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Korea's Political Interest in Germany Increases

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE KOREA-GERMANY PARLIAMENTARIANS' FRIENDSHIP ASSOCIATION MEETS KAS

It had become clear already during the Korean „Super Election Year 2012“ that Germany's importance as model for reforms of Korean society, its political system and economy has increased. This was the summary of the first meeting between the newly elected President of the Korea-Germany Parliamentarians' Friendship Association in the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea, Representative Nam Kyung Pil, and Dr. Norbert Eschborn, Resident Representative of KAS in Korea.

The Saenuri Representative was born in 1965 and currently has his constituency in Suwon. He has been a Member of Parliament since 1998 and succeeds his party colleague Kwon Young Se in his new function as Association President. Kwon, himself a long-time member of the National Assembly, narrowly missed re-election in the 2012 parliamentary vote. Both Nam and Eschborn expressed their appreciation for the former Representative's significant contribution to the further development of Korean-German bilateral relations and said that Kwon Young Se has won the respect of Members of the German parliament, the Bundestag, and many other German organizations. They thanked him for his work and expressed their hope that Kwon would be serving the new Korean government again soon in a position of high responsibility.

Future Topics of Korean-German Political Cooperation

Representative Nam Kyung Pil has held offices on important bodies during his time in parliament already, e.g., Chairman of the National Assembly's Foreign Affairs, Trade and Unification Committee. In the 19th National Assembly of 2012 he is a member of the Committee on Culture, Sports, Tourism and Communication. He also used to serve as his party's Senior Deputy Floor Leader.

According to Nam the intensive discourse about Germany is something new to him. However, the many references to Germany during last year's election campaigns his personal interest on the country's political and economic systems has increased. In order to deepen his studies on the world's fourth largest economy he applied for the Chairmanship of the Korea-German Parliamentarians' Friendship Association.

According to the chairman, members of the group are interested in the German Social Market Economy, the mutual relationship of the legislative, administrative, and judicial branches with each other as well as the reasons for Germany's economic success even in times of crises. Also, German federalism would be an object of strong interest for the Korean parliamentarians.

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Cooperation with the Friendship Association has been a constitutive element of KAS in Korea. Dr. Eschborn agreed to thoroughly examine proposal for joint projects and promised his support for fostering contacts with the members of the German-Korean Parliamentary Group in the German Bundestag.

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