

## [Press Releases: Deputy Secretary Sullivan's Meeting with Republic of Korea Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun](#)

Readout  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
July 27, 2018

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Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan met today with Republic of Korea (R.O.K.) Vice Foreign Minister Cho Hyun at the Department of State, on the margins of the Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom. Deputy Secretary Sullivan and Vice Foreign Minister Cho discussed the enduring strength of the U.S.-R.O.K. Alliance, which remains the linchpin of peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and across the Indo-Pacific region. The Deputy Secretary and Vice Foreign Minister also reaffirmed close cooperation on achieving the final, fully verified denuclearization of the D.P.R.K., as agreed to by Chairman Kim in Singapore.

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## [Press Releases: US-Japan-ROK Experts Meeting on Cybersecurity](#)

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
July 27, 2018

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On July 27, 2018, the United States hosted a trilateral cyber experts meeting with Japan and the Republic of Korea on cybersecurity in Washington, DC. The three countries reaffirmed their commitment to promoting an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure Internet. They also committed to advancing trilateral cooperation to enhance international cyber stability, deter malicious activities in cyberspace, and counter cyber threats, including from state actors. Participants also discussed cybersecurity of the 2018 and 2020 Olympics, capacity building efforts, and regional cyber policy coordination. The meeting builds on President Trump's, Prime Minister Abe's, and President Moon's commitment to enhance cyber cooperation.

The U.S. delegation included representatives from the Departments of State, Homeland Security, Justice, and Commerce.

To learn more about the Department of State's cyber policy efforts, please follow us on Twitter @State\_Cyber. For press inquiries, please contact [SCCI\\_Press@state.gov](mailto:SCCI_Press@state.gov).

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## **[Press Releases: Pakistan Election](#)**

Press Statement  
Heather Nauert

Department Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
July 27, 2018

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The United States takes note of yesterday's election results in Pakistan. The United States commends the courage of the Pakistani people, including many women, who turned out to vote and showed resolve to determine their country's future.

We condemn the horrific acts of terrorist violence that marred this process, including the latest attack outside a polling station in Quetta on election day. We offer our deepest condolences to the victims and their families, and wish a speedy recovery to those injured.

The development of strong democratic and civilian institutions of governance and a vibrant civil society is critical to Pakistan's long-term stability and prosperity. In that context, the United States shares concerns about flaws in the pre-voting electoral process, as expressed by the Human Rights Commission of Pakistan. These included constraints placed on freedoms of expression and association during the campaign period that were at odds with Pakistani authorities' stated goal of a fully fair and transparent election. The United States concurs with the conclusions of the European Union Election Observation Mission, whose report notes that while there were positive changes to the legal framework for elections in Pakistan, these were overshadowed by restrictions on freedom of expression and unequal campaign opportunities. The United States also has deep reservations over the participation of terrorist-affiliated individuals in the elections, but we commend Pakistani voters for fully rejecting these candidates at the ballot box on Wednesday.

Along with our international partners, the United States will continue to encourage a broadening of opportunities for political participation for all Pakistanis, and for the further strengthening of legitimate, democratic institutions. As Pakistan's elected leaders form a new government, the United States will look for opportunities to work with them to advance our goals of security, stability, and prosperity in South Asia.

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# Press Releases: U.S. Department of State Awards U.S. ASPIRE Prize to Personalized Medicine Scientist

Media Note  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
July 27, 2018

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The U.S. Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Science Prize for Innovation, Research, and Education (ASPIRE) Competition named Dr. Kara Spiller of Drexel University as the 2018 U.S. nominee to represent the United States for the APEC-wide ASPIRE Prize.

ASPIRE is an annual award hosted by the APEC Policy Partnership for Science, Technology, and Innovation (PPSTI) that recognizes young scientists from APEC economies who have demonstrated a commitment to both excellence in scientific research, as evidenced by scholarly publication, and cooperation with scientists from other APEC member economies. ASPIRE, as well as the competition for the U.S. ASPIRE nominee, is co-sponsored by Wiley and Elsevier, publishers of scholarly scientific knowledge and coordinated by the U.S. Department of State. The winner of the APEC-wide competition will receive a cash prize of \$25,000 and will be announced at the August meeting of PPSTI in Papua New Guinea.

An emerging leader in immune engineering and personalized medicine, Dr. Spiller was selected because of her innovative research on the design of “smart” biomaterials that can control the behavior of innate immune cells to promote tissue repair and wound healing. She developed a point-of-care diagnostic to tailor optimal treatment for patients based on the state of their immune system, depending on factors such as age, genetics, and nutrition. Her work has been published in journals including Biomaterials, Journal of Investigative Dermatology, Blood, Immunobiology, and the Journal of Neuroscience.

While only one nominee can be put forward from the United States to compete for the broader ASPIRE prize, the U.S. nominee and three runner-ups will be celebrated at a public lecture roundtable with government officials, and a U.S. award ceremony in Washington, DC, later this year. Runners-up for the 2018 U.S. ASPIRE prize include:

Dr. Jordan Green, Associate Professor at Johns Hopkins University, a world leader in gene therapy and the use of biodegradable particles to teach the immune system to recognize cancer cells.

Dr. Manu Prakash, Assistant Professor of Bioengineering at Stanford University, is a designer of novel techniques to deliver health solutions in the world's most resource poor conditions.

Dr. Jorge M. Zuniga, Assistant Professor of Biomechanics at the University of Nebraska at Omaha, is the creator of the first open source 3D printed hand prosthesis for children in the United States named Cyborg Beast.

For more information, please contact [OES-PA-DG@state.gov](mailto:OES-PA-DG@state.gov).

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## **[Press Releases: Deputy Secretary Sullivan's Meeting With Kazakhstan Foreign Minister Kairat Abdrakhmanov](#)**

Readout  
Office of the Spokesperson

Washington, DC  
July 26, 2018

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The below is attributable to Spokesperson Heather Nauert:

On July 25, Deputy Secretary of State John J. Sullivan met with Kazakhstan Foreign Minister Kairat Abdrakhmanov on the margins of the Ministerial to Advance Religious Freedom in Washington, D.C. Deputy Secretary Sullivan and Foreign Minister Abdrakhmanov discussed protecting religious freedom, mutual efforts to strengthen regional cooperation in Central Asia and expand

bilateral trade and investment, and building on the progress made since the January 2018 White House visit of President Nazarbayev as part of the new enhanced strategic partnership.

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