

The State Council of the Republic of Korea

대한민국국무회의 | 大韓民國國務會議

Welcome

Dear Delegates,

My name is Ju Li Khing, and I am the Chairperson of this committee. I am a senior concentrating in History and International Relations. I'm from Klang, Malaysia, but spent two years studying and travelling in China. I am very excited to be here today chairing this committee, and I look forward working with you in solving upcoming crises.

This guide is to serve as an introduction to the world of 2017. Because this committee is set in the future, it will be difficult to know what to expect without having all the background knowledge. No detail in this guide has been written without a purpose, so it is vital that you read the entire guide. A point that may appear to be very minute might become a central focus of the crisis.

While much of this guide might at first read like fiction, I assure you that all of it is rooted in hard facts. Your knowledge of the current global situation and international relations will be key in solving these crises. Included at the bottom of each page, you will find sources to learn more about points mentioned in this guide. These websites, articles, books, videos, and podcasts have been carefully chosen for you. You will notice that almost all the sources are dates from 2009 or 2010, some from only weeks earlier. These readings are not only extremely pertinent to our crisis, but will provide you with much knowledge on some of the most pressing issues in our world today. You will do well to read these additional sources and learn the material well.

As for the format of the committee, as a national cabinet, we will run mostly on a moderated caucus, with occasional unmoderated caucuses and speaker's lists, should the need arise. The committee opens at 19:00:00 on November 12, 2017. Every minute that passes in committee is equivalent to one minute in the crisis world. Due to the nature of the committee, U.N.-style resolutions will not be used. Instead, you have the option of three courses of action.

- 1) Press Release – used for national or international public communications

- 2) Diplomatic Communiqué – used for private, classified communication to another committee
- 3) Action Order – used for national actions, such as military deployments, economic sanctions, declarations of war, etc.

In this committee, it is not only important that you maintain the security of your country, and protect its national interests, but how your personal skills in negotiation and diplomacy achieve the committee's goals. But of course, the most important goal is for you to have fun. So I really hope you enjoy participating in this committee as much as we did putting it together. Please feel free to contact me at minicrisis.korea@busun.net, should you have any questions.

Best,
Ju Li Khing
minicrisis.korea@busun.net

Letter from the President

2017년11월12일

Dear State Council of the Republic of Korea,

We are all gathered here today in honor of the opening of the East Asian Friendship Railway tunnels and its inaugural commencement journey from Japan to China. This historically preceding collaboration started in 2012 as a milestone in the history of cooperative relations between the Koreans, China, and Japan. The ROK has worked extensively with China and Japan in order to make this railway a success, in spite of the various trials and tribulations that we have faced throughout the years.

The Uui 1 (우의) has begun its journey today in Tokyo, and is presently on its way to Seoul. Leaders from South Korea, China, and Japan, along with selected advisors, as well as independent and state-run media representatives, are enjoying the comforts of the railway for the first time. At this time, the train is passing through the Korea-Japan Undersea Tunnel. During the next 12 hours, it will make its way up north through the Korean Peninsula before reaching the Chinese mainland and making its final stop in Beijing.

The Friendship Railway and the Undersea Tunnel have both been in conception as collaborative projects between the three nations for

many years. All three states have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to the diplomatic cooperation of all sides for the benefit of the future.

The bullet train will be expected to complete its journey from Tokyo to Beijing in a mere twelve hours, making a few stops in major cities along the way. The Undersea Tunnel runs between South Korea and Japan across the Tsushima Strait, and, at 196km long, makes it the longest undersea tunnel in the world.

The Friendship Railway has greatly increased the cooperation between East Asian nations. The railway system has been designed and built with a collaboration of technical knowledge, labor input and funding from all three governments. The project has even made a breakthrough in diplomacy in the East Asian region in its negotiations with the North Korean government to allow the train's passage through its land, provided that the railway does not make any stops except to provide tax-free imports of some agricultural goods to its government.

Delegations consisting of high-level government officials from South Korea, China, and Japan are all meeting today to discuss possible future cooperation between the three nations in all sectors of society, including trade and humanitarian aid, with the increased opportunities brought by the Friendship Railway. We are here today to congratulate the efforts of all three nations, and to provide some optimistic insight into all that can be accomplished now that we have reached this new milestone.

