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Congratulations to Korea Business Consultants (KBC) on the 10th anniversary of the company. Originally called the Foreign Business Development Association (FBDA), it was established at a meeting in Beijing on 4th December 1998 by those interested in fostering and facilitating business links with the DPRK. The name was changed to KBC in a makeover in 2002. We wish KBC good luck and continued successes in the coming years.

Orascom Launches DPRK Mobile Phone Service

Orascom Telecom Holding SAE of Egypt announced Monday December 15 that it had officially put into operation a 3G mobile phone service in the DPRK.

The statement said the Koryolink WCDM 3G network, a joint venture with Korea Posts and Telecommunications Corp., would initially cover the capital, Pyongyang, before being expanded nationwide.

"We are making history in a country that is developing and opening up in a remarkable way," CEO Naguib Sawiris said.

The Egyptian phone company, trying to offset a slowdown in Pakistan and Bangladesh, estimates it will spend US\$400 million on a cellular license and investment over three years for its North Korean venture. "It's a new, untapped market," said Teymour El-Derini, a trader in Cairo at Beltone Securities Brokerage. "If you believe in North Korea, and that it will eventually open up, it's an excellent market for Orascom."

Orascom Telecom won the license January 31 this year, and will have exclusive rights in the DPRK for four years.

"Growth will be limited, but even if the service is only offered to government officials, in a military state like North Korea, that is a substantial number," El-Derini said.

The North Korean unit will see average revenue per user of US\$12 to US\$15 this year, according to the company's forecasts.



Progress work continues on Pyongyang's landmark 105-storey Ryugyong Hotel in cooperation with Orascom's construction arm.

DPRK, Singapore Sign Investment Agreement – p9

Singapore government's investment protection agreement with the DPRK signals new era of embracing and encouraging trade and economic engagement.



Seasons greetings from KBN to our readers. We wish you a happy, healthy and prosperous 2009.



Pyongyang Undergoing Facelift

The ROK's Institute for Far Eastern Studies reported that a city beautification project is underway in Pyongyang. The DPRK's capital is undergoing a facelift in honor of this anniversary year, marking 60 years since the founding of the country. The new construction projects are part of an effort to make Pyongyang a completely new city by 2012, when the DPRK will mark the 100th birthday of its Eternal President Kim Il Sung.

ROK representatives from organizations providing aid to the DPRK have reported being surrounded by new construction of hotels and other buildings, and the refurbishment of older buildings. The availability of the capital needed for these large-scale construction projects appears to indicate growing investment from foreign enterprises.

Editor's Comment

An influx of consumer goods from the outside world is making North Koreans aspire to higher living standards, and the government is keen to satisfy them by encouraging overseas trade contacts. "North Koreans are increasingly sophisticated consumers," said Curtis Melvin, of Washington's George Mason University, who runs the North Korea Economy Watch website. "They know that South Korean goods are of higher quality than Chinese goods. They also know that Japanese goods are of the highest quality."

The DPRK's increased opening to business is part of an ambitious plan launched late last year to transform the country's economy by 2012, the centennial of the late President Kim Il Sung's birth. Ground has already been broken on a commercial street in downtown Pyongyang that will feature a 50-floor hotel, a trade center, a modern department store and office space. Pyongyang department stores packed with imported goods but short of customers -- so far -- remind one of China a decade or so ago. Business people would be well advised to position themselves for the consumer boom which is bound to come.



(Photo by Iason Athanasiadis)

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Obama's DPRK Options

[The following is an edited version of a presentation given at a Korea Policy Institute conference at the University of California-Berkeley by John Feffer on October 10, 2008. The full version is available online at: <http://www.nautilus.org/fora/security/08090Feffer.html>. John Feffer is the co-director of Foreign Policy In Focus at the Institute for Policy Studies.]

For the last seven years, the Bush administration wavered between two options in its policy planning for a country that the President labeled a member of his "axis of evil" in his 2002 State of the Union address. During George W. Bush's first term, the ascendant hardliners in his administration rejected President Bill Clinton's efforts to negotiate with that country, favoring instead pushing North Korea until its regime collapsed -- which, of course, it didn't. In his second term, the State Department got the upper hand, with a plan to end North Korea's nuclear program through multi-party negotiations.

Neither of these policy approaches proved sufficient.

