

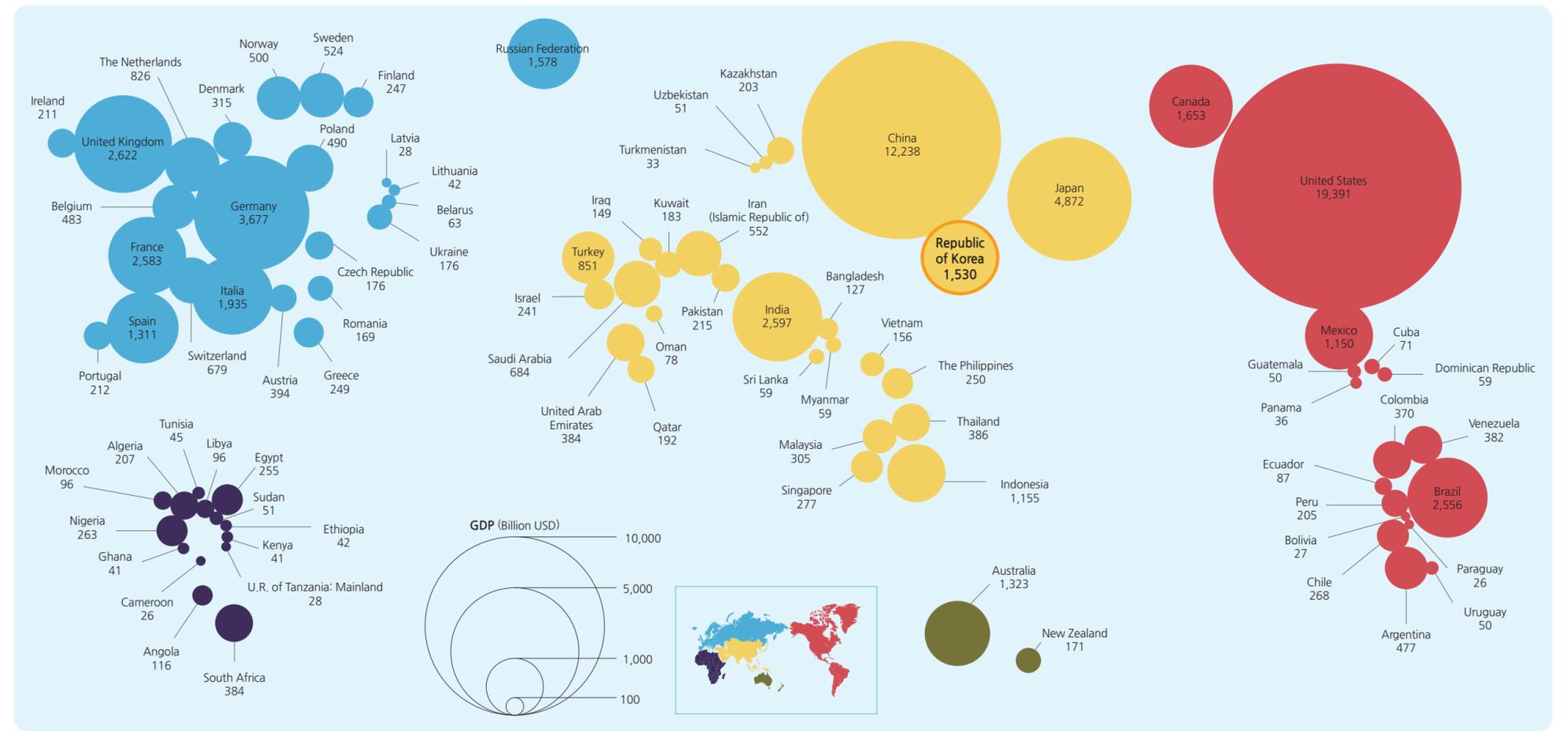
GLOBAL CONNECTIONS

Mapping Connections

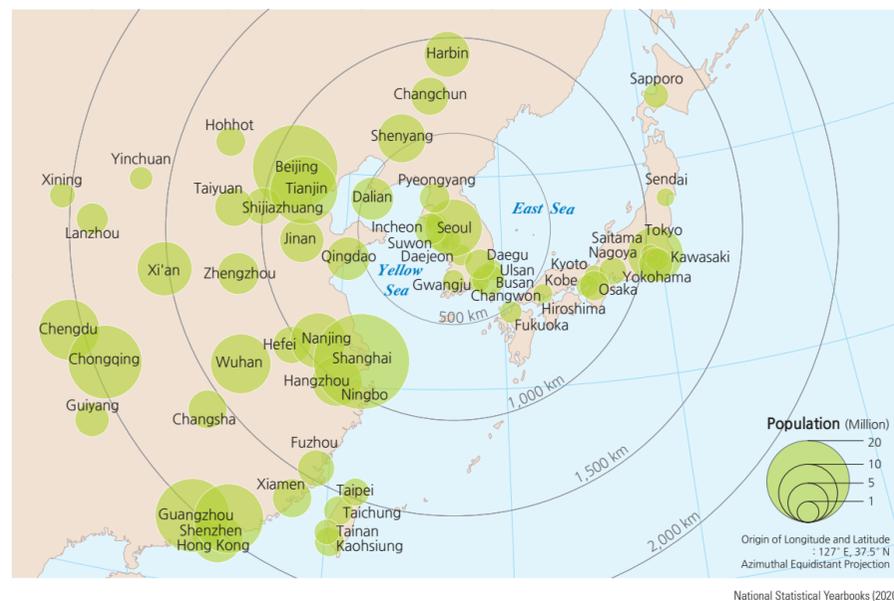
Distance to the Capital Cities



GDP by Country



Seoul and Cities with a Population Over 1 Million in East Asia



Mapping Korea's Connectivity

The Korean Peninsula's location at the edge of the Asian continent was once viewed as disadvantageous, exposed to outside invasion and control. In today's world, however, this geographic position is increasingly seen as having many advantages. The peninsula's location, easily accessible to both the continent and the ocean, provides economic, cultural, and geographical linkages to the region and beyond.

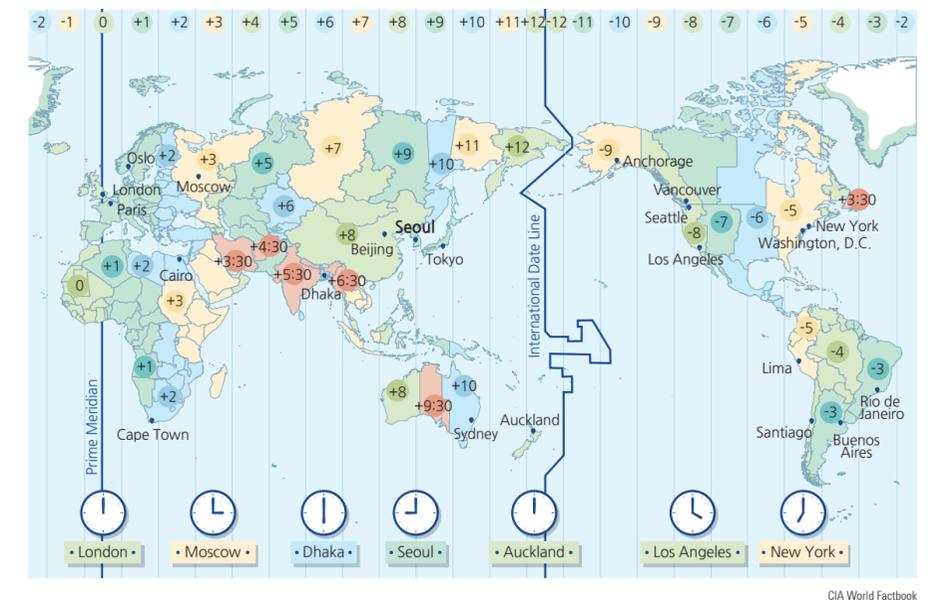
Korea's geographic accessibility has enabled Seoul to develop into an important East Asian transportation hub. Within a 2,000 km radius of Seoul, there are around 40 cities, with more than 1 million residents. Beijing and Tokyo are around a two-hour flight away from Seoul. Several Southeast Asian cities are within a seven-hour flight, including Bangkok and Singapore. Incheon International Airport serves as a major hub for many flights from Southeast Asia to the Americas. Moreover, many cities in Europe, North America, and Africa are accessible via direct flights.

Technological advances have enabled easy and instantaneous communication between continents. Thus, it is important for the people around the world

interacting with the people of Korea via remote meetings, for example, to be aware of the time difference. The entirety of Korea is on one single time zone Korean Standard Time (KST). Defined around the standard meridian of 135° E, KST is nine hours ahead of Coordinated Universal Time (UTC). North Korea also uses KST, and neither South Korea nor North Korea uses Daylight Saving Time. Korea uses the same UTC offset (+9) as neighboring Japan and is one hour ahead of Beijing, China.

