

NEWSLETTER+

June 2026

Announcement

Forum

Colloquium

Networking

Perspectives

Tolerance Program

Call for Papers

English Edition

NO.11
2026.06



HK+ 국가전략사업단

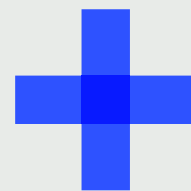
HK+ NATIONAL STRATEGIES RESEARCH PROJECT AGENCY
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL AREA STUDIES, HUIF

English Edition

NO.11 2026.06

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This work was supported by the Ministry of Education of the Republic of Korea and the National Research Foundation of Korea (NRF-2020S1A6A3A04064633).

HK+ National Strategies Research Project Agency, Center for International Area Studies, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies NEWSLETTER
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Announcement

1. Annual Report 2026 Publication

2. Study Team Selection Results

Announcement

Annual Report 2026 Publication

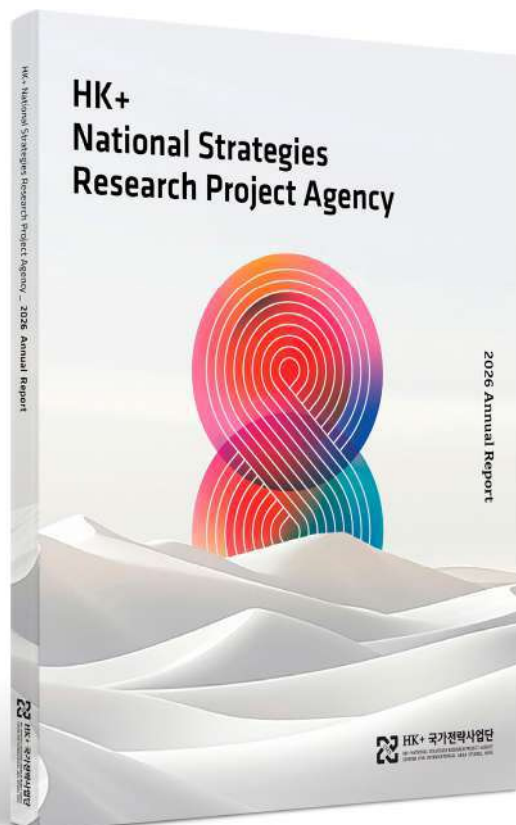
The HK+ National Strategies Research Project Agency (NSRPA), Center for International Area Studies (CIAS), at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS), is pleased to announce the publication of its 2026 Annual Report.

This Report provides a comprehensive review of activities, achievements, and research outcomes for FY2025 (May 2025 ~ April 2026). It records major academic events organized by the NSRPA, including forums, conferences, seminars, colloquia, special lectures, and research meetings. The Report also includes photographs documenting these events and highlights the active engagement of experts, diplomats, researchers, scholars, and participants throughout the year.

In addition, the Report presents the academic profiles and research accomplishments of the project's members and affiliated researchers, highlighting their contributions to advancing scholarship and to the successful implementation of the project.

More than a simple record of annual activities, this report demonstrates our continued commitment to achieving the objectives of the HK+ project. It summarizes the past year's progress, evaluates key accomplishments, and reaffirms our determination to promote innovative research, strengthen academic collaboration, and advance understanding of regional and global issues.

We hope this Report serves as a valuable resource for understanding the scope and impact of our work and provides a meaningful overview of the efforts undertaken to advance the project's mission. We extend our sincere appreciation to all researchers, staff members, partners, and participants whose dedication and support made these achievements possible.



HK+ National Strategies Research
Project Agency (NSRPA)
Center for International Area Studies (CIAS)
Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFS)

Announcement

Study Team Selection Results

Following the call for applications to NSRPA's Study Team Grant Program, we received an overwhelming number of applications from talented teams, and four were ultimately selected. The selected study teams will conduct their research over the next six months, with dedicated guidance and academic support from the NSRPA.



