

Korea-Japan Working Summit in Seoul

Overview

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Itinerary in Seoul

Morning : Arrival at Seoul Airport

Wreath-laying at the National Cemetery

Luncheon hosted by Prime Minister Han Myeong-sook

Afternoon : Korea-Japan summit

Dinner hosted by President Roh Moo-hyun

Departure for Tokyo

Agenda

- Pending historical issues
- Cooperation in the areas of economy and trade
- Bolstering people-to-people and cultural exchanges
- North Korea policies of the two countries, including one on nuclear issues
- Bilateral cooperation in regional and international arenas

Expected Outcome

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's visit to Korea is expected to serve as a catalyst to help restore bilateral ties between the two countries. The cultivation of confidence and trust between the Korean and Japanese heads of state will lay the groundwork for the restitution of summit diplomacy.

Korea will call on Japan to respond in good faith to the efforts to establish an accurate historical consciousness. The summit is expected to help resolve a stumbling block in bilateral ties in relation to history and thereby to forging future-oriented Korea-Japan relations and enhanced regional cooperation in Northeast Asia.

The summit is also expected to set off a drastic increase in people-to-people and cultural exchanges that will improve amity and friendship between the citizens of both countries. It is hoped that the summit will re-ignite youth and cultural exchanges, notably the Korea-Japan Future-Oriented Cooperative Project. President Kim Dae-jung and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi agreed on the project in July 2002 to celebrate their co-hosting of the World Cup 2002 and to promote active youth and sports exchanges. Under the Korea-Japan Future-Oriented Cooperative Project, Korea and Japan held biannual meetings in both countries from September 2002 until 2004, which were aimed at exchanging more than 10,000 people each year and increasing the issuance of working-holiday visas to 7,200 annually.

The two leaders will put their heads together to find ways to resume the Six-Party Talks and strengthen bilateral cooperation in an effort to seek a peaceful solution to the North Korean nuclear issues. They will also discuss developments on the Korean Peninsula in general as well as Japan's policies toward North Korea.

In addition, based on cooperative ties between Seoul and Tokyo, they will delve into ways how bilateral cooperation could promote regional collaboration in Northeast Asia. Cooperation in various global organizations and key international arenas will also be on the agenda of the summit.

Highlights of Korea-Japan Relations

Establishment of diplomatic ties on December 18, 1965

Trade volume (as of 2005): US\$72.47 billion

Exports to Japan: US\$24.08 billion

Imports from Japan: US\$48.39 billion

Trade Balance: US\$24.3 billion in deficit

Investments (Cumulative as of March 2006)

Japan's investment in Korea: US\$17.74 billion

Korea's investment in Japan: US\$1.58 billion

People-to-people exchanges (2005): 4,178,000 people

Number of Japanese visiting Korea: 2,439,000

Number of Koreans visiting Japan: 1,739,000

Number of ethnic Koreans living in Japan (as of 2005): 901,284

Permanent residents in general and special categories: 515,570

Naturalized citizens: 284,840

Long-term visitors: 82,666

Korean students in Japan: 18,208

Exchanges of Key Government Officials between Korea and Japan

Jan. 2002 Korean Foreign Minister Han Seung-soo visited Japan

Mar. 2002 Korean Foreign Minister Choi Sung-hong visited Japan

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi made an official visit to Korea

June 2002 Korean President Kim Dae-jung visited Japan

Jan. 2003 Japanese Foreign Minister Yoriko Kawaguchi visited Korea

Feb. 2003 Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi visited Korea

Mar. 2003 Korean Foreign Minister Yoon Young-kwan visited Japan

June 2003 Korean President Roh Moo-hyun made a state visit to Japan

Aug. 2003 Japanese Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visited Korea

Mar. 2004 Korean Foreign Minister Ban Ki-moon visited Japan

- May 2004 Japanese Foreign Minister Kawaguchi visited Korea
- July 2004 Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi made a working visit to Jeju Island, Korea
- Nov. 2004 Japanese Foreign Minister Nobutaka Machimura visited Korea
- Dec. 2004 Korean President Roh made a working visit to Ibusuki, Japan
- June 2005 Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi made a working visit to Korea
- Oct. 2005 Korean Foreign Minister Ban made an official visit to Japan
- Nov. 2005 Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi and Foreign Minister Taro Aso visited Korea on the occasion of the Busan APEC 2005
- Aug. 2006 Korean Foreign Minister Ban visited Japan

❖ Highlights of Japan-North Korea Relations

No diplomatic ties are established

- Sept. 2002 Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi visited North Korea for a summit with the North Korean leader Kim Jong-il
- Oct. 2002 The 12th Japan-North Korea talks on normalizing relations ended with no agreement and has not resumed since
- May 2004 Japanese Prime Minister Koizumi visited Pyongyang to hold the 2nd Japan-North Korea summit