

Jiho Lee, Counselor to the Embassy of ROK in the United States

Mr. Jiho Lee is a Counselor to the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the United States. He works with the Embassy's Congressional Section, and has an extensive background on issues across East Asia and the Indo-Pacific.

After completing his national military service with the rank of Lieutenant, he joined the Korean Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (present-day Ministry of Foreign Affairs) in August 2004. Jiho also served at the Ministry's Protocol Office, Northeast Asia Division, Consular Services Division, and the International Legal Affairs Division. His overseas assignments prior to the United States include Assistant Representative to the Korean Mission in Taipei, First Secretary at the Korean Embassy to the People's Republic of China, and Counselor at the Korean Embassy to Thailand.

Jiho has a Master of Science from Bristol University's East Asian Centre (2008), and a Bachelor of Arts from Seoul National University College of Humanities (1999). He is married with two daughters.

Keome Rowe, United States Foreign Service Officer (ROK Desk Officer)

Keome (pronounced Key-Men) **Rowe** is a Public Diplomacy coned Foreign Service Officer who has worked extensively on issues across East Asia and the Indo-Pacific. His public diplomacy work focuses on engaging foreign audiences regarding media freedom, democracy, human rights, social justice, and people-to-people exchanges.

He currently serves as a Republic of Korea desk officer in the Office of Korean and Mongolian Affairs, focusing on policy to strengthen the U.S.- ROK bilateral relationship. Most recently, he served as a Watch Officer in the State Department's Operations Center, where he monitored worldwide hotspots and briefed senior leaders on breaking developments. Keome also served on the Sudan Task Force, which evacuated over 80 U.S. Diplomats and countless U.S. citizens. Keome's overseas assignments include U.S. Embassy Beijing, U.S. Embassy Islamabad, and U.S. Consulate Karachi.

He has received several awards for his work with the State Department, including two Meritorious Honor awards and a group Superior Honor Award. Rowe earned a Master of Public Administration (M.P.A) and an M.A. in international relations, along with Certificates of Advanced Study in security studies and conflict resolution from Syracuse University Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. In 2022, the Maxwell School named Keome their inaugural Maxwell Award of Excellence Compass Award for exceptional early-career individuals. Keome earned a Bachelor of Science with honors from Texas Christian University where he was also a Chancellor's Scholar. Keome is a 2023 Aspen Strategy Group Rising Leader, 2022 African American China Leader Fellow, and current board member for the Pickering Rangel Fellowship Association. Keome loves BBQ and Tex-Mex food and anything from Texas. He is an avid tennis player and speaks Spanish, Mandarin, and Urdu.

Andy Hong, Program Officer at the Korea Economic Institute

Andy Hong is the Program Officer at the Korea Economic Institute of America, where he is responsible for developing new programs, implementing existing initiatives, and supporting general office operations.

Prior to joining KEI, Andy worked as a program assistant with the Korean American Grassroots Conference (KAGC), a nonprofit civic engagement and advocacy group for Korean Americans. His responsibilities included conducting research, managing internal databases, coordinating events, and supervising interns and fellows from schools across the nation. Andy also completed two internships on Capitol Hill, once as a KAGC Congressional Fellow with Representative Sheila Jackson Lee of Texas, and once as a policy intern with the Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), also known as the Helsinki Commission.

Andy graduated from Brown University University with a B.A. in International Relations with a focus on Security, as well as in German Studies. He also received credits from the History Department at the Humboldt University in Berlin.