



Moon Jae-in

PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

A Nation of the People, A Just Republic of Korea

I will become a 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



Five-year Plan for the Administration of State Affairs

- Realizing a Democracy by Popular Sovereignty
- Promoting Unity via Communication with the People—a “Gwanghwamun” President
- Creating a Transparent and Capable Government
- Reforming Law Enforcement Authorities Democratically

- Fostering a Job-creating Economy for Income-driven Growth
- Making a Vibrant and Fair Economy
- Creating an Economy for the Working and Middle Classes
- Preparing for the Fourth Industrial Revolution by Supporting the Advancement of Science and Technology
- Promoting Innovative Growth and Startups Led by Small and Medium-sized Business Ventures



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 President Who Reaches Out to the Public First

On May 10, 2017, President Moon took the oath of office to serve in the 19th presidential term of the Republic of Korea. He dispensed with standard protocol so that he would be able to freely connect with the people by mingling in crowds to shake hands and take photos. President Moon visited a children's rehabilitation hospital and knelt down to listen attentively to the voices of children with disabilities, their mothers and the medical staff. 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.

Citizens were enthusiastic about President Moon's down-to-earth attitude. In his interview with *CNN* on September 29, 2017, President Moon said, "I try to lower the wall of security. I have been making efforts in approaching the people and being with the people." He added his belief that the success of his presidency would depend on communication with the people.

President Moon Jae-in is also working to lower the barriers of hierarchicalism within Cheong Wa Dae to promote the free flow of communication and governance through cooperation. President Moon uses an office in the secretariat building of Yeomin-gwan to work near his secretaries, instead of the presidential office in the main building. All these are typical of his leadership style of reaching out to the people first.

* The May 18 Democratization Movement was a pro-democracy uprising that took place in the city of Gwangju, Jeollanam-do Province from May 18 to 27, 1980. During the period, the protesting citizens called for the abolition of martial law and release of imprisoned pro-democracy political leaders in defiance of military dictatorship.

A President Who Engages with the Media

President Moon Jae-in's determination to communicate was vividly illustrated during a flight bound for Washington D.C., where he was scheduled to have a summit with the U.S. President. While holding an in-flight meeting with the press corps traveling with him, the presidential plane was severely jolted by turbulence, but he continued speaking without flinching. At a press conference to mark the 100th day after his inauguration, President Moon's will to interact with the media was clearly demonstrated; he held an unscripted press conference with no pre-arranged order. *Channel NewsAsia*, a Singaporean cable television news agency, reported on August 19, 2017, about how President Moon could have achieved an approval rating above 70 percent all through his first 100 days in office, saying, "One hundred days into this administration, President Moon's leadership demonstrates an exemplary combination of responsiveness, determination and flexibility that has become rare worldwide."

President Moon Jae-in also held his 2018 New Year Press Conference in an unconventional manner. He randomly chose questioners from the floor and answered their questions. President Moon said he thought communication with the public was crucial and communication with the media was integral to achieving that end. He promised to work hard to have more opportunities to meet with the media. His New Year Press Conference lasted 75 minutes and drew enthusiastic attention and a viewer rating of 22.7 percent. Immediately after the Press Conference, a journalist from an American newspaper posted this comment on her social media account: "This press conference is a free-for-all. Journalists were not pre-selected to ask questions." The Moon Jae-in Administration is making efforts to always reach out to the public first, directly at times and indirectly through the media at others. For this reason, it is being favorably assessed by both the Korean people and the international media.



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 difficulties 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 in Korea. He was a young student who loved reading books and was very warm-hearted, as exemplified by his carrying of a disabled friend on his back on a school field trip. After entering university, he became a leader of the student democratization movement against Park Chung-hee's dictatorial regime. He ended up being arrested and released with a suspended jail term, but was then 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.

President Moon Jae-in following his university graduation ceremony (front row, middle. August 1980)





Human Rights Attorney

In 1982, he graduated second from the Judicial Research and Training Institute, but was disqualified from becoming a judge due to his involvement in the protest against the Yushin constitution of 1972, which was enacted to provide the basis for dictatorial rule. 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. 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 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 analytical 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 the Largest Margin in History

The sudden passing of President Roh Moo-hyun in May 2009 sent shock waves through the entire public, Moon Jae-in included. 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 the 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 the country was not functioning properly. 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.



