in October 2013. Since then, my passion for the PB program grew as I witnessed tremendous growth in our Youth Ambassadors (YA) right in front of my eyes while volunteering as a group leader for two consecutive years. I had the chance to experience the study tour as the program coordinator this year. This year, the PB study tour was scheduled much later in the month of April. Despite some difficulties securing sponsorships along with scheduling difficulties, the study tour kicked off to a great start.

The Los Angeles group arrived in Incheon International Airport (ICN) at around 5:20 AM on Thursday, April 21, 2016. Shortly after landing, our group of 11 met with our New York counterpart's group of 12. Two coordinators, four group leaders (GL), and one consultant were introduced to each other while the 16 YAs from both coasts finally had a chance to meet in person for the first time. As we had ample time until our first scheduled event, we utilized the time to get the YAs synchronized in their Korean pop dance moves and Arirang song as they had been practicing both for months. We then were transported via limousine bus provided by Korean International Trade Association (KITA) to our first event at KITA located in Seoul.

Within just a few hours since arriving in Korea, the YAs attentively listened to KITA's presentation on the Korean economy and toured the COEX Convention center in an adjacent building. After enjoying our provided lunch, the group headed to Banpo High School. Due to this

year's trip being scheduled close to Korean students' midterms, our YAs were unable to experience the annual home-stay program where they typically spend the first night in Korea at a host family's home. Nevertheless, YAs intermingled with Banpo High School students during the welcoming program at the school auditorium and were in awe of the Korean students' ability to speak fluently in English.

YAs quickly learned that the remainder of the trip would require physical and mental agility while properly representing both PCI and The Korea Society. The remainder of the trip covered all the categories they had been studying during the workshops prior to the study tour. Throughout the course of ten days, YAs experienced and learned the importance of not only the Korean economy, education system, government structure, culture, tradition, and history, and how it contributes to the world, but also the importance of social bonding and bridging gaps amongst the group.

On day two, we were warmly welcomed by the Jeollabukdo provincial government as they sponsored PB for two and half days by providing several meals and cultural experiences at Seonunsa Temple and Muju Taekwondo-won. YAs first tested their physical agility during our stay at Seonunsa Temple by quickly adjusting to the ways of the temple. The 4 AM reveille followed by morning ceremony, 108 bows, and meditation after a long day allowed them to expand their understanding of mutual respect and the significance of preserving traditions and customs.

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Project Bridge Study Tour

Project Bridge Study Tour
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YAs then experienced fun filled physical activities at Muju Taekwondo-won located in Muju city in Jeollabukdo province that continued to challenge their physical agility and ability. Three two-hour programs that covered diverse categories of taekwondo not only kept the group engaged but tested their abilities. Many YAs departed Muju Taekwondo-won learning how much they can push themselves both physically and mentally while learning to self-reflect on their patience.

Over the years, YAs have unanimously voted that the aforementioned homestay at Banpo high school was a highlight of the trip. While we were unable to participate in the program this year, YAs were invited to spend the night at Poongsan High School (PHS) dormitory located in Andong. PHS is a private boarding school funded by our long time sponsor, Poongsan Corporation. The campus offered many amenities that appealed to YAs while introducing them to top academic students residing on campus. Programs scheduled for our stay involved well thought out activities that covered performances, group work, bridging and overcoming barriers with partnered students all the while learning about the Korean students' rigorous school and study schedule.

Other sponsored activities included visits to POSCO, Hyundai Heavy Industries, EWha Womans University, DMZ, National Assembly, Chong Kun Dang Pharmaceuticals and its school, Daedong Taxation

High School where its faculty and students provided many activities for YAs and chaperones. Throughout the sponsored activities, the YAs impressed everyone with their knowledge on given subjects and fully engaged in Q & A's with sponsors. They also experienced the chilling reality of ongoing issues of the two Koreas at the DMZ. Other sites visited include Busan, Gyeongju (Bulguksa and Seokguram), Gyeong-bokgung, National Folk Museum of Korea, and the War Memorial of Korea.

During our down time, several group and one-on-one sessions led by coordinators and GLs took place to evaluate students' performance, professionalism, group dynamic, and their roles as YAs. GLs gave advice and feedback to YAs so they can improve on their strengths and weaknesses. YAs were constantly encouraged to represent each of their schools, communities, and the US by presenting the best versions of themselves.

Project Bridge has proven to be a well-structured program year after year. Likewise, this year's in-depth preparations prior to the tour helped YAs to better grasp their understanding of Korea in all aspects. Students were able to gain immense knowledge of Korea in various areas by experiencing and immersing in its culture and customs first hand. Project Bridge 2015-2016 Youth Ambassadors successfully accomplished the goals Project Bridge aimed for while showing tremendous growth in many aspects and expanded their horizons during the trip.

Project Bridge 2015-2016 culminated in a ten-day study tour of Korea, where Youth Ambassadors explored Korea's cultural, political and economic centers, accompanied by four group leaders, two program coordinators, and one consultant. Project Bridge Los Angeles had 12 workshops before the Study Tour took place from April 21 to May 1, 2016.

The purpose of the tour was to enable the students to see Korea and meet Koreans in their own societal context. The trip also enabled the students to explore the spectrum of cultural homogeneity and heterogeneity, as Korea remains one of the most ethnically homogenous of the world's nations.

Thus, the tour enhanced the intercultural objectives of the program as a whole. Furthermore, by bringing two groups of participants from disparate areas of the U.S. together during the tour, Project Bridge extended the exploration of the meaning of diversity—both within America and with a nation different from their own.

