



The PCI News



Ambassador Ton Nu Thi Ninh of Vietnam

Ambassador Ninh Visits U.S.

From November 30 to December 18, 2004, Ambassador Ton Nu Thi Ninh of Vietnam led an official visit and tour of the United States. Ambassador Ninh is a member of Vietnam's law-making body, the National Assembly, representing the southern coastal province of Ba Ria-Vung Tau. Her previous appointments have included positions in Vietnam's Ministry of Foreign Affairs as diplomat and advisor, specializing in multilateral institutions and global issues, and as Vietnam's Ambassador to Belgium, Luxembourg and Head of Mission to the European Union in Brussels. In her current capacity as Vice-Chair of the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee, her mission has been to develop and enhance Vietnam's relations with the countries of North America (particularly, the United States) and Western Europe.

The dialogue tour included several events co-sponsored by the Pacific Century Institute. On December 7, 2004, Desaix Anderson of PCI helped organize an Asia Society Event in New York City, New York at the Asia Society and Museum. Ambassador Ninh addressed a range of crucial issues in US-Vietnam relations. In her lecture

entitled "Building a Sound Vietnamese American Relationship", Ambassador Ninh examined the topics of trade conflict, human rights, educational exchange, and cooperation on terrorism.



Amb. Ninh speaking at a dinner hosted by UCLA School of Public Affairs and PCI

A luncheon organized by the Town Hall of Los Angeles and hosted by PCI was held on December 16, 2004 at the Omni Hotel in Los Angeles, California. Ambassador Ninh spoke on "Vietnam and the United States: Unlikely Partners". Later that day, at the Hotel Bel-Air in Los Angeles, California, UCLA School of Public Affairs and PCI hosted a dinner for Ambassador Ninh and her delegation. In her talk, she focused mainly on Vietnam-US relations, dealing with such crucial issues as trade, the impact of globalization on Vietnam's economy and development, issues of government transparency, poverty reduction, human rights and the rule of law.

The Pacific Century institute is proud and honored to sponsor Ambassador Ninh whose personal vision and determination to strengthen the emerging relationship between the United States and Vietnam is wholly shared by PCI and its member in the effort to build bridges between countries and peoples.



Private gathering for Amb. Ninh at White Eagle Ranch

Project Bridge Update

Project Bridge is an annual collaboration between the Korea Society and PCI. Participants are high school juniors and seniors from New York and Los Angeles. 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, for those who successfully complete the program, a ten day educational study tour of Korea. (continued on page 2)



LA Youth Ambassadors (left to right): Ricky, Tessa, Mike, Kevin, Joanne, Mindy, and Jennifer (not pictured Joe)



Project Bridge

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Project Bridge 2004-2005 is well underway, and this year's Youth Ambassadors have been selected. In choosing from the many applicants, several desired qualities were sought in terms of group composition and individual character: Diversity of cultural backgrounds, personalities, talents, and schools; open-minded, respectful, and mature persons; those motivated to learn and interact with others; critical thinkers with analytical skills; honesty; persons not overly committed to other activities; those potentially limited in resources and opportunities to travel abroad.



This year's Youth Ambassadors from the Los Angeles area are: Kevin Cheng (Temple City High, Temple City), Joe Fernicola III (Torrance High,

Torrance), Richard Fischel Jr. (Lutheran High, Orange), Tessa Mooney (Lutheran High, Orange), Jennifer Robles (Bravo Medical High, Los Angeles), Mindy Tadai (West High, Torrance), Joanne Tran (Gabrielino High, San Gabriel), and Mike Wehbe (Marshall Fundamental High, Pasadena). For the New York Project Bridge, the following were selected: Cristian Gonzalez (Bronx High School of Science), Rachel Kagan (Hunter College High School), Christal Louison (Professional Performing Arts High School), Joshua Salim (New York Museum School), Alexandra Spencer (Hunter College High School), Cyrus Washington (Curtis High School), Taiyyab Zaman (Curtis High School), and Ying Ying Zhang (Baruch College High School).

The Project Bridge leadership team for this year are: Rebecca Brabant (The Korea Society, Program Associate – NY), Fernando Cardenes (Project Bridge Group Leader – LA), Victor Sim (Project Bridge Group Leader – LA), Lisa T. Sueki (Project Bridge Group Leader – LA), Francisco Uceda (Project Bridge Group Leader – NY), Jacqueline Borja (Project Bridge Advisor), and Joyce Paik (Project Bridge Coordinator – LA).

To kick-off this year's program in the LA area, a welcome dinner was held on November 17, 2004 at the Jook Hyang Korean restaurant in Koreatown. The attendees



Attendees of the welcome dinner held in Koreatown

included the Youth Ambassadors and their parents/guardians and group leaders. It was a night of overview and orientation, of hope and expectation, as well as some very delicious

Korean food! In the months ahead, these students will have much to look forward to. In the Los Angeles area, planned activities and events include: a weekend retreat, visits to the Korean Cultural Center and the Japanese American National Museum, and a ten-day study tour of Korea.