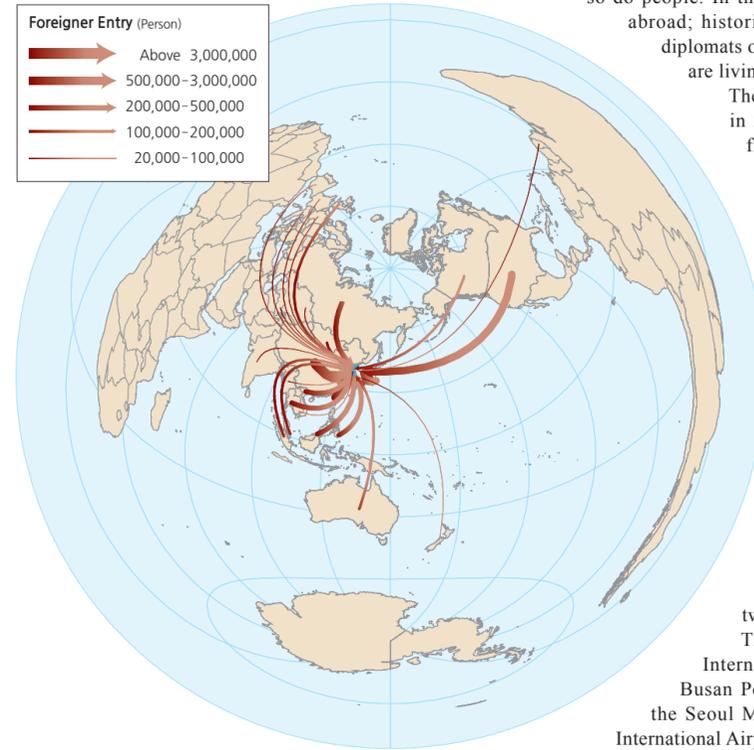
Korea has been in the spotlight as a trade and logistical hub, and an information and knowledge center at the core of the East Asian economy. The combined GDPs of the three major countries in East Asia (Korea, Japan, and China) are only slightly different from the GDPs of the United States and the European Union. Korea has the potential to expand economically and culturally, by connecting with the Eurasian landmass via North Korea and expanding its marine trade with China, Russia, and North Korea via the East and Yellow Seas. Korea is at a strategic point for developing vibrant economic and cultural exchanges with other coastal and neighboring countries.

Standard Time



Tourism in Korea

Foreigner Entry



In the era of globalization, as goods, capital, information, and technology move transnationally, so do people. In the past, only a small number of people were able to experience living abroad; historically, foreigners who lived in Korea for a long time were generally diplomats or expatriates from foreign companies. Today, however, millions of people are living and working abroad.

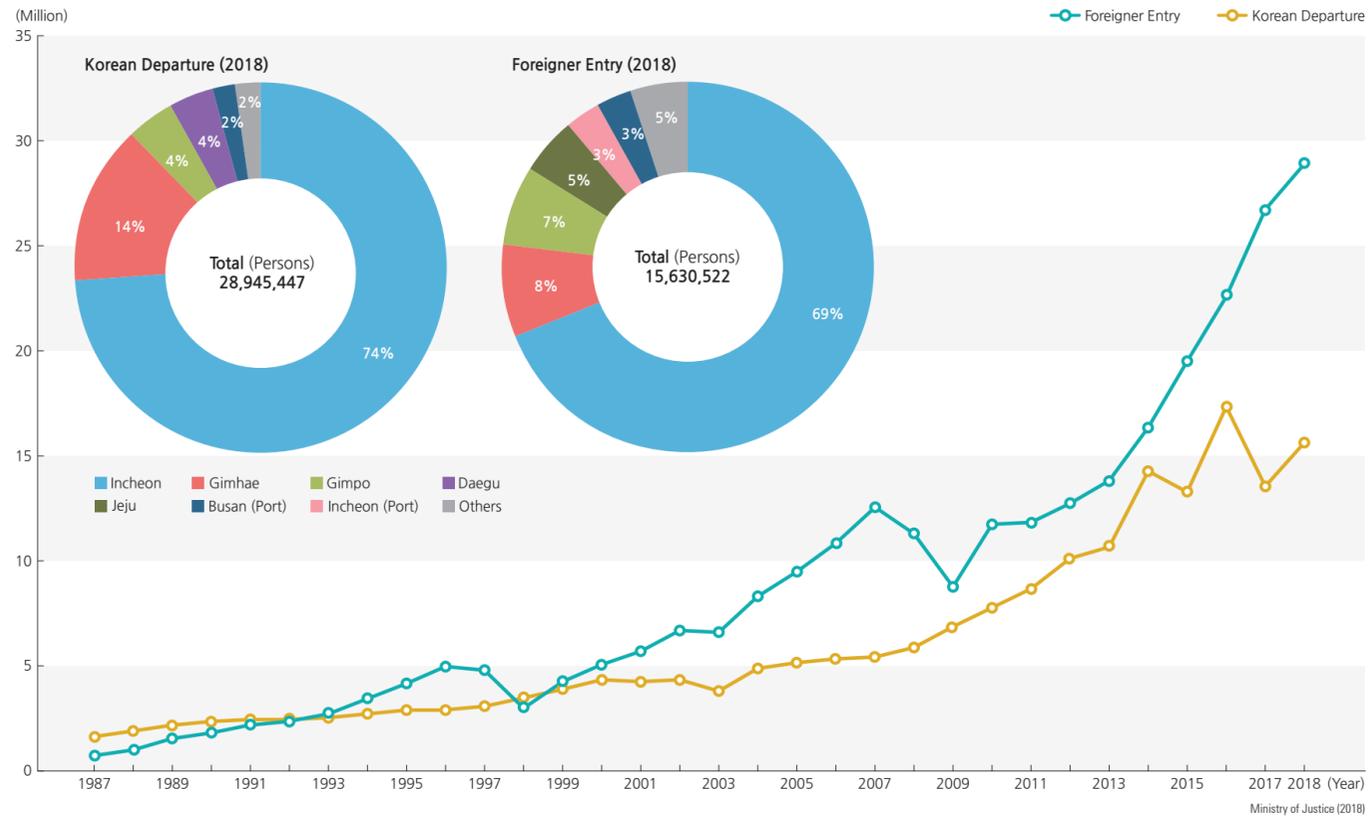
The map shows both the number and origin of foreigners that visited Korea in 2017. About five million visitors from China, and another 2.3 million from Japan, visited Korea in 2017. Taiwanese and American visitors were about 0.9 million each. The number of visitors from the other countries was less than 0.5 million. More visitors are currently coming to Korea from geographically close countries, with the number of visitors decreasing as travel distance to Korea increases. An exception to this pattern is the United States, with which Korea has kept a close relationship since the Cold War era.

The graph shows the trends of Koreans who go abroad and foreigners who visit Korea. Until 1960, both numbers were less than 10,000. The number of foreign visitors reached 100,000 in 1970, 1 million in 1983, 5 million in 2005, and 10 million in 2012. In 2018, approximately 15.6 million people visited Korea. For a long time, foreign arrivals exceeded Korean departures. Until 1988, the number of foreign arrivals was double the number of Korean departures. This trend was reversed in 1989 after the Korean government authorized more overseas travel. Since then, Korean departures have gradually increased, except during the economic recessions in the late 1990s and the late 2000s. In 2018, the number of Koreans who traveled abroad was approximately 29 million, which is twice the number of foreign visitors.

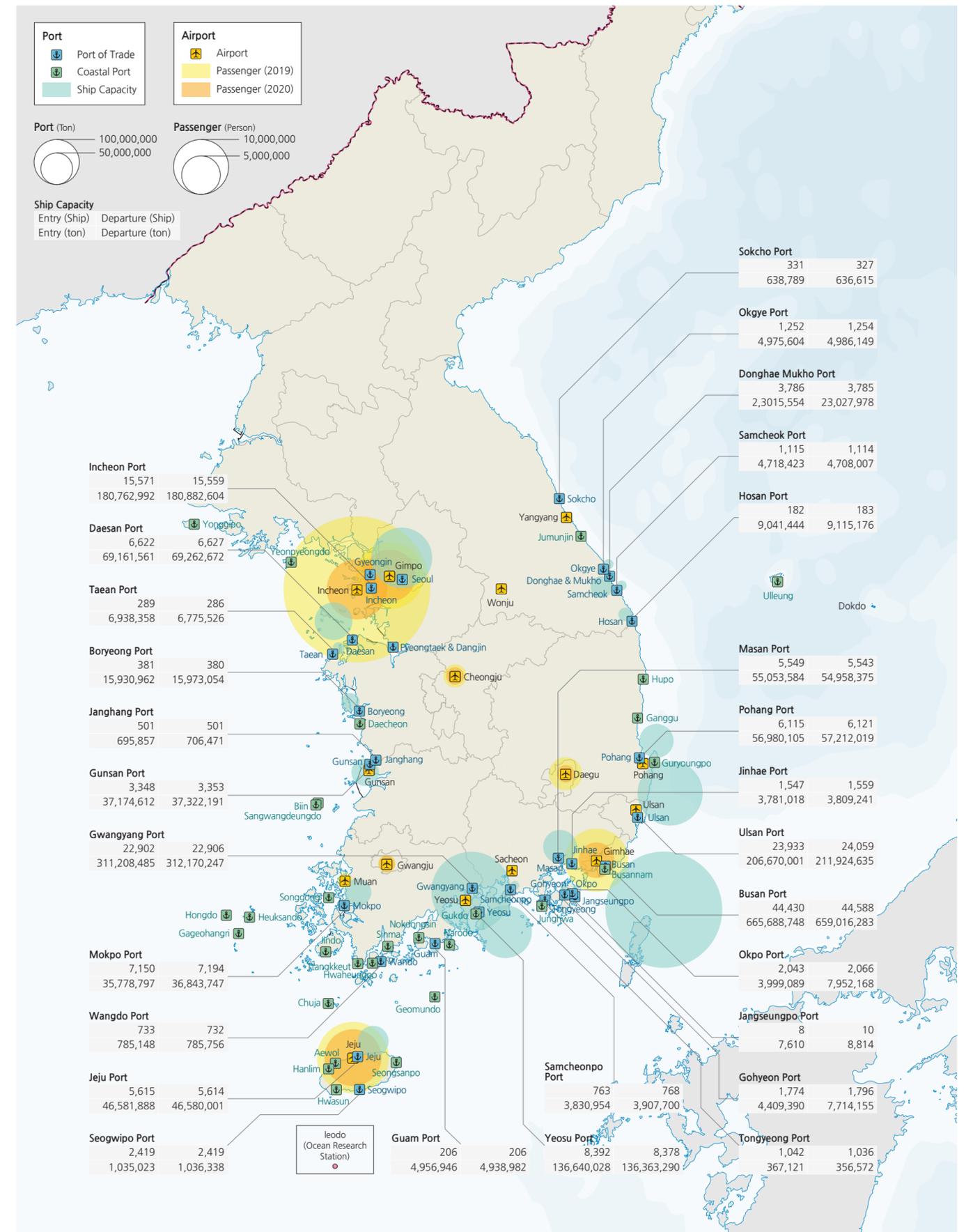
The pie charts show that most Koreans exit the country through Incheon International Airport, but Gimhae Airport, Gimpo International Airport, and Busan Port are used as well. Most foreigners arrive in Korea via the ports in the Seoul Metropolitan Areas, such as Incheon International Airport and Gimpo International Airport. Others rely upon airports in Gimhae, Jeju, and Busan Port.

