



NEW
SOUTHERN
POLICY+

NEW SOUTHERN POLICY PLUS



A COMMUNITY FOR PEOPLE, PEACE AND PROSPERITY



PRESIDENTIAL
COMMITTEE ON
**NEW SOUTHERN
POLICY**

The purpose of this document is to present to partner countries the New Southern Policy Plus announced by President Moon Jae-in on November 12, 2020. This document is presented by the Presidential Committee on the New Southern Policy. Established in 2018, the Committee is entrusted with playing a leading role in the formulation and implementation of the New Southern Policy.

NEW SOUTHERN POLICY

The Korean Government will resolutely pursue its New Southern Policy to dramatically enhance the ties of cooperation with ASEAN. It is my hope that the New Southern Policy will nurture a community for the people that connects people to people and minds to minds; a community of peace that can contribute to peace throughout Asia; and a community of shared prosperity in which ASEAN countries thrive together through mutually beneficial economic cooperation.

문재인

President Moon Jae-in,
Keynote Speech at the Korea-Indonesia Business Forum in Jakarta
November 9, 2017

NEW SOUTHERN POLICY PLUS

“New Southern Policy Plus” is announced by the President in November 2020. This is an upgrade version of the New Southern Policy reflecting changes in the current demand and environment from a longer-term perspective during the pandemic.

In particular, we hope to discover concrete cooperation projects in various fields such as infrastructure, healthcare, industrial complexes, and cultural exchanges. Korea is also ready to discuss cooperation on 5G, startup and response to GVC reorganization.

Chairman of the Presidential Committee
on New Southern Policy,
Bok-Young Park

I. New Southern Policy and its Beginning

In light of the geopolitical situation surrounding the Korean Peninsula, the United States, China, Japan and Russia have traditionally been important partners for the diplomacy of the Republic of Korea. At the same time, however, the ROK has strived to deepen diplomatic ties with neighboring countries in the broader region to nurture a community of mutual cooperation anchored in shared values. As part of such efforts, in the first year of his term, President Moon has introduced the New Southern Policy (hereinafter, the NSP), a comprehensive approach that aims to strengthen mutually beneficial cooperation with all 10 ASEAN member countries and India.

ASEAN and India have historically been, and still are, important partners to Korea. The NSP partners are located along an important sea route connecting the ROK and Eurasia, imbuing it with even greater geopolitical significance. With the NSP partners achieving rapid economic growth, the ROK's economic ties with them have grown stronger ever in terms of investment and trade volume. Moreover, its higher international status and greater strategic importance makes the NSP region an attractive friend to not only the ROK but also the rest of the world.

All in all, the NSP is the ROK's new policy that seeks to reinforce cooperation with ASEAN and India in a whole range of fields spanning the diplomatic, economic and cultural realms.

II. New Southern Policy and its Achievements

It was on November 9, 2017 that President Moon publicly announced the NSP for the first time during his visit to Indonesia. President Moon articulated his will to develop the ASEAN-ROK ties to a level comparable to that of the ROK's relationship with the United States, China, Japan, and Russia. Moreover, on July 10, 2018, President Moon and Prime Minister Modi adopted the Shared Vision for People, Prosperity, Peace and the Future during the India-ROK Summit as part of efforts to develop mid-to-long term bonds between the two countries.



INDIA-ROK Summit, Press Conference (2019)

The NSP presents a detailed plan centered around the '3Ps' of People, Peace and Prosperity, and the vision of achieving a 'People-centered Community of Peace and Prosperity' in the NSP region. The first pillar, 'People', seeks to expand mutual interests through safer, better lives and greater interaction. The aim is to create a community which upholds human dignity through human resource development grounded in mutual interests. The second pillar, 'Peace', represents the hope to foster a community where all are free from fear or threat. To this end, the ROK seeks to advance shared values and further cooperation in non-traditional security. The

third pillar, 'Prosperity', represents the goal of creating mutually beneficial and future-oriented economic cooperation. By expanding trade and investment and sharing its development know-how and experience, the ROK will contribute to achieving sustainable growth of NSP partners and creating a resilient regional value chain.

In order to lay the groundwork to realize the above goals, the ROK government established the Presidential Committee on the New Southern Policy in 2018. And for the last three years, various cooperative programs have been introduced and implemented. Moreover, President Moon has demonstrated the importance he attaches to the NSP countries through his visits to all ASEAN member countries and two summit meetings with India. In 2019, the ROK successfully hosted the ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit and launched the 1st Mekong-ROK Summit. Thanks to these efforts, the NSP has established itself as a recognized and valued policy in the NSP region and beyond.