Team 1

Name	K2K (Kursk to Kaesong)
Theme	Post-War DPRK-Russia City Diplomacy and Korean Peninsula-Northern Connectivity: Focusing on the Kaesong-Kursk Sister-city Alliance
Member	Taehyun Cho (Yonsei University), Yechan Moon (Yonsei University), Jeonghwan Song (Dongguk University), Dukyeon Kim (Dongguk University), Hyejin Kim (Sogang University)

Team 2

Name	Go together, the value of being together
Theme	A Comparative Study on Internal Dynamics and External Factors Influencing the Integration of Divided States: Focusing on the Cases of the Korean Peninsula and Moldova-Romania
Member	Jongwon Choi (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies), Gulzhanar Khairolla (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies), Jieun Chae (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies)

Team 3

Name	TMT (The Middle-power Thinkers)
Theme	A Comparative Study on Hedging Strategies of Middle Powers in Response to Russia's Energy Securitization Strategy: Focusing on Turkey and Mongolia
Member	Hyeonjun Lee (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies), Seunga Kim (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies), Eunho Lee (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies), Seona Lim (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies),

Team 4

Name	Digital Caravan
Theme	Changes in the Central Asian Consumer Market and Korean Consumer Goods Driven by Hallyu Expansion Strategies: Focusing on the Development of a Market Attractiveness Index
Member	Jongwon Lee (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies), Minji Kang (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies), Minseo Ma (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies),



Forum

1. The 6th Culture and Strategies Forum for the Korean Peninsula and the North:
Working together in Seoul 2026



Forum

The 6th Culture and Strategies Forum for the Korean Peninsula and the North: Working together in Seoul 2026

Day 1 (Diplomatic and Strategic Session)

Theme	For Peace and Prosperity: Overcoming Conflicts through Supranational Solidarity Amid the Return of Global Power Competition
Date	Monday, June 15, 2026
Venue	The Westin Josun Seoul
Hosted by	HK+ National Strategies Research Project Agency



Program: http://www.cias.ac.kr/forum/11?me_code=2030

Media Coverage:

<https://www.joongang.co.kr/article/25436882>

<https://www.hufs.ac.kr/hufs/11404/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGYmJzJTJGaHVmcyUyRjlxODgIMkYyNTg2MTUIMkZhc nRjbFZpZXcuZG8IM0Y%3D>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EuBBiP5ThIE&t=24658s>

• The 6th Culture and Strategies Forum for the Korean Peninsula and the North: Working together in Seoul 2026

Day 2 (Academic Session)

Theme	For Peace and Prosperity: Overcoming Conflicts through Supranational Solidarity Amid the Return of Global Power Competition
Date	Tuesday, June 16, 2026
Venue	Minerva Complex, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
Hosted by	HK+ National Strategies Research Project Agency

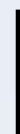


Program: http://www.cias.ac.kr/forum/11?me_code=2030

Media Coverage:
<https://www.hufs.ac.kr/hufs/11404/subview.do?enc=Zm5jdDF8QEB8JTJGYmJzJTJGaHVmcyUyRjlxODgIMkYyNTg2MTYIMkZhc nRjbFZpZXcuZG8IM0Y%3D>

YouTube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u8DgPVeJ7Ag&t=5049s>

The 6th Culture and Strategies Forum for the Korean Peninsula and the North: Working together in Seoul 2026



Colloquium

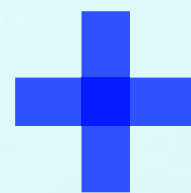
1. Special Colloquium



Special Colloquium

Theme	The Seoul Olympics and Nordpolitik: Revisiting President Roh Tae-woo's Leadership and Nordpolitik (Series 1)
Date	Friday, July 3, 2026
Venue	Lecture Room (2nd Floor), Faculty Office Building, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
Organized by	HK+ National Strategies Research Project Agency
Speaker	Lee Yun Taek (Former Senior Presidential Secretary for Administrative Affairs, Former Minister of Government Administration, Former President of the Korean Sport & Olympic Committee)





Networking

1. MOU with the University of Crete, Hellenic Republic
2. MOU with Apri International, Rome, The Italian Republic

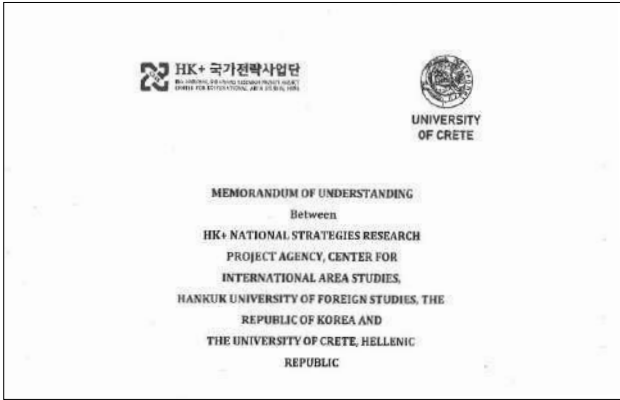


Networking

HK+ NSRPA have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with both institutions, committing to a sustained and continuous exchange

