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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 17, 2005



SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS WELCOMES KOREAN DELEGATION

Korean Officials Meet with Regional Planning Agency to Discuss Seoul and Los Angeles' Role as Global Gateway Regions

LOS ANGELES – High-ranking officials from the Seoul Development Institute (SDI) met with leaders of the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) yesterday in a symposium entitled "Global Gateway Regions: South Korea and Southern California." Billie Greer, Director of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's Los Angeles office, commended those in attendance and affirmed the governor's support for continued dialogue between the Seoul delegation and SCAG leaders.

New economic and population projections indicate that growth in the United States will occur in nine emerging global gateway regions, positioned to compete in the global economy. By 2050, 70 percent of the U.S. population and 80 percent of all economic growth is projected to reside in these "mega-regions." Global gateway regions are emerging in Europe and Asia, such as the European Union (EU) and BESETO (Beijing-Seoul-Tokyo).

At the symposium, leaders discussed policy issues and program initiatives, particularly related to population growth, transportation, environment, economy and goods movement to best position their corresponding regions in the global economy. SCAG and Seoul leaders emphasized the necessity to create regional and global networks of cities with role differentiation and functional specialization so that market competition does not hinder a region's growth in a global economy.

"It is always important to share ideas and approaches with decision-makers, whether they are from another metropolitan area or another country," said Toni Young, SCAG President and Port Hueneme City Councilmember. "Today's meeting was very informative and insightful for everyone involved, and SCAG was very pleased to have the opportunity to share some of our ideas and initiatives with our Korean counterparts."

Many cities within the Southern California global gateway region's urbanized core are relying more on infill and redevelopment to accommodate both the new and existing population, while at the same time recreating the way the metropolis looks and functions. A concerted effort to build and develop around a public transit network is reshaping the region and laying the foundation for a truly global city.

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The Korean delegation included Man-Soo Kang, President of SDI; Dr. Hee-Yun Jung, Director of Research Center for Balanced Regional Development at SDI; and Young-Ki Bang of the Seoul Metropolitan Government. Delegation members met with Toni Young, SCAG's President; Mark Pisano, SCAG Executive Director; John Husing, President of Economics & Politics, Inc.; Dr. Dowell Myers, Professor of Urban Planning and Demography, School of Policy, Planning, and Development, USC; and other SCAG staff.

Along the 1,500 km corridor linking Beijing, Seoul and Tokyo, there are more than one billion people. This makes the BESETO region the largest metropolitan area in the world. In addition, South Korea's Busan port is the third largest container port in the world, positioning Seoul as a major logistics hub and regional headquarters for multinational firms.

“When trade and other institutional barriers are lowered and an integrated transportation system is developed, this region will function as one of the most powerful economic centers in the global economy,” stated Dr. Jung.

One year ago, SDI invited representatives from SCAG to visit its offices and attend SDI's 12th anniversary commemorative events in Seoul, South Korea. This was the inaugural meeting of the two agencies to jointly identify and discuss major planning issues facing metropolitan areas.