

Kook Jin Moon lectures in U.S. Capitol Complex (Washington, DC)

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March 20, 2012

Washington, DC

Internet edition of SegyeTimes (www.segye.com)

Translation is by Tongil Foundation

"Korea must become like Israel, small but strong"

National Campaign for a Strong Korea attends security conference in U.S. Capitol

"If we can't defend our country, we may be absorbed into China"

The seminar was jointly sponsored by The Washington Times Foundation, Asia Pacific Peace Initiative and Peace 2049 Institute.



Kook Jin Moon speaks to a meeting of the Asia Security Initiative on March 19, 2012, in Washington, DC.

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Kook Jin Moon, co-chairman of the National Campaign for a Strong Korea, reminded participants that China lies in the background of numerous provocation by North Korea and that China is the key element threatening South Korea's national security.

"History tells us that only the strong countries are able to maintain peace," Mr. Moon said. "We need to be a strong and independent Korea in order to protect our identity."

"The reason that peace has been maintained in northeast Asia for the past 60 years is the presence of U.S. military power," Mr. Moon said. "That power, however, has begun to retreat from this area, and something needs to replace this power."

"If we do not fulfill our responsibility to protect our freedom and our nation, who will do it for us," Mr. Moon asked rhetorically. "If no one protects us," he warned, "we may find ourselves absorbed into China."

"Any statement that there is nothing Korea can do if China seeks in the long term to take us over, because China is a large country and we are small, would show a lack of imagination," Mr. Moon said. "Korea must take Israel as its model and become a small but strong country."



Participants at the Asia Security Initiative listen as Mr. Kook Jin Moon gives his lecture "Strong Korea?"

The seminar was attended by some 100 persons, including senior related persons of the militaries of South Korea, United States and Japan, together with prominent professors and persons related to the U.S. Congress. Participants carried on a heated discussion for more than four hours.

Participants from South Korea included Jeong Roh Yoon, president of the National Campaign for a Strong Korea, Seo Young Lee, defense attaché to the Embassy of Korea to the United States, Lt. Gen. (ret) Sang Bae Jeon, former ROK Army headquarters deputy chief of staff for intelligence, Maj. Gen. (ret) Gi Hak Kim and Dr. Seung Ju Bae, senior fellow at Korea Institute for Defense Analysis.

Participants from the United States included Dong Moon Joo, president of The Washington Times Foundation, Adm. (ret.) James Lyons, Jr., Adm. (ret.) Patrick Walsh, former commander of US Pacific Fleet and Lt. Gen. (ret.) Thomas McInerney, former commander of Alaska Command. Participants from Japan included Vice Adm. (ret.) Yuji Koda, former commander-in-chief of the Japan Self Defense Fleet.