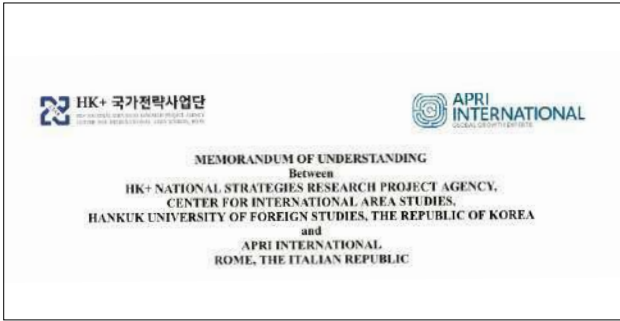
MOU with the University of Crete Hellenic Republic

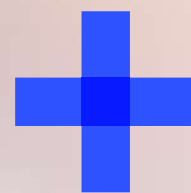
Date	June 17, 2026
Venue	Center for International Area Studies, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, the Republic of Korea



MOU with Apri International, Rome, the Italian Republic

Date	June 17, 2026
Venue	Center for International Area Studies, Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, the Republic of Korea





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Perspectives

1. Greece's Participation in the Korean War: A Foundation of Korea-Greece Friendship

- Lim Ju-seong,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to the Hellenic Republic

Perspectives

Letter from the Editor

Dear Readers,

In commemoration of the Month of Patriots and Veterans, we are honored to feature a special contribution from H.E. Lim Ju-seong, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to the Hellenic Republic. In his article, "Greece's Participation in the Korean War: A Foundation of Korea–Greece Friendship," Ambassador Lim examines the historical significance of Greece's participation in the Korean War and reflects on the enduring values of solidarity and cooperation that continue to shape relations between the two nations.

His thoughtful contribution offers valuable historical insights and highlights the shared sacrifices, mutual respect, and lasting partnership that continue to strengthen bilateral relations between the two countries. We are pleased to share this meaningful reflection with our readers.

● Greece's Participation in the Korean War: A Foundation of Korea–Greece Friendship

Perspectives

Greece's Participation in the Korean War: A Foundation of Korea–Greece Friendship

by H.E. Lim Ju-seong,

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to the Hellenic Republic



H.E. Lim Ju-seong

Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to the Hellenic Republic

Lim Ju-seong is an Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Korea to the Hellenic Republic. He has been serving as the Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Hellenic Republic since July 2024, presenting his credentials to President Katerina Sakellariopoulou on September 4, 2024. On December 16, 2024, he also presented his credentials to President Nikos Christodoulides of Cyprus, officially beginning his concurrent service as non-resident Ambassador. Before arriving in Greece, his prominent roles included Director-General for Protocol Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Chief of Protocol at the Presidential Secretariat.

In the heart of Athens stands one of the most visited sites in Greece: the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, where the ceremonial changing of the guard takes place before the Hellenic Parliament. Inscribed on its wall are the immortal words of Pericles from his Funeral Oration of 431 BC:

ΑΝΔΡΩΝ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΩΝ ΠΑΣΑ ΓΗ ΤΑΦΟΣ

"For famous men, the whole earth is their tomb."



These words were spoken to honor those who had fallen far from home and whose remains would never return to their native soil. More than two millennia later, the same inscription can be found on memorials in both Greece and the Republic of Korea, linking two nations separated by geography but united by a shared history of sacrifice.

The story of Korea-Greece relations did not begin with diplomacy, trade, or cultural exchanges. It began on the battlefields of the Korean War, where Greek soldiers traveled thousands of kilometers from their homeland to defend a country they had never known and a people they had never met. Their service and sacrifice laid the foundation for a friendship that continues to grow more than seventy years later.

1. Greece's Answer to the Call for Freedom

In the early hours of June 25, 1950, peace on the Korean Peninsula was shattered by the surprise invasion of the Republic of Korea (ROK) by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). The United Nations Security Council quickly determined that the attack constituted a breach of international peace and called upon member states to assist the Republic of Korea.

