

# KOREA NEWSLETTER

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## South Korea Celebrates 76<sup>th</sup> Armed Forces Day

South Korea celebrated 76<sup>th</sup> [Armed Forces Day](#) on October 1, 2024 and held a huge military parade. This day basically commemorates the crossing of the South Korean army into North Korea during the devastating Korean War (1950-1953). In the parade, Seoul [displayed](#) Hyunmoo-5 ballistic missile for the first time. Apart from this ballistic missile, South Korea also showcased its other advanced [military systems](#) such as robots, drones, underwater vehicles and fighter planes. The participation of the American [B-1B Lancer bomber](#) during this ceremony was another major attraction. During this event, the South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol warned North Korea of [massive retaliation](#) from the United States-South Korea alliance if Pyongyang uses nuclear weapons against them. Due to the military parade, the South Korean government declared a “[temporary holiday](#)” on October 1 as a show of tribute to the contribution of the military to the nation. At an event in the United States to mark the South Korean Armed Forces Day, the [joint security cooperation](#) between Washington and Seoul, and their “iron clad” alliance was reiterated by these two allies. However, North Korea [vehemently criticised](#) the holding of parade on the South Korean Armed Forces Day and the show of strength by the South Korean military along with the United States’ forces.

## South Korean President’s Visit to Southeast Asia

The South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol made a trip to the three nations of Southeast Asia, namely the Philippines, Singapore and Laos, and also attended the meetings related to the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in the second week of October 2024. The purpose of this trip was to increase economic cooperation and [enhance partnership](#) between Seoul and these three countries of the ASEAN. In the first leg of his visit, President Yoon visited Manila on October 6, 2024 with the goal of strengthening [security and economic](#) ties with the Philippines. South Korea aims to [enter into the](#) nuclear energy, mineral resources, oceans industry, infrastructure projects and defense sector of the Philippines. President Yoon and Philippine President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. agreed to establish [strategic partnership](#) and enhance cooperation between the two countries. In his visit to Singapore, President Yoon met Singaporean Prime Minister Lawrence Wong and agreed to enhance [bilateral cooperation](#) in the fields of supply chain, artificial intelligence and high-tech industries. In the 25<sup>th</sup> ASEAN-South Korea Summit on October 10, 2024 in Vientiane, Laos, the relationship between South Korea and ASEAN was [elevated](#) to that of a “Comprehensive Strategic Partnership”. Separately, South Korea and Laos agreed to [upgrade](#) their relationship to a “Comprehensive Strategic Partnership” in 2025. President Yoon Suk Yeol also held [summit](#) with Japanese Prime Minister Shigeru Ishiba in Laos.

## 75 years of North Korea's Diplomatic Relations with China

The North Korean leader Kim Jong-un [congratulated](#) the Chinese President Xi Jinping for the 75<sup>th</sup> founding anniversary of the People's Republic of China (PRC) on October 1, 2024. Earlier, Kim Jong-un had responded to Xi Jinping's [greetings](#) on the occasion of the 76<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in September this year. According to an article published in the South Korean media in October regarding Sino-North Korean relations, it was reported that despite differences, both Beijing and Pyongyang [need each other](#). The year 2024 also marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relationship between Pyongyang and Beijing. Notably, Kim Jong-un received a message from Chinese leader Xi Jinping on October 6, congratulating Kim for the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of their diplomatic ties and conveying Beijing's desire to deepen the "[strategic communications](#)" between the two countries. In response to Xi's message, Kim Jong-un vowed to strengthen the "[friendly and cooperative](#)" ties between North Korea and China. The foreign ministers of North Korea and China also [exchanged greetings](#) to commemorate the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of diplomatic relations. However, there was no [major event](#) organised in any of these two countries to mark this occasion. Remarkably, Kim Jong-un received [reply message](#) on October 16 from Xi Jinping for PRC's 75<sup>th</sup> foundation greetings.

## South Korea Reducing Dependence on Chinese Companies

South Korea has begun to reduce its dependence on China-made goods, and is putting efforts on manufacturing components indigenously. In October 2024, it was reported that the South Korean escalator making company Hyundai Elevator has been [reducing dependence](#) on the Chinese components due to their low quality and safety concerns. Earlier, in September 2024 it was reported that the South Korean [military replaced](#) more than 1,300 Chinese-origin surveillance cameras with that of the locally-manufactured cameras due to safety concerns. In another report in October, Samsung Electronics and LG Electronics have been trying to [counter the dominance](#) of a Chinese brand named Roborock in the South Korean robot vacuum cleaner market. In an article published in the *JoongAng Daily* in October 2024, the [loss of competitiveness](#) of the South Korean small and medium-sized companies due to the rapid rise of Chinese manufacturing sector was highlighted by the author. According to a report in October, investigation will be initiated in South Korea against TikTok, a brand owned by the Chinese company ByteDance for [alleged violation](#) of the personal data protection law of the country. South Korea also started "[anti-dumping probe](#)" against Chinese steel supplying companies. It was reported that AliExpress, a Chinese e-commerce company in South Korea was [interrogated](#) for the safety issues of the products sold by it.