If there is one thing the Obama administration needs to do, it is to widen the American lens when it comes to North Korea. That doesn't mean pushing for a North Korean collapse or brandishing military threats. If the new administration wants change everyone can believe in, it must first recognize, and then leverage, the change that North Korea has already embarked on and American officials have largely ignored.

Forget the picture you have of a land that time forgot. North Korea is not the world's last Stalinist country or the only remaining communist economy. Not any more, anyway. The country is very different from what it was even a decade ago. For one thing, North Korea is now thoroughly permeated by a spreading market economy. Take for example, the Tongil market in Pyongyang, which attracts thousands of shoppers every day, and is one of 19 markets in the capital city that sell everything from food to VCRs. Each North Korean city has between two and four markets. According to North Korean sources, citizens rely on the markets for approximately 20% of their staples as well as 50% percent of their fruits and vegetables, while other sources suggest that as many as 60-70% of North Koreans trade part-time or full-time in such markets.

These are not the only signs of independent economic activity. Kiosks offer a wide variety of foods as well as services like photo-taking. Private restaurants have mushroomed. On the illegal housing market (largely ignored by the government), North Koreans now buy and sell apartments.

A recurrent food crisis has certainly limited market expansion in some ways. Over the summer, the UN World Food Program reported that three-quarters of all households have had to reduce their food intake. Patronage has dropped at restaurants that don't rely on the tourist trade, while consumption in general has declined. Nevertheless, the market

now looks like an irreversible fact of North Korean life.

After all, the North Korean government no longer has any ideological problems with market economies per se, either locally or globally. It has instead created what it euphemistically calls "real-gain socialism," and has endorsed the vague principle of "selling what is present and buying what is missing." In both cases, the primary concern of the central authorities, as in China, is to maintain political control, while ensuring that the ongoing market transformation yields a portion of its value to the government.

But Pyongyang has found itself in the unenviable position of attempting to implement capitalism without capital. There simply hasn't been enough money to modernize its factories and farms. While individuals avail themselves of markets and the government continues to pass laws to prepare for more foreign investment, agricultural and industrial enterprises are still forced to barter goods among themselves. Without an accompanying rise in productive output, wage and price increases have led to inflation.

The Western media, when not writing about the North's nuclear program, has focused largely on the health of Kim Jong Il and the identity of his potential successor. In doing so, like officials in Bush's Washington, it has missed the larger story of an impending generational change. A younger group of officials have moved into important economic advisory positions around Kim Jong Il. At the same time, the ruling Politburo and military councils remain top-heavy with the old guard, once nurtured by the Dear Leader's father Kim Il Sung. In a capital-rich environment, there would be less likelihood of a major conflict between the new technocratic elite concentrated in the economic sphere and the old guard in the military councils. The Chinese government avoided this conflict by giving the People's Liberation Army a major stake in the country's economic reforms. There, the rising economic tide then lifted both boats.

The North Korean government has, in fact, made tentative moves in this direction, as when, for instance, Kim Jong Il urged the military to establish "sideline industries" to provide for soldiers. But in a situation of limited resources, the military and the technocrats must fight each other for scraps. Unless the technocrats can prove that their reforms will bring in needed capital -- a distinct challenge in the rapidly worsening global economic climate -- they are likely to lose out to the military every time.

If the Obama administration proves capable of looking at North Korea with new eyes, it will see that economic engagement with the country is likely to encourage all these important, if still nascent, changes. The impulse should not be seen as charitable. Over the last eight years, South Korea has already garnered an estimated US\$27 billion in benefits from its economic relations with the North, through trade, tourism, and particularly the Kaesong Industrial Zone that now employs over 30,000 North Koreans in an area just north of the Demilitarized

Zone that separates the two halves of the Korean peninsula. China, too, has been quietly engaging North Korea for its own purposes. It has invested tens of millions of dollars in improving North Korea's extraction industries. Even Russia is getting in on the ground floor of what ultimately may be a profound economic surge in Northeast Asia, inking a recent energy deal with South Korea for a natural gas pipeline that will pass through the North as well.

The United States will never reap the same kind of economic rewards. We are too far away, and 23 million North Koreans are not a sufficiently tempting market for most US businesses. But the Obama administration can realize other goals by opening up the spigot of development dollars going to North Korea.