At the time, Greece itself was still recovering from the devastation of the Second World War and the painful legacy of its own civil war. Resources were scarce, reconstruction remained incomplete, and the nation faced enormous domestic challenges. Nevertheless, Greece answered the call of the United Nations and joined the collective effort to defend freedom and international peace.

This decision represented more than military assistance. It reflected Greece's commitment to the newly emerging international order built upon the principles of the United Nations. It was a demonstration of solidarity with a nation under attack and an affirmation that freedom and sovereignty were values worth defending beyond national borders. In September 1950, Greece formally decided to dispatch forces to Korea. In December, the Greek Expeditionary Force—soon known among Allied troops as the "Spartan Battalion"—arrived in Busan. Around the same time, the Royal Hellenic Air Force deployed its transport unit to support United Nations operations.

During the war, more than 5,000 Greek servicemen served in Korea. Greece remained committed even after the signing of the Armistice Agreement in July 1953, maintaining military personnel in Korea for several years thereafter as part of the United Nations effort to preserve stability on the peninsula.

Greece's participation carried significance far beyond the battlefield. The Korean War became one of the earliest and most important tests of collective security under the United Nations system. Greece's contribution demonstrated its willingness to fulfill international responsibilities despite its own domestic hardships. Many Greek scholars and commentators have also noted that Greece's active participation strengthened its strategic relationship with Western allies during the period leading to its accession to NATO in 1952.

2. Courage and Sacrifice on Korea's Battlefields

For most Greek soldiers, Korea was a distant and unfamiliar country whose name was scarcely known before the war. Upon arriving in Busan in December 1950, they encountered not only an unfamiliar land but also one of the harshest weather in modern Korean history.

Many Greek troops appear to have been unprepared for the severity of the Korean winter. Since Athens and Seoul share a similar latitude of approximately 38 degrees north, some may have assumed that Korea's climate would resemble the relatively mild winters of Greece. Historical accounts also suggest that some United Nations briefing materials inaccurately compared Korea's climate to that of Okinawa, Japan.

Instead, the Greek soldiers found themselves fighting in frozen mountains under sub-zero temperatures while facing enemy forces that often outnumbered them many times over.

Yet these conditions were not entirely unfamiliar from a military perspective. Many Greek officers and soldiers had gained extensive experience fighting communist insurgents in the mountainous terrain of Greece during the Greek Civil War. As a result, it is perhaps unsurprising that some of the most important engagements involving Greek forces in Korea were battles for rugged hills and strategic high ground.

The first major engagement of the Greek Battalion occurred on January 29, 1951, at Hill 381 near Icheon. Attached to the U.S. 1st Cavalry Division, the Greek forces came under a major nighttime assault by Chinese People's Volunteers (CPV), historically recorded in UN documents as the Chinese Communist Forces (CCF). Facing an estimated 3,000 enemy troops, the Greeks successfully repelled three successive attacks through determined close combat supported by artillery and illumination flares. The battle established the reputation of the newly arrived Greek Battalion and earned the confidence of fellow United Nations forces.

Another defining battle took place in October 1951 at Hill 313, known as "Scotch Hill," north of Yeoncheon. Assigned the difficult task of recapturing a position held by Chinese forces, the Greek Battalion launched repeated assaults under intense fire. Despite suffering 105 casualties, the battalion ultimately succeeded in securing the objective. For its extraordinary performance, the unit received Presidential Unit Citations from both the Republic of Korea and the United States.

The Greek Battalion continued to distinguish itself in later battles, including Nori Hill in September 1952 and Outpost Harry in June 1953. At Outpost Harry, located within the strategically important Iron Triangle region, Greek and American troops fought side by side against repeated Chinese attacks. On the night of June 17, Greek soldiers successfully held their position against a major enemy assault lasting several hours.

Even as armistice negotiations neared completion, combat remained fierce. At the Battle of Bukjeongnyeong in July 1953, only days before the ceasefire took effect, Greek troops helped repel one of the final Chinese offensives of the war while sustaining significant casualties.

