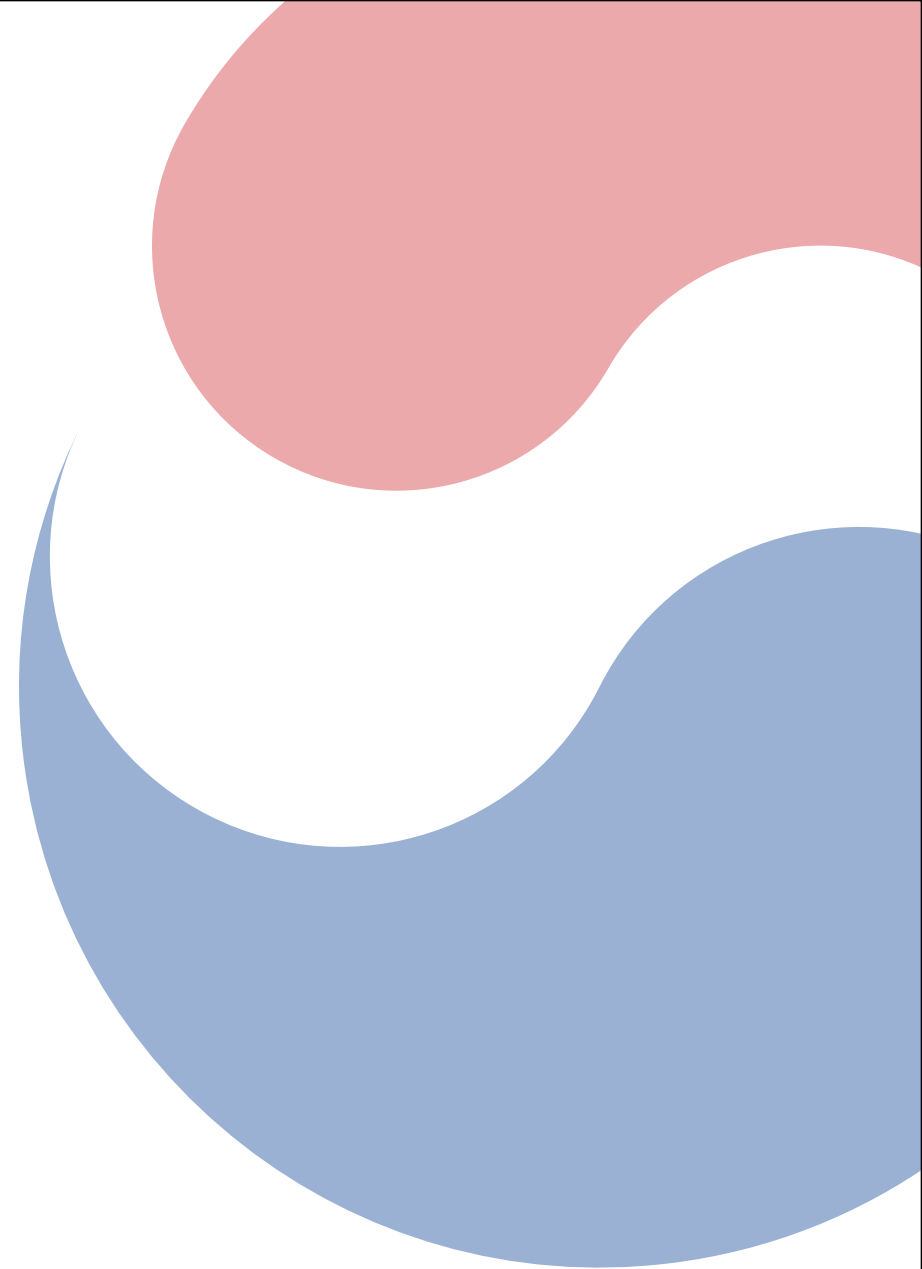




Moon Jae-in

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



I will become the president for everyone

I will be a president who communicates with others.
I will exert my authority in a humble and modest manner.
I will build a country stronger than it has ever been.

The opportunities will be equitable, the process will be fair
and the result will be just.