Project Bridge participants and staff at weekend retreat

Board Members' Section

Recently, a request was sent to the board members of the Pacific Century Institute asking for updates on individual activities and plans. The following are edited versions of the replies received.

In August, I made my third visit to North Korea and urged the DPRK to use the six-party talks to make progress on the nuclear issue, and not to wait for the outcome of the US elections. They clearly did not take my advice, but I was warmly received. The Korea Society continues to try to expand the IT exchange program it is supporting between Syracuse University and Kim Chaek University in Pyongyang. I visited Kim Chaek and saw the digital library being constructed there. It will be the largest in Asia. In November, I attended the ground-breaking ceremony for the New Songdo City near Incheon. Since then I have attended a variety of conferences on the impact of the US presidential election on Korean issues. These conference have been held in Canada, the US and Korea itself. The Korea Society hosted the ROK Minister of Foreign Affairs Ban Ki-moon at its annual dinner on September 23rd. Minister Ban was given the Van Fleet Award.

Donald Gregg

Two projects on which I am working are a publication of a book on Korea-Japan relations and a seminar for Asian and American journalists on security issues in Asia.

Richard Halloran

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Board Members

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My primary objective this year has been to determine what specific role PCI can play in Japan as an organization committed to "the betterment of dialogue between Koreans and Japanese with the help of the United States." To draw a conclusion, which will constitute the basis of my future activities in this part of the world, I have concentrated my efforts on meeting -- and picking the brains of -- influential members of Mindan, the pro-Seoul organization of Korean residents in Japan. I sought to explain to them PCI's origin, its mission, and its range of past activities involving the United States and Korea, and to seek their opinions on what they think an organization like PCI can effectively do to help Korean residents in Japan. One gentleman, Mr. Ryu Sanghee, a retired college professor who taught Northeast Asian history at Tokyo's Nishogakusha University, came up with an interesting idea. His proposal was to build a huge international market, an expanded Tondaemun market of sorts, to symbolize peace and friendship between the two Koreas. Believing that this may be the type of project PCI could perhaps help promote, I am planning to meet Professor Ryu once again to hear more about it. I plan to make a report on the outcome of this planned meeting.

Ko Shioya



The following is an article by Frank Gibney, the 2002 recipient of PCI's Building Bridges Award, which appeared in the Los Angeles Times on September 5, 2004. (Reprinted here with permission)

FOREIGN POLICY; N. Korea Is Immune to 'Star Wars';
The antimissile plan may bedazzle U.S. hard-liners, but militarily and diplomatically it does little.

SANTA BARBARA — Sometimes, bad guys play into your hands. That's probably why Donald Rumsfeld and his fellow hard-liners welcomed North Korea's first big-time missile launching in 1998. But what if the bad guy may be changing for the better?

Six years ago, North Korean dictator Kim Jong Il's hard-pressed engineers attempted to send a long-range ballistic missile into space. Apart from scaring South Korea and Japan, the Taepo Dong missile test was not a huge success: Its vital third stage malfunctioned, and observers were highly skeptical that the North Koreans could deploy the missile as a weapon any time soon. Yet, Rumsfeld (who had served earlier as Defense secretary), congressional Republicans and their neoconservative academic friends found the new North Korean threat ample excuse for breathing new life into a long-troubled U.S. antiballistic missile program.

The idea of a missile defense system has been around since the early Cold War days, but attempts to build one encountered huge technical and financial obstacles. President Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative, popularly known as "Star Wars," gave the idea new momentum. But when the United States lost its chief Cold War enemy, antimissile system enthusiasts turned their attention to "rogue nations" that might want to lob a missile at the U.S. From 1983 to 1999, the United States spent no less than \$60 billion on the project, with precious little to show for it.

In 1998, Rumsfeld headed a congressional commission to investigate the danger posed by "rogue" missile programs such as North Korea's, and when he was named Defense secretary for a second time, he made antimissile defense a top priority. President Bush's budget for next year includes more than \$10 billion for the project, more than is allotted for any other military program.

In July, the program's first ground-based interceptor missile was placed in its silo at Ft. Greely, Alaska, southeast of Fairbanks. More are promised. "These achievements," Rumsfeld declared, "represent the triumph of hope and vision over pessimism and skepticism."

Just how much of an achievement is highly debatable. According to the Pentagon's testing service, the hardware is being prematurely deployed. Put simply, you can't test if you don't know what you should be testing. In March, 49 retired generals and admirals asked Bush to suspend work on the antimissile project and instead use the resources to secure dangerous nuclear materials abroad and upgrade homeland defenses affecting ports and sea lanes, likely terrorist targets. Their plea went unheeded. No matter what, Bush and Rumsfeld seemed determined to deploy a complex and costly antimissile system without evidence that it could ever work. Talk about faith-based technology.