The contribution of the Royal Hellenic Air Force was equally remarkable. The 13th Transport Flight, composed of 67 personnel and seven C-47 Dakota aircraft, arrived in Korea in late 1950 and remained active until 1955. During that period, it flew approximately 3,000 missions and accumulated nearly 14,000 flight hours.

The unit transported troops and supplies, conducted airdrops, and evacuated more than 9,000 wounded personnel. During the Hungnam Evacuation following the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, Greek air crews helped evacuate approximately 1,000 wounded U.S. Marines and were awarded the United States Presidential Unit Citation. According to veterans' recollections, American Marines welcomed the arrival of the Greek rescue aircraft with the words: "I knew the Greeks would come."

3. Veterans' Remembrance and Cooperation Today

Today, the Republic of Korea and Greece continue to honor these sacrifices together.



In the Municipality of Papagos-Cholargos, a memorial commemorates the Greek soldiers who served in the Korean War. The municipality itself bears the name of Field Marshal Alexandros Papagos, who played a crucial role in Greece's postwar military leadership and served as the country's first Chief of the Hellenic National Defence General Staff when the decision to send forces to Korea was made.

It is deeply meaningful that a memorial honoring Korean War veterans stands at the center of a municipality named after one of the key figures associated with Greece's decision to participate in the war.

Inscribed on this memorial are once again the words of Pericles:

ΑΝΔΡΩΝ ΕΠΙΦΑΝΩΝ ΠΑΣΑ ΓΗ ΤΑΦΟΣ

Every year on June 25, representatives of the Republic of Korea, the Hellenic Ministry of National Defence, the Municipality of Papagos-Cholargos, veterans and their families, and diplomats from United Nations Sending States gather to commemorate the outbreak of the Korean War and honor the sacrifices of Greek veterans.

The ceremony takes place during one of the hottest periods of the Greek summer, when temperatures often exceed 35 degrees Celsius. Most surviving veterans are now well into their nineties. Despite concerns for their health and repeated suggestions to move the event to a cooler season, the veterans consistently insist that the commemoration must take place on June 25 itself.

Ambulances remain on standby, shade structures are installed, and cooling scarves are distributed. Yet participants often find their clothes soaked with sweat by the end of the ceremony. Such scenes serve as powerful reminders of the dedication and spirit of those who served.



A corresponding memorial also stands in Yeosu, Gyeonggi Province, near the area where the Greek Battalion first engaged Chinese forces at Hill 381. The monument symbolizes Korea's enduring gratitude to the soldiers who came from a distant land to defend its freedom.

Significantly, the marble used for the Yeosu memorial was transported directly from Greece with the support of the Hellenic Ministry of National Defence. There too, visitors can find the same Periclean inscription that adorns the memorial in Athens.

In 2025, Papagos-Cholargos and Yeosu formally established a sister-city relationship, transforming a shared wartime history into a platform for future cooperation and friendship.

Another memorial stands in Thessaloniki. Built in 1993 through the support of Kim Seung-youn, Chairman of Hanwha Group, it reflects the long-standing ties between Greece and Korea. The connection dates back to the late Kim Chong-hee, founder of Hanwha Group, who served as Honorary Consul General of Greece in Korea and contributed significantly to strengthening bilateral relations.

Yet another chapter of remembrance remains to be written. On the island of Crete, which sent many young men to fight in Korea, surviving veterans have expressed their wish to see a Korean War memorial established while they are still alive. Time, however, waits for no veteran. If such a memorial is built in the near future, it will preserve living testimony for future generations and further deepen awareness of the Korean War among local communities.



Indeed, participation in the Korean War was not limited to major cities such as Athens, Thessaloniki, or Heraklion. Research conducted by the Embassy of the Hellenic Republic in Korea indicates that among Greece's 332 municipalities, veterans originated from 331 of them. This means that almost every corner of Greece shares a direct connection to the Korean War. It is therefore not unusual, even today, to encounter veterans or their descendants throughout the country.

The year 2025 marked the 75th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War. To commemorate this milestone, the international conference "The Korean War: 75 Years of History and Memory" was held at the Athens War Museum on June 5, 2025. Experts from Korea, Greece, the United States, Cyprus, and the United Kingdom participated alongside veterans, family members, and cadets from Greek military academies.

Beyond scholarly discussions, the conference provided an invaluable opportunity for veterans to share personal experiences, recount their wartime memories, discuss decorations they had received, and reflect on the friendships they formed with American and other allied soldiers. Such stories transformed history from an academic subject into a living human experience.

