

Press Releases: U.S.-Japan-Republic of Korea Trilateral Meeting in Tokyo

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 21, 2017

On April 25, the United States Special Representative for North Korea Policy Joseph Yun will travel to Tokyo for a trilateral meeting with Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs Director General for Asian and Oceanian Affairs Kenji Kanasugi and Republic of Korea Special Representative for Korean Peninsula Peace and Security Affairs Kim Hong-kyun. The three plan to discuss the evolving situation in North Korea as part of the three parties' regular consultations on North Korea to exchange views and coordinate actions. They last met on February 27 in Washington, D.C. Special Representative Yun will also meet bilaterally with both Director General Kanasugi and Special Representative Kim.

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Press Releases: U.S. Department of State Announces HackerNest as Fishackathon's New Managing Partner

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The U.S. Department of State's [Secretary's Office of Global Partnerships](#) (S/GP) is pleased to announce a new partnership with HackerNest, a nonprofit organization and movement that builds local tech communities worldwide, to carry forward Fishackathon.

First organized by S/GP to coincide with the "Our Ocean" conference in 2014, [Fishackathon](#) is a public-private partnership hackathon that aims to capitalize on the expansion of digital solutions to address sustainable fishery challenges. Hundreds of technologists and entrepreneurs around the world spend a weekend competing to build practical tech solutions to endemic problems defined by fisheries experts. Panels of distinguished judges evaluate these demos to select winners from each participating Fishackathon city, awarding the very best team the coveted Global Grand Prize.

Five cities across the United States took part in Fishackathon's first year. By its third year, Fishackathon had expanded its reach to aquariums, tech hubs, and participants in more than 40 international cities.

A veteran producer of blockbuster cause-hackathons with partners that include Facebook, Airbnb, and the UK and Canadian Governments, HackerNest has run tech community-building events in 33 cities across 14 countries on five continents. The organization's global reach and mission of economic development through tech proliferation make it uniquely well-positioned to continue growing the Fishackathon crowd-sourcing model and brand.

HackerNest and S/GP will launch Fishackathon 2017 on the weekend of November 18-19 in celebration of World Fisheries Day on November 21.

For more information, please visit—

Fishackathon: fishackathon.co | @Fishackathon

HackerNest: hackernest.com | @HackerNest | fb.me/HackerNest

Secretary's Office of Global Partnerships: state.gov/s/partnerships | @GPatState | fb.me/GPatState

For media inquiries, please contact Anita Ostrovsky at OstrovskyA@state.gov or Shaharris at fishackathon@hackernest.com.

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Press Releases: Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Ambassador Tina Kaidanow Travels to Germany, Estonia, and Ukraine

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 21, 2017

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Political-Military Affairs Ambassador Tina Kaidanow will travel to Germany, Estonia, and Ukraine April 23-29 for discussions on a variety of international security issues.

Ambassador Kaidanow will consult with U.S. government officials from the U.S. European Command in Germany and other senior U.S. representatives in the region regarding ongoing U.S. efforts to strengthen NATO Allies through security cooperation and defense trade. She will also discuss security assistance programs overseen by the Department of State that strengthen the capabilities of partner nations in Europe contributing to coalition operations to defeat ISIS and promote security in Afghanistan.

In Estonia and Ukraine, Ambassador Kaidanow will meet with civilian and defense officials to discuss a wide range of political-military issues, including regional strategic priorities, security assistance, military-to-military cooperation, and related issues.

For further information, please contact the [Bureau of Political-Military Affairs](#), Office of Congressional and Public Affairs at PM-CPA@state.gov, and follow the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs on Twitter, [@StateDeptPM](#).

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Press Releases: Under Secretary Shannon's Meeting With Albanian Foreign Minister Bushati

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 20, 2017

Ambassador Thomas A. Shannon, Under Secretary for Political Affairs, met today with Albanian Foreign Minister Ditmir Bushati to address common interests in our bilateral relationship and the region. The Under Secretary reaffirmed the close partnership between the United States and Albania, our strong support for Albania's judicial reform efforts, and our shared commitment to democratic values, the rule of law, and respect for human rights. Ambassador Shannon also emphasized the importance of all political parties in Albania participating in the upcoming parliamentary elections.

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Press Releases: United States Breaks Ground on the New U.S. Embassy in Beirut, Lebanon

Media Note
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC
April 20, 2017

In a demonstration of our enduring friendship and important bilateral partnership, U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon Elizabeth Richard broke ground today on the new U.S. Embassy compound in Beirut, Lebanon.

The multi-building compound will be located in the suburb of Awkar on a 43-acre site. The compound will provide a safe, secure, sustainable, and modern platform that supports U.S. Embassy staff in representing the U.S. Government to Lebanon and in conducting day-to-day diplomacy.

Professionals from the United States, Lebanon, and other countries will work side-by-side to complete this new diplomatic facility. Morphosis Architects of Culver City, California, is the architect for the project. B.L. Harbert International of Birmingham, Alabama is the construction contractor.

Since 1999, as part of the Department's Capital Security Construction Program, the Bureau of Overseas Buildings Operations (OBO) has completed 135 new diplomatic facilities with an additional 50 projects now in design or under construction.

OBO's mission is to provide safe, secure, and functional facilities that represent the U.S. Government to the host nation and support our staff in the achievement of U.S. foreign policy objectives. These facilities represent American values and the best in American architecture, engineering, technology, sustainability, art, culture, and construction execution.

For additional information, please contact Christine Foushee at FousheeCT@state.gov or (703) 875-4131, or visit www.state.gov/obo.

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