

IN-DEPTH LOOK

Korea Explores Strategy at Eurasian Knowledge Network Forum

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The National Research Council for Economics, Humanities and Social Sciences (NRCS) under the Prime Minister's Office held a forum on building a Eurasian Knowledge Network in the five countries of Russia, China, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and Turkey from April 22 to May 2. It was jointly hosted by nine state-funded research centers including KRIHS, the Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade (KIET), and the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy (KIEP), with attendance by approximately 200 present and former government officials, Korean foreign diplomats, experts, researchers, and business leaders in each country.

It was the first forum held in Eurasian countries since President Park Geun-hye's proposal of the Eurasia Initiative in October 2013, and was designed to discuss mutual cooperation and build person-to-person networks in such areas as trade, investment, energy, transportation and agriculture.

The forum also served as a preliminary study and exploration for the Korean government's strategic approach to China's and Russia's recent policy focus on Eurasia. President Xi Jing Ping of China announced his New Silk Road Initiative in September 2013 outlining the plan to strengthen economic, policy, and monetary cooperation with four Central Asian countries including Kazakhstan. Russia also put forth its New East Asia Policy in 2012 designed to promote development in Far Eastern Siberia.

KRIHS participated in the forums held in Russia and Kazakhstan to discuss the need for Korea-Russia and Korea-Kazakhstan development cooperation and made recommendations on how to make it possible.

Korea-Russia Far East Forum Underscores Bilateral Cooperation

KRIHS attended the 4th Korea-Russia Far East Forum held at Hyundai Hotel in Vladivostok, Russia, from April 21 to 22. At the introductory dialogue on April 21, participants discussed ways to cooperate on Russia's Far East development based on mutual understanding between the two countries. In attendance from the Korean side were the Chairperson of the NRCS Ahn Se-young, as well as the presidents and vice-presidents of five research institutes. From the Russian side the delegation included the Chairman of the Congress of Primorsky Victor Gorchakov and Deputy Minister for Development of the Russian Far East Maxim Shereykin. KRIHS President Kim Kyung-Hwan emphasized the need for bilateral cooperation for developing



Figure 1
Korea-Russia Far East Forum

growth poles in the Russian Far East, and invited Russia's participation in the Knowledge Sharing Program (KSP) led by KRIHS.

On April 22 participating research institutes gave presentations and hosted panel discussions. From KRIHS, President Kim served as the moderator of Session 2 on developing growth poles and government strategy. Dr. Jo Jin-cheol delivered a presentation under the theme "Developing Growth Poles in the Russian Far East and Korea-Russia Cooperation," while Russian Deputy Minister Maxim Shereykin explained the government's strategy to attract investment in Far Eastern development. As a member of the panel, Dr. Jeong Il-ho of KRIHS commented on the presentations and discussed what is required for the success of the growth pole strategy in the Russian Far East.

Korea and Kazakhstan Seek Economic Cooperation



Figure 2

Korea-Kazakhstan Economic Cooperation Forum

The Korea-Kazakhstan Economic Cooperation Forum was held on April 28 at the Intercontinental Hotel in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The director of the Geospatial Information Research Division of KRIHS, Sagong Ho-sang, served as the moderator of the forum which included a video message from President Park Geun-hye of the Republic of Korea. There were also welcoming remarks and congratulatory remarks by the Deputy Director of the Kazakhstan Institute for Strategic Studies (KazISS) Issayev Kazbek Dosybekovich, and the Chairperson of the NRCS Ahn Se-young. During the keynote session, former senior advisor to the Korean President on diplomatic affairs Lim Seong-joon and Chief Research Fellow Kim German Nikolaevich of KazISS delivered their speech on "Initiative and Vision for Korea-Kazakhstan Eurasian Cooperation." The session on economic cooperation that followed dealt with how to promote bilateral cooperation in such areas as geospatial information, energy, and national competitiveness, and included a presentation by Dr. Kang Hae-kyong of KRIHS, on "Development of Korea's Geospatial Information System."

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