4. A Shared History for Future Generations

Honoring veterans is not simply an act of remembering the past. It is also a reaffirmation of the values for which they fought and a commitment to building a better future upon that foundation.

Korea and Greece are often described as "friends bonded in blood." Together they defended freedom, democracy, and peace during one of the defining conflicts of the twentieth century. More than seven decades later, that bond continues to inspire cooperation between the two nations.

The Republic of Korea will forever remember the sacrifices made by Greek veterans. Their courage forms an enduring foundation for the friendship between our countries and serves as a reminder that international solidarity can transcend geography, language, and culture.

Perhaps the most remarkable aspect of this history is the humility with which Greek veterans speak about their service. They rarely boast that they helped save Korea. Instead, they often respond that they simply did what was right. When Koreans express gratitude, many veterans reply that they are the ones who feel honored.

Pericles captured this spirit more than two thousand years ago when he observed:

"We alone do good to our neighbors not upon a calculation of interest, but in the confidence of freedom and in a frank and fearless spirit."

As Korea and Greece continue to cooperate in an increasingly uncertain international environment, this spirit remains as relevant as ever. The history we remember together will remain the strongest foundation for the future we build together.

- Greece's Participation in the Korean War: A Foundation of Korea-Greece Friendship



Tolerance Program

1. June



01. Wellness culture in the World

Date	March 14, 2026 – June 13, 2026 (Every Saturday from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.)
Venue	Dongdaemun-gu Lifelong Learning Center
Organized by	HK+ National Strategies Research Project Agency



02. Wellness culture in the World

Date	June 4, 2026 – June 25, 2026 (Every Thursday from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.)
Venue	Seodaemun Public Library
Organized by	HK+ National Strategies Research Project Agency



03. The Eurasian Continent and the Artistic Soul of Koryo-saram

Date	June 4, 2026 – June 25, 2026 (Every Thursday from 10:00 A.M. to 12:00 P.M.)
Venue	Mapo Lifelong Learning Center
Organized by	HK+ National Strategies Research Project Agency



04. Wellness culture in the World

Date	June 4, 2026 – June 25, 2026 (Every Thursday from 7:30 P.M. to 9:30 P.M.)
Venue	Yeongdeungpo District Library
Organized by	HK+ National Strategies Research Project Agency



05. Journey Through European Art Museums

Date	June 5, 2026 – June 26, 2026 (Every Friday from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.)
Venue	Gangnam-gu Library (Chungdam)
Organized by	HK+ National Strategies Research Project Agency



06. Wellness culture in the World

Date	June 9, 2026 – June 30, 2026 (Every Tuesday from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.)
Venue	Junggu Library of Seoul
Organized by	HK+ National Strategies Research Project Agency



07. Wellness culture in the World

Date	June 9, 2026 – June 30, 2026 (Every Tuesday from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.)
Venue	Yangcheon Public Library
Organized by	HK+ National Strategies Research Project Agency



08. Fragments of Modern Latin American History Reflected in Cinema

Date	June 11, 2026 – June 25, 2026 (Every Thursday from 7:00 P.M. to 9:00 P.M.)
Venue	Incheon Metropolitan Library
Organized by	HK+ National Strategies Research Project Agency



Call for Papers: International Area Studies Review



Call for Papers: International Area Studies Review

The *International Area Studies Review* is pleased to invite submissions for upcoming issues.

International Area Studies Review is a peer-reviewed academic journal indexed in **Scopus** and the **Emerging Sources Citation Index (ESCI)**. The journal is dedicated to publishing high-quality research in international and area studies. We welcome original manuscripts that engage with theoretical and empirical issues across international relations, comparative regional studies, and related fields. Submissions offering innovative perspectives and contributing to ongoing scholarly debates are especially encouraged.

We accept full-length research articles, review essays, and other scholarly contributions. All submissions undergo a rigorous double-blind peer review process. We warmly encourage scholars and researchers in the field to submit their work and contribute to the advancement of area studies scholarship. For detailed submission guidelines and further information, please visit the journal website.

We look forward to your valuable contributions.

Sincerely,
International Area Studies Review (IASR) Editorial Office

Submission link

<https://dbpiaone.com/iasr/index.do>

