ASIA PACIFIC FOUNDATION OF CANADA

FONDATION ASIE PACIFIQUE DU CANADA

Canada–Republic of Korea Track 1.5 Dialogue on

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

PROGRAM

JULY 9, 2025

08:30-09:00   Arrival and registration

09:00-09:10   Welcome and introductions

09:10-09:20   Welcome Remarks

H.E. Tamara Mawhinney
Ambassador of Canada to the Republic of Korea

Congratulatory Remarks

09:20-09:25

Je Myung Ryu
2nd Vice Minister, Ministry of Science and ICT

09:25-09:30

Ji Woong Yoon (Virtual)
President of the Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI)

Session 1:   State of Canada-Korea Co-operation on AI

Establish a shared understanding of the current landscape of AI policy and collaboration between Canada and South Korea:

- Direction of AI strategic and policy development in Canada and Korea
- G7 outcomes and APEC Priorities
- Ongoing bilateral co-operation and synergistic strengths

09:30-10:00   Opening remarks by presenters (6-7 min each)

Gillian Frost (Virtual)
Director General for Cyber, Critical Technology and Democratic Resilience, Global Affairs Canada

Sean Mullin
Former Special Advisor to the Prime Minister of Canada for Economic Affairs

Kyounglim Lee
Director for Asia and Americas Cooperation, Korea Ministry of Science and ICT

Kiyoon Shin
Associate Research Fellow, Directorate for Innovation Growth, Science and Technology Policy Institute

Colin Wetmore
1st Secretary for Cyber and Digital policy issues, Embassy of Canada to the Republic of Korea

10:00-10:30	Moderated discussion

MODERATOR:

Vina Nadjibulla
Vice President, Research & Strategy, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

10:30-11:00	Open Q&A
11:00-11:30	Coffee Break

Session 2:	**Economic Opportunities Between Industries Through AI**

Examine the transformative role of AI in cross-sector innovation and identify priority areas for bilateral industrial collaboration. Focus on specific sectors of interest:

- **Powering the AI Economy (Canada):** AI-enabled smart grids and energy optimization in renewables; use cases in carbon tracking, emissions monitoring, and demand forecasting.
- **Hardware for AI (Korea):** Collaboration in advanced semiconductors, edge computing, and AI accelerators; Korea's semiconductor capacity (e.g. AI chips) paired with Canadian AI algorithm innovation.

| 11:30-12:00 | Opening remarks by presenters (6-7 min each) |

SPEAKERS:

Jan De Silva
Canada Co-Chair, Canada-ASEAN Business Council

Handol Kim
Co-founder and CEO of Variational AI, Canada

Bon Tae Koo
Assistant Vice President, AI SoC Research Division, Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute, Korea

Joo-Young Kim
CEO at HyperAccel, Associate Professor at School of Electrical Engineering (EE) at KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology)

| 12:00-12:30 | Moderated discussion |

MODERATOR

David Lederhendler
Founder and CEO, Yeji Data Lab

| 12:30-13:00 | Open Q&A |

| 13:00-14:00 | Lunch |

Session 3:   Broadening Partnerships in the Indo-Pacific Region

Canada–Korea AI co-operation can act as a platform to foster multilateral AI initiatives and inclusive digital development in the region:

- **Managing regional relationships:** Building a stronger presence in ASEAN and the broader Indo-Pacific, including through capacity-building initiatives (e.g. AI education, digital infrastructure);
- **Managing "big power" relationships**: Dealing with Chinese and U.S. competing interests and maintaining competitiveness while building toward global standards of governance.

| 14:00-14:30 | Opening remarks by presenters (6-7 min each) |

Stephanie Carvin
Associate Professor of International Relations at the Norman Paterson School of International Affairs, Carleton University

Jean-Francois Lacasse
Cyber Attaché, Embassy of Canada to Japan

Yonggi Kim
Associate Research Fellow, Global Strategy, Korean Science and Technology Policy Institute

Ji Yeong Yoo
Assistant Professor, Department of International Trade and Economic Security Studies, Korea National Diplomatic Academy

| 14:30-15:00 | Moderated discussion |

MODERATOR

Chi Ung Song
Former Vice President of STEPI, Senior Research Fellow, Directorate for Global Strategy, Science and Technology Policy Institute

| 15:00-15:30 | Open Q&A |

| 15:30-16:00 | Coffee break (and end of the semi-open dialogue) |

Session 4:	**Strategic Partnership Roadmap – Roundtable Discussion (closed-door)**

Facilitate an open, forward-looking discussion among senior stakeholders to define strategic directions, concrete actions, and co-ordination mechanisms:

- Policy Recommendations: Establish a bilateral AI cooperation framework (e.g. MoU, working group, annual AI dialogue, co-leading the ABAC recommendations on AI).
- Pilot Project Proposals: Initiate co-developed AI solutions for public services (e.g. health-care diagnostics, smart mobility).