But there's another problem. There is scant likelihood that Kim's Taepo Dong missile will ever be fired. It's too useful as a threat. North Korea's leaders, for all their brutalities, are not jihadists. Smart and calculating, they know armed conflict with the U.S. would result in their country's destruction. In fact, they have been rapidly expanding their contacts with the outside world: North Korea now has embassies in 41 countries, twice the number it had three years ago.

Furthermore, the country, following the Chinese model, is taking steps toward a market economy. Despite its habitual propaganda blustering, North Korea is expanding economic ties with South Korea and talking about normalizing relations with Japan.

Still, the North Korean population remains docile and brainwashed. Refugees from the famine-stricken North arriving in South Korea tend to be dazed and confused, unable to cope with the freedoms of a modern democracy. All of which suggests that Kim's outreach strategy is to ensure survival, not to lay the groundwork for aggression.

After junking the trade-offs with Pyongyang negotiated by the Clinton administration, Bush has relied on

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Board Members

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six-power talks to try to persuade North Korea to suspend its ambitious nuclear program. But things haven't worked out his way. Four of the powers — China, South Korea, Russia and Japan — have begun to criticize America's stubborn refusal to negotiate an aid-for-disarmament package.

For three years, Kim's regime had sought direct negotiations with the United States on the fate of its nuclear program, in part because it was frightened by Bush's "axis of evil" talk and invasion of Iraq. Halting the North Korean nuclear effort was a real possibility. But when Bush finally approved bilateral talks, he insisted that the North Koreans disarm as a precondition. For Kim, that was the deal-breaker.

At the moment, Pyongyang shows no signs of coming back to the negotiating table. With the U.S. military bogged down in Iraq and Afghanistan, Kim probably senses no immediate danger of a U.S. attack.

But there are powerful reasons for Washington to resume the long-proposed trade-offs of aid and energy supplies in return for North Korea halting its nuclear buildup. While the Bush administration puts off serious talks, North Korean technicians continue to turn out fissionable materials. They probably have enough to produce six nuclear weapons. Worse yet, the regime is only too happy to make under-the-counter sales to Iran and terrorist groups. In Pyongyang, the Taepo Dong and similar missiles are called the "dollar cash box." Their export earns Kim an estimated \$600 million annually.

The distressing alternative, which Bush, Rumsfeld and company seem intent on following, is to toss \$40 billion or so more over the next five years at an antimissile system that would have a 1-in-1,000 chance of knocking out a Taepo Dong missile that has a 1-in-1,000 chance of ever being fired.

Save the Day: 2005 Annual Award Dinner

Please join us as we honor the Underwood family for one hundred and twenty years of service as dedicated missionaries, influential educators, and steadfast friends to the people and nation of Korea. The following is taken from the award plaque that will be presented to the Underwood family at the dinner:

The Underwood family has left an indelible impression on Korea and its people. For nearly 120 years and over four generations, the Underwoods have influenced Korean culture, imparting religion, western sentiments and culture, and promoting education at all levels.

One of Korea's pioneering Presbyterian missionaries, Horace Grant Underwood arrived in Korea in 1885, and soon after established the Saemoonan Presbyterian Church and Youngsin School (which later became Kyung Shin Middle and High schools). With those acts, Underwood not only spread Christianity and laid the groundwork for the country's present-day education system, but contributed greatly to the modernization of Korea and began a love affair between the Underwoods and their "second father country."

In 1915, he founded Chosun Christian College, Yonhi College in Korean, and eventually Yonsei University, one of the Korea's top universities. Today, Yonsei has more than 46,000 students, 20 colleges, and 16 graduate schools. Years later, Underwood's son, Horace Horton Underwood, would serve as the university's president.

Horace Horton Underwood and two subsequent generations attended college in the United States but returned to Korea to live, work as educators, and continue to promote international friendship. The eldest member of the third generation, Horace Grant Underwood, who died in January 2004, was as influential in the community as he was at Yonsei, serving as vice president of the Korean American Association and winning the Inchon Prize for public service and a National Medal of Honor from the Korean government. In his will, he directed some 1,500 books and other valuable and rare materials collected by generations of Underwoods to be donated to Yonsei.

The Underwood women played important parts in Korea's modern history as well; Lillias Horton Underwood, Horace Grant's wife, was a physician who served in Kwanghoewon, the first modern hospital in Korea, treating both working- and upper-class patients. Horace Horton's wife, Ethel, founded an orphanage for Korean girls and organized relief efforts for Koreans during World War II. Subsequent generations have maintained active and influential roles in Korean higher education, especially at Yonsei University.

Three generations of Underwoods are buried in the Seoul Foreigners' Cemetery. In grateful recognition of this family's devotion to Korea and its impact on the modernization of the country, the Pacific Century Institute proudly presents its Building Bridges Award.

PCI encourages its members and supporters to make the most of this opportunity to publicly express appreciation for the contributions of four generations of Underwoods. The award dinner will be held on February 24 at the Park Hyatt in Los Angeles, California. If you would like an invitation or need any additional information, please contact Rijin Lee (818-337-1630; rijin@cbol.com).



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