

Strategic Partnerships and US-China Rivalry: Opportunities and Challenges for the Republic of Korea

Virtual roundtable: China's role as a regional partner for the ROK (Zoom)

This virtual roundtable has been co-convened by Chatham House, the Korea Foundation, and Yeosijae Future Consensus Institute. This roundtable will examine how the Republic of Korea is balancing its traditional close alliance partnership with the United States with the economic, political and social factors that make China a growing focal point for South Korea's national interest.

Thursday 29 October (1 hr 30 mins)

11:20-11:30 (GMT)	Participants sign-in to Zoom
11:30-11:35	Welcome remarks <i>John Nilsson-Wright</i> , Korea Foundation Korea Chair, Asia-Pacific Programme, Chatham House <i>Yu Jie</i> , Senior Research Fellow on China, Asia-Pacific Programme, Chatham House
11:35-11:40	Presentation: US-China relations <i>Yu Jie</i>
11:40-12:15	Discussion
12:15-12:20	Presentation: The view from the Republic of Korea <i>John Nilsson-Wright</i>
12:20-12:55	Discussion
12:55-13:00	Closing remarks <i>John Nilsson-Wright</i> <i>Yu Jie</i>

Discussion points

- What is China's role in the denuclearisation process on the Korean peninsula?
- With the Trump administration apparently willing to consider troop re-deployments from the peninsula and increasingly pressuring South Korea to assume a substantively increased share of host-nation support, how might the Moon administration respond and what implications might this have for security relations between China and South Korea?
- How does the China-South Korea-Japan trilateral element come into play?

- How will the outcome of the November Presidential elections affect US relations with China and the ROK?
- What are the implications for the ROK's relations with both China and the US should Kim Jong-un's health deteriorate?
- How should Korean peninsula issues be handled while US-China relations are intensifying?
 - Is Beijing a support or a hinderance in Seoul's ability to resolve the nuclear crisis with the DPRK and broker a lasting peace agreement with the DPRK?
 - How will the next US administration develop its policy toward North Korea?
- What should be Seoul's regional strategy amid US-China competition?
 - Are there new minilateral or multilateral security partnerships that Seoul can turn to as a means of compensating for any diminution in US strategic support for the ROK?
 - In what direction should Korea-China-Japan cooperation and Korea-Japan cooperation be pursued in the US-China rivalry?