

Future of Korea – Western Michigan Speakers

Jennifer Brannan is a Science and Technology Policy Fellow with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. She currently serves as a desk officer in the Office of Korean Affairs at the U.S. Department of State covering environmental, science, technology and health issues. Prior to joining the State Department, Jennifer worked as a Senior Scientist at the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases, with over a decade of experience working with hemorrhagic fever viruses. Jennifer received her B.A. in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology from Cornell College Iowa, and her Ph.D. in Biochemistry and Cancer Biology from the MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences.

Sung-hoon Park is First Secretary in the Congressional Section at the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in Washington, D.C. His previous post is Libreville, Gabon. Prior to that, he was the ROK exchange diplomat at the Department of State as Country Coordinator for Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs' Public Diplomacy Office (EAP/PD). He had served in various offices in Seoul since joining the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in 2009. He has a B.A. in political science and diplomacy from Yonsei University.

Mark Tokola is the Vice President of the Korea Economic Institute of America in Washington, DC. He retired as a U.S. Senior Foreign Service Officer with the rank of Minister-Counselor in September 2014. His last posting was as Minister Counselor for Political Affairs at US Embassy London. Previously he had served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the American Embassies in Seoul, Republic of Korea; Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia; and, Reykjavik, Iceland. Among his other postings were two tours at the US Mission to the European Union in Brussels, Minister-Counselor for Economic Affairs at Embassy London, and Economic Counselor at US Embassy The Hague. He also served as Director of the Iraq Transition Assistance Office (ITAO) in Baghdad from 2007-2008. Mr Tokola received the State Department's Superior Honor Award for his work on implementing the Dayton Peace Accords while serving as Political Counselor in Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina from 1997-1999. He holds a BA in International Relations from Pomona College in Claremont, California, and an LL.M. in European Community Law from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. Mr. Tokola serves on the Board of Governors of DACOR: An Organization of Foreign Affairs Professionals, and on the Board of Trustees of the Bacon House Foundation.