

Thailand and the Korean Peninsula : Relevance and Positive Engagement

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- Although the relationship between Thai and Korean peoples can be traced back several centuries ago to the late 14th century when a Thai envoy visited Goryeo Kingdom, contacts between these two nationals were not intensive and occasionally disrupted by various factors. It was not until the 1950s that official contact was re-established.

- Diplomatic relationship between Thailand and Republic of Korea were established in 1958 and in 1975, diplomatic relationship between Thailand and Democratic People's Republic of Korea were established.

- Trade between Thailand and South Korea before the late 1980s had been moderately limited.
- For the North Korea , most of the trades were done with Socialist countries. Therefore, volume of trade between North Korea and Thailand were relatively low.

From Thailand's point of view, inter-Korean relations are the relations which have to be handled by the Korean.

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- Even trade volume between Thailand and North Korea are relatively low, but the success of Thai enterprise which invested in the internet service t can be considered as an example for the opportunity of Thai investment in North Korea.

- Since the late 1980s , it is obviously noticeable that the economic relations between Thailand and ROK have expanded rapidly.

- Number of students in Thailand who decides to learn Korean language has been significantly increased.

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- Thailand relations with North and South Korea have also been done through multilateral frameworks.
- ASEAN has good relationship with both DPRK and ROK.

- The inclusive forum like ARF can be considered as the suitable venue for countries in this region to discuss the regional security issues. Besides superpowers which geographically located in this region, DPRK , ROK and all ASEAN members are included in this forum.

- Besides the channels which have already been established for the security discussions, ARF should be utilized as additional channels to address the security issues concerning the Korean Peninsula.

- There are more opportunities for Thai and Korean peoples to cooperate in order to enhance the prosperity for all of us. This cooperation can be done through both bilateral and multilateral frameworks.