Ministry of Justice (2017)

Korean Departure and Foreigner Entry

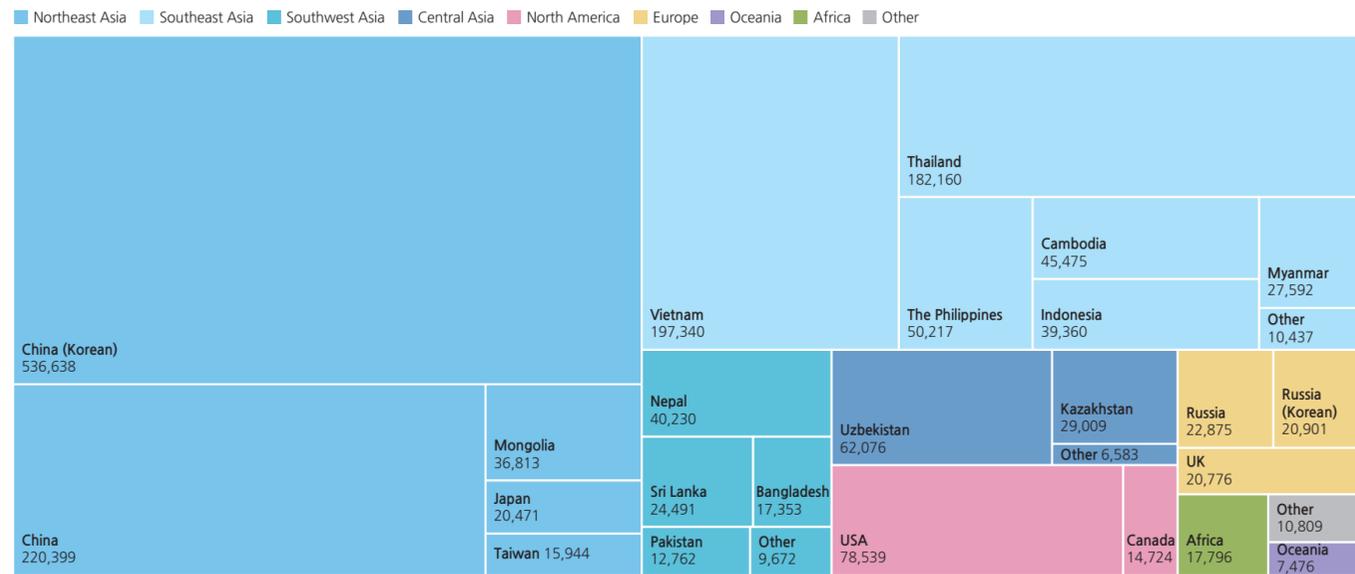


Port and Airport



International Workers and Students in Korea

Foreign Nationalities by Countries (2019)



Many people come from around the globe to live in South Korea to work or study. The number of resident foreigners has increased rapidly since the 1990s with the influx of foreign workers, foreign nationals, international students, and marriage immigrants. The total number of foreigners reached a record high of 2.52 million in 2019. In 2020, due to the impact of COVID-19, the number of foreigners dropped by nearly half a million to 2.04

million. Most foreign residents are from other Asian countries, especially China, Vietnam, and Thailand. Nearly one million are Chinese: 250,000 Chinese and 650,000 Korean Chinese (Chinese of Korean ethnicity). The proportion of foreigners aged 25-34 is high. However, the age and gender demographics of foreigners residing in Korea vary greatly by country. For example, among Chinese nationals,

there are more Korean Chinese women than men, but more non-Korean Chinese men than women. Also, most Korean Chinese are over the age of 50, while most non-Chinese are under the age of 50. African, Central Asian, and Southeast Asian countries, in general, have a high proportion of men, with the exception of a few countries, such as Thailand. The United States also shows a similar pattern. A higher sex ratio of the Indonesian population in Korea is due to religious reasons. On the other hand, the proportion of female Japanese in Korea is overwhelmingly high.

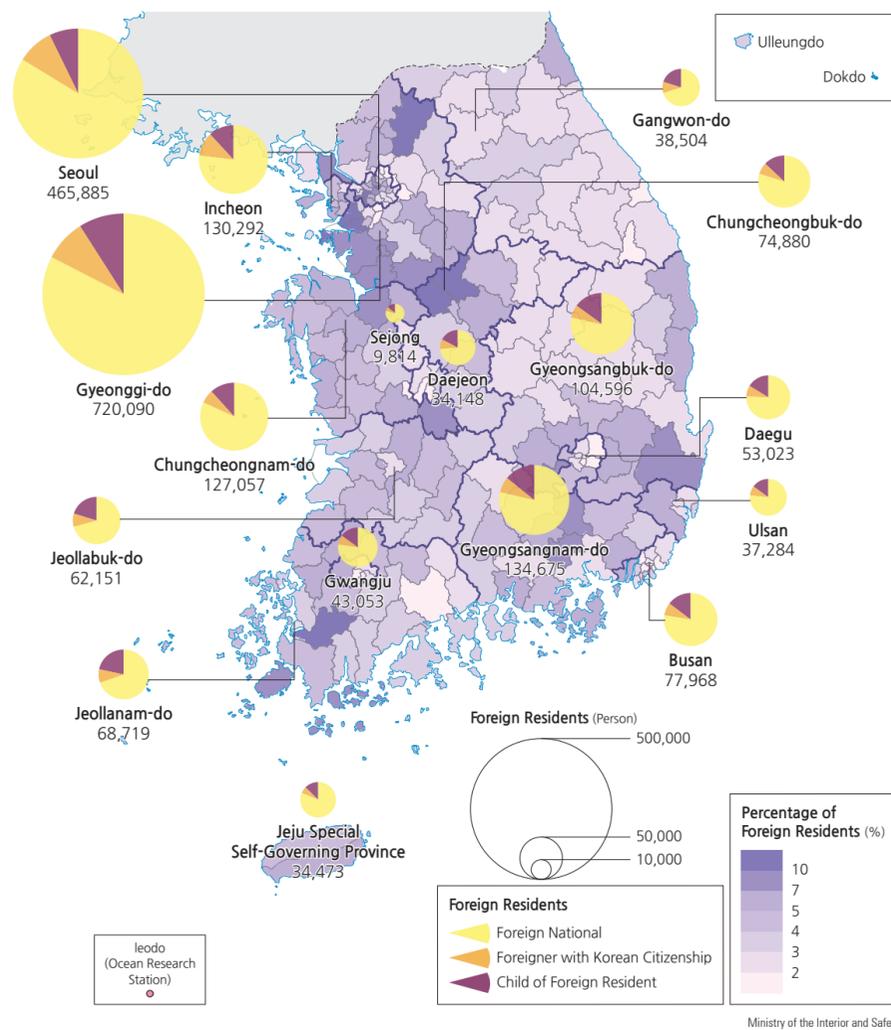
Foreign Residents in Korea by Year (1987-2020)



