

OPINION

Would the Indo-Pacific Strategies of South Korea be implemented successfully?



South Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol (left) US President Joe Biden (center) and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida attend a trilateral meeting on the sidelines of the ASEAN summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Yonhap

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The Republic of Korea is a country in the Indo-Pacific. The stability and development of the region are intimately related to the national interests of the Republic of Korea. The Indo-Pacific region is home to 65 percent of the world's population and generates 62 percent of the global GDP, 46 percent of all international trade, and 50 percent of all maritime transit. Additionally, it is a region with a burgeoning economy and cutting-edge technology, where the major players in important strategic industries like semiconductors are based. Countries all over the world have intensified their engagement with the region and are presenting their individual Indo-Pacific policies in acknowledgment of the Indo-strategic Pacific's importance. With the inauguration of the Yoon Suk Yeol's administration, the Republic of Korea started to develop its own Indo-Pacific Strategy. Korea's comprehensive regional strategy, which covers the fields of security and economy, will make its foreign policy more predictable and provide it more room for strategic action.

The Indo-Pacific Plan of South Korea has a very clear objective and means to achieve it through the initial original purpose of the South Korean government, which could be discovered after carefully reviewing the points related to the strategy. However, in order to successfully implement its strategies, the Korean government must make sure, nevertheless, that they won't employ that

tactic to undermine China's reputation in any way because the Chinese government is the primary player of Korea's economics.

The former dilemma of South Korea and China should serve as the primary reminder, and the current Australia and China problem is another crucial point to keep in mind since, in the end, everyone agrees that China plays the most significant role in the economic sector of their countries. It is a big burden for South Korea to balance its foreign policy between the US and China since the US is very important for the security while China is very important for the economy.

Working with ASEAN!

The most important points of Korea's Indo-Pacific Strategy are promoting freedom, peace, and prosperity via the formation of a rules-based order and collaboration on human rights, the primary tenets of Korea's Indo-Pacific Strategy.

In order to act wisely, South Korea should be aware of the circumstances in each ASEAN nation. For example, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Lao, and Myanmar would be upset if the Korea Government brought up freedom of speech or expression because it is connected to the plans to maintain internal order, hold onto power, or advance their own national interests.

It should be recalled that the Korean government's primary goal is to advance freedom, but that should kindly bear in mind that the Korean Government needs to refrain from protesting against

those nations because Korea needs to cooperate with them in a number of areas. It is crucial to keep implementing the methods while simultaneously accepting the areas where they fall short.

Although ASEAN members are friends of Korea, these nations each have their own political system and style of government. Maintaining strong bonds with diverse friends, whether they are tall, slender, black, or white, is crucial. In other words, there are instances when your objective should take precedence over their status. Accepting their flaws while pursuing your objective.

Sometimes foreign visitors may don't like Cambodian food or Cambodian people, but they have to eat it or smile at Cambodian people if they live and work in Cambodia. This means that even if Korea doesn't like communism or the negative attitudes of every ASEAN country, but Korea must cooperate with them because they are crucial to Korean's strategies.

In order to achieve peace and prosperity, a rules-based system must be established, and cooperation on human rights is crucial. However, Korea should never report on or condemn ASEAN countries on any negative points without first consulting with the related countries; instead, Korea must get closer to those related countries and fully integrate their objectives.

Another important part for the Korean Government is to work with the Japanese Government since both countries are US's allies in the region, and Japan is one of the developed

countries which plays a very important role to support human right, freedom of expression and other similar points that are the same as the Korea Government. Japan gains the most trust from ASEAN countries, especially from Cambodia.

Right now, working with Quad is not particularly important. Korea should work separately with Australia, Japan, the US, and India rather than in a Quad. China won't be pleased if Korea establishes direct ties with the Quad, thus maintaining distinct ties individually with each of the Quad members is crucial.

This is not an attempt to claim that China is the most significant nation in the world, but Korea's prior experience needs to be sufficient to help Korea comprehend the difficulties in dealing with China-related issues. They should confidently state that China will make every effort to seize total control of the South China Sea and will never permit other nations to do so.

Since Korea is a developed, autonomous nation, the current Korean Government's strategies should generally be accepted. However, dealing with other nations that have different political systems is another crucial aspect that should be taken into full consideration and respected. The greatest approaches to accomplish your goals are to be aware of your surroundings, your plans, and your collaborators. ■

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