Ju Li Khing | 강수려
President of the Republic of Korea

Recommended reading:

- Michael R. Robinson, *Korea's Twentieth Century Odyssey*
- Don Oberdorfer, *The Two Koreas : a contemporary history* (1997)
- The Chosun Ilbo
http://english.chosun.com/site/data/html_dir/2009/10/09/2009100900389.html
- Korea-Japan Undersea Tunnel Talks
<http://www.tunnelonline.info/story.asp?storyCode=61784§ioncode=1>
- Korea.net: www.korea.net
- The Official Korea Tourism Guide
<http://www.visitkorea.or.kr/intro.html>
- Statistics Korea: <http://www.kostat.go.kr>

Members of the Committee

- President of the Republic of Korea
- Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea
- Minister of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs
- Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Minister of Unification
- Minister of Justice
- Minister of Education, Science and Technology
- Minister of National Defense
- Minister of Strategy and Finance
- Minister for Food, Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
- Ambassador to Japan
- Ambassador to the People's Republic of China

The People's Republic of China

China has sustained its phenomenal economic growth since the end of last century. As a dominant economic power in the Asia-Pacific region, it has been crucial for China to maintain coherent diplomatic and trade relations with its neighbors. Following the successes of the 2008 Beijing Olympics and the 2010 World Expo hosted in Shanghai, China has proven itself to have a viable and efficient economy, and great potential for further investment and development. Nanjing is currently preparing to host the 2022 East Asian Games.

One major achievement in China's economic development with regards to the international community is increased cooperation in agricultural technology between China and its neighbors. The Chinese government has reported positively on the improvement of living and education standards and a higher degree of upwards mobility for rural communities. With the initiation of direct foreign investment in rural areas in China, the environment of the countryside has been changing. The diplomatic relationship between mainland China and Taiwan, in particular, has benefited greatly from this technological exchange,¹ and joint government level organizations have proven to be viable and effective.²

Apart from these progressive economic developments, however, the fundamental aspects of Chinese governance have remained virtually

¹ http://news.xinhuanet.com/english/2009-12/22/content_12687817.htm

² These include Association for Relations Across the Taiwan Straits (ARATS) and Taiwan Straits Exchange Foundation (SEF). More information at www.sef.org.tw

unchanged since the end of last century. Hong Kong and Macau have maintained the "One Country, Two Systems" with their continued status as Special Administrative Regions. The Chinese government has repeatedly rejected lobbies from these populations for a more democratic system,³ insisting that making governing changes before the current political administration system ends in 2047 would lead to negative effects and social unrest.

In 2014, the northern European countries of Norway, Finland, and Sweden imposed a boycott on Chinese-produced goods in protest of the Chinese government's re-imprisonment of three key members of the 1980s democracy movement.⁴ All three scholars had been living in the United States after being released from their initial prison sentences in 2001, and had returned to China to attend funeral services for family members. The Chinese government faced extensive criticism from the international community as both NGOs and the heads of state of the United States, Canada, and South Africa, among those of other states, called for the immediate release of the prisoners. They have since been released, but the events are said by scholars and NGOs to highlight the continued, and still unrelenting, iron grip of the Chinese government.

Japan

While the rest of Asia has experienced amazing growth in the past two decades, Japan's economy has remained completely stagnant. Following the Bubble Burst and economic crash in 1989,⁵ Japan's economy has seen absolutely no signs of improving. The poor economic situation has created a host of social problems. While a rising suicide rate can be expected, homicide and mental illness, two issues

almost unheard of in 1980s Japan, have risen to unbelievable levels.

Now nearing the end of its third decade of economic stagnation, almost all people now place blame in the Bank of Japan. Considered one of the most conservative banks in the world, its failure to make the drastic reforms necessary have left the country in 2017 looking almost identical to itself in 1989.

While each new administration has promised economic reforms, each has failed to deliver, mired down by partisan politics.⁶ Now, a new movement, inspired by the Meiji Restoration of 1868, and the undeniable efficiency of the one-party system in China,⁷ believes that the only way to overcome the failed political system is to reinstate the Emperor and have one wise, decisive ruler for Japan. In turn, the Royal Family, formerly mere figureheads, have become increasingly vocal in the politics of the country.