May 10, 2017, Inaugural Address by President Moon Jae-in



Four Visions and 12 Promises to the People

1. A country free of irregularities and corruption
2. A country where fairness prevails
3. A country where democracy and human rights thrive

01

Making a Republic of Korea Where People Become the Masters by Completing the Candlelight Rallies

02

Creating a Republic of Korea that Embraces All with Shared Growth

03

Making the Korean Peninsula Peaceful and Creating a Safe Republic of Korea

04

Making a Sustainable Society and a Vibrant Republic of Korea

9. A strong and peaceful country
10. A country where safety is guaranteed

4. A country where jobs are everywhere
5. A country that abounds with growth engines
6. A country where all provinces evenly prosper
7. A country where there are no worries about affording children or about life after retirement
8. A country where livelihoods, welfare and education are strongly supported

11. A sustainable and gender-equal country
12. A country where lives are enriched by culture



A New
Republic of Korea,
A Properly
Functioning Country



A New Era Ushered in by the Candlelight Rallies

In the autumn of 2016, the scale of candlelight rallies calling for the ouster of President Park Geun-hye continuously grew across the country as time passed. Popular distrust of her Administration began with an influence-peddling scandal and suspicions over back-room string-pulling by an *eminence grise*. Finally, the National Assembly passed a bill of impeachment on December 9, and the Constitutional Court upheld the impeachment on March 10, 2017. The candlelight spread by the people brought about an unprecedented result: the dismissal of President Park Geun-hye. The removal from office of the President led to a snap presidential election on May 9, 2017, and presidential candidate Moon Jae-in of the Democratic Party of Korea was elected President to serve in the 19th presidential term of the Republic of Korea.



A large crowd of people at night, holding lit candles, participating in a candlelight rally. The scene is illuminated by the warm glow of the candles and city lights in the background. A traditional Korean building is visible in the distance.

Peaceful, Democratic Candlelight Rallies

Candlelight rallies in Korea in late 2016 through early 2017 were recorded as one of the most peaceful and orderly civic protests in the world. Staged on streets in Seoul and major cities across the country, candlelight rallies were participated in by millions of citizens with no one being arrested or injured.

A total of approximately 17 million people in all and 2,400 organizations took part in 23 such rallies between October 29, 2016 and April 29, 2017, and voluntary donations amounted to as much as US\$3.5 million.

A President Reaching Out to the Public First

On May 10, 2017, President Moon Jae-in took the oath of office starting his presidency. He mingled with the crowds of citizens to shake hands and take photos together without reserve, revealing his determination to put communication with the people before the protocols of authority.

In his inauguration speech, he declared that he would end the culture of the domineering presidency and come out of Cheong Wa Dae as soon as preparations were completed to usher in an era of a Gwanghwamun president (i.e. a president with an office in central Seoul where people can easily meet him) and that he would become a president who communicates with the people frequently. Opening Cheong Wa Dae (the grounds surrounding the presidential office and residence) to the public and styling himself as the Gwanghwamun president is President Moon's unique move to divest himself of the protocols of authority, which has never been seen before in the history of Korean politics. It illustrates well how determined he is to become a president who will frequently engage in communication with the people by staying closer to them.

During his visit to a children's rehabilitation hospital, President Moon Jae-in was shown to kneel down and listen attentively to what the children with disabilities, their mothers and the medical staff had to say. At the ceremony commemorating the May 18 Democratization Movement in Gwangju, he walked up to and comforted the representative of bereaved families with a warm hug after she finished reading her eulogy to her father. All these point to the servant leadership style of President Moon, for which Koreans aspire—a president who will heed their voices with a humble attitude.

President Moon Jae-in is working to lower the barriers of authoritarianism within Cheong Wa Dae to promote the free flow of communication and governance through cooperation. President Moon uses an office in the Yeomin-gwan building of the presidential compound with his secretaries, instead of an office at the main building that was used by previous presidents for their routine work. He also continues his unconventional moves for promoting communication by showing up at the Cheong Wa Dae Press Center to announce his appointments to key posts in person and briefing the press corps on the reasons behind his picks.



Early Life of Moon Jae-in



Son of a Refugee

President Moon Jae-in was born into a farming family on the southeastern island of Geoje on January 24, 1953. His parents were refugees who had left North Korea's northeastern port of Heungnam to seek shelter during the Korean War and settled in Geoje. Around the time he entered elementary school, the Moon family moved to Yeong-do island, Busan. Despite the financial difficulty of his family, he was admitted to the prestigious Gyeongnam Middle School and Gyeongnam High School and graduated with excellence. When he passed the entrance examination to Gyeongnam Middle School, his

father, who was taciturn most of the time, did not conceal how proud he was and took his son to the Gukje Market in Busan, also called the Nampodong International Market, to buy him his school uniform.