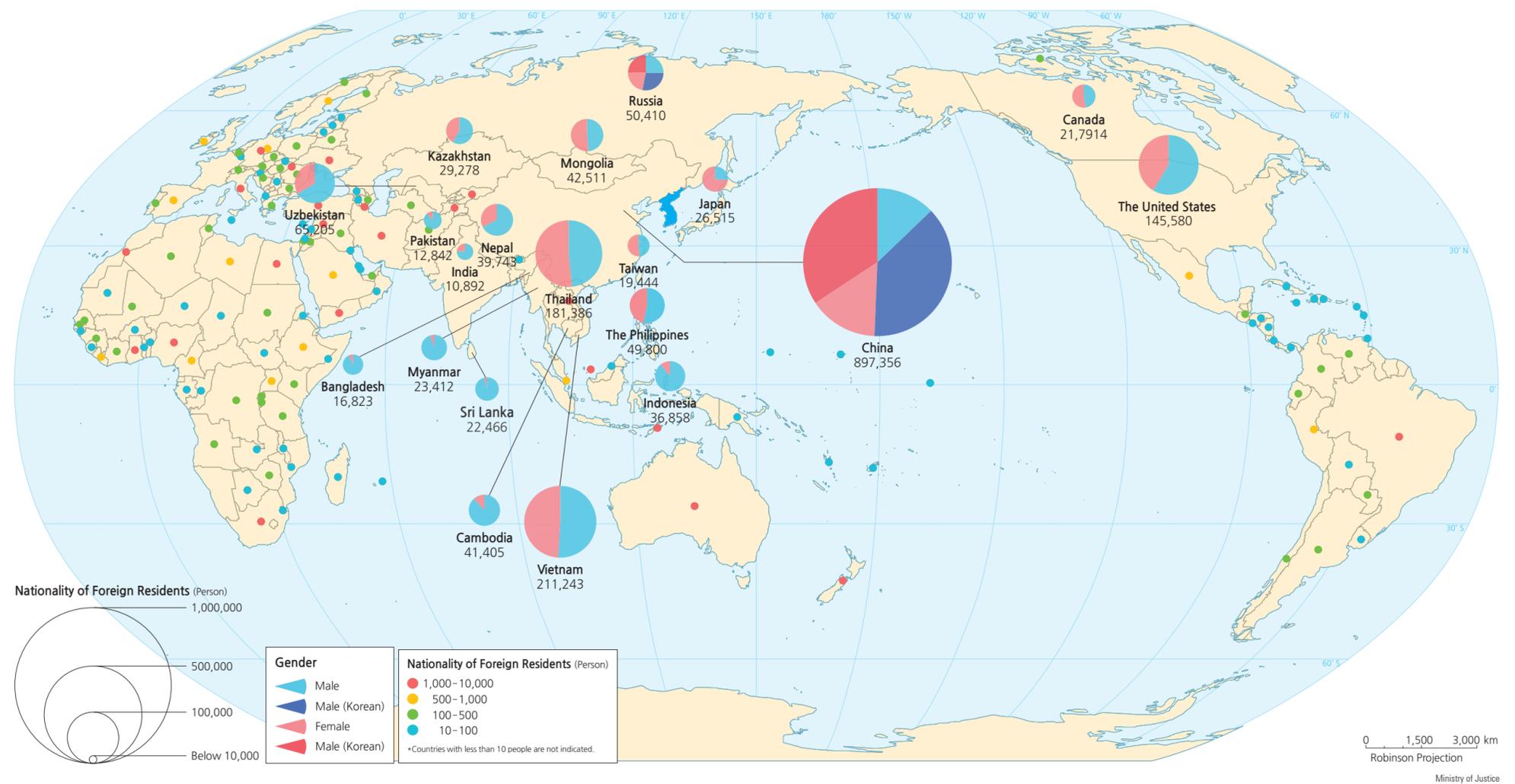
In 2020, 390,000 immigrants stayed in Korea beyond the expiration date of their visas. As the COVID-19 pandemic made it difficult for foreign workers to return to their home countries, the rate of illegal immigration in Korea rose to 19.3%, the highest since 2008.

By 2019, the Seoul Metropolitan Area had 1.32 million foreign residents, accounting for more than half of all foreigners living in Korea. The proportion of foreign residents in the total population is relatively high in the -si/-gun/-gu areas in the Seoul Metropolitan Area and in its neighboring regions. The proportion of foreign residents is continuously increasing across the nation as the employment of foreign workers expands in the manufacturing sector and in non-manufacturing sectors such as construction, wholesale and retail, and agriculture.

Foreign Residents (2019)



Nationality of Foreign Residents (2020)



Finding Korea around the Globe



Food Stand

Popular Night Korean Food Stand by Mathew Schwartz, licensed under CC BY 3.0 via Wikimedia Commons

Many aspects of Korean culture—including its food, language, and art—have become increasingly popular around the world in recent years. Those who have a growing interest in Korea but perhaps limited opportunities to visit might find many ways to explore Korea without leaving their home country. Korean groceries and restaurants can now be found in many parts of the globe, allowing people to taste dishes like kimchi and bulgogi and to learn more about the flavors and ingredients of Korea. The explosion in popularity of Korean food is reflected in internet search trends on all continents.

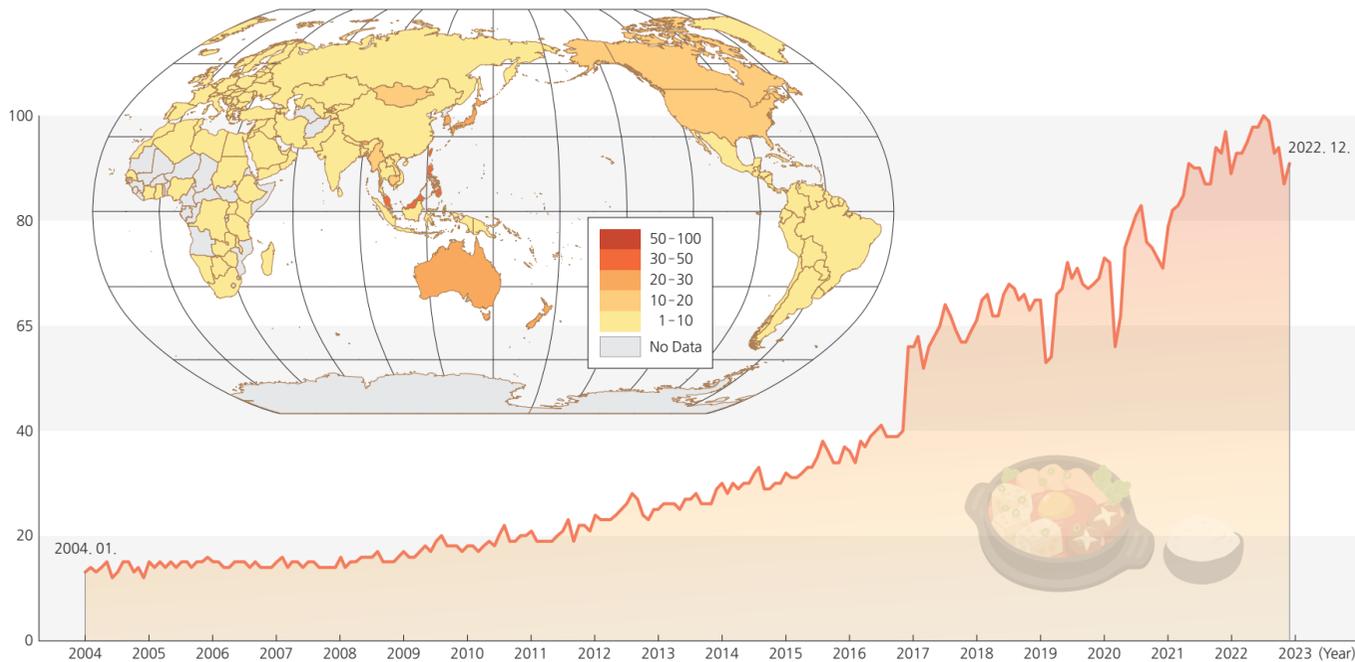
Many parts of the world have museums, cultural

centers, or art galleries that feature Korean exhibits. These are good places to see first-hand artifacts such as ceramics, paintings, or other manufactured items that help convey the long history of Korea. In addition, many universities around the world offer courses in Korean studies or the Korean language; some of these programs offer opportunities to travel and study abroad in Korea. The popularity of Korean language studies, in particular, has grown rapidly in recent years.

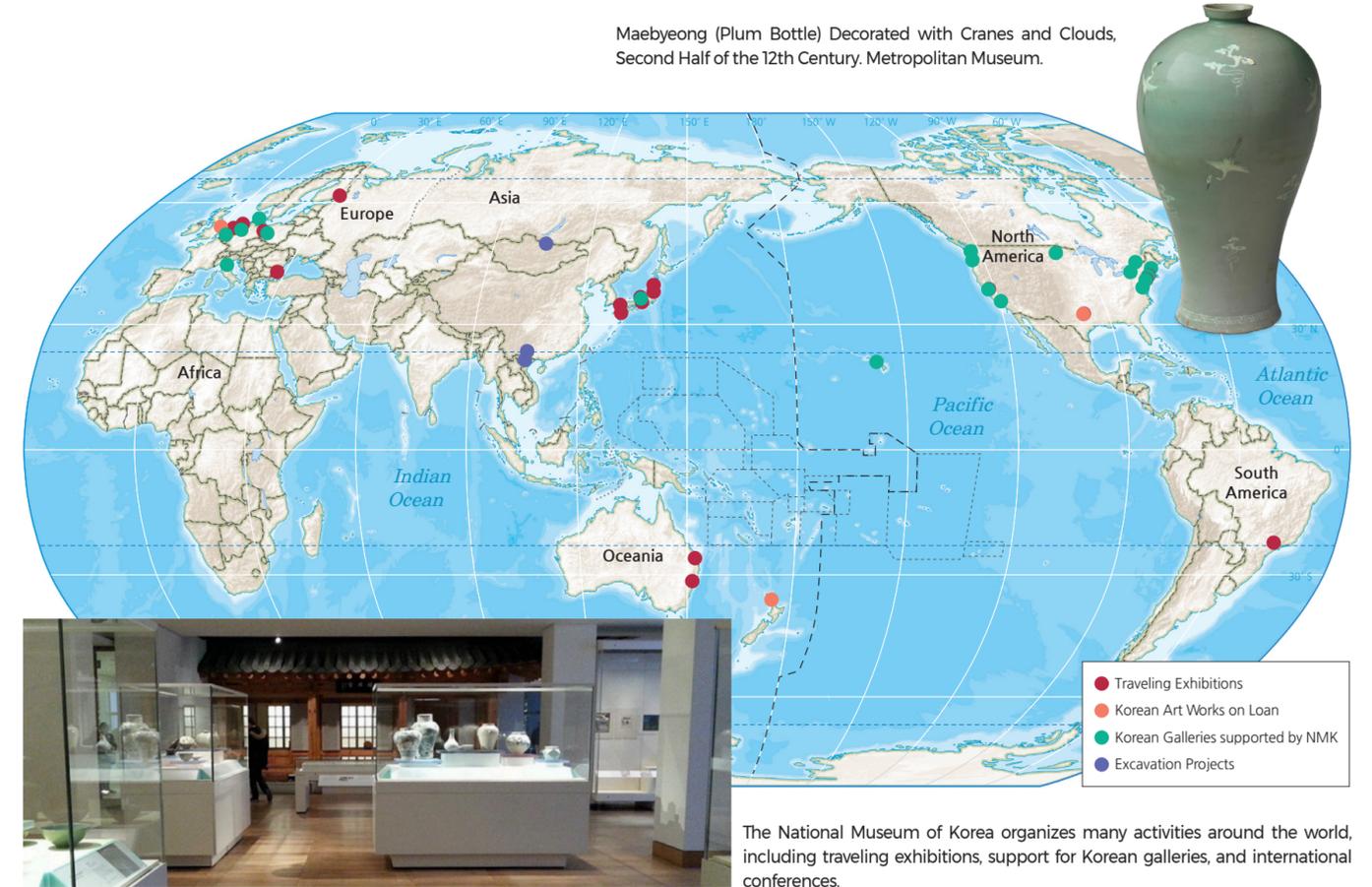
Other ways to experience Korean culture while living elsewhere might be found in enjoying art forms such as Korean music, comics (sometimes known