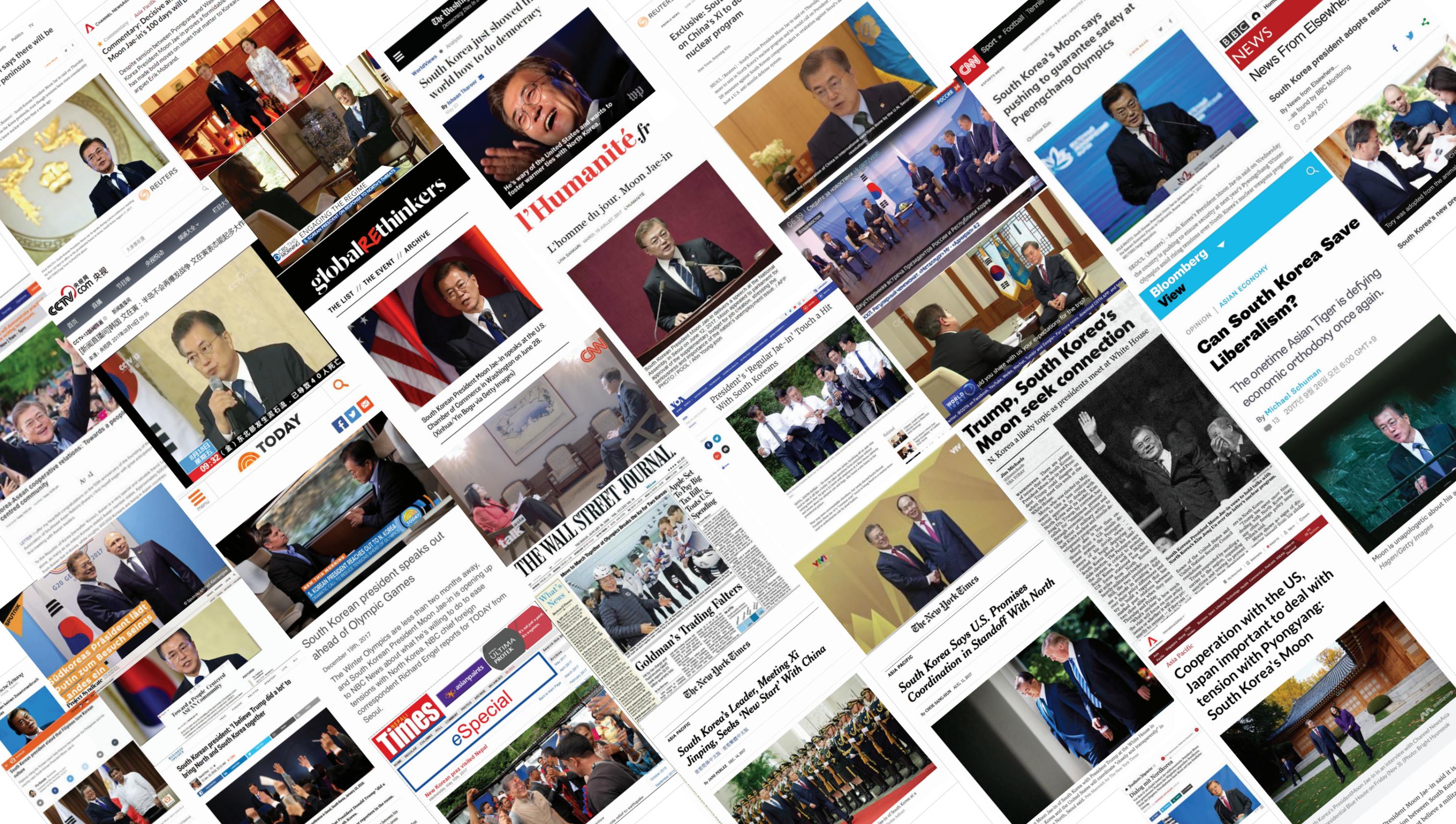
President of the All New Republic of Korea

Moon Jae-in desires to be the president who unifies the people for the first time in history. Breaking the wall of regional division and going beyond political ideology, he intends to become president of all the people, and bring together a Republic of Korea that has experienced unprecedented political upheavals. He dreams of achieving denuclearization on the Korean Peninsula and of South and North Korea becoming partners that can prosper together. Since changing the world 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 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 statement dated March 24, 2017 announcing his candidacy for the 19th presidential election





