

Recalibration in the Indo-Pacific: Perspectives from the Region

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The Donald Trump administration’s imposition of tariffs has shaken the global trading order. At the same time, geopolitical rivalries among major powers are intensifying as Trump attempts to end the military conflicts in Ukraine and Gaza, and the U.S.-China geoeconomic competition appears to be deepening as both sides test their respective economic leverage on each other while enhancing their respective supply chain resiliency.

Thus, South Korea assumes responsibility for hosting the APEC business and leaders’ meetings at a complex moment. The role of multilateral institutions in promoting international trade is under assault from rising tariffs, making the task of easing barriers to economic cooperation more difficult. The APEC summit in South Korea will be the first major multilateral economic meeting to occur following the Trump administration’s imposition of universal tariffs. Furthermore, the APEC summit is a potential venue for the first meeting between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping at a moment when a stable framework for managing U.S.-China economic relations has not yet been established.

Following the conclusion of the first summit between Trump and South Korean President Lee Jae Myung, KEI will host a distinguished panel of Korean speakers, who will share their perspectives on the geoeconomic and geopolitical forces shaping South Korea’s approach to hosting the APEC leaders’ summit.

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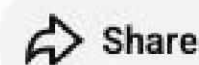
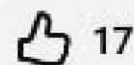
The Globalization of K-Culture



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KEI Operations Manager Mai Pressley will sit down with Areum Jeong, assistant professor of Korean Studies at Arizona State University, and Jeanie Chang, a licensed therapist and founder of "Noona's Noonchi," to discuss the global impact of Korean culture, what attracts international fans, and how domestic social issues are portrayed in popular culture and resonate abroad.

How this was made

Auto-dubbed

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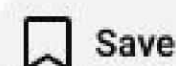
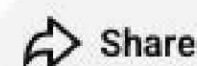
South Korea's New President and Prospects for U.S.-Korea Relations: A View From Former Ambassadors



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On June 3, South Koreans elected Democratic Party candidate Lee Jae-myung as the country's next president. He was inaugurated amid deep domestic political polarization and uncertainty in external trade and security dynamics. How the new leader navigates such internal and external conditions has important implications for the U.S.-South Korea relationship and regional dynamics of the Indo-Pacific.

Please join a distinguished panel of former U.S. ambassadors to South Korea to analyze the election outcome and implications for the alliance. Moderated by KEI President and CEO Scott Snyder, Ambassadors Philip Goldberg (2022–2025), Harry Harris (2018–2021), and Kathleen Stephens (2008–2011) will discuss these topics and more.