Japan has made some strides, however, in foreign relations. Most Asian nations still bear some grudges to Japan's actions during World War II, and its unwillingness to make amends; however, on several surprising moves in recent years, the Japanese government has finally taken steps to address these issues and make amends. Most notable of these events involves the uninhabited Liancourt Rocks, which both South Korea and Japan have claims to, but which is de facto under the control of the South Korean military. Last year, Japan unilaterally initiated talks to officially clarify the borders in favor of South Korea's claim.

Following the uncontrolled appreciation of the yen in the first years of the 2010s,⁸ Japanese exports have suffered greatly at the hands of

³ For background information and analysis of the One Country, Two Systems in Hong Kong, see

http://www.brookings.edu/fp/cnaps/papers/yeungwp_01.pdf

⁴ On China's history with political dissidents and their treatment, see <http://www.usasialaw.org/?p=3939>

⁵ For more information about Japan's bubble economy and economic crash, see Shiratsuka, Shigenori. "Asset Price Bubble in Japan in the 1980s: Lessons for Financial and Macroeconomic Stability." Dec. 2003. Web.

<http://www.imes.boj.or.jp/english/publication/edps/2003/03-E-15.pdf>. And,

Stern, Robert Mitchell, and Gary R. . Saxonhouse. *Japan's Lost Decade Origins, Consequences and Prospects for Recovery*. Oxford: Blackwell, 2004. Print.

⁶ On Japanese citizens' dissatisfaction with the government: Martin, Alex. "Historic Sea Change at Polls Product of Frustrated Public." *The Japan Times*. 30 Aug. 2009. Web. <http://search.japantimes.co.jp/cgi-bin/nn20090830x3.html>.

⁷ More information on the Communist Party of China: Bajoria, Jayshree. "The Communist Party of China." *Council on Foreign Relations*. 12 Oct. 2007. Web. http://www.cfr.org/publication/14482/communist_party_of_china.html.

⁸ Great sources about the rapid Yen appreciation can be found at: Johnson, Karen. "Japan's Move to Curb Yen Falls Short." *The Wall Street Journal*. 31 Aug. 2010. Web. <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748703369704575460861918648640.html>. And, Koll, Jesper. "Jesper Koll: The Rising Yen Is Sinking Japan." *The Wall Street Journal*. 19 Nov. 2009. Web. <http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704204304574545031142579474.html>.

cheaper, high-quality Korean and Chinese products. Even traditional powerhouses of the Japanese economy like the automotive and animation industries, are now trailing behind their East Asian competitors. Though the Japanese government continues to emphasize the political significance behind the new East Asian Friendship Railway, the media is calling it a clear, desperate attempt by Japanese officials to make Japanese exports more attractive to the global market. While the project will certainly make trade much easier for the island nation, most experts agree that the opening of the Railway will only make it easier for Chinese, Korean, and other foreign products to flood the Japanese domestic market, leaving Japan further behind in this economic race.

The Republic of Korea

Given the turbulent history of relations between the ROK and DPRK, which includes the sinking of the ROKS Cheonan in March 2010,⁹ the East Asian Friendship Railway signifies an attempt at positive relations between the two Koreas. Tensions from the Cheonan incident are still present today, and annual memorials call for a formal apology and compensation from North Korea. South Korean government officials expressed their hope that the success of this project will begin a process of reconciliation between the two countries; however, the food donations to North Korea, which were stopped in 2011 in response to the Cheonan incident, have yet to be restarted.

Domestically, the political situation in South Korea has stabilized since the peaceful transition of leadership to Kim Dae Jung in 1997, and is increasingly being referred to globally as an example of a true and vibrant democracy.¹⁰

However, little has changed since then; the military remains an integral part of governance, and the people of South Korea remain as vocal as ever in expressing concern about issues of national significance.

The Korean Demilitarized Zone, one the last remaining symbols of the Cold War, had also been one of the most heavily mined areas in the world.

⁹ For more information about the incident:

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/8589507.stm>

¹⁰ An overview of the liberalization and democratization of South Korea can be found at this site, using the right sidebar to navigate:

http://www.servinghistory.com/topics/Liberalism_in_South_Korea::su_b::Introduction

Despite numerous discussions of demining, by the end of the previous decade, only a few small military bases were being demined in the South.¹¹ But now, with the rapid advancement of remote-controlled demining robots, South Korea has been demining the area at a rapid pace, starting with the Civilian Control Zone, moving on to the DMZ proper. No similar action has been observed on the Northern side.

