

# New Southern Policy: People-Centered Community of Peace and Prosperity

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## South Korea's View on the New Southern Region (ASEAN and India)

- Prior to the incumbent government
  - South Korea's foreign policy focused on four countries: United States, China, Japan, and Russia
  - In relation to the New Southern Region, South Korea's main interest was strengthening economic cooperation.
- New Southern Policy (NSP)
  - Officially announced by President Moon Jae-in at ASEAN-ROK summit in November 2017.
  - Upgrade relations with New Southern Region to the level of the aforementioned four countries.
  - Core diplomatic initiative aimed at creating prosperity and peace through comprehensive cooperation with the New Southern Region.

## Motives of the New Southern Policy

- South Korea's decision to install the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) system led to Chinese economic retaliation.
- The Donald Trump administration wanted to renegotiate the terms of Korea-U.S. FTA.
- U.S-China rivalry was a concern to the Republic of Korea.
  - South Korea needed to diversify its economic and strategic relationships due to the competition between its closest ally, U.S, and largest trading partner, China.

## New Southern Policy (2017)

- Vision  
Embracing the vision of a “**People-centered community of Peace and Prosperity**” in cooperation with the New Southern Region
- People: Mutual understanding through socio-cultural exchange
- Prosperity: Mutually beneficial and future-oriented partnership for shared economy
- Peace: Peaceful and secure intraregional security environment

# New Southern Policy Plus (2020)

## Background

Respond to the changes in the international environment, including COVID-19 and trade protectionism

- Seven Initiatives
  - Combating COVID-19 and beyond
  - People-centered education
  - Gaining a deeper mutual understanding through culture
  - Sustainable economy, together
  - Enhancing quality of life through infrastructure development
  - Developing industries with innovative technology
  - Shaping a community of greater safety and peace

## Restructuring the Organization

- Presidential Committee on New Southern Policy (August 2018)
  - Control tower for the New Southern Policy
- New Southern Region Business Coalition (January 2019), ASEAN & India Business Desk (May 2019)
  - Support local businesses
- Created ASEAN and Southeast Asian Affairs Bureau (2019)
  - Previously, South Asian and Pacific Affairs Bureau was composed of three organizations: the Southeast Asia Division, Southwest Asia and Pacific Division and ASEAN Cooperation Division
- Upgraded and expanded the Mission of the Republic of Korea to ASEAN

## Achievements: People

- Supports in response to COVID-19
  - Korea's Economic Development Cooperation Fund(EDCF) offered 100 million and 50 million dollars to Phillipines and Cambodia.
- Provides degree and training courses for the Technical Vocational Education and Training(TVET) experts
- Simplifies visa system for the people of NSP partner countries
- Converts the popularity of K-pop into soft power

## Achievements: Prosperity

- Free Trade Agreement
  - Signed the Korea-Indonesia Comprehensive Economic Partnershipo Agreement and Korea-Cambodia FTA
  - Concluded the Korea-Phillippines FTA
- Infrastructure development
  - Korea Overseas Infrastructure and Urban Development Cooperation (KIND)
- Cooperation on future industries
  - Vietnam-Korea Institute of Science and Technology(VKIST)
  - Korea-India Future Strategy Group

## Achievements: Peace

- Korea and the ASEAN launched a new bilateral defense ministerial dialogue (November 2021)
- Mine clearance project with Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos
- ASEAN Supports the Korean Peninsula Peace Process.

## Prospects for Korea's Approaches to New Southern Region

- Korea's trade share

	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	'21
New Southern Region	14.2	14.2	14.1	14.9	16.1	15.9	16.5	16.4	15.8
Vietnam	2.6	2.8	3.9	5.0	6.1	6.0	6.6	7.1	6.4
U.S.	9.6	10.5	11.8	12.2	11.3	11.5	12.9	13.4	13.6
China	21.3	21.4	23.6	23.4	22.8	23.6	23.3	24.6	23.9

- Korea's presidential election, scheduled for March 2022, will not change Korea's willingness to cooperate with the New Southern Region.