

“Pursuing A Comprehensive Vision for the U.S.-ROK Alliance”
Dr. Scott Snyder

With Presidents Obama and Lee expected to announce their vision of an expanded U.S.-ROK alliance at their upcoming summit in Washington, D.C., Dr. Scott Snyder, Director of The Asia Foundation’s Center for U.S.-Korea Policy and a 2005-2006 Pantech Fellow at Shorenstein APARC, will discuss the opportunities, challenges, and benefits of transforming the U.S.-South Korean alliance into a regional and even global partnership.

Dr. Snyder is the author of the recently released study entitled *Pursuing a Comprehensive Vision for the U.S.-ROK Alliance*. The report concluded that:

- The United States and South Korea increasingly have common interests extending beyond the Korean Peninsula. Those interests and enhanced South Korean capabilities enhance the potential for expanded alliance cooperation to meet new global, regional, and functional challenges.
- The rationale for expanded alliance cooperation should be refashioned on the basis of common interests—rather than common threats—and of a mutual commitment in which needs and responsibilities are shared.
- President Lee’s vision of a “Global Korea” has already opened possibilities for more active Korean participation in peacekeeping, overseas development assistance, disaster relief, and post-conflict stabilization.
- There are also opportunities to develop new areas of functional cooperation within the alliance to address issues such as pandemic preparedness, counter-terrorism, monitoring sea lanes of communication, nuclear non-proliferation and nuclear energy cooperation, and climate change and the environment.
- Effective management of core alliance functions and structures is a prerequisite to efficient expansion of alliance cooperation to new areas. These core functions and structures include the adoption of revised operational control arrangements and a new structure to support coordinated military action if threatened by hostile forces, operational planning to respond to North Korean contingencies, and completion of the reconfiguration of U.S. forces on the Korean Peninsula.

About Dr. Scott Snyder: <http://asiafoundation.org/about/profile/scott-snyder>

Text of *Pursuing a Comprehensive Vision for the U.S.-ROK Alliance*:

<http://asiafoundation.org/resources/pdfs/SnyderPursuingCompVisionApr09.pdf>