President Moon Jae-in in the Eyes of the International Media

Enriching Lives in the Republic of Korea

Major Achievements Following Inauguration

	<p>June 12 Announced a supplementary budget for job creation and the conversion of non-regular workers to regular workers</p>	<p>July 25 Announced the plan for a paradigm shift to a people-centered economy</p>		<p>September 6 Paid a visit to Russia and held a summit with the Russian President</p>	<p>November 7~ 8 Held a summit with US President Trump on the occasion of his state visit to Korea</p>	<p>January 1 Minimum wage increase came into effect, and employment stabilization funds disbursed</p>
<p>May 10 Inaugurated as President of the Republic of Korea</p>		<p>August 2 Announced a real estate policy focused on laying the foundation for stable housing prices for low-income families</p>		<p>September 18 Announced a new system through which the state takes responsibility for dementia patients as part of the so-called Moon Jae-in Care</p>	<p>November 29 Announced the housing stabilization roadmap</p>	<p>January 10 Held a New Year Press Conference</p>
<p>2017</p>	<p>June 28 ~ July 1 Paid a visit to the United States and held a summit with the U.S. President</p> <p>July 5~8 Paid a state visit to Germany (New Berlin Declaration announced) and participated in the G20 Summit</p> <p>July 19 Unveiled the Five-year Plan for the Administration of State Affairs and 100 Policy Tasks</p>	<p>August 9 Announced policies related to health insurance</p> <p>August 16 Unveiled plans for the provision of allowances for children and basic pensions for the elderly</p> <p>August 17 Held a press conference marking the 100th day after inauguration</p>		<p>September 7 Participated in the 3rd Eastern Economic Forum and announced the New Northern Policy at the Far Eastern Federal University in Russia</p> <p>September 18 ~ 22 Participated in the 72nd Session of the UN General Assembly in New York as part of "peace diplomacy"</p>	<p>November 8 ~ 15 Attended the APEC Economic Leaders' Meeting and visited several Southeast Asian countries, declaring the New Southern Policy at the Indonesia-Korea Business Forum</p>	<p>January 9 Inter-Korean high-level talks held</p> <p>February 9 The PyeongChang Winter Olympics to begin</p> <p>2018</p>

Toward a Mature, Grassroots Democracy

The primary task of President Moon was to restore Korea's crumbled democracy. His Administration, that set off without the benefit of a transitional period, made endeavors to listen to the unfiltered voices of the people. To this end, the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Presidential Transition was formed, and Gwanghwamun 1st Street went into operation as an on-and-offline communication channel through which citizens could suggest policy ideas. Unprecedentedly, President Moon personally reflected 99 out of about 180,000 proposals in his Administration's policy tasks. In addition, the website of Cheong Wa Dae was also overhauled to function as a communication platform with the public in line with the President's principle that the Government has to answer the questions of the people. Grabbing the attention of the world by announcing the nuclear phase-out policy, President Moon gave an instruction that a public deliberation should be held on the construction of shin kori nuclear reactors 5 and 6. In reference to this, *The Diplomat* wrote on October 27, 2017, "On the other hand, South Korea is in the middle of moving

from its traditional representative democracy, with an imperial presidency, toward a more open and participatory democratic system." The resolution of historic problems to meet the expectations of the people constitutes the very first step toward realizing social justice and forward-looking social cohesion. President Moon is now making his best efforts to get to the bottom of matters related to the May 18 Democratization Movement by establishing a special investigation committee. With the President taking the initiative and the public rendering strong support, the nation is now moving forward toward a genuine democracy. With regard to these efforts, *Asia Times* wrote on December 15, 2017, "Korea is one of the nations that economists often cite when speaking of up and coming economic engines in Asia. Given that, and in view of its rising political verve, Seoul may well be on its way to becoming a true middle power." On November 8, 2017, *The Financial Times* also wrote, "South Korea, on the other hand, is a shining example of liberal democracy at a time when authoritarianism is on the rise everywhere, especially across Asia."



Promoting Peace and Stability on the Korean Peninsula

The principle of President Moon, who was dubbed the Willy Brandt of Korea by *Der Spiegel* on May 13, 2017, is to prioritize the peace and stability of the Korean Peninsula. To achieve this principle, President Moon dispatched special envoys to the United States, China, Japan and Russia as soon as he was inaugurated. He also established multilateral diplomatic relations through the New Northern Policy encompassing Russia and Mongolia and the New Southern Policy, which he started with his visit to Indonesia. This shows the fact that President Moon prioritizes practical interest over ideology. Through balanced diplomacy, the Republic of Korea further strengthened its cooperation with the United States while simultaneously working to resolve conflict with China. This led *The Atlantic* to comment in its July 19, 2017 issue, "Yet Roh's former chief of staff Moon Jae-in may have the chance to elevate South Korea into the precise role Roh predicted: a balancer of interests for China and the United States over the Korean Peninsula." These efforts gradually eased tensions on the Korean Peninsula, about which *The Economist* reported on December 20, 2017, "South