Modest-sized targeted investments -- in high-tech ventures and infrastructure development -- can simultaneously boost the political fortunes of technocrats in the North Korean government and provide more opportunities for a middle class to emerge, helping soften the nature of economic reform there. Such investments can help the regime change itself, just as foreign engagement helped the Chinese exit the insanities of the Cultural Revolution. To the objection that such money will only end up in the North Korean military, so be it. The North Korean military, like the People's Liberation Army before it, must have a stake in any movement for reform, or it won't ever come to fruition. It should, in fact, be encouraged to create its own non-military enterprises and become "gloriously rich" the Chinese way.

We can't simply buy North Korea's nuclear weapons program, because it is inextricably connected to the country's pride and the leadership's survival. But if the United States endorses economic engagement with North Korea, the country and the leadership will, sooner or later, be able to uncouple pride and regime stability from the atom. Conversely, refusing to provide real economic incentives until the denuclearization of the country is complete will ensure that North Korea stumbles along indefinitely in, at best, its current, partially transformed state, brandishing its nuclear card whenever its leadership feels threatened.

It wouldn't take much for the United States to decisively back North Korean economic changes. A few well-placed investments in the country's dilapidated energy grid or in a new, high-tech industrial complex would have a considerable ripple effect through the country's economy.

Minimally, Washington should step out of the way so that the North Koreans can begin negotiating for international loans.

As importantly, the US seal of approval on economic engagement, accompanied by a modicum of assistance, would markedly increase investor confidence, and thus the flow of dollars from the private sector. Rather than tying these economic incentives to the non-proliferation

goal, they should be linked to continued changes in North Korea's economic policy such as greater transparency and accountability, or more autonomy for farms and factories. In this way, the process of economic engagement becomes mutually reinforcing.

If Obama and his advisors look at North Korea clearly, they can resolve the longest-lived conflict that the United States currently has with another country. That wouldn't be change around the edges, but a fundamental step forward in US relations with the rest of the world.

US Brothers Light Up DPRK Hospitals

[The following is an edited version of a story which appeared in the bulletin of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers of the USA November 17.]

Two retired International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 48 electricians recently returned from a Mercy Corps mission to North Korea. The 62-year-old twin brothers Dan and Dennis McCarty used over 70 years of combined electrical experience to install a power system at three hospitals in Haeju, North Korea.

The men did all the pre-planning and preparation work by working from photographs. But that wasn't the only obstacle the twin brothers had to overcome. "We experienced low-quality electrical power and long hours without electricity," said Dan McCarty. The language barrier also proved challenging, as well as working with a limited number of tools, materials and equipment. "If you don't have it with you when you arrive, your only option is to improvise while upholding safe practices," said Dennis. But the brothers didn't let anything stand in their way.

The project was pronounced a resounding success by North Korea's hospital directors. All three power systems are operational and are currently in service. "We are happy to be able to help those in need. It was a rewarding experience," said the McCarty brothers. "The project was about helping people, not politics... We're proud to have represented the IBEW thousands of miles away."

The McCartys are only two of the many IBEW members who travel overseas to help the less fortunate. Bruce Zimmerman, Bob Palandech and Jeff Hawkins, all retired IBEW members, recently returned from a humanitarian trip to Peru. IBEW 48 is proud of their local, state, country and worldwide volunteer efforts.

Kuwait to Lend DPRK US\$21.7 Million



The Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) signed a loan agreement in Pyongyang with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea November 19, whereby the KFAED will provide KD6.2 million (about US\$21.7 million) to assist in the financing of Pyongyang City's Wastewater Project. The agreement was signed by North Korean Vice-Minister of Municipal Management Li Gang Hui and the KFAED Deputy Director-General Hesham Al-Waqian.

According to a KFAED statement, the project "aims at improvement of the environment and the public health of the citizens of Pyongyang ... through comprehensive upgrading and rehabilitation of the sewage pumping system of the city's wastewater collection network...The project consists of upgrading a total of 23 existing pumping stations in the wastewater collection system, including the replacement of a total of 125 pumps of different capacities, complete with all other equipment and ancillaries."

The project also involves the "construction of three new pumping stations for the wastewater collection systems of the Pyongchon and Janggyo wastewater treatment plants, including the procurement of a total of 18 new pumps of different capacities." The KFAED continued, "The project also includes engineering consultation services for the review of the detailed design, preparation of tendering documents, and construction supervision and training. The project is expected to be completed by the end of 2011."

This is the second loan from the KFAED to the DPRK to finance development projects in the water and sewage sector.

