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재미 동포 간담회



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President Lee Jae Myung speaks at a dinner meeting with Korean American compatriots at a hotel in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 24.

President Lee Jae Myung

At meeting with overseas Koreans in U.S., President Lee urges, ‘Let us together forge a new history of the ROK-U.S. alliance’

At ROK-U.S. summit, Lee requests, ‘Please meet Kim Jong-un’; Trump responds, ‘I want to meet him within this year’

President Lee Jae Myung met with Korean Americans on Aug. 24, one day before his summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, urging them to contribute to the development of bilateral relations. He stated, “I believe you will join us on this journey to create a new history for the ROK-U.S. alliance.”

Lee made these remarks during a dinner meeting with Korean Americans held at a hotel in Washington, D.C., that afternoon, marking his first official schedule in the U.S. First lady Kim Hea

Kyung also attended, dressed in “hanbok.”

“KPop Demon Hunters, featuring K-pop themes, is sweeping various records and capturing the hearts of young people globally,” Lee said. “‘Gimbap’ and ‘ramen,’ familiar to us, are no longer just Korean foods. We are witnessing a new chapter in our alliance that enriches both nations.

“I am embarking on this important journey to open a new path for the 72-year-old ROK-U.S. alliance by pooling our strength amid all

President Lee Jae Myung (L) and U.S. President Donald Trump smile together during their summit meeting at the Oval Office of the White House in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 25.



these changes. We will jointly explore ways to develop the ROK-U.S. alliance by responding together to the rapid changes in the international order.

"To ensure the brilliant efforts of our compatriot community are not in vain, we will listen to diverse voices and further expand necessary support. We will also devote our efforts to resolving longstanding issues, such as dual citizenship and the lowering of the age requirement for it," Lee said. "We will also establish well-functioning voting locations, equipment and systems to ensure citizens can fully exercise their sovereign rights and fulfill their responsibilities and roles without hindrance."

The dinner was also attended by Sen. Andy Kim, the first Korean American elected to the U.S. Senate.

In a toast, Kim welcomed Lee to the U.S., stating, "Korea has a positive future," and proposed a toast, "To the relationship between Korea and the United States."

Meanwhile, the possibility of dialogue between North Korea and the United States was the main focus of the first summit meeting between President Lee and U.S. President Donald Trump in Washington, D.C., on Aug. 25.

Lee requested that Trump meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong-un, and Trump expressed his desire to meet this year if possible.

"Among world leaders, it is unprecedented for someone like President Trump to show such interest in global peace issues and actually achieve tangible results," Lee said in his opening remarks. "His role as a peacemaker truly stands out. Please bring peace to the Korean Peninsula, the only remaining divided nation in the world, if possible. Please meet with Kim Jong-un."

President Lee: 'Trump is only person who can resolve North Korea issue'

"It is not easy to significantly improve inter-Korean relations with just my involvement," Lee said. "In reality, the only person who can

actually resolve this issue is President Trump. If the president acts as a peacemaker, I will diligently support him as a 'pacemaker.'"

Trump responded: "I think that (meeting with Chairman Kim) is a very good thing. We will pursue it."

"Chairman Kim and I had a good relationship (in the past)," he said. "I called Chairman Kim 'Rocket Man' (at that time), and I hope we can talk again. If we are both ready to talk, I think there will be an opportunity for that."

Trump recalled holding two summits with Kim during his first term, emphasizing, "I know him better than anyone except his sister."

When asked by reporters whether he would meet Kim this year or next, he responded: "I meet with many people. So it's hard to say, but I would like to meet him this year."

The two leaders also agreed to strengthen economic cooperation, focusing on the shipbuilding industry.

"It seems America is becoming great again," Lee remarked. "A renaissance is taking place not only in shipbuilding but also in manufacturing, and I hope the Republic of Korea can be part of that process."

"I hope we can expand the ROK-U.S. alliance beyond the military sphere to encompass economic and scientific-technological fields, developing it into a future-oriented alliance."

"We will have a lot to discuss regarding shipyards and shipbuilding," Trump said. "Since the U.S. shipbuilding industry currently has a lot of closures, we will need to purchase from Korea."

"I hope that through cooperation with Korea, ships will be built again in the United States. I hope we will have the opportunity to revive the U.S. shipbuilding industry in cooperation with Korea." 🇺🇸