



A public talk by

Yul Sohn

Korea-Japan Economic Relations: The Role of American Pressure

The US government has applied political pressure to Japan for improved market access. Do the sectors given U.S. access equally open to third-country firms? Is Japan opening to Korean firms as much as it is to U.S. firms? Using the cases of the petroleum products and construction, Yul Sohn argues that the success or lack thereof of Korean firms in these sectors was not determined by Korean firms' competitive edge vis-à-vis Japanese counterparts. Nor was it an outcome of the variations in the degree of exogenous disruptions caused by U.S. pressure. Success depended on the varying degrees of liberalization, precipitated by U.S. pressure and, more importantly, by the way economic and political players responded to incentives for change conditioned by the challenges posed by Korean firms.

Yul Sohn is Professor of International Studies at Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea and is currently a Visiting Scholar at the Carolina Asia Center. Sohn received his PhD in political science from the University of Chicago. He teaches East Asian regionalism, Japanese political economy, and international political economy. His most recent book publications include *Japanese Industrial Governance* (2005), *East Asia and Regionalism* (ed., 2006), and *East Asia Attracted* (ed., 2007). Sohn's current research focuses on the emergent East Asian economic networks and their political implications.

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