DPRK Finds More Natural Resources

The DPRK's official Korean Central Broadcasting Station has reported that the geological survey teams recently discovered new potential reserves of natural resources such as coal and iron. "An exploration team in South Pyongan Province has secured a number of fields for natural resources, including coal, while the teams in South Hwanghae and Kangwon provinces made progress in locating iron ore," KCBS announced.

DPRK Engineers to Study Russian Rail Operations

Vostok -Media reported that specialists from the Ministry of Railways of the DPRK will study and work at Russia's Far Eastern Railway. The engineers will visit the transportation monitoring center of the Far

Eastern Railroad University, the Railways Training Centre in Khabarovsk, a locomotive shed and the station Khabarovsk-2. They will also inspect the transportation hub at Grodekovo, Nakhodka-Vostochniy and the container terminal of the port of Vostochniy.

Swedes to Make Jeans in DPRK

Three young Swedes have launched a company that will be the first to produce jeans in North Korea and export them to the rest of the world. The three come from a PR background, and are currently operating as Noko Jeans. They say the company is an attempt to approach and get closer to North Korea. They met North Korean government officials in summer, and secured a manufacturer. The products will be available early next year. More info: www.nokojeans.com



KNIC Wins Insurance Case

Reuters reported that a group of international reinsurers has reached a settlement with the Korea National Insurance Corporation (KNIC) over a reinsurance claim that the group had earlier said was fraudulent. The reinsurers will pay the state-owned insurer almost all of the claim, KNIC's lawyers said, which arose when a helicopter allegedly carrying a pregnant woman to hospital crashed into a Pyongyang warehouse in 2005. "The reinsurers and their lawyers ... agreed to retract and withdraw all allegations of fraud and impropriety against KNIC," KNIC's lawyers said in a statement December 10. Insurer Allianz is to pay 95 percent of a 44 million euro (\$56.91 million) claim, KNIC lawyers said. The settlement was reached after hearings before London's Commercial Court. The reinsurers had refused to pay despite a North Korean court order. They had their primary defense struck out by the High Court in August 2007, and again by the Court of Appeal in October 2007, KNIC's lawyers said.

The lawsuit is one of several North Korea is pursuing with foreign insurers, with claims exceeding US\$150m, according to some estimates.

DPRK, ROK Agree on Tokdo

Delegates from the DPRK and the ROK to a conference in Pyongyang in mid-November agreed that they had common grievances against Japan. They agreed that Japan's colonial rule still casts a shadow over the peninsula. And both agreed that Japan should relinquish its territorial claim to the island of Tokdo (Takeshima in Japanese), at present under the administration of Seoul. The head of a DPRK academy of historical studies, Ho Jong-ho, told the 90-minute seminar that Japan was running "reckless in its scheming against the North."

“DPRK to Strengthen China Ties”

The DPRK will continue to enhance economic and cultural cooperation with the PRC under the guidelines of a cooperation pact signed 55 years ago, the DPRK's vice-premier said. The DPRK-PRC Cooperation Accord on Economy and Culture, signed in 1953, which helped the two countries intensify economic and cultural cooperation, played an important role in boosting bilateral ties, said Vice-Premier Ro Du Chol. He was speaking at a reception in Pyongyang November 20 commemorating the 55th anniversary of the agreement, co-hosted by the DPRK's foreign trade and culture ministries.

Russia's House Speaker to visit DPRK

RIA Novosti reported that the speaker of Russia's upper house of parliament met with his North Korean counterpart in Moscow November 19, and accepted an invitation to visit North Korea. The date of the visit has yet to be agreed.

Federation Council Speaker Sergei Mironov and North Korean Supreme People's Assembly Chairman Choi Tae-bok discussed means of strengthening the ties between the two countries' parliaments, as well as economic and humanitarian cooperation, the Federation Council press service said.

"The sides noted the friendly nature of relations between Russia and the DPRK, and the countries' shared positions on many political issues. The meeting placed particular emphasis on developing inter-parliamentary links," the statement said. "The chairman of the DPRK Supreme People's Assembly proposed regular exchanges of parliamentary delegations," an idea backed by Mironov, the Federation Council said. Mironov proposed that a corresponding agreement be signed during his visit to North Korea.

DPRK, Singapore Sign Investment Agreement



Singapore's Ministry of Trade and Industry (MTI) said that Singapore signed an Investment Guarantee Agreement (IGA) with the DPRK November 15. Trade and Industry Minister Lim Hng Kiang and his North Korean counterpart, Ri Ryong Nam, signed the IGA during the latter's official visit to Singapore.