2019 ASEAN-ROK Commemorative Summit (2019)

With the support of the ROK government in the pursuit of the NSP, economic ties and people-to-people exchanges have increased to an unprecedented level. The NSP region became the most visited destination among Korean nationals in 2019. The number of visitors between the two sides increased by more than 50% compared to 2016 and the number reached a total of 13.5 million in 2019. There is a growing mutual interest among the respective peoples of the region, with the greater appreciation of Korean culture and language being clear instances of this. Increased cultural and people-to-people exchanges will serve as solid diplomatic assets for the nurturing of mutual understanding and goodwill. The trade and investment volume between the ROK and the NSP region have seen a considerable jump. In three years since 2016, the mutual trade has increased from 135 billion to 160 billion dollars, and the ROK's investment to the NSP region from 5.7 billion to 10 billion dollars, making ASEAN the second largest trading partner of the ROK.

III. New Southern Policy and its Evolution: New Southern Policy Plus

“ The battles each and every country has been fighting this year have clearly demonstrated that the crisis cannot be overcome by a single country alone, or without considering their neighbors. Strengthening inclusiveness in international cooperation means leaving no one behind and achieving shared prosperity where everyone enjoys freedom. Domestically, it is reducing inequalities to ensure the safety of one's own and sustainable development together with neighbors. Internationally, it is taking into account the conditions and circumstances neighboring countries are placed in while working with them to attain co-prosperity. Nothing is more important than the life and safety of humanity. ”

President Moon Jae-in,
75th United Nations General Assembly Keynote Speech
September 23, 2020

Currently, the world is experiencing a new wave of challenges. The first is the global spread of COVID-19. The coronavirus pandemic awakened the world to how closely interconnected the world is. The outbreak of an infectious disease in one country is causing detrimental impact to the rest of the world. The novel coronavirus crisis has paradoxically reminded the world how desperately we need international coordination in order to effectively respond to infectious diseases and build strong public health system. With this renewed awareness, there is a pressing need for the ROK and the NSP countries to increase collaborative endeavors in epidemic response and public health.

The second challenge is rising nationalism and protectionism around the globe. A set of international norms that have so far underpinned the world order are shifting, and openness and multilateralism in economic arena is being threatened. The neatly sewn global supply chain is on the brink of severance. The ROK and the NSP countries achieved economic growth based on an open and multilateral trade order, which gives the very reason to respond to these threats jointly.

The third one is the digital transformation expedited by COVID-19. The infectious disease has changed our way of life: we work from home and

take online classes. There is no aspect of society that is not affected by digitalization. In particular, the new industries leading the Fourth Industrial Revolution – Artificial Intelligence, Platform Economy, Big Data, and Bio – are expanding rapidly. As how quickly a state responds to this phenomenon is likely to determine the country’s future competitiveness, the ROK and the NSP countries should stand and work together to meet this challenge.

The fourth challenge is the increasing importance of non-traditional security. The international community is faced with complex non-traditional challenges that transcend national borders – not only infectious diseases such as COVID-19 but also climate change, natural disasters, and marine pollution. By strengthening cooperation in traditional security as well as newly emerging non-security areas, the ROK is willing to contribute to making the region peaceful and secure.

The ROK believes that it is our job to stop these challenges from creating greater division, intensifying tension, and increasing economic uncertainties. To this end, in the spirit of international cooperation and solidarity, the ROK and the NSP countries must jointly triumph over the global health crisis the world facing and turn this crisis into an opportunity to further reinforce economic and diplomatic solidarity. The ROK and the NSP partners can reenact what all have done together back in the late 1990s when we morphed the 1997 Asian Financial Crisis into an ASEAN+3 cooperative platform.

It was based on this strong belief in the power of international cooperation and solidarity that the NSP was reborn as the NSP Plus. The ROK believes that the foundation of the NSP constitutes the shared values and principles the NSP partners also uphold. The ROK and the NSP partners

place an emphasis on open society over closed one, a rules-based order over ‘might makes right’, inclusiveness over exclusion, and cooperation over competition. In particular, the ROK supports what NSP partners are pursuing and will continue to remain in harmony with it. The ROK supports the building of an ASEAN community grounded in ASEAN Centrality and also advocates a greater role for India in the international community.

While continuing to respect what has been agreed with the NSP partners, the ROK will double down on the following ‘7 NSP Plus Initiatives’ with the view to realizing the vision of building a community of peace and prosperity.