as webtoons or manhwa), or Korean dramas, shows similar to soap operas. The engaging stories of these comics and dramas can be a fun way to learn more about the Korean language and culture.

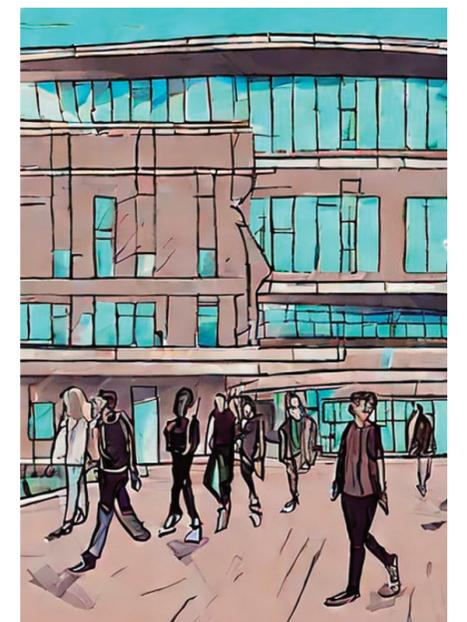
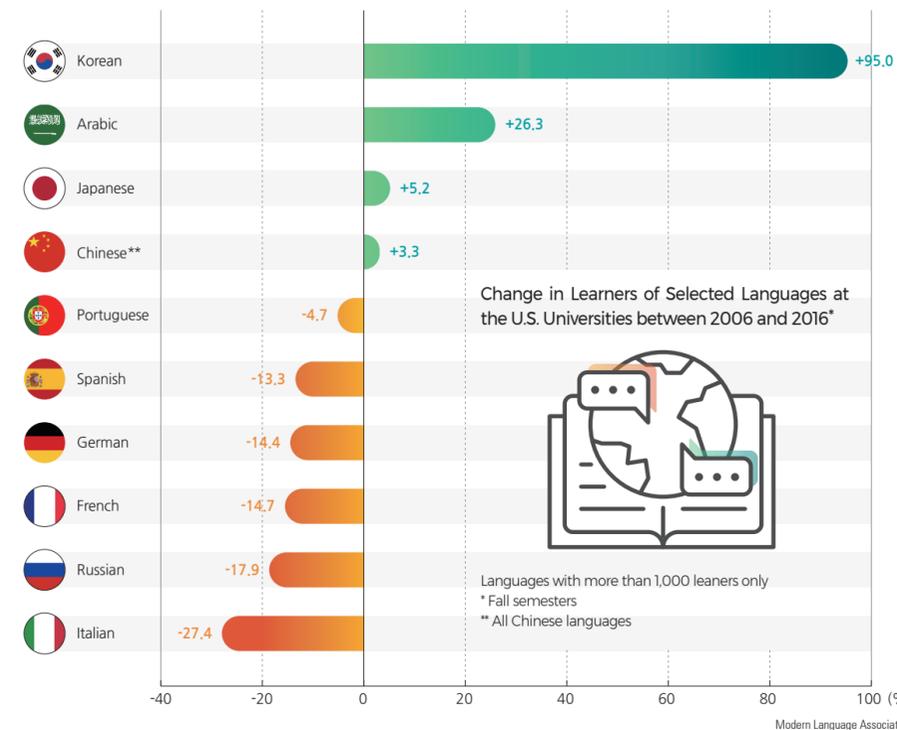
Finally, Korean fashion has also become more popular around the world. Many people enjoy the stylish designs that are characteristic of Korean fashion, that sometimes feature a blend of traditional and modern elements. For someone interested in experiencing a bit of Korea in their home country, there is much to explore, from the delicious cuisine to rich cultural offerings.



A search on Google Trends for the term "Korean cuisine" indicates a growing interest in recent years. The map shows countries where people have searched for the term, with darker colors representing a higher volume of searches. The graph indicates relative search volume over time, from 2004 to 2022.



What Languages are College Students Learning More of?



University students increasingly choose to study the Korean language. This, in part, reflects the popularity of Korean cultural exports. The drawing at left was generated by an AI (stablediffusionweb.com).

Economy and Global Trade

Over the past five decades, international trade has played a crucial role in the economic development of South Korea. Such trade includes the exchange of goods, services, and capital across borders, as well as the flow of intangible commodities such as finance, insurance, and information technologies. International trade agreements like free trade agreements (FTAs) also play a significant role in the country's international economic environment.

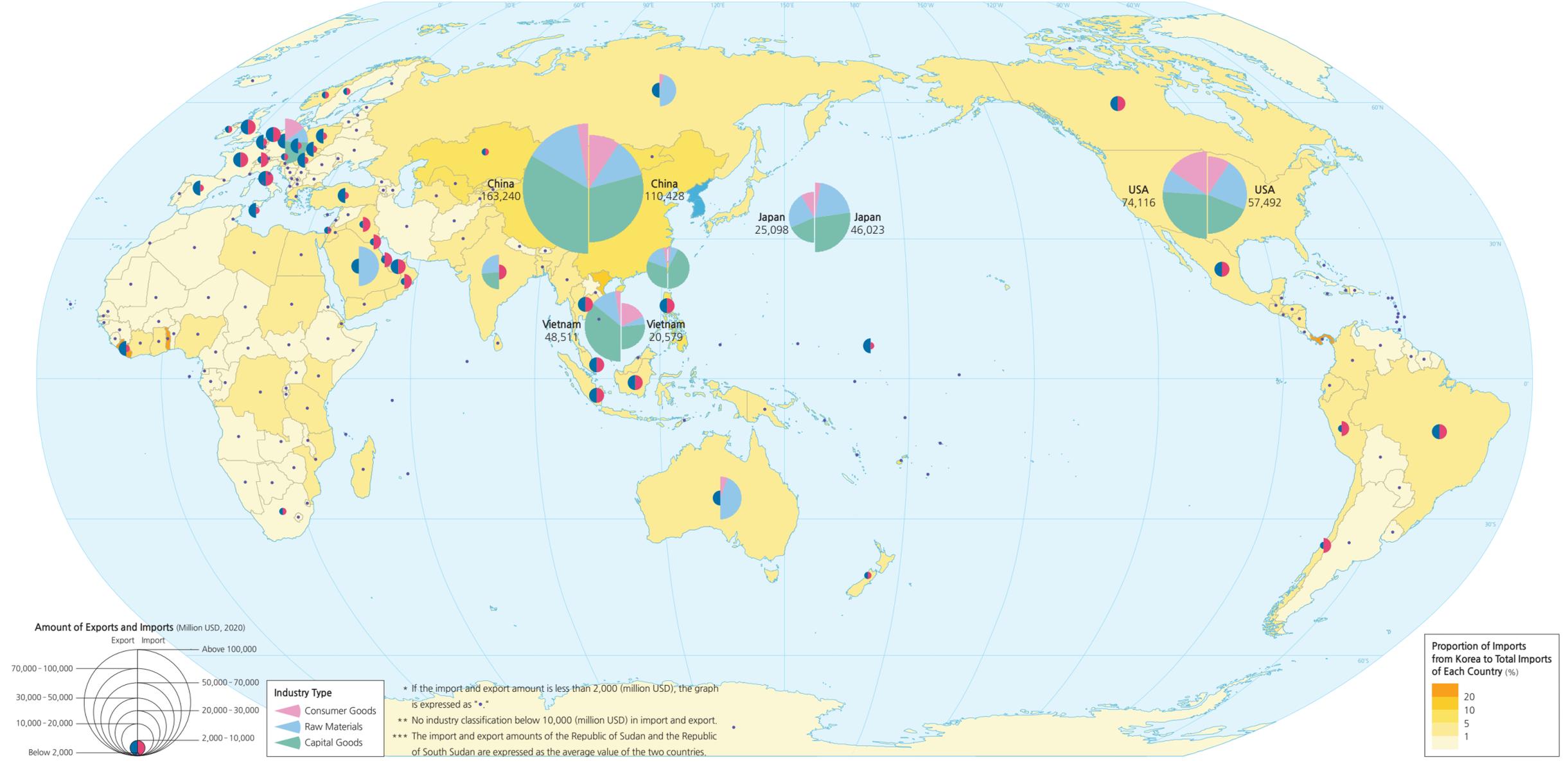
The growth of South Korea's trading can be attributed to export-oriented economic development strategies implemented by the government through five-year plans, starting in 1962. As a result, trading volumes have risen from around \$100 million in 1964 to over \$1 trillion by 2011, reaching \$1.14 trillion in 2018. However, in 2020, due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it declined to \$980 billion. South Korea is now ranked 8th in the world by trading volume. Along with this growth, the country's economy has become more reliant on international trade. There has been an especially rapid increase in trade since the early 2000s.