Poverty prevented him from doing many things he wanted to do, yet it also helped him stand on his own feet. In addition, memories of his childhood spent in poverty taught him lifelong lessons and served as an opportunity to make up his mind not to turn away from those in need but to give them a helping hand.

Moon Jae-in as a Gyeongnam High School Student (back row, middle)



Turbulent Adolescence

He graduated from middle and high schools in Busan, the second largest city of Korea. He was a young student who loved reading books and was very warm-hearted as exemplified by his carrying his friend with a physical disability on his back on a school field trip. After entering a university, he led the student democratization movement against Park Chung-hee's dictatorial regime. He ended up being arrested and released with a suspended jail term, but he was forcibly conscripted into the Special Forces. After finishing his military service, he devoted himself to the democratization movement again while

preparing for the bar exam. He wound up being arrested and detained. It was in a detention facility at a police station where he heard the news that he had passed the bar exam.

Moon Jae-in as a Member of the Special Forces





Human Rights Attorney

In 1982, he graduated second from the Judicial Research and Training Institute, but failed to be appointed as a judge because his involvement in the protest against the Yushin dictatorship constituted grounds for disqualification. There was a job offer with favorable terms from a major law firm, but he turned it down believing that a lawyer has to help those suffering through no fault of their own, which he thought would be rewarding. He went back to Busan to start his career as a lawyer, and he first met the future President Roh Moo-hyun there.

He did not intend to work as a human rights lawyer from the outset. At that time, however, there were many cases involving student and labor movements. He did not turn his face away from workers who finally came to seek help from him after suffering oppression. Relating to what they had to say in all sincerity, he did his best to defend them. Many people who were involved in student movements at that time recall meeting him often to the extent that they got bored of seeing him.



Politician
Moon Jae-in



Awakening to Politics

It was his father who first helped the young Moon Jae-in open his eyes to politics. In his childhood, he could find delight in reading books thanks to his father who used to buy him books on his return home after finishing selling things. During his middle and high school years, he avidly read all the books he could lay his hands on one after another. In the process, he developed his own perspective on society. When a college student in the neighborhood visited his house, his father gave him detailed explanations about social affairs. During their conversations, Moon picked up much knowledge, which served as the foundation to develop a critical consciousness of the irrationality in society and analytic thinking later on.

The Participatory Government

Moon Jae-in was appointed Senior Secretary to the President for Civil Affairs after Roh Moo-hyun was elected President in 2003. Although he was a human rights lawyer who played a role as a critic of those in power and had no experience in running state or administrative affairs, he accepted the offer after being persuaded by President Roh and First Lady Kwon Yang-sook.

After working hard as Senior Secretary to the President for Civil Affairs for some time, he served as Chief of Staff for President Roh Moo-hyun until both left Cheong Wa Dae together. For the five years of the Participatory Government, Moon held fast to the position that any provocative acts detrimental to peace on the Korean Peninsula must not be tolerated. However, he also took the lead in paving the way for cooperation and peaceful exchanges between the two Koreas, working as the Chairperson of the Promotion Committee for the South-North Summit.

Cheong Wa Dae Chief of Staff Moon Jae-in Calling on Former President Kim Dae-jung



Elected President by Largest Margin in History

The sudden passing of President Roh Moo-hyun in May 2009 sent shock waves through the entire public, including Moon Jae-in. He took the role of a chief mourner and oversaw the overall procedures from the announcement of death to presiding over meetings for preparations for the funeral. President Roh had been a friend to him, a comrade and the person who led him into politics.

Moon was elected a National Assemblyman in the election for the 19th National Assembly, representing Sasang-gu District, Busan. He ran in the 18th presidential election as a sole candidate representing the entire opposition. From 2015 to January 2016, he was the Chairperson of the New Politics Alliance for Democracy, and he retained that position when the party name was changed to the Democratic Party of Korea. In November 2016, he took the initiative in efforts to impeach former President Park Geun-hye and spoke for and stayed together with the people who took part in the candlelight protests from the beginning to the end, lamenting that it was not a properly functioning country. A snap presidential election was held following the dismissal of President Park. He ran for the presidency as the candidate of the Democratic Party, declaring that he would uphold the will of the people and help create a new Republic of Korea. On the strength of full support from the public, he won by the widest margin in Korean presidential election history and was elected President for the 19th term.