The fundamental objective of the NSP Plus is to systematically translate the ‘People-centered Community of Peace and Prosperity’ into a living reality. The ROK will continue to embrace common values such as democracy, human rights, and the market economy whilst taking into consideration how to ensure that these are well in tune with the political direction of ASEAN nations and India. In doing so, the ROK will place high priority on the value of ‘people-centrism’ and further develop a mutually beneficial and future-oriented relationship with our NSP partners.

The NSP Plus shall embrace the following principles in order to accomplish the goals outlined above.

The first principle is people-centrism. The ROK will ensure that cooperative programs under the initiative will produce tangible fruits for the NSP partner countries and their people. When the people of both the ROK and the NSP region enjoy the benefits of peace and prosperity, this will in turn be conducive to peace and prosperity in each country.

The second principle is reciprocity. The ROK will not seek our own interests, and rather collaborate with the NSP partners to identify mutually benefits. In this way, the ROK will work for the realization of our shared goal of peace and prosperity, achieving a harmony with the ‘ASEAN Comprehensive Recovery Framework’ and India’s ‘Act East Policy’.

The third principle is a strategy of choosing areas of concentration. In order to help the NSP partners more clearly understand what the NSP is seeking to achieve, the ROK will discover and undertake various programs for shared endeavors under the framework of the 7 NSP Plus Initiatives. Through these efforts, the ROK aims to achieve tangible results of cooperation in a gradual but effective manner.

The fourth is the principle of openness. The ROK will actively work with the international community for peace and prosperity of the NSP region. Together with the NSP partners, the ROK will continue to explore areas in which the two sides can work together to the benefit of the international community. The NSP Plus will also seek to identify ways in which similar policy objectives of other nations in the world(or outside the NSP region) may be reflected in forms of cooperation. The ROK seeks to maximize the outcomes from the NSP collaborative endeavors.

The fifth is the principle of continuity. In order to secure a consistent and sustainable implementation of the NSP, the Korean government consolidated the necessary institutional foundation and will continue to faithfully implement what had been agreed upon on various occasions including summit meetings. The ROK will ensure that cooperation with the NSP region will continue to live on beyond the President Moon administration.



IV.7 Initiatives of New Southern Policy Plus

“ This is a meaningful year that marks the 10th anniversary of the strategic partnership between ASEAN and Korea. Korea has devised the New Southern Policy Plus, based on our assessment that the vision and outcome of the NSP has benefited both ASEAN and Korea. The impact of COVID-19 varies from country to country, and no country can let its guard down until treatments and vaccines are developed and distributed to all countries. However, with the cooperation between ASEAN and Korea, we will be able to preemptively respond to the COVID-19 crisis and its entailing socio-economic changes.

The ‘New Southern Policy Plus’ embodies seven initiatives for cooperation including ‘comprehensive public health cooperation’ as well as detailed and specific plans for their actual implementation. It will signal ASEAN taking a leading role in shaping the ‘post COVID-19 era’ and taking us closer to the fostering of a ‘People-Centered Community of Peace and Prosperity’ as a clear reality. The New Southern Policy lays out fresh, feasible initiatives centered on seven initiatives of cooperation including comprehensive healthcare cooperation.

With this strategy, we will be able to take the lead in the post COVID-19 era and realize the vision of a people-centered community of peace and prosperity faster. ”

President Moon Jae-in,
21st ASEAN-ROK Summit
November 12, 2020

1. Comprehensive public health cooperation in post-covid era

ASEAN, India and the ROK, exerting utmost efforts, have well managed the COVID-19 situation and, in particular, the ROK has provided emergency public health assistance to the NSP region drawing on its experience in implementing early preventive measures. On the path ahead, the ROK will continue to share its COVID-19 experience and know-how, and provide valuable assistance to the NSP countries.



Hand-over of medical equipments , Myanmar (2020)

In addition, the ROK is participating in the global efforts to ensure that all countries benefit equally from the COVID-19 vaccines as public goods. The ROK pledged to contribute 10 million USD to the COVAX AMC in order to ensure that the NSP region and other developing countries have equitable access to vaccines.

The ROK is also currently exploring additional measures for uniting in our efforts beyond COVID-19. The ROK plans to engage in joint endeavors to strengthen public health capacities of the NSP region such as improving the region’s universal healthcare and hospitals, strengthening the capacity to respond to epidemics, and providing training



COVID-19 support, KOICA, Philippines (2020)

for healthcare personnel. By establishing a channel for the ASEAN-ROK public health dialogue, the ROK government will gain a clear picture of the local public health situation and explore further avenues for future cooperation.