Economically, South Korea was the first OECD country to recover from the 2008 global recession, and since then, has boasted annual growth rates of 6 percent or higher.¹² However, the unemployment rate has increased, especially among university graduates. As part of the recovery process from the global recession, companies in South Korea favored the rehiring of previous employees over recent graduates. Despite all this, the standard of living in South Korea has continued to grow, with the poverty rate at less than 0.2%. Strengthening trade ties between South Korea and China ensure the constant flow of foreign investment, which has helped bolster the effects of the recession. With Japan, however, political relations remain tense, though cultural exchanges between South Korea and Japan are increasing.

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea

North Korea remains shrouded in a cloud of mystery, perhaps more so now than ever before. Prior to the coverage of its involvement in the East Asian Friendship Railway, almost nothing had been heard of from the country for nearly 5 years.

After the death of Kim Jong-Il and Kim Jong-un in a car accident in 2012, his second son Kim Jong-chul took over as the President of North Korea. Like his father and grandfather, Kim Jong-chul still continues to encourage and preach the *juche* philosophy.¹³ As head of North Korea, Kim Jong-chul started to pay special attention to

¹¹ For information about landmines in the DMZ:

http://www.the-monitor.org/custom/index.php/region_profiles/print_theme/266

For more information about demining robots, see:

http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_qa5438/is_200805/ai_n25501901/

¹² "Korea's Leading Economic Growth among OECD Countries." *KBS World*. 20 Aug. 2010. Web.

<http://world.kbs.co.kr/english/news/news_commentary_detail.htm?No=19567>.

¹³ Kim, Jong-il. *On the Juche Idea*. 31 March 1982.

technological advancement in North Korea. It is widely believed that this is the main reason behind his agreeing to allow the Friendship Railway to pass through North Korea. In addition, Kim has also started cooperative initiatives with other countries such as Indonesia, where groups of North Korean specialists are sent for additional education in order to improve the standard of living in North Korea.

In 2013, North Korea signed a friendship pact with ASEAN, which made way for annual shipments of food to North Korea. This is believed to be the major reason behind the alleviation of the 2012 famine, though officials have declined comment on this issue. Countries such as the United States have spoken up against this move, asserting that it encourages other North Korean policies that are frowned upon in international politics.

Since 1998, the number of North Korean defectors in South Korea has increased dramatically, due partly to the lack of money and resources to maintain the North Korean border control, but mostly due to the same lack of resources making border guards more inclined to be bribed by defectors. A recent census in January 2017 cited the total number of North Korean defectors living in South Korea at approximately 25,000. By 2014, the South Korean government had built five more resettlement camps for defectors, though the living allowance for defectors has been further reduced from ₩10,000,000 to ₩8,000,000 per month, but with guaranteed employment. This move has had mixed reactions from both North Korean defectors and South Koreans.¹⁴

The World in 2017

The United States and the Middle East

The territories of the United States and the Middle East are becoming more and more difficult to separate. What are commonly referred to as the "American Colonies" or the "Colonies" by the media, includes the vast region spanning from Israel to Iraq, Iran, Afghanistan, and the entire Arabian Peninsula.¹⁵

¹⁴ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/North_korean_defectors#In_South_Korea

¹⁵ On the America's Middle Eastern "Colonies" Pitts, Chip. "The Election on Empire." *The National Interest*. 8 Nov.

The final conflict troops withdrew from Afghanistan in 2016,¹⁶ officially ending the 15-year war. However, the United States still maintains two key military bases in the country and has numerous military advisors left in the country to "assist" the Afghani government.

While the Iraqi society has remained somewhat calm, attempts by the anti-U.S. Green Party to compete in elections has seen repeated failures despite all polls and analyses suggesting huge wins. Claims of election rigging and manipulation by the U.S. government have led to widespread protest, in some cases violent.