Trends show particularly strong growth in exports since the early 2000s. For example, exports increased from \$150 billion in 2001 to \$560 billion by 2013, resulting in a trade balance growth from \$9 billion in 2001 to \$44 billion in 2013. Korea's main exports include products such as integrated circuits and semiconductors, automobiles and car parts, passenger and cargo ships, and electronic components such as LCDs and smart phones. The export of semiconductors has also increased significantly since 2008. By 2010, semiconductors had become the single largest export commodity, although they made up a smaller proportion of all export goods once prices in the world market began declining in 2011. Automobile exports have also risen as a result of recent FTAs with the US and increasing demand from other advanced economies.

Alongside these export trends, South Korea has also seen significant growth in imports, despite a downturn during the global economic crisis in 2008. The subsequent rise in oil prices and the importation of equipment have contributed to rising imports. Crude petroleum has been the most significant imported good, accounting for over 30% of the value of total imports. In 2011, Korean crude petroleum imports surpassed \$100 billion for the first time, accounting for 33% of total imports that year.

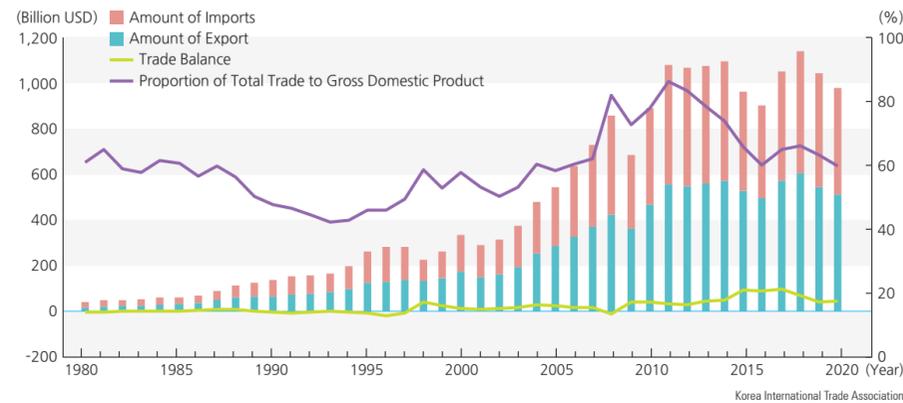
South Korea's main export partners are China, the US, Japan, Singapore, Vietnam, and the European Union (EU). Exports to China, the top trading partner, increased from \$4 billion in 1989 to \$174 billion by 2013. Exports to Vietnam also increased rapidly due to the growth of Korean foreign direct investments there. The relative proportion of exports to advanced economies such as the US, Japan, Singapore, and the EU has decreased. Imports have followed a similar trend, with the major import partners being China, Japan, the US, and Saudi Arabia.

Exports and Imports of Korea

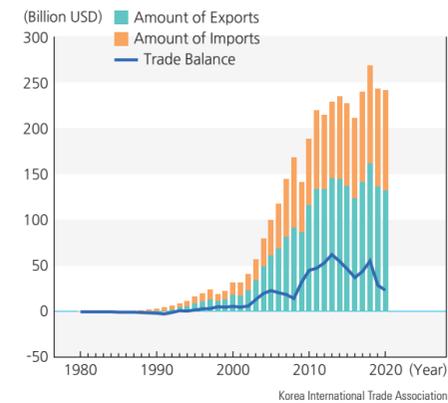


Korea International Trade Association (2020), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (2020)

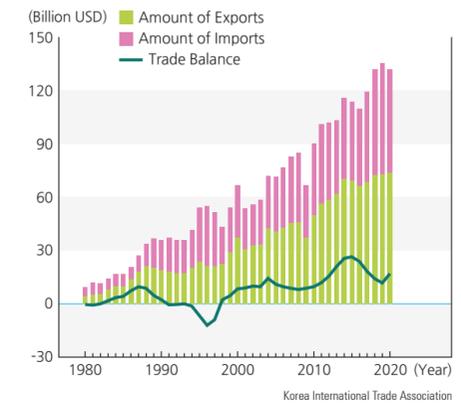
Exports, Imports, Trade Balance, and Degree of Dependence on Foreign Trade of Korea



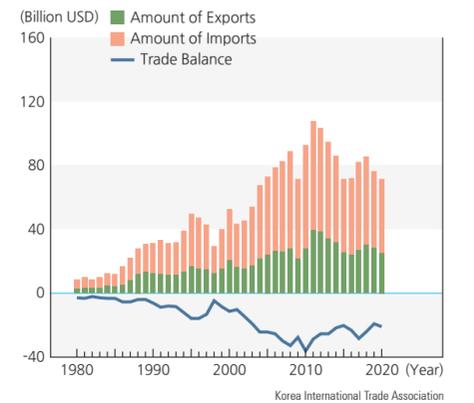
Exports, Imports, and Trade Balance with China



Exports, Imports, and Trade Balance with the USA



Exports, Imports, and Trade Balance with Japan



International Diplomacy



Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Los Angeles

Consulate-General of South Korea in Los Angeles by Clinton Steeds, licensed under CC BY 2.0 via Wikimedia Commons

Korea has become a key player on the world political stage, demonstrating a commitment to being an active and engaged member of the international community. With rapid globalization, the 21st century has presented a number of challenges to countries around the world, including political, economic, and cultural issues. Korea has risen to these challenges on

many fronts, both at home and in its relationships with other nations. This has included expanding diplomatic ties with other countries and promoting important treaties, as well as maintaining embassies, missions, and consulate generals in countries across the globe.

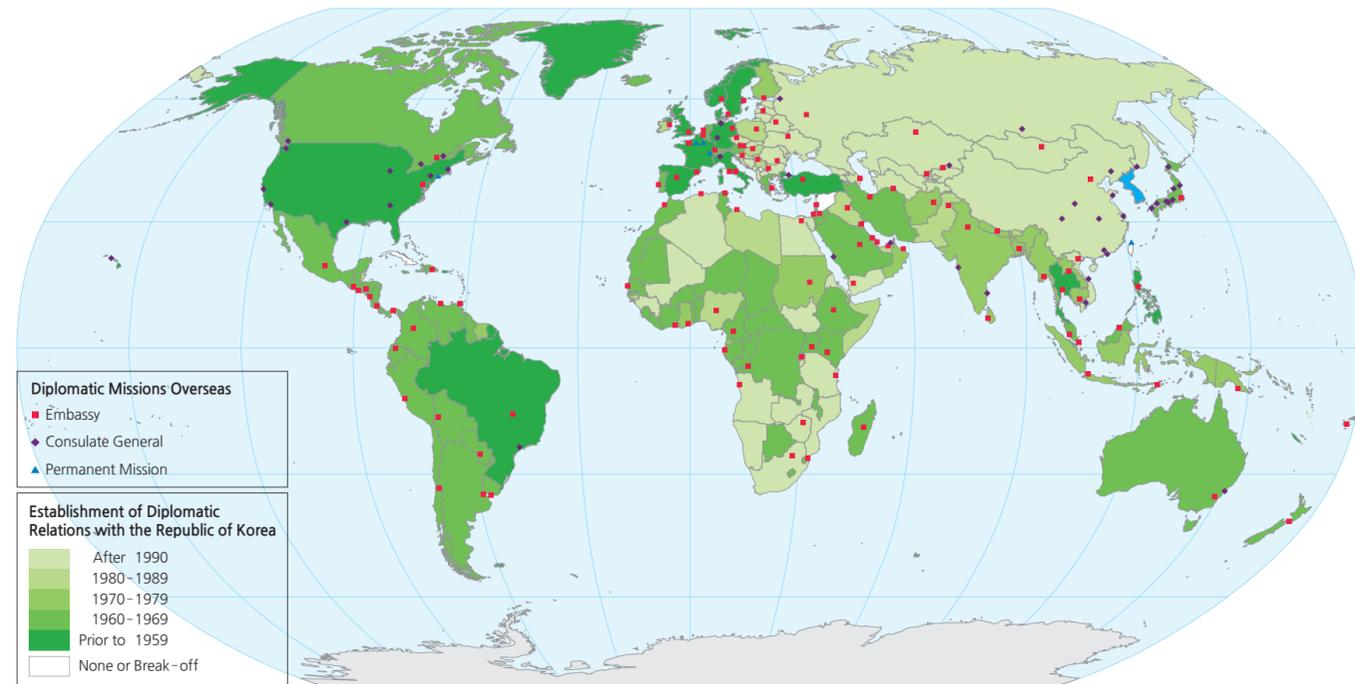
The Korean government manages 115 embassies, five permanent missions, and 46 consulate generals

in 191 countries. Embassies are set up in the capitals of countries with whom Korea has established diplomatic relations. Permanent missions are set up within international organizations that Korea joins. Consulate generals are opened wherever a large number of Koreans reside overseas. Many consulate generals are located in North America and Asia, due to close relationships with countries such as the US, Japan, and China, as well as the presence of large Korean populations in these regions.

