The Korea Society Guest Speakers

Thomas Hubbard

Thomas C. Hubbard is Chairman of The Korea Society and senior director at McLarty Associates, where he specializes in Asian affairs. A career foreign-service officer for nearly forty years, he served as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea from 2001 to 2004, and before that as Ambassador to the Philippines from 1996 to 2000. He served seven years in Japan and was deputy chief of mission and acting ambassador in Malaysia. He held key Washington postings, including assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific affairs. Ambassador Hubbard was a principal negotiator of the 1994 Agreed Framework aimed at ending North Korea’s nuclear weapons program and headed the first senior-level U.S. government delegation to North Korea. He was also President Clinton’s envoy to promote human rights and democracy in Burma. Ambassador Hubbard sits on numerous advisory boards. He received his BA in political science from the University of Alabama and has been awarded honorary doctorates by the University of Maryland and the University of Alabama.

Mark Minton

Mark Minton joined The Korea Society as President in May 2010. Prior to joining, he played a leading role in America's relations with Asia during a distinguished 32-year career as a senior foreign-service officer. Ambassador Minton served as U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia from September 2006 to September 2009, and was deputy chief of mission at the U.S. Embassy in Seoul, Korea. He also served as the country director for Korea, deputy country director for Japan, as well as other positions at the U.S. Department of State, in various diplomatic posts in Japan, as a Pearson Fellow with the United States Senate, and at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations. He also spent a year as a teaching Diplomat-in-Residence at the City College of New York. Ambassador Minton received his BA in literature from Columbia University and his Master’s degree in history from Yale University.

Stephen Noerper

Dr. Stephen Noerper, Senior Vice President: Dr. Stephen Noerper is a Korea and Northeast Asia specialist with more than two and a half decades in non-profits, academe, the private sector and public service. He served with New York University, the U.S. State Department, Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies and Nautilus Institute, among others. He has taught at American University, the National University of Mongolia, where he was a Fulbright Senior Scholar, and Japan’s Waseda University, and was a fellow at Korea’s National Diplomatic Academy (formerly IFANS), the East West Center, EastWest Institute and Edward R. Murrow Center. He has appeared on CNN, Bloomberg, BBC, MSNBC, Reuters, VOA and NHK television, BBC, ABC and National Public Radio, and in Newsweek, journals and print. He holds graduate degrees from the LSE and Fletcher School.