Iran's 2012 Revolution has led to almost 5 years of near anarchy.¹⁷ With no substantial proof, most analysts agree that the revolution had heavy assistance from the U.S. government. Rolling blackouts and limited access to water are still ubiquitous throughout the "Colonies." The only truly stable and modernized infrastructures are those of the oil and petroleum producing industries. Allegedly unrelated to this are the plummeting gas prices in the United States, far below those just prior to the U.S.'s 2003 invasion of Iraq.¹⁸

The United States itself has gone through some rather drastic changes as well. The second term of President Obama was marked by a distinctly different tone from his first. With all forecasts indicating that China's GDP will surpass the U.S.'s within the next decade,¹⁹ the United States has increasingly turned to military means in order to assert its global dominance.²⁰ Other than in fact, the Obama administration's interference in foreign governments and foreign nations did not differ significantly from the previous Bush administration's

2006. Web. <<http://nationalinterest.org/commentary/the-election-on-empire-1280>>. And,

¹⁶ Colvin, Ross. "U.S. Will Be out of Afghanistan by 2017." *Reuters*. 25 Nov. 2009. Web.

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE5AM3E520091125>>.

¹⁷ This CNN video explains the social unrest in Iran: *2010 Iranian Revolution*. YouTube. CNN, 11 Feb. 2010. Web.

<<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RhK8qdsSjLQ&feature=related>>.

¹⁸ A good clarifying explanation of gas prices can be found here: Bonsor, Kevin, and Ed Grabianowski. "How Gas Prices Work." *Howstuffworks*. Web. <<http://auto.howstuffworks.com/fuel-efficiency/fuel-consumption/gas-price.htm>>.

¹⁹ Oliver, Chris. "China's GDP to Overtake U.S. by Early 2020s." *MarketWatch*. 3 Apr. 2009. Web.

<<http://www.marketwatch.com/story/chinas-gdp-overtake-us-early>>.

²⁰ On the New "American Empire" Johnson, Chalmers. "America's Empire of Bases." *Common Dreams*. 15 Jan. 2004. Web.

<<http://www.commondreams.org/views04/0115-08.htm>>.

policies. Yet this time, U.S. public support of its government's actions has remained high.

Europe

The 2012 London Olympics marked the final occasion that European countries would come together in economic and social cooperation. Starting with the collapse of the Icelandic economy in 2009,²¹ and the Greek in 2010,²² one such case has occurred almost every year, resulting in significant strains on wealthier European nations to bail them out. The astronomical costs of saving these small European nations had prevented the larger countries from themselves recovering from the economic crises at the end of the previous decade.

As a result, starting in 2013, the wealthier European nations began formally withdrawing from the European Union, including three of the original founder nations: France, Italy, and Germany.²³ Today, only the Eastern European and Scandinavian members remain, leading nearly all experts to deem the social and economic experiment of the EU a failure.²⁴

Following the break-up of the European Union, huge debts were still owed between various European nations. What began as verbal battles between governments seeking repayment and governments of debtor nations, has in some cases evolved into economic warfare. Though analysts predict military conflict to still be far away, the future of the continent remains unclear.

²¹ Information on the Icelandic Financial Crisis: Danielsson, Jon. "BBC NEWS | Business | Why Raising Interest Rates Won't Work." *BBC News*. 28 Oct. 2008. Web. <<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/business/7658908.stm>>.

²² A detailed explanation of the Greek financial crisis: "Q&A: Greece's Financial Crisis Explained." *CNN.com*. 26 Mar. 2010. Web. <<http://www.cnn.com/2010/BUSINESS/02/10/greek.debt.qanda/index.html>>.

²³ Background on the European Union: "European Union." *The World Factbook - Central Intelligence Agency*. 19 Aug. 2010. Web. <<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/ee.html>>.

²⁴ This podcast discusses the possibilities of a failure of the European Union: *Eurozone in Crisis: Reform or Exit?* Backdoor Broadcasting Company. The Birbeck Institute for the Humanities, 2 June 2010. Web. <<http://backdoorbroadcasting.net/2010/06/eurozone-in-crisis-reform-or-exit/>>.