MTI said the IGA will help promote bilateral investment flows by protecting investors and their investments.

Under the agreement, investors will be accorded non-discriminatory treatment, compensation in the event of expropriation or nationalization of their investments, and free transfer of capital and returns from investment.

Separately, the Singapore Business Federation (SBF) also signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the North Korean Chamber of Commerce. According to the SBF, North Korea remains an unexplored market for many Singapore firms, but there exist many opportunities for local businesses to tap into, such as its high-quality yet affordable workforce and the abundance of natural resources.

Build trade agreements, not trade barriers

Editorial Comment

The Singapore government's decision to sign an investment protection agreement with the DPRK government signals a new era of embracing and encouraging trade and economic engagement. As Singapore is head of the ASEAN group of nations for one year more, this is encouragement for the ASEAN group as a whole. This sort of building of business, trade and investment link fits with the recent APEC meeting in Lima at which almost every single visiting leader and country head encouraged the lifting of trade barriers and restrictions and the encouragement of free and fair trade to help the world to pull together and emerge from or minimise recession. We remind readers of the fact that eight years ago it was "All bright on the Korean Peninsula", and a platform of trade and engagement on all fronts was the considered policy of the Clinton administration after commissioning and receiving the 'Perry Report'. For the last eight years there has been no consistent or un-disruptive approach by the US Administration. For the coming year or more, all parties, and the region and world as a whole would benefit from the emergence of a platform for economic growth and investor stability that trade agreements, not trade barriers present.

DPRK Praises Yemen's Reunification Example

Almotamar.net reported that talks were held in Pyongyang November 30 between representatives of the Workers Party of Korea and the General People's Congress GPC, the ruling party in Yemen. The two sides discussed issues related to developing relations between the two parties, exchanges of views on political aspects and international issues to help guarantee peace and security for all world's peoples.

The visiting delegation of the GPC, led by Abdullah Ahmed Ghanim, reviewed in the meeting the political and developmental life in Yemen and conveyed greetings from President Ali Abdullah Saleh and the GPC leadership to DPRK leader Kim Jong Il and the Korean people, confirming Yemen's support for the efforts exerted for reunification of the Korean nation.

The Korean party expressed its admiration for Yemen's model of peaceful reunification, and noted that Korea should follow it.

The GPC delegation was chaired by Head of the Political Office and member of the General Committee Abdullah Ghanim ,accompanied by Head of the Information Office Tareq al-Shamy and Mujib al-Anisi , Deputy Head of the Political Office.

“ROK Wave on the Wane in DPRK”

The Daily NK reported that in the DPRK, the fervor of the “South Korean Wave” is on the wane; Korean dramas, which have spearheaded the spread of South Korean culture and progress since 2000, are no longer generating huge interest among North Korean citizens. The prevailing response of the citizens is “I have seen enough” and “I have had my fill.”

A source in North Hamgyong Province said in a phone conversation with the Daily NK: “Nowadays, a Thai movie, ‘Ong-Bak (2003), Muay Thai Warrior,’ is immensely popular among the younger generation. Chinese or American movies have become more popular than South Korean movies.” The source added, “When South Korean dramas first became popular, adoration, curiosity, new storylines and exotic scenes generated a wave of interest, but people now seem to have had their fill.”

He pointed out, “Korean dramas usually revolve around gangster or love stories. But there is too much banter and fraud. Realistic work such as the Chinese dramas ‘Love’s Embrace,’ which was hugely popular in the North at one point, and ‘My Lover Is Not The Moon’ do not exist among Korean dramas. The Chinese movie ‘The Lady’s Spring’ (which was broadcast on Chosun Central Television) was a huge hit among the people, and I hope movies like that are made again. American movies have been drawing interest lately. I watched an American movie, Armageddon (1998). I wish that South Korea would also produce movies like that.”

Another source said, “Rumors have been abounding recently that China has surpassed South Korea on the technological front. As a result, the degree of curiosity or expectation regarding the South has been gradually decreasing.”

DPRK Girls World Soccer Champions

In a fitting finale that went to extra time, Korea DPR beat the United States 2-1 to become the first ever Under-17 Women’s Football World Cup Champions, the Waikato Times reported November 17.