President of the All New Republic of Korea

He desires to become a president who can unify the people for the first time in history. Breaking the wall of regional division and going beyond the mountains of political ideologies, he intends to become the president of all the people, who can bring together the Republic of Korea that has experienced unprecedented political upheavals. He dreams of achieving denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula and of South and North Koreas becoming partners that can prosper together. Since changing the world cannot be done by one person but is only possible with support from the people, he is dedicated to communicating and making changes. President Moon is opening the door to a new era when the people become the true master of the country, the all new Republic of Korea.

“We need to create a community that embodies respect and unity where each and every one of the people lives in harmony. The Republic of Korea will be changed by the people.”

From the announcement dated March 24, 2017 of his candidacy for the 19th presidential election



The Full Text of the 19th Presidential Inauguration Speech



My fellow Koreans,

I am grateful to you all. I bow my head in deep appreciation for the choice of the people. Today, serving as President in the 19th presidential term of the Republic of Korea, I take the first step toward a new Korea. My two shoulders are now loaded with heavy mandates entrusted by the people, and my heart is burning with enthusiasm to create a country that we have never experienced before. My head is now filled with blueprints for ushering in a new world characterized by unity and coexistence.

The new Republic of Korea we are trying to carve out is the nation that the people before us have consistently aspired to in the face of countless frustrations and defeats. It is the nation that our young people have longed for so ardently in spite of many sacrifices and dedicated efforts. To build such a Republic of Korea, I declare before history and the people with a fearful but humble mind that I will faithfully fulfill my responsibilities and missions as the President serving in the 19th presidential term of Korea.

I offer my gratitude and sympathy from deep in my heart to other presidential contenders. There is no winner or loser in this election. We are all partners who are required to lead together the new Republic of Korea. Now is the time to leave behind the heated moments of competition and move forward together hand in hand.

My fellow Koreans,

We have gone through unprecedented political upheavals over the past few months. Politics was in disarray but our people were great. Even with the impeachment and arrest of the sitting President, our people paved a way forward for the Republic of Korea. They never got discouraged but turned the crisis into an opportunity instead, eventually opening a new world today. The greatness of the Republic of Korea is the greatness of the people.

In the presidential election this time, our people made history again. They chose a new president by providing even support across the country. Starting today, I will become the president for everyone. Even those who did not support me are my people, and I will serve them all alike.

I dare to make a promise. This date—May 10, 2017—will go down in history as the beginning of the genuine unity of the people.

My fellow Koreans,

Over the past several troubling months, many people asked whether this can be called a country. From this very question, I will make a new start as President. From today, I will become a president who is dedicated to building a country worthy of being called a country.

I will boldly break from the malpractices of old days. As President, I will take the lead in starting anew.

First and foremost, I will strive to get rid of authoritarian practices in the presidency. As the preparations are completed, I am going to leave Cheong Wa Dae to usher in an era of the presidential office in Gwanghwamun Square. There, my aides and I will put our heads together to have discussions. I will frequently engage in communication with the people. On key issues, I myself will hold press briefings.

On my way home, I will drop by markets to talk freely with citizens I encounter. Large public forums will be occasionally held at Gwanghwamun Square. The President's imperial power will be shared as much as possible. I will make sure that agencies that have great authority remain completely independent from politics. There will be a system to keep these agencies in check so that none of them will be able to wield absolute power.

I will perform my duties with humility. I will become a president who is at eye level with the people.

I will endeavor to address the security crisis promptly. For the sake of peace on the Korean Peninsula, I will crisscross the globe. If needed, I will immediately fly to Washington. I will also visit Beijing and Tokyo and even Pyongyang under the right circumstances.

I remain committed to doing all I can for the settlement of peace on the Korean Peninsula. The ROK-U.S. alliance will be further strengthened. In the meantime, I will have serious discussions with the United States and China for the resolution of issues related to THAAD.

Strong security is made possible with mighty defense capabilities. The Government will also strive to further enhance self-reliant defense capabilities. It will also lay the foundation for the resolution



of the North Korean nuclear problem. The Government will endeavor to establish a peace regime in Northeast Asia, thus setting a milestone in alleviating tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

I will make efforts to change the landscape of politics characterized by division and conflicts. The confrontations between the conservatives and the progressives must come to an end. As President, I will take the lead in engaging in dialogues. Opposition parties are partners in the administration of state affairs. Dialogues will be held on a regular basis, and I will take time to have meetings.

