

## SIKS SPRING SLECTURE SERIES PRESENTS:

## Korea-US Relations and North Korean Nuclear Issues

## The Honorable Jong-kook Lee

Consul General of the Republic of Korea in Chicago



Built on our comradeship in wartime, mutual trust, and shared values, South Korea has been a key ally of the US for over six decades. As the gravity of the ROK-US alliance keeps growing, there are still 28,000 US forces in South Korea as a deterrent to any possible North Korean military provocations and thus peace on the Korean peninsula.

Meanwhile the nuclear capabilities of North Korea are near to completion, threatening the security of the US and its allies in East Asia. President Trump has met the North Korean leader Kim Jong-un twice within a year, aiming to denuclearize North Korea through diplomacy. Critics challenge the sincerity of North Korea's intention to denuclearize based on slow progress and the approach of the US government.

Given the situation, a few questions could be raised regarding the ongoing nuclear negotiations, its ramification on security and the US interest on the Korean peninsula and beyond: Is North Korean denuclearization attainable? What role can South Korea play in the denuclearization process while South Korea tries to improve its ties with North Korea? Would the US-ROK alliance survive after the denuclearization deal?

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This event is sponsored by the Republic of Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs through the Consulate General of Korea in Chicago. The Institute for Korean Studies Lecture Series is supported by a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant to The Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center.