The Americans took an early lead at Auckland’s North Harbour Stadium, and for nearly 80 minutes it looked like the worst goal of the tournament

was going to hand the States the title. But a late equaliser to Korea had the sides level at 1-1 after 90 minutes.

The US had gone ahead after just 100 seconds when a Cloee Colohan throw-in was let bounce, and Korean keeper Myong Hui Hong could only tip it into her own goal. But both teams traded jabs in the middle part of the game until the US tried to monopolize possession in the last half an hour. Instead of pushing forward and looking for a match-sealing second, they sat back too much, which allowed the Koreans to attack without fear of a counter.

After peppering the American keeper Taylor Vancil with a number of long-range shots, the Koreans grabbed an equaliser in the 78th minute. After a 25-m free kick hit the bar, Korean substitute Un Ju Kim kicked the ball back overhead into the middle of the penalty area, where Un Hyang Kim buried a superb header. After such a superb tournament, the 16,162-strong crowd could have almost expected extra time. When they got it, chances still came. Often extra-time is a dour affair, with teams too scared to push forward for fear of being left wanting at the back. With just eight minutes left before penalties would have been required to settle the two sides, Korean's Un Byol Ho found herself in space in front of the US goal. While running one way, she flicked a pass the other to substitute Hyon Sun Jang, who took a touch before calmly slotting home the tournament winning goal past a diving Vancil.

At full time, the Korean substitutes, seven of whom had not got onto the pitch all tournament, stormed the field, while all 11 Americans fell to the ground distraught.



New DPRK Destinations

This year was notable for being the 60th anniversary of the creation of the DPRK, the anniversary itself falling on September 9, which was marked by a military parade and, of course, the Arirang Mass Games. Also unique for 2008 was the occurrence of a second concurrent Mass Games "Prosper the Motherland!" which ran at the same time as Arirang, giving visitors two chances to see the definitive DPRK art form in its highest manifestation; truly an unforgettable experience for anyone who attended.



We opened a few new areas to tourism over the course of the year, including the east coast city of Chongjin and the nearby Mount Chilbo, Haeju in the southwest of the country and various sites around Pyongyang. We stayed in a few different hotels, many of which we are now able to offer to our clients, and in 2009 we intend to go to even more places than ever before, some

wholly new areas and some new and expanded attractions in more familiar places.

Trust us -- you'll never have another holiday quite like this one if you choose to go with us next year. We have vastly expanded our range of tours to be ever-more inclusive to all demands. Have a look and see if we have something for you. [The full text of the quarterly newsletter can be found at <http://www.koryogroup.com/newsletter/index.html>]

The year 2008 was also the one in which we continued our innovation in new kinds of tours; we ran a football tour where a foreign side played against a Korean team in a friendly, and the first ever Ice Hockey, Volleyball and even Cricket (yes, cricket!) tours took place, all of



them between visiting Westerners and local Koreans. We continued our school trips and cultural exchange programs, and assisted in several interesting and worthwhile projects. We also ran Pyongyang's first ever pub quiz. It was a very interesting year for us all, and we hope to keep the innovation momentum going in 2009. So if you have any ideas for trips to DPRK, we would be more than happy to hear them. There are still, of course, restrictions on what can be done there, but we have many years of experience and a track record of getting things done which is second to none, if it can be done, then we will organize it for you.

From all at Koryo Tours

Korean Cuisine

If you are staying at a hotel in the DPRK you will probably be served what passes for "foreign food." But you will be much better fed if you insist on being taken to a typical Korean restaurant as often as possible. Korean cuisine is uniform throughout the peninsula, with little in the way of regional variety. Breakfast was traditionally the principal meal of the day, and guests would often be invited to breakfast, as opposed to dinner. Lunch and dinner are lesser affairs, often consisting of leftovers from breakfast. All the dishes are served at once (not one at a time as in China), some being kept warm in chafing dishes. The main meat and fish dishes are accompanied by soup and half a dozen side dishes of fresh or pickled vegetables, as well as rice. Kimchi, the Korean national delicacy, which is basically pickled cabbage, is always present. There is no fixed dining room in a typical Korean house; food is served on a portable table anywhere the diner wishes to eat. The latter usually sits on the floor, a feature of some restaurants. The food is taken with a pair of metal chopsticks and a spoon; indeed, the road sign for "restaurant ahead" is simply a picture of a spoon and chopsticks.

Korean Proverb

Kamure tanbi

("Sweet rain in a drought.")

Something longed for comes about.