2. Share Korean-style education model and support the development of human resources

Education is a driving force for nations and for their peoples. The ROK achieved economic growth through education and human resources development despite having very limited natural resources, and the ASEAN region and India also place great importance on education. This is therefore a vital area in the future cooperation with limitless potential for all.



Students's visit to ROK, Sejong Institute (2019)

The ROK hopes to share its experience and know-how in fostering skilled personnel and advancing school education. In particular, the ROK has experience in providing virtual class courses in order to ensure safe and equal access to education even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic. Its distant



VKU (Vietnam-ROK ICT University), Vietnam (2019)

learning model can be developed by combining elements of the K-Edu model with the unique characteristics and strengths of the ASEAN countries and India. Moreover, the ROK plans to enhance the capacity of local universities to develop human resources, expand scholarship programs of common interest, provide vocational training programs and meet the demand for education in Korean language and Korean studies.

3. Promote two-way cultural exchanges

As the interaction between the NSP region and the ROK stretches far back in history, and with common elements in our cultural legacies, the bonds between respective peoples are deep – they feel an empathy and affinity. It is the role of the governments to support cultural exchanges in the private sector thereby nurturing an even closer NSP region-ROK community in cultural terms.

With virtual interactions becoming a new norm of meetings since the outbreak of COVID-19, there is a need for governments to support new methods of interaction, either virtual or remote. One example would be bilateral cultural experiences using cutting-edge digital technology. The ROK plans to establish Digital Cultural Experience Centers in Korea as well as in the NSP region so that people from both sides can continue to interact even amidst the pandemic. And once the pandemic ends, the ROK will organize regular cultural events spanning a diverse range of areas enabling respective peoples to participate in person.



Asia Traditional Orchestra Concert, ROK (2019)

In addition, the ROK will work to develop educational resources to help people in the NSP region gain a deeper understanding of the cultures and languages of the NSP partner countries. Furthermore, the ROK will cooperate for the production and distribution of a range of digital cultural content. Such measures will help both sides to share a sense of common values and play a greater role in the cultural field at the global level. Moreover, the Korean government will foster links between culture and sports, and relevant industries, serving to further expand the horizons of the interaction.



Hallyu & Halal Show, Malaysia (2019)

4. Build the foundation of mutually beneficial and sustainable trade & investment



4th RCEP Summit (2020)

Although trade and investment are adversely affected by the pandemic, the potential for economic cooperation between the ROK and ASEAN and India are still valid. The ROK will work to maximize on this potential through the NSP Plus, and assist in efforts for economic integration pursued by ASEAN. To achieve this goal, the ROK and the NSP region should rapidly adapt to changes in the economic landscape resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, including the changes in the global value chain.

First, the ROK will contribute to the further boosting of the industrial competitiveness and enhancement of the economic structure of the NSP region. The ROK will also facilitate further direct investment by Korean companies and support small and medium sized enterprises in the NSP partner countries, seeking to create a robust regional economy that is resilient to the changes in the economic environment. The ROK will provide financial assistance, insurance and consulting to Korean companies to enable them to expand their businesses in the NSP region.

The ROK will work toward the liberalization of trade and investment and cooperate with the NSP countries for the restoration of open multilateral order and trade system. The RCEP Agreement signed in 2020 will be an effective multilateral framework for facilitating trade and investment between the ROK and the NSP region. Valuing India's constructive role in the RCEP negotiations, and as a regional partner in creating deeper and expanded regional value chains, the ROK will greatly welcome India's accession to the RCEP Agreement. Moreover, the ROK will make efforts to reduce trade imbalances with the NSP region.

Furthermore, the ROK will encourage Korean companies to abide by local laws and standards and to practice corporate social responsibility, contributing to job creation and social development in the host countries.

5. Support rural villages and urban infrastructure development

The ROK hopes to play a greater role in enabling the people in the NSP region to enjoy a higher standard of living, reducing regional inequalities, and strengthening infrastructure in rural and urban areas.



Smart City Ground-breaking ceremony, ROK (2019)

In support of the development of rural areas and improvement of infrastructure in the NSP region, the ROK will work to upgrade the current rural development assistance program and the “Saemaul Undong (New Village Movement)” ODA project with a view to meeting the various needs of respective regions, either through an integrated comprehensive package or individual programs. The ROK will expand its cooperative efforts to develop technology related to the production, distribution and sale of agricultural and seafood products, smart farming techniques, quarantine control capacity building, resolving of environmental issues, and improvements in standards of living. Furthermore, assistance in the form of concessional loans and export credits will also be expanded. In addition, the ROK will contribute more to the development of Mekong area infrastructure, laying the foundation for stronger economic systems.