Officials will be appointed regardless of where they are from. Competence and the need to put the right person in the right place will become the overriding criteria. I am ready to even make tenacious attempts to recruit a capable individual, even though they do not support me.

The economy is going through a difficult time in and outside Korea. Ordinary people's livelihoods are under threat. As I promised during my campaign, I will take care of the employment issue first. At the same time, I will take the initiative in reforming conglomerates. Under the Moon Jae-in Administration, the term describing a cozy relationship between political and business circles will completely disappear.

I will try to resolve conflicts between regions, social classes and generations and seek ways to solve the issues regarding irregular workers. I will help create a world without discrimination.

I repeat. The Administration led by Moon Jae-in and the Democratic Party of Korea will promote equal opportunities. The process will be fair, and the result will be just.

My fellow Koreans,

This presidential election was held in the aftermath of the impeachment of the former President. The unfortunate history of the presidency still continues. On the occasion of this election, the unfortunate history must end.

I will set a new example as the president of the Republic of Korea. I will make my utmost efforts to become a president that will be viewed as a success by the public and by history. By doing so, I will repay your support.



I will become a clean president. I take office empty-handed, and I will leave office the same way. Someday, I will return home and become an ordinary citizen who can share affection with neighbors. I will continue to be a person all of you can be proud of.

I will become an honest president who keeps his promises. I will meticulously honor the pledges I made during the campaign. Genuine political progress will be possible only when the president takes the initiative in engaging in politics that can garner trust. I will not talk big about doing something impossible. I will admit to the wrong I did. I will not cover up unfavorable public opinion with lies. I will be a fair president.

I will try to create a world without privileges and foul play. I will try to create a world where those who follow common sense will benefit. I will not overlook the pain of our neighbors. I will always be vigilant with a great sense of caring so that there will be no one left behind.

I will become a president who comforts people in sorrow. I will be a president who communicates with others. I will exert my authority in a humble and modest manner; I will build a country stronger than it has ever been. I will not be a president who is domineering and authoritative but one who communicates and promotes dialogue.

I will stay close to the people, working in the office near Gwanghwangmun Gate in the new era. I will become a president who remains warmhearted and friendly to the people.

My fellow Koreans,

The Republic of Korea starts anew today, on May 10, 2017. A great history of building a decent nation begins. I ask you all to join me on this journey. I will fully dedicate myself to it.

Thank you.

President of the Republic of Korea

문재인

Moon Jae-in

President of the Republic of Korea

Date of Birth
January 24, 1953

Place of Birth
Geoje Island, Gyeongsangnam-do Province, Korea

Marital Status
Married to Kim Jung-sook with a son, a daughter and two grandsons

Education

1980	LL.B., Kyung Hee University, Seoul, Korea
1971	Graduated from Kyungnam High School, Busan, Korea

Professional Career

2017	President of the Republic of Korea
2017	Presidential candidate of the Democratic Party of Korea for the 19 th presidential election
2015	Chairperson of the Democratic Party of Korea
2014	Member of Interim Committee of the New Politics Alliance for Democracy
	Chairperson of the Nuclear Plant Special Countermeasure Committee
2013	Standing Advisor of the Democratic United Party
2012	Candidate of the Democratic United Party for the 18 th presidential election
	Member of the 19 th National Assembly from Sasang-gu, Busan
2011	Standing Co-representative for Innovation and Integration
2010	Chairperson of the Roh Moo-hyun Foundation
2007	Chief of Staff to the President of the Republic of Korea
	Chairperson of the Promotion Committee for the 2 nd South-North Summit
2005	Senior Secretary to the President for Civil Affairs
2004	Senior Secretary to the President for the Civic and Social Agenda
2003	Senior Secretary to the President for Civil Affairs
1982	Opened a law office specializing in human rights and civil society with Roh Moo-hyun, who became the President of Korea for the 16 th term

Publication

2011	<i>Mun Jae-inui Unmyeong</i> (Moon Jae-in's Destiny)
2012	<i>Sarami Meonjeoda</i> (People Come First)
2012	<i>Moon Jae-ini Deurimnida</i> (Presented to You by Moon Jae-in)
2013	<i>Ggeuchi Sijagida</i> (The End is the Beginning)
2017	<i>Daehanmingugi Munneunda</i> (Questions from the Republic of Korea)
2017	<i>Unmeyong-eseo Huimang-euro</i> (From Destiny to Hope)

President of the Republic of Korea

Moon Jae-in