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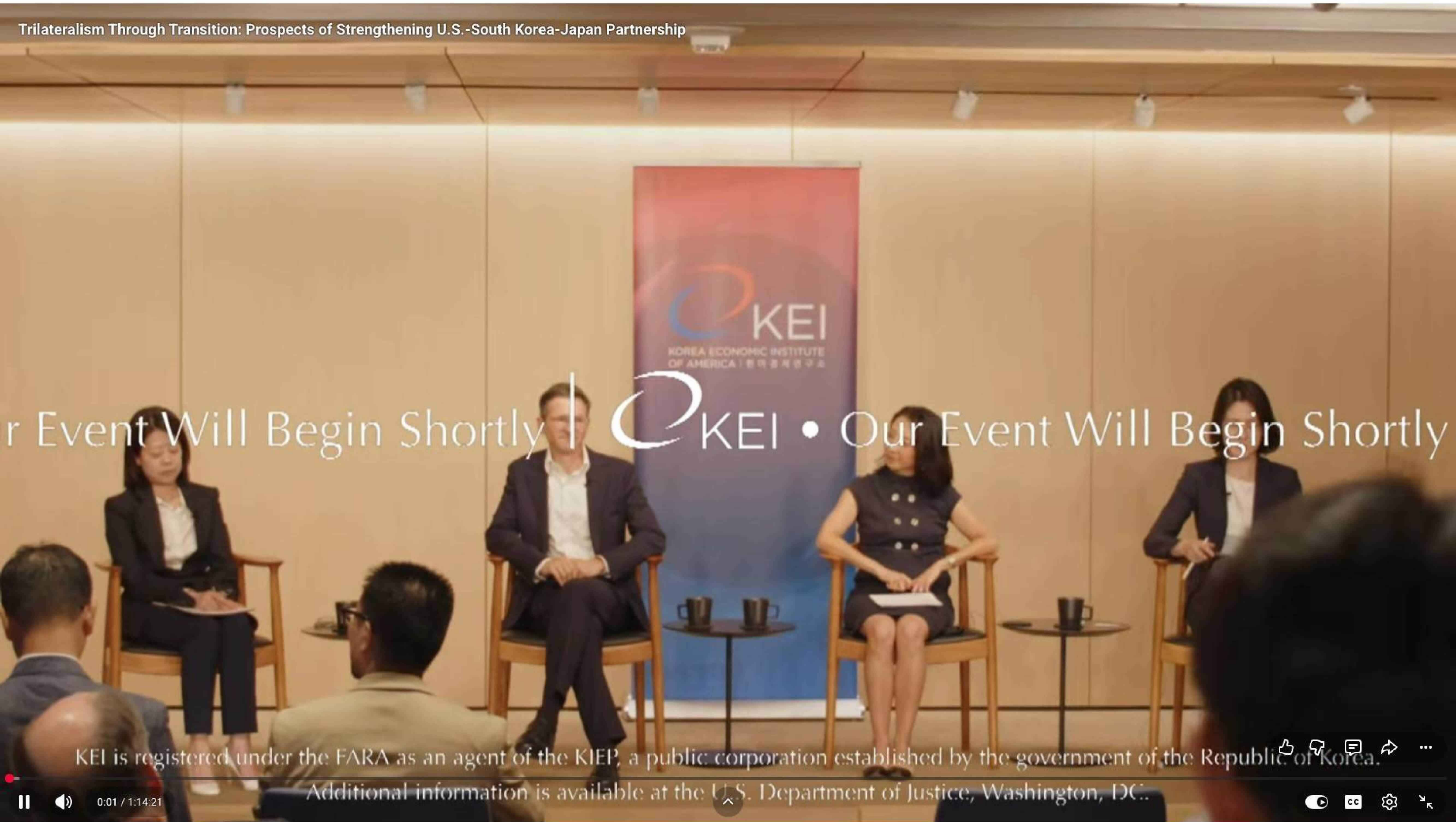


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Join us for an exclusive preview of this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit in South Korea on Wednesday, October 15, 2025.

APEC 2025 will facilitate high-level dialogue between member nations, including major trading partners such as the United States, China, Korea, and Japan. This marks one of the first opportunities for multilateralism between leaders following new administrations entering APEC capitals across both Asia and North America.

What impact will this have on bilateral and regional trade and policy? How can APEC strengthen Asia-Pacific cooperation amidst the rapid development of emerging technologies? How has Korea helped progress toward these goals?

Join the Korea Economic Institute of America for an informed discussion co-hosted with the National Center for APEC on what to expect out of this year's APEC forum and how it will shape relations across the Indo-Pacific.

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Nuclear Energy Leadership for AI-Driven Growth and Energy Security



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KEI is pleased to host an exclusive event titled Siloed No More: The U.S.-ROK Alliance and a Taiwan Conflict, which examines whether and how the U.S.-ROK alliance is situated to respond to a potential conflict over Taiwan.

KEI Fellow and Director of Academic Affairs Dr. Clint Work will discuss this project, which builds upon previous research on Seoul and Washington's rhetorical alignment on the importance of peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait.

Alexis Turek, Research Assistant at the Coalition for Defense of Taiwan (CDOT), a joint initiative between the American Enterprise Institute (AEI) and the Institute for the Study of War (ISW), will join Dr. Work on stage and offer insights into how his findings fit into broader strategic thinking about Taiwan from a U.S. perspective.

Through dozens of interviews with U.S. and ROK current and former government officials, think tank experts, and academics—as well as open-source research—Dr. Work will distill insights on the evolution and state of U.S.-ROK alliance discussions on a Taiwan conflict; key challenges obstructing such discussions; and critical variables and dynamics the alliance would have to consider and navigate in the event of a contingency.

KEI will publish an executive summary of Dr. Work's research as well as the full special report concurrent with the event.

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