Korea has had an extraordinary year, enduring threats from its missile-wielding northern neighbor with calm and grace... As all this was going on, South Korea had to cope with a crisis at home as well." The Moon Jae-in Administration's foreign policy has garnered many such favorable reports from the international media. *The Straits Times* carried a report on December 27, 2017 stating, "Mr. Moon, quite correctly, has begun his New Southern Policy with a state visit to Indonesia, ASEAN's largest nation and economy. In tandem, he is also moving to build on his nation's strong ties to China by expanding them to Japan, Russia and Mongolia — the New Northern Policy. Along with a push to build ties with the European Union, Mr. Moon thus hopes to bring 'balance' to his nation's external policy." In January 2018, North Korea expressed its intention to participate in the PyeongChang 2018 Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games, and the atmosphere further improved. There is still a long way to go toward the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula but a smooth start heralds that there is a path leading to the finish line.



Realizing a People-Centered Economy

President Moon Jae-in, who always stresses people-centered policies, had the Presidential Committee on Jobs established as his first official instruction after his inauguration. This shows the President's determination to resolve the employment issue without fail. He held an informal meeting with business leaders over beer, and carefully listened to labor leaders during a meeting with them at Cheong Wa Dae, garnering praise from the people and showing an attitude that defines a true leader. President Moon is striving to make the Government reflect the principle that protecting the health and lives of the people is the most basic duty of a nation. By doing so, the President is continuing his work to realize a people-centered economy. At the same time, global investors are showing confidence in investing in Korea. *Reuters reported on*

October 26, 2017, that “gross domestic product rose 1.4 percent in the third quarter from the previous quarter...The stellar numbers show Asia's fourth largest economy riding a surge in global demand for memory chips, which has cushioned the blow to tourism and retail from diplomatic tensions between China and South Korea over a U.S. missile defense system.” Furthermore, *on November 24, 2017, Bloomberg reported,* “Global investors in South Korean debt have found a sweet spot amid a recent lull in geopolitical tensions on the peninsula.” *The Wall Street Journal reported on December 28, 2017,* that South Korea, threatened by nuclear brinkmanship, was one of the three hottest stock markets of 2017. This could be proof that President Moon's people-centered economic policy was moving the economy in the right direction.



Building a Country with an Improved Quality of Life

The Republic of Korea took the world by surprise by achieving remarkable economic growth known as ‘the Miracle on the Han River’, and is now approaching an era of \$30,000 in per capita income. President Moon is now pushing a “people-centered” policy rather than aiming for mere numeric targets. He is working to achieve an inclusive welfare state where anyone, not just the wealthy, can enjoy a high quality of life. On January 10, 2018, President Moon highlighted the people-centered economy at his New Year Press Conference and unveiled concrete action plans to raise the quality of life. To bring about qualitative changes in employment rather than just quantitative growth in the number of people employed, the President has actively pushed policies to convert irregular workers to regular workers. As the first achievement of the initiative, some irregular workers in the public sector became regular workers. He also brought about a large increase in the minimum wage to help narrow the excessive gap in wages and moved to reduce working hours. In addition, he improved the coverage provided by the national

health insurance system to ensure stability in life and initiated a state system that will take care of dementia patients. He has also inspected a system to manage the aftermath of catastrophic accidents. Initiatives to increase the number of national and public childcare centers and raise child benefits are also being pursued as part of policies to support childrearing. In regard to President Moon's endeavors to improve the overall quality of life in Korea, *The Financial Times reported on August 29, 2017,* “South Korea has proposed a record \$380bn budget for 2018 as the Government seeks to address growing concerns about the quality of life and work in Asia's fourth-largest economy. The spending plan represents a 7 per cent increase from the 2017 budget and is the biggest year-on-year increase since 2009 when South Korea was hit by the global financial crisis.” President Moon does not undertake policies to overhaul the entire country simply for the sake of grand national project-making. Rather, his policies that carefully touch the lives of the people will fundamentally and positively transform the Republic of Korea.



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 19th 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 18th presidential election
Member of the 19th 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 2nd 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 16th term

Publication

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



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