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China and South Korea to promote peace cooperation

By WANG JUNMEI

SEOUL—The 5th China-Republic of Korea (ROK) Peace Diplomacy Forum was held in early December in Seoul, South Korea. Over a hundred scholars explored new models of China-ROK cooperation in light of the changing Korean Peninsula.

Ahn Byung-young, mayor of Uijeongbu, said that this forum coincides with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi's visit to South Korea. China and South Korea strive to communicate, build friendship and solve problems peacefully, setting a global example.

Moon Hee-sang, speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, said that China can play a significant role in the Korean Peninsula when dilemmas are encountered on the way to peace. Korea's peace progress will also improve peace and development in the whole Northeast Asia. We should jointly chart a course and seek out new directions for development.

On behalf of Qiu Guohong, Chinese ambassador to South Korea, Wang Luxin, minister counsellor of the Chinese Embassy in South Korea, said that Chinese President Xi Jinping and South Korean President Moon Jae-in met ahead of the G20 summit in the Japanese city of Osaka this June, and China-South Korea bilateral relations have made positive progress. During the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, the two countries exchanged opinions on how to further develop bilateral relations. As relations receive new development opportunities, China is willing to work with South Korea, strengthening cooperation and exchanges in all areas and delivering real benefits to their peoples.



The China-Republic of Korea Peace Diplomacy Forum in Seoul Photo: Zhang Wenyi/CHARHAR INSTITUTE

Han Fangming, chairman of the Charhar Institute, said that cooperation between China and South Korea has a rich basis in geographic conditions. In recent years, both sides have properly managed their differences and proactively and efficiently built up inclusive cooperation on political security, social development and cultural exchanges. However, we still face many obstacles in the construction of peace on the Korean Peninsula. More effective methods for overcoming pressures and promoting our cooperation on the Korean Peninsula issue are needed.

Lee Chang-hyung, senior research fellow from the Center for Security and Strategy at the Korean Institute for Defense Analyses, said that China can exert a positive influence in many respects, including persuading and guiding North Korea to stay on the path of denuclearization, positively mediating the US-North Korea negotiation and US-South Korea negotiation and creating a new economic environment for North Korea.

South Korea could also make efforts toward building a peaceful system for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, Lee continued.

During the process, South and North Korea, the US and China, as the important parties involved, should continue to discuss and negotiate to facilitate peace and prosperity.

Wang Chong, senior research fellow at the Charhar Institute, illustrated opportunities and challenges for the integration of China, Japan and South Korea from the perspective of the China-Japan-Republic of Korea Free Trade Agreement. He said that the construction of this area will largely improve the global advantages of industrial chains among these three countries in economic terms. If the agreement can be successfully reached, this free trade zone will join the North American Free Trade Agreement and the European Union to become one of the three poles of the world economy. However, for many years, many non-economic factors have hindered the construction of this area. A stable and prosperous Asia is hugely reliant on the close cooperation of China, Japan and South Korea. The foundation of China-South Korea relations is relatively solid, which can be regarded as a lubricant for bilateral relations and regional stability.

Seminar discusses China's institutional advantage

By ZHA JIANGUO and XIA LI

SHANGHAI—Experts gathered recently at a seminar to discuss the dialectical relationship between the changing international landscapes over the past century and the modernization of the national governance system and its governance capacity.

Lu Pingyue, a professor from the School of Marxism at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, said that China's national governance system and the international governance system proposed by China are both seeing major successes amid the profoundly evolving international landscape.

Lu added that the greatest strength of the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is the leadership of the Communist Party of China (CPC). We must observe the Party's fundamental purpose of serving the people. A "people-centered" philosophy is far better than a "capital-centered" one, and we must organize the people in order to move history forward. This philosophy necessitates the leadership of a party that stands for the people's interests. It is by committing to Party leadership and taking a people-centered approach that the country has established the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics.

Hu Wei, president of the Shanghai Society of Public Policy, said that the modernization of all of industry, agriculture, national defense and technology can be counted as the modernization of "material." In comparison, the modernization of the national governance system marks a big step forward from the material to the institutional level.

Jiang Youfu, editor-in-chief of *Academic Monthly* of the Shanghai Federation of Social Science Associations, said that we need to be keenly aware that both the "four matters of confidence" (confidence in the path, theory, system and culture of socialism with Chinese characteristics) and the "13 notable strengths of China's state and governance systems" show that the country has become even more conscious of the fundamental nature of socialism with Chinese characteristics, as well as the system's historical status and

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its influences on the world.

Jiang continued to point out that we need to bear in mind that the advantages of China's governance systems are the fruits of combining the fundamental principles of Marxism with the reality of Chinese revolution, construction, reform and development. The advantages are also the results of committing to the organic unity of Party leadership, the running of the country by the people and law-based governance.

Du Yuhua, a professor from the School of Marxism at Shanghai Jiaotong University, said we must ensure the Party always provides overall leadership and coordinates the efforts of all involved, and we must stick to the scientific theories of the Party. Only by doing this can China maintain its strategic focus in the new era and continue to overcome all difficulties and obstacles along the way while marching along the path of Chinese socialism.

Chen Xueming, a professor from the School of Marxism at Fudan University, commented that the system of socialism with Chinese characteristics is of strong vitality and huge strength. The country has attained enormous achievements based on this system. This is fully felt by the Chinese people, and it has also begun to be appreciated by other countries.

The system that a country chooses to follow is predetermined by that country's cultural tradition, history and fundamental realities. Chen Fangliu, a professor from the Party School of the CPC Shanghai Municipal Committee, said that scientific socialism has been widely received by the Chinese people since Marxism was introduced into China. One of the reasons is that its socialist propositions have a lot in common with Chinese fine traditional thought.

Exploring geopolitical factors in global economics

By LIN YUEQIN and GUO QINGBIN

HAIKOU—In order to promote the construction of geopolitical economics with Chinese characteristics, the 5th Geopolitical Economics Forum was held in Haikou, Hainan Province, on Dec. 14.

Tong Jiadong, a professor from the School of Economics at Nankai University, explained the Belt and Road (B&R) initiative according to the principles of economics and put forward its difference from European integration with an emphasis on interconnection, expanding trade channels and breaking down hegemonism.

Kevin Zhang, a professor at Illinois State University in the US, reported in his article on the dollar hegemony and American trade deficit that the dollar's global status has been the economic and financial basis for the dollar hegemony, which

has triggered or deepened negative influences, such as the financial crisis and stock market fluctuations, on other economies.

Tang Yihong, a professor from the School of International Trade and Economics at the Central University of Finance and Economics, discussed how to construct the system of Chinese foreign trade policy under an open world economy. It would involve a system coordinating economic exchange and trade policies among China and other countries along the B&R route, along with the adjustment and improvement of the Chinese foreign trade policy system with the target of an open world economy.

Xu Xiujun, a research fellow from the Institute of World Economics and Politics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, said that economic globalization has brought historic opportunities for growing wealth and welfare but also provided a breeding

ground for unfair wealth distribution and income inequality. Analyzing the underlying reason behind current anti-globalization policies, Xu noted that despite the increasing links and interactions between countries and the market at the international level in the globalization process, the contradiction between the two's inherent characteristics, orientations and functions is also increasingly prominent under the current international political and economic system.

Ke Yinbin, a senior research fellow from the Center for Global Interconnectivity Studies at Peking University, put forward that Chinese companies should conduct positive public diplomacy in the joint construction of the B&R with the objective of building a global business community of shared interests, values and responsibilities. Furthermore, they should formulate and implement a stakeholder-based collaboration strategy.