The Korean government has also successfully developed bilateral and regional FTAs to complement the existing multinational trading system. These FTAs have allowed Korea to mitigate the economic challenges presented by an unbalanced domestic distribution of wealth and population, as well as the stark realities of an aging populace and an overall low birth rate.

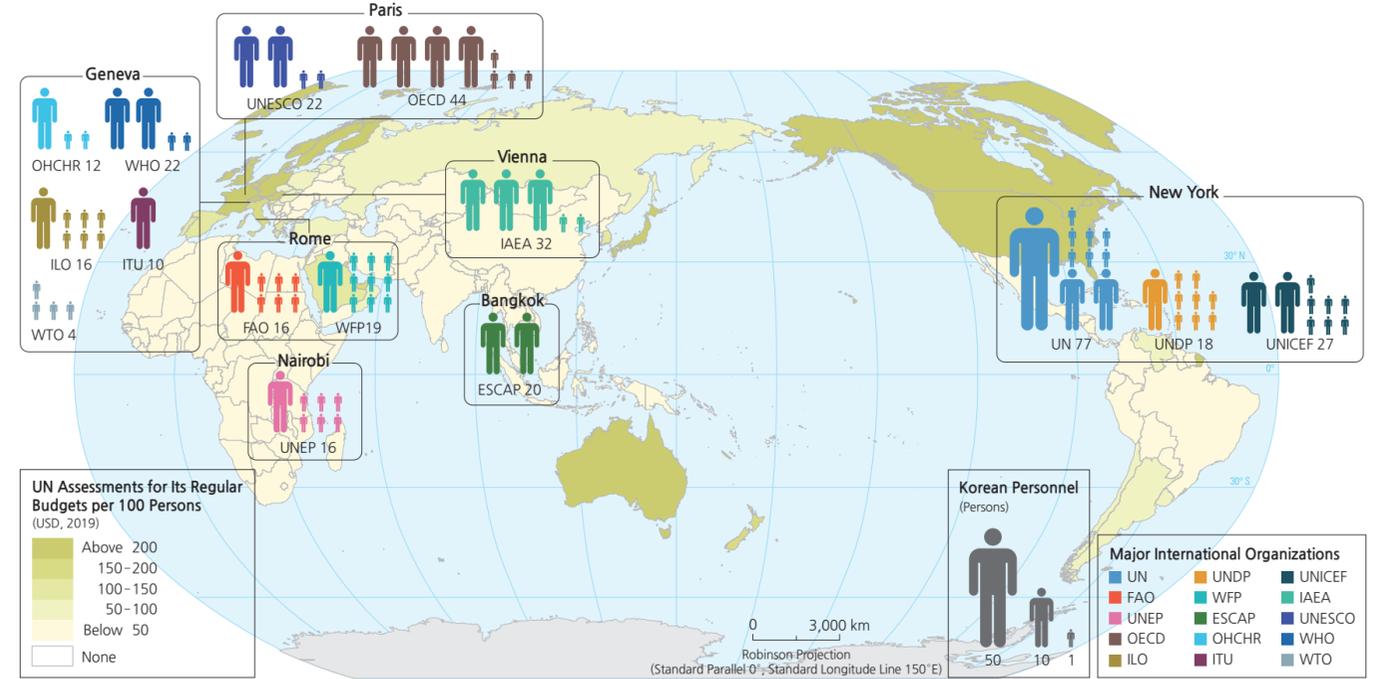
In addition to expanding diplomatic efforts, Korea has played an active role in international organizations headquartered in foreign cities. This has included the United Nations, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), and the World Health Organization (WHO), among others. Korea contributes to the UN Regular Budget to fund peacekeeping, human rights, economic development, and environmental protection efforts. Korea has also participated in UN Peacekeeping Operations, working to resolve disputes around the world and protect human rights. As of 2019, 580 Korean peacekeeping forces were deployed to seven different missions: 284 in Lebanon, 285 in South Sudan, seven in India and Pakistan, three in Western Sahara, and one in Sudan's Darfur. They serve in stability operations, truce supervision, and rebuilding. Korea has also provided financial and logistical support for these efforts.

Republic of Korea's Diplomatic Relations and Missions Overseas



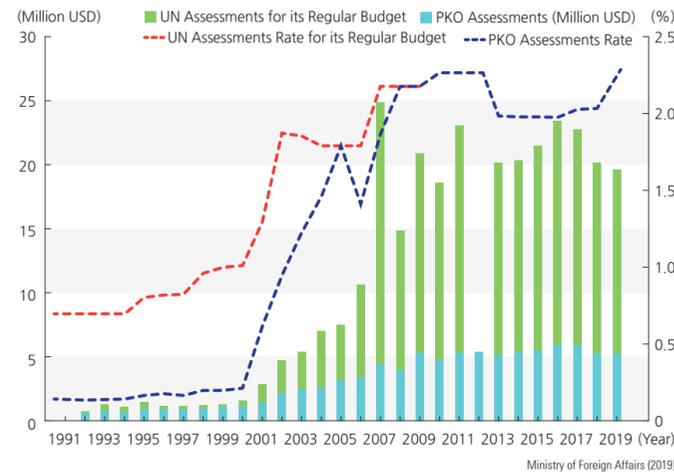
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2019)

United Nations Assessments and Korean Personnel in Major International Organizations



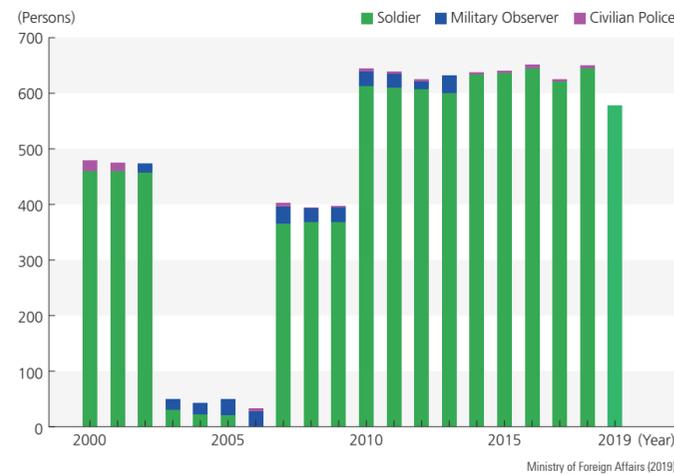
Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2019)

Korea's UN Assessments



Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2019)

Korean Forces for UN PKO by Year



Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2019)

Major International Organizations with Korean Personnel

United Nations Secretariat	
International Organizations	The Number of Koreans
United Nations Headquarters	77
United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP)	20
Office of the High Commissioner (OHCHR)	12
Total	109
United Nations Agencies	
International Organizations	The Number of Koreans
United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)	18
United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)	16
United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)	27
World Food Programme (WFP)	19
Total	80
United Nations Specialized Agencies	
International Organizations	The Number of Koreans
United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)	16
International Labor Organization (ILO)	16
International Telecommunication Union (ITU)	10
United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)	22
Total	64
United Nations Cooperation Organizations	
International Organizations	The Number of Koreans
International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)	32
World Trade Organization (WTO)	4
Total	36
Economic Cooperation Organization	
International Organization	The Number of Koreans
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)	44
Total	44
Other Organization	
International Organization	The Number of Koreans
Other Organization	238
Total	238
Total	571

Ministry of Foreign Affairs (2016)

Global Partnerships and Research

Many environmental problems related to the ocean and atmosphere—such as climate change, sea level rise, and marine plastic debris—are complex and global in nature and therefore require international cooperation among many countries. Korea has been active both at home and abroad in the scientific study of oceanic and atmospheric phenomena. The Korea Ocean Observing Network (KOON) is designed to manage and monitor ocean conditions within Korea's sovereign marine areas. It consists of tidal stations, buoys, current stations, and an ocean research platform. The data generated by KOON sites are used to help monitor environmental changes and to plan for disaster mitigation.

Korea partners with many overseas laboratories and institutes that research marine environments. These organizations develop initiatives related to fisheries monitoring, sustainable planning, and marine ecosystem preservation.

Korea is also a world leader in the science of climate change, working closely with many international organizations, including the World Meteorological Organization (WMO). The Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) has been an executive council member of the WMO since 2007. KMA helps with education initiatives, the coordination of scientific projects, and international collaborations. Monitoring of the ocean and atmosphere is enhanced by the use of satellites. Korean satellite capabilities have made great progress since the 1990s. Many satellites have been launched to help with scientific endeavors.

Conducting scientific research expeditions in oceanic and polar areas well beyond its borders represents an important step in Korea's contribution to the global scientific community. In 2002, Korea established the Dasan Arctic Research Station on Spitsbergen, an island in the Svalbard Archipelago (a group of islands). The station, which was set up to explore the Arctic environment and resources, performs multiple roles as an observation base for a variety of research projects.

