The Situation on the Korean Peninsula & Challenges for ROK Diplomacy
Joonkook Hwang, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea

In his lecture, Ambassador Hwang will focus on the current situation on the Korean Peninsula including analysis of North Korea’s WMD capabilities and human rights abuses carried out by the regime. He will also talk about what challenges we are facing in the process and what the Korean Government and the international community are doing to resolve these problems. Furthermore, he will reflect on the geopolitical dynamics among its neighbors as well as how major powers in East Asia can work together to address the North Korean problem.

Ambassador Hwang was born in Seoul and had earned degrees from Seoul National University and Princeton University. He joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea in 1982. For the majority of his diplomatic career, he has been focusing on a wide range of political issues both at the bilateral and multilateral level, including the North Korean Nuclear Issue. He has served in the US three times, twice at the ROK Mission to the United Nations in New York, mainly dealing with Security Council affairs, and once as DCM in charge of political and security affairs in Washington DC in 2010-13. He was also the lead negotiator for the ROK-US Defence Burden-sharing arrangement in 2013.

His latest posting in Seoul was as the Vice Minister for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs (Head of Delegation to the Six-Part Talks) from 2014-16. He has also served at the ROK Embassy in Saudi Arabia and in the United Kingdom on two occasions, having first served in the late 1980s before returning as the Ambassador to the Court of St James’s in March 2016.

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