During the study tour to Korea, Project Bridge students visited many places in Korea of historical and social significance, and engaged in open dialogue with Koreans.

Sites Project Bridge 2015-2016 visited are: Banpo High School, Chong Kun Dang Pharmaceutical Company, Daedong Taxation High School, Ewha Woman's University, POSCO, Hyundai Heavy Industries, Jeollabuk-Do Provincial Government, Korea Financial Investment Association, Seonunsa Temple, Muju Taekwondo won, Korea International Trade Association, National Assembly, Poongsan High School, Demilitarized Zone and Panmunjom, and numerous historical sites.



Project Bridge Youth Ambassadors after finishing 108 bows and meditation session during temple stay at Seonunsa Temple, Gochang, Jeollabuk-do Province, Korea on April 23, 2016



Project Bridge Youth Ambassadors at Korean International Trade Association located in Seoul with General Director Young Ha Song on April 21, 2016



Project Bridge Youth Ambassadors with Daedong Taxation High School students during the programmed activity at Unhyeongung Royal Residence in Jongno, Seoul, Korea on April 29, 2016



Project Bridge Graduation

Since last November, 16 Youth Ambassadors in Los Angeles and New York embarked on a journey of self-exploration and intercultural-leadership that culminated with ten days of total immersion in Korean culture. Upon return from the study tour this May, the students engaged in a series of group discussions examining the significance of their experience as Youth Ambassadors. Each student wrote personal essays evaluating and reflecting on their own team-building efforts in the past six months and their personal growth as an intercultural leader. On June 18, 2016, the Los Angeles based Youth Ambassadors shared and presented their experiences and expert topics in front of their families, friends, and PCI board members.

The presentation topics included: Social Classes in Premodern Korea; Traditional Music & Dance; Education in Korea; Korean War & DMZ; Korean Government and National Assembly; Korean Economic Development; Religion & Philosophy in Korea; Gender Roles: Past to Present.

Special Thanks to:

LA Group Leaders

Christina Kam
Tracy Luong

LA Program Coordinator

Angie Pak



PB 2015-2016 Los Angeles Youth Ambassadors, Group Leader, Coordinator, and PCI Co-founder Mr. Spencer Kim at the graduation, PCI Headquarters, Chatsworth, CA, June 18, 2016

Project Bridge Youth Ambassadors

Angel Anene	SOAR High School
Brenda Apreza	Thomas Jefferson High School
Erik Moreno	Ambassador School of Global Leadership
Heber Rivas	ASGL High School
Alberc EJ Salcedo	Ramon C. Cortines Grand Arts High School
Tiffany Syas	School of Visual & Performing Arts
Calvin Symonds	Antelope Valley SOAR HS
Elizabeth Valenzuela	Lynwood High School

Group Leader Reflections

Below are reflections on the 2015-2016 Project Bridge year given by the Los Angeles Group Leaders.

Christina Kam:

Being part of the Project Bridge family was not only heart-warming, but also a great experience as a group leader to watch the students' horizons expand and see the spark happen in their eyes. It was fun and exciting to witness the students immerse themselves domestically, when the LA and NY students first met, and then culturally, making connections with the sponsors and the Korean students.

As a group leader, it was great to make connections with the students as a friend and as a mentor, understanding where they used to be - the same high school stress of SATs, the worries of the future, which college to attend. The trip allowed the students and group leaders to feel comfortable with being uncomfortable and to think outside of the box. Engaging with Korean high-school students allowed them to think not only of themselves, but also to be compassionate of others and how we are not all the same.

Project Bridge is part of a beautiful movement for everyone to connect and open doors to new paths that were unthinkable before the trip. It was truly enriching as a group leader to be part of this program and will definitely encourage others to step out of their comfort zones.

Tracy Luong:

- ◆ Having participated in Project Bridge as a high school student has left a deep impression in my life. When the opportunity to return as a group leader arose, I was excited to contribute back to a program that has helped me develop a better understanding of diversity, appreciation for culture and importance of taking initiative as a leader in the community. I took the idea the program instilled of "bridging the gaps" in our society to heart and it has permeated many of my career aspirations. Working in the healthcare industry, I encounter cultural barriers everyday whether it is with patients, families, or co-workers. The lessons I learned from Project Bridge enabled me to enhance communication and initiate conversations about cultural misconceptions so we can begin to recognize similarities among the cultural differences and embrace the unique society that it creates.

- ◆ I was able to share my passion and many lessons learned from Project Bridge to influence the young minds of students from Los Angeles and New York through rigorous workshops and a study tour in Korea. The biweekly workshops on culture, Korean economy and history helped develop the students as leaders by learning material in preparation for the study tour and participating in discussions and presentations. The trip immersed the students of what life is like in Korea, from meeting fellow students their age in Korean schools to visiting large business conglomerates and even witnessing political tensions at the DMZ. They were able to see all the differences in culture but at the same time find many universal similarities they shared. The students enjoyed meeting fellow Korean high school students the most and built relationships beyond the trip that I know will lead to lasting international connections.



Apply to be the next Youth Ambassador!



The PCI invites prospective Youth Ambassadors to apply for the 2016-2017 Project Bridge program. The goal of Project Bridge is to instill a sense of understanding and respect to "bridge" the gap between cultures. The students all come from diverse backgrounds and all live in America, thus Project Bridge wants to inspire cultural awareness and the importance of understanding between cultures so that the Los Angeles Riots (SAIGU) will not take place again.

Application will be posted on the PCI website in September:

<http://www.pacificcenturyinst.org/>

For more info, please email
pci@PacificCenturyInst.Org



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