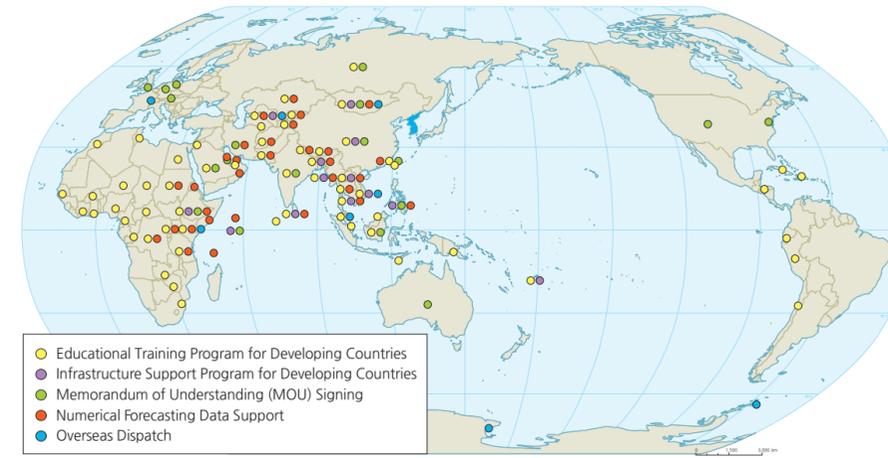
Korea operates two research stations in Antarctica: the King Sejong Station and Jang Bogo Station. The research agenda at King Sejong Station primarily focuses on climate change and polar environments, such as atmospheric conditions in the Antarctic region, its geologic features, waters, and organisms. With the construction of the Jang Bogo Station in 2014, Korea has extended the scope of research to include such additional fields as paleoclimatology and paleoenvironments, along with expeditions for meteorites.

Korea, with its advanced technological capabilities, has a strong commitment to research contributions that deal with such global issues as climate change and the degradation of the global environment. Its continued operation of research stations worldwide is a testament to this commitment.



Launching of Naro-1, the Korea Space Launch Vehicle

International Cooperation on Climate



Korean Research Icebreaker, Araon



The Comprehensive Oceanic Research Ship, Onnuri

Supporting Developing Countries Projects and Invitation & Training Programs

- Education Program for Foreign Forecasters (1998-2005, 2014-)
- Education Program for the Operation of the Weather Radar and Data Utilization (2012-)
- KMA built the Korea-China Joint SDS (Sand & Dust Storm) Monitoring Network (2003-2006, 2006-2008, 2014-2018)
- KMA worked out the master plan for the advancement of the national meteorological system in Myanmar. (2015-2016)
- KMA modernized the meteorological disaster monitoring system of Myanmar. (2017-2019)
- KMA modernized the meteorological disaster monitoring system of Vietnam. (2014-2016)
- KMA established the automatic weather observation system of Mongolia. (2017-2019)

Establishing Global Leadership

- Korean candidate elected member of the WMO Executive Council.
- KMA approved by the WMO to establish the WMO Lead Center for Long-Range Forecast Multi-Model Ensemble in Korea.
- KMA approved by the WMO to establish the Global Information System Center (GISC) in Seoul.
- KMA appointed government department representing Korea for the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).
- KMA approved by the WMO to establish the Global Atmosphere Watch (GAW) World Calibration Center for SF6 (Sulfur Hexafluoride).
- Korean candidate elected to the vice-presidency of the WMO Commission for Atmospheric Sciences (CAS).
- KMA has implemented joint research projects with the international community.

Educational Training Program for Developing Countries

- Foreigner Forecaster Course (1998-)
- Korea ASEAN Training Workshop (2002-2011)
- Meteorological Service Enhancement Course using Information Communication Technology (ICT) (2006-)
- Climate Prediction Experts Ability Cultivation Course (2006-2008)
- Numerical Forecast Training (2007-)
- COMS Satellite Data Analysis Training Course (2007-)
- Africa Disaster Management Ability Cultivation Course (2009-2012)
- Korea-China Asian Dust Joint Observation Network Operator Education (2010-)
- Weather Radar Operation and Data Utility Course (2012-)

Infrastructure Support Program for Developing Countries

- The Construction of Korea-China Joint Observation Network (2003-2008)
- The Construction of Sri Lanka Meteorological Administration PC Cluster Numerical Forecasting System (2005)
- The Construction of the Philippines' Disaster Prevention Early Warning System
- The Modernization of Mongolian Meteorological Administration Climate Data Restoration and Management (2008-2009)
- The Establishment of East Africa Region Climate Center (East Africa Climate Prediction Application Center 2009-2012)
- The Construction of Vietnam Typhoon Analysis and Forecast System (2010-2012)
- The Construction of Sri Lanka Satellite Data Reception System (2010-2012)
- The Modernization of Vietnam Meteorological Disaster Monitoring System (2014-2016)
- The Establishment of Myanmar Meteorological Advancement Master Plan (2015-2016)

Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) Signing

- As of August 2016, MOUs Signed with 17 Countries and Five International Agencies.
- Numerical Forecasting, Experts Exchange, Education Enhancement, Earthquake, Asian Dust, Satellite, and Other

Numerical Forecasting Data Support

- The Atmospheric Pressure 500 hPa Geopotential Height Field, 200 hPa Isotach, and Other; Forecast Weather Chart
- 30 Countries /358 Cities Prediction Data for Temperature, Wind, and Precipitation

Overseas Dispatch

- Switzerland WMO Asia Southwestern Pacific Region Office
- King Sejong Station, Antarctica
- Qatar Meteorological Administration
- Meteorological Advisor Dispatch: Kenya, Mongolia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Senegal, Uzbekistan, Rwanda

Trade Routes and Cooperation



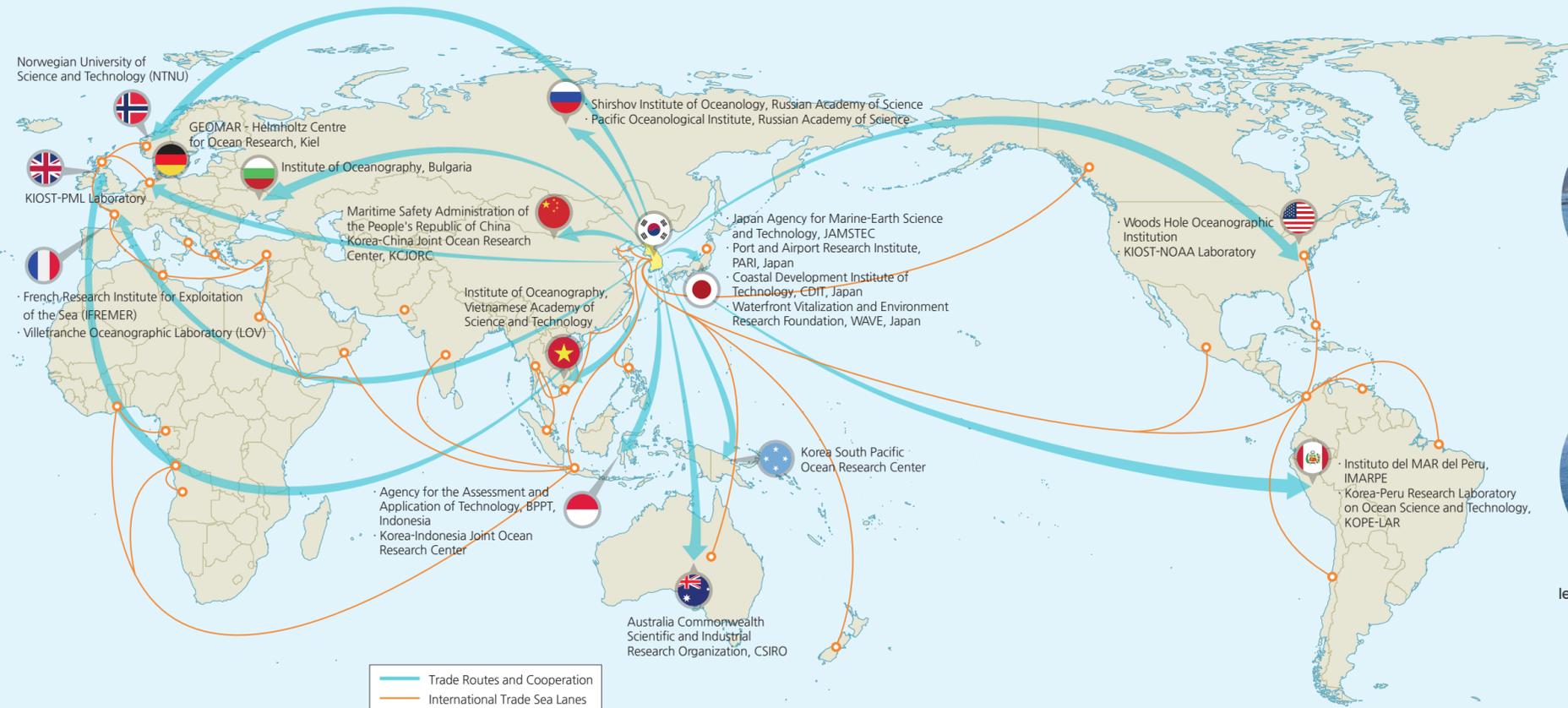
Tidal Station



Ocean Station



Ocean Buoy



Surface Currents Station



Ieodo Ocean Research Station

Korea Institute of Ocean Science & Technology, Korea Hydrographic and Oceanographic Agency (2019)