Russia

Once a superpower rival of the United States, Russia today is a frozen shell of its former self. With Russia's oil reserves near depletion, the government has been seeking alternative industries to keep its economy running. However, with unemployment at record highs, most Russians feel that the government is not doing enough to stimulate these alternative industries.²⁵ Now that approval levels have sunk to threatening levels, the Russian government has resorted to nationalistic propaganda campaigns comparable to those seen during the Soviet Era.²⁶

One of the greatest issues of contention is Russia's exclusion from the new East Asian Friendship Railway built by China, South Korea, and Japan. The Russian government's failure to negotiate the building of a connection to the Trans-Siberian railway has denied Russia potentially billions of dollars worth of income. This comes at a time when weakened economies and political instability in Europe has already greatly slowed the commerce passing through Russia to the Far East. In the face of a weakening federal government, several of the Siberian republics and kraia have threatened secession. While the federal government continues its campaigns of nationalist propaganda, rising tensions might soon require stronger actions from Moscow.

The BASIC Countries (The G4)

Formerly known as the BRIC countries, Russia has since been replaced by South Africa in this bloc of the four largest, developing economies in the world, which also includes Brazil, India, and China.

China's entrance onto the world stage as a major player occurred during the Beijing Olympic Games in 2008, and continued with the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai. The South African World Cup in 2010 was a great milestone not just for the BASIC

²⁵ News article on Russia's attempt to expand beyond oil: Rozhnov, Konstantin. "Russia Looks beyond Its Oil Reserves." *BBC News*. 20 May 2010. Web. konstantin. <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/10132247>>.

²⁶ Two articles about Russia's return to Soviet-style nationalist propaganda can be found here: Osborn, Andrew. "Josef Stalin 'returns' to Moscow Metro." *Telegraph.co.uk*. 5 Sept. 2009. Web. <<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/news/worldnews/europe/russia/6140394/Josef-Stalin-returns-to-Moscow-metro.html>>. And here: "National Anthem of Russia." *Wikipedia*. Web. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/National_Anthem_of_Russia>.

countries, but all countries of the developing world. In 2013, India conducted its second lunar exploration mission,²⁷ two years after the United States formally retired the space shuttle program.²⁸ Brazil continued the forward march of the BASIC nations by hosting the 2014 Brazilian World Cup and the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro, with both being praised as marvelous feats.²⁹ In 2017, it seems the BASIC nations are truly poised to topple the antiquated G7.^{30 31}

The Developing World (The G77³²)

Despite the amazing achievements of the BASIC countries, progress has been slow for the rest of the developing world. In fact, the gap between the rich and the poor continue to grow. What was once referred to as the Bottom Billion³³ is now being described as the Bottom 1.2 Billion or Bottom 1.3 Billion. While most of these people suffer in silence, these weakened nations also act as havens for terrorists. With most of the Middle East under the direct or indirect control of the United States, Africa and South Asia have become the new regions of greatest threats to global security and disrupting of the international system.³⁴

²⁷ "Chandrayaan - II." *Isro.U.s.* 2010. Web. <<http://isro.us/chandrayaan-2.html>>.

²⁸ Malik, Tariq. "NASA Delays Space Shuttle Program's End to 2011." *Space.com*. 1 July 2010. Web. <<http://www.space.com/missionlaunches/nasa-delays-shuttle-program-end-2011-100701.html>>.

²⁹ To learn more about these events, you can visit the following websites.

<http://en.beijing2008.cn/>

<http://en.expo2010.cn/>

<http://www.sa2010.gov.za/>

<http://www.fifa.com/worldcup/brazil2014/index.html>

<http://www.rio2016.org.br/en/>

³⁰ For a basic background on the G7/G8, read: "Profile: G8." *BBC News*. 26 June 2010. Web.

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country_profiles/3777557.stm>.

³¹ For information about the G4's surpassing the G7, read: Foroohar, Rana. "BRICs Overtake G7 By 2027." *Newsweek*. 21 Mar. 2009. Web. <<http://www.newsweek.com/2009/03/20/power-up.html>>.

³² For a brief background about the G77, see: "About the Group of 77." *The Group of 77*. Web. <<http://www.g77.org/doc/>>.

³³ This book coined the term "Bottom Billion" and goes into great details about the current situation: Collier, Paul. *The Bottom Billion: Why the Poorest Countries Are Failing and What Can Be Done about It*. Oxford: Oxford UP, 2007. Print.

³⁴ A great paper about the relationship between weak and failing states, poverty, and terrorism: Patrick, Stewart. "Weak States and Global Threats: Fact or Fiction?" Spring 2006. Web. <www.twq.com/06spring/docs/06spring_patrick.pdf>.

