

Shaping Diplomacy Along  
with Our Citizens

# PARTICIPATORY DIPLOMACY

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# Social Backdrop



## Concept

Develop a system to better incorporate citizens' opinions into foreign policy

## Background

Build a foundation of respect for citizens' opinions, and on this base devise consistent and durable policies

## Plan & Implementation

Two Levels:  
(1) National Policy Agenda  
(2) Main Policy Priorities

# Policy Direction

## Purpose

Communication to increase civic participation in policy-making

## Three Pillars

### Communication

Government respects people's opinions; promotes two-way communication;

### Participation

Increase civic participation;  
Foster democratic, process-oriented policies;

### Capacity Building

Citizens learn more and deeper about foreign policy;

## Goal

Citizens gain better knowledge about foreign policy.  
Government's foreign policy is firmly rooted on people's opinion and support.



Public Communication



## A government that respects people's opinions

- Organize consultation with various stakeholders
- Coordinate with the National Assembly
- Provide more information to the public through various on- & off-line platforms
- Strengthen cooperation with local governments



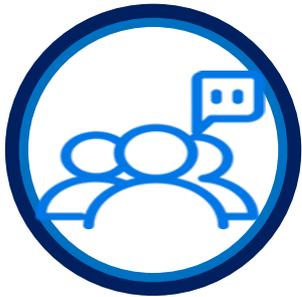
Public  
Participation



## A foreign policy that welcomes more public participation

- Verify people's opinion by public survey and big data analysis
- Devise mid-to-long term foreign policy strategies that respect public opinions
- Encourage people's participation in public diplomacy activities
- Establish online platforms for public recommendations / petitions

# Participatory Diplomacy



Capacity Building



**A foreign policy that boosts public understanding and support**

- Provide various foreign policy lecture series
- Establish the Participatory Diplomacy Academy
- Organize volunteers to promote participatory diplomacy



## Inaugurated: May 4, 2018

- Act as an implementing organization for Participatory Diplomacy Program
- Organize Seminars, town halls, roundtables
- Publicly-accessible policy discussion place
- Provide on-line platform for public suggestions
- Furthers Participatory Diplomacy concept through Research, big data analysis, etc.

# Lessons Learned (1)



- **Diplomacy is not solely for diplomats.**
- **Incorporate the foreign policy interests and knowledge of all citizens.**
- **Make most of citizen contributions to supplement and further expand conventional diplomacy.**
- **Strong commitment from the leaders in and outside of the MOFA is required.**

# Lessons Learned (2)



- Encourage dialogue both within and outside of MOFA to enhance awareness about Participatory Diplomacy.
- Foster information-sharing between citizens and government so that both are better informed about policies.
- Participatory Diplomacy should be tailored to a country's respective strengths. Korea's strong Social Media and ICT background enabled greater digital engagement than other countries.

## Public consultation process may generate controversy

Difficulty in verifying public intent or reaching a consensus



Balance between the Three Elements



Thank you