16:00-16:30 **Review of key points discussed**

(Brief overview provided by each of the session rapporteurs)

RAPPORTEURS:

Ann Fitz-Gerald
Director, Balsillie School of International Affairs

Dongwook Seoh
Associate Research Fellow, Directorate for Global Strategy, Science and Technology Policy Institute

16:30-17:15 **Open roundtable discussion**

MODERATORS:

Trevor Kennedy
Vice President - Trade and International Policy of the Business Council of Canada

Hwanil Park
Senior Research Fellow, Global Strategy, Korean Science and Technology Policy Institute

17:15-17:30 **Closing Remarks**

PARTICIPANTS:
CANADA

H.E. Tamara Mawhinney

Ambassador of Canada to the Republic of Korea

Jan De Silva

Canada Co-Chair, Canada-ASEAN Business Council (CABC); Canada Member, APEC Business Advisory Council (ABAC)

David Lederhendler

Founder and CEO, Yeji Data Lab

Trevor Kennedy

Lead, Asia Pacific Trade and Investment, Business Council of Canada

Sean Mullin

Leader and Expert, Economics, Technology, and Public Policy

Handol Kim

Co-Founder & CEO, Variational AI

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Vina Nadjibulla

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Jeehye Kim

Senior Program Manager, Northeast Asia, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada

Amanda Doyle

Senior Program Manager, Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada
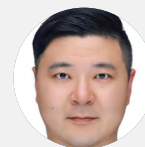
PARTICIPANTS:

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Yonggi Kim

Associated Research Fellow, STEPI

Ji Yeong Yoo

Assistant Professor, Korea National Diplomatic Academy

Chi Ung Song

Senior Research Fellow & Former Vice President, STEPI

Dongwook Seoh

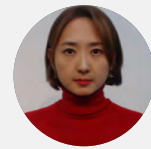*Associate Research Fellow, STEPI and the Directorate for Global Strategy*

Hwanil Park

Senior Research Fellow, STEPI

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ASIA PACIFIC FOUNDATION OF CANADA

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The Asia Pacific Foundation of Canada (APF Canada) is an independent, not-for-profit organization focused on Canada's relations with Asia. Our mission is to be Canada's catalyst for engagement with Asia and Asia's bridge to Canada.

APF Canada is dedicated to strengthening ties between Canada and Asia through its research, education, and convening activities, such as the Canada-in-Asia Conference series, our Women's Business Missions to Asia, and the APEC-Canada Growing Business Partnership project fostering sustainable inclusive growth and poverty reduction. APF Canada also works with business, government, and academic stakeholders to provide Asia Competency training for Canadian organizations and students.

Our research provides high-quality, relevant, and timely information, insights, and perspectives on Canada-Asia relations for Canadians and stakeholders across the Asia Pacific. Our research work also includes regular Insights, Dispatches, Reports & Policy Briefs, Strategic Reflections, Case Studies, Explainers, and a weekly Asia Watch tracking the latest news on Asia that matters to Canada.

Visit our Website

STEPI SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY POLICY INSTITUTE

South Korea's Science and Technology Policy Institute (STEPI) is a leading research institute dedicated to science and technology policy, spearheading national innovation and prioritizing people for a better quality of life. STEPI aims to be a global leader in developing innovative science- and technology-centric national policies.

Located at the Sejong National Research Complex, STEPI conducts research on R&D strategy, innovative growth strategies, global innovation strategies, assessment of R&D budget projects, space technology development, and future workforce strategies. STEPI also emphasizes communication with civil society through seminars, conferences, and various publications, sharing its expertise and fostering intellectual exchange in science and technology policy.

STEPI's research provides high-quality, relevant, and timely information, insights, and perspectives to contribute to Korea's science and technology development. Through regular research reports, policy briefs, and strategic reflections, it offers crucial resources for policymakers and researchers, proposing policy alternatives for science and technology innovation.