Furthermore, the ROK will continue to play a valuable part in enhancing the connectivity among ASEAN countries and to share its experience in the implementation of the ASEAN Connectivity Master Plan. The ROK government will encourage the participation of Korean companies by providing additional project financing for smart cities and transportation infrastructure in the NSP region.



Bridge construction site visit, Brunei (2019)

6. Cooperate in future industries for common prosperity



ASEAN-ROK Startup Summit (2019)



Korea - ASEAN & India Business Week (2020)

The rapid economic changes resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic will accelerate the digital transformation. There is intense international competition in the efforts to explore and nurture new engines for economic growth. The ROK is keen to step forward to embrace a future of shared prosperity together with ASEAN and India by facilitating the transformation of their economies into digital economies. The ROK will intensify combined efforts with the NSP region in new technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Big Data and the Internet of Things, and work to assist in enhancing the global competitiveness of the region with a view to mutually nurturing global competitiveness. To this end, the ROK will increase R&D cooperation and the exchange of personnel in the areas of 5G and the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and further bolster platforms for joint efforts by establishing a body for industrial innovation and Standardization Joint Research Center.

Furthermore, the ROK will expand cooperation in the areas of startups and on-line and virtual industries. E-commerce and fintechs will emerge as valuable drivers for economic growth for both the ROK and the NSP region. The ROK plans to strengthen e-commerce cooperation by connecting online platforms with manufacturers or service providers, and promote online financial services, virtual marketing and security solutions development. The ROK will also provide a common policy roadmap to further startup cooperation

and pursue measures for financing assistance in order to nurture startups. In this process, the ROK will assist small and medium-sized and venture businesses to adapt to digitalization in the NSP region.

7. Cooperate for safety and peace promotion at the transnational level

Genuine peace and security for the people cannot be achieved through traditional means of security cooperation alone. The ROK, as a responsible middle power, will expand joint endeavors with the ASEAN members and India in non-traditional security areas so as to ensure peace and security for individuals.

In particular, tackling climate change, natural disasters, ocean pollution, and international crime calls for enhanced international collaboration. The ROK is willing to share its experience in such areas and develop a common framework to better address them. For example, the ROK plans to establish platforms and systems to share climate data collected by its satellites with the NSP partner countries. Coordination in responding to natural disasters such as floods, expanding the supply of renewable energy and joining the ASEAN+3 stockpiling of rice system in times of food crisis will also be of value in paving the way for a community of yet greater safety and peace between the NSP region and the ROK.

The ROK will also support endeavors by ASEAN and India for the peaceful resolution of maritime disputes, the sustainable management of marine resources, and the protection of the ocean environment, based on the shared interests in the health of oceans. In addition, the ROK government intends to



'Life on the Mekong' special exhibition (2019)

launch a new initiative for the prevention of international crime and the training of United Nations Peacekeeping Forces. As India will serve as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council for the 2021-2022 term the ROK hopes to work together with India in the related areas.

Increased resilience in the Mekong region is also key in fostering a community of peace and safety in the ASEAN region. The ROK will contribute by removing unexploded ordnance and mines, establishing the Mekong-ROK Biodiversity Center, and facilitating the development of water resources in the Mekong River. Given the great scope for non-traditional security, there is ample room to further expand partnership in both scale and depth in the future.

V. New Southern Policy Plus and the Way Forward

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is felt way beyond the public health field, presenting real challenges to the economy. Yet, the NSP partner countries and the ROK have the shared experience of transforming times of crisis into times of opportunity in the time of the Asian financial crisis of 1997. The ROK now proposes to ASEAN and India to deepen inter-regional partnership through the NSP, working together to overcome this crisis and shape a new future.

Three years after its launch, the NSP has been further consolidated and reshaped into the NSP Plus. While clearly encapsulating the ROK's strong will for solidarity, the NSP Plus specifically suggests 7 areas to broaden and deepen cooperation in. In the midst of the unforeseen challenges in the international political landscape and the economic order due to the COVID-19 pandemic, ASEAN, India, and the ROK should take steps to build a community of safety and prosperity through stronger and people-centered cooperative endeavors. The NSP Plus is a clear reaffirmation that the ROK will continue in its wholehearted efforts to make concrete actions to this noble end. /END/

HEARTS TOGETHER, BEAT FOREVER

12 HEARTS MOVING FORWARD
FOR PEOPLE AND COMMUNITY

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