Science and Technology

Science and technology have made great leaps in this decade. One of the greatest symbols of this leap into the future is the opening of the first commercial spaceport in 2011.³⁵ Medicine has made some of the greatest advances. Following the cure for end-stage macular degeneration in 2010,³⁶ a slew of inventions appeared, including laser medical equipment, and portable handheld autopsy units.

Other Notable Milestones

Global Oil Demand has now exceeded 100 million barrels per day.³⁷

Due to humanity's impact on the environment, the Aral Sea, once the fourth largest lake in the world, has completely evaporated.³⁸

³⁵ You can find more information about the future of space tourism here:

Gaynor, Tim. "New Mexico Breaks Ground on Commercial Spaceport." *Reuters.com*. 19 June 2009. Web.

<<http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSTRE55I5NK20090619>>. And here,

David, Leonard. "Virgin Galactic Partners With New Mexico On Spaceport." *Space.com*. 14 Dec. 2005. Web. 201.

<http://www.space.com/news/051214_spaceport_newmexico.html>.

³⁶ "News on Macular Degeneration." *AllAboutVision.com*. Aug. 2010. Web. <http://www.allaboutvision.com/conditions/amd_news.htm>.

³⁷ A great resource about the global oil reserves and their futures: Savinar, Matt. "Life After the Oil Crash." *Peak Oil*. Web.

<<http://www.lifeaftertheoilcrash.net/>>.

³⁸ Detailed text and imagery about the devastating effects on modern society on the Aral Sea.

"The Aral Sea." *Earth from Space*. Aug. 1997. Web.

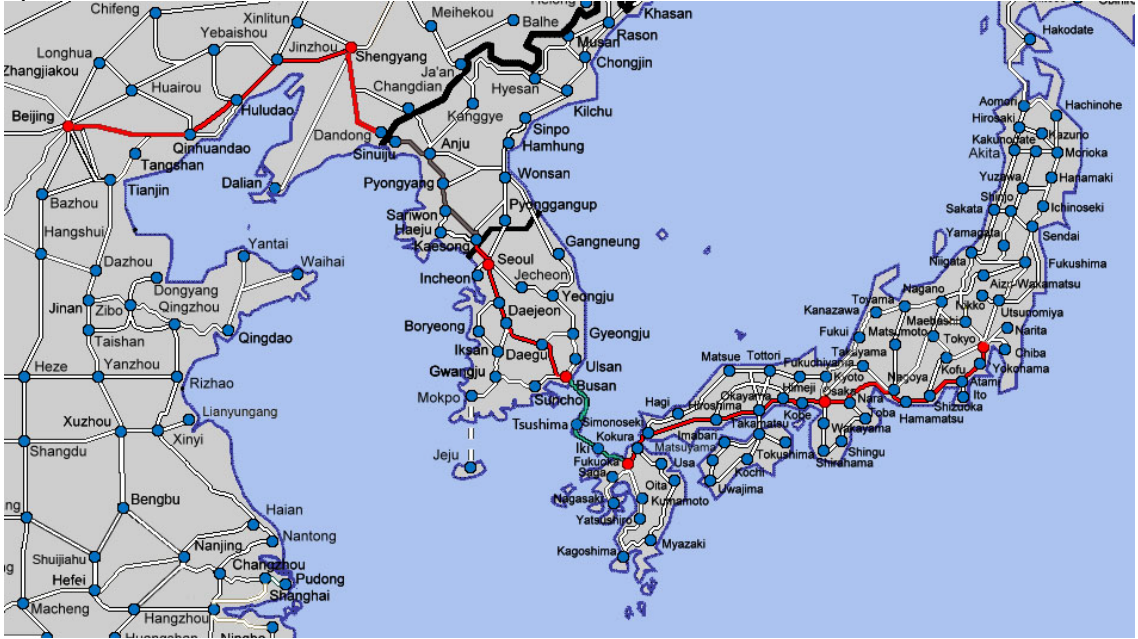
<<http://eol.jsc.nasa.gov/sseop/EFS/photoinfo.pl?PHOTO=STS085-503-119>>.

Appendix A: Maps and Illustrations

East Asia:



Railway Map:



Japan-Korea Undersea Tunnel Route:



Tunnel Detail:

