U.S.-ROK RELATIONS

U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Visits South Korea
Frank A. Rose, U.S. assistant secretary of state for arms control, verification and compliance, visited South Korea on July 9–10 to hold meetings with Shin Jae-hyun, director-general of the North American Affairs Department for the ROK Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and Yoo Dae-jong, director-general of the International Organizations Department. They discussed space security, arms reduction, and nonproliferation. Rose also visited China, Vietnam, and Japan.

Korea, United States Discuss Anthrax Incident in SOFA Session

GLOBAL RELATIONS

Professor Baik Appointed as UNHRC Member
On July 3, Baik Tae-ung of the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai’i was appointed a member of the UN Human Right Council (UNHRC) Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances (WGEID).

Regional Proliferation Security Initiative Meeting
The RPK hosted a regional meeting of the Proliferation Security Initiative (PSI) in Seoul on July 14–15 to share information and recent experience on the illicit transfer of weapons of mass destruction and related materials. Run by the Operational Experts Group, the meeting allowed officials and experts from the U.S., ROK, and Asia-Pacific countries to discuss a cooperative system among experts.

ROK-CHINA RELATIONS

First ROK-China 1.5 Track Meeting
The ROK and China held their first 1.5 track meeting on July 7 in Zhuhai, China, under the theme of “ways to advance ROK-China relations.” The meeting was led by the ROK deputy foreign minister for political affairs Kim Hong-kyun and by the PRC assistant foreign minister Liu Jianchao. They discussed ways to improve cooperation and communication between their public and private sectors.
DOMESTIC POLITICS

Won Yoo-chul is the New Saenuri Floor Leader
On July 14, Won Yoo-chul, a four-term lawmaker, was named the new floor leader of the ruling Saenuri Party. He won the race as the only candidate. Kim Jung-hoon, Won’s running mate and a three-term Saenuri lawmaker, will serve as the party’s chief policymaker. Won replaces Yoo Seung-min, the former floor leader who resigned from his post on July 8.

NORTH KOREA

U.S. Senators Introduce Sanctions Bill on North Korea
On July 9, Senator Robert Menendez (D-NJ) and Senator Lindsey Graham (R-SC) introduced and sponsored “A bill to improve the enforcement of sanctions against the Government of North Korea, and for other purposes” (S.1747). The bill calls for the expansion of the Obama administration’s ability to sanction “property and seize funds of the people or organizations that provide support to the regime,” as well as to enhance the “ability of humanitarian organizations to provide life-saving assistance” to North Korean civilians.

New Minister of DPRK People’s Armed Forces Confirmed
On July 11, DPRK Korea Central News Agency televised a high-level bilateral talk between Pak Yong-sik, the new minister of the People’s Armed Forces, and a Laotian military delegation. This is the first public confirmation of the new defense minister, and it also confirms the purge of Hyon Yong-chol, the former minister of the People’s Armed Forces who was reportedly punished in April 2015 on charges of treason. This marks the sixth time that the minister of the People’s Armed Forces has been replaced since Kim Jong-un took power in December 2011.

ROK-JAPAN RELATIONS

Japan’s Meiji Industrial Sites Listed as World Heritage
On July 5, a group of Japanese industrial facilities were listed as UNESCO world heritage sites after Japan acknowledged that some Koreans were used for wartime wrongdoings. This is the first time the Japanese government admitted internationally to using forced workers during the colonial rule over Korea (1910–1945).

Looking Ahead

Our Friday morning preview of events to watch in the weeks ahead.

- **July 16** | The North-South joint committee meeting will be held at the Kaesong Industrial Complex to resolve the dispute over North Korea’s unilateral demand to raise wages of North Korean workers at the complex.

- **July 18** | Saenuri party leader Kim Moo-sung will visit the United States to meet with UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moon and U.S. senior government officials.

- **July 19** | North Korea is scheduled to hold its first local elections for province, city and county-level people’s assemblies since Kim Jong-un took power in late 2011.

- **August 5-8** | Lee Hee-ho, the widow of former South Korean president Kim Dae-jung, will visit North Korea.
KOREA CHAIR MONITOR

CSIS Office of the Korea Chair contributors:
  Victor Cha, Senior Adviser and Chair
  Marie DuMond, Research Associate
  Andy Lim, Research Assistant
  Sang Jun Lee, Research Assistant
  Gene Choi, Research Intern
  So “Alicia” Lee, Research Intern
  Katheryn Sehyen Lee, Research Intern

For more details on our programs and real-time updates from CSIS, follow the CSIS Office of the Korea Chair on:

Facebook at http://www.facebook.com/csiskoreachair
Twitter at @CSISKoreaChair
Our website at http://sis.org/program/korea-chair
iTunesU using your iPad or iPhone at http://itunes.com/csis.

Korea Chair Monitor is a biweekly publication of the CSIS Office of the Korea Chair, available online. CSIS is a private, nonprofit institution headquartered in Washington, D.C., focusing on international public policy issues. Its research is nonpartisan and nonproprietary. CSIS does not take specific policy positions; accordingly, all views expressed in this publication should be understood to be solely those of the author(s).

© 2015 by the Center for Strategic and International Studies. All rights reserved.