

Title

Development of Korea's Arctic Policy: the role as a 'Responsible Arctic Partner'

Abstract

Recognizing the shared responsibility in the protection and conservation of the Arctic, Korea joined the Arctic Council as an observer in May 2013. To begin with, Korea recognizes the important role the Arctic Council has played as the premier forum promoting cooperation on common Arctic issues in particular on sustainable development and environmental protection throughout the region. Korea, as an observer state to the Arctic Council, has actively participated in the activities of the Arctic Council working groups, task forces, and expert groups. Furthermore, in recognition of the unique and critical role of indigenous peoples, Korea has made efforts to support the Permanent Participants in the Arctic Council.

Also, Korea established '1st Masterplan for Korean Arctic Policy' in 2013 and then in 2018, '2nd Masterplan for Korean Arctic Policy', dubbed as 'The Basic Plan for Encouragement of Activities in the Arctic', which aims at realizing vision for becoming a 'leading observer state', which open the door for the future and opportunity of the Arctic by establishing the Arctic Partnership as a responsible observer, strengthening economic cooperation with the Arctic states, enhancing the research activities for the solution to the common challenges of mankind and strengthening domestic capabilities for Arctic policy. With this basic plan, first, Korea will establish long-term cooperation foundation with Arctic countries, indigenous communities and observer states as well. Second, it will contribute to successful commitment of the international community through scientific research for responding climate change and protecting environment and ecosystem in the Arctic. Third, it will support the sustainable development of the Arctic. Fourth, it will create friendly environment for Korean companies into the Arctic business.