

Toward a Technology, Information, Knowledge Centered Country

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The Korean government has announced a blueprint for the development of the country into a business center for the Northeast Asia. It aims to make Korea the major distribution center for the area and a base for top class international companies. For doing this, it will maximize the geopolitical benefits of the Korean peninsula and the recently opened Incheon International Airport. That is to say the government is trying to advance the country by committing itself to attain these goals.

The policy appears to be positive, but people should be aware that the function of distribution is an auxiliary one to the production of goods, which is the fundamental part of the economy. Only when this production becomes the central part of the economy, distribution can function naturally and effectively. Therefore, the government's plan to make the country a business center lacks satisfactory content.

It is true that the expansion of infrastructure required can contribute in some manner to the raising of efficiency in production. However, taking into account the actual conditions in Korea, it would be far better to go forward in the fields of technology, information and knowledge; the basis of production within the economy.

Nobody denies the importance of manufacturing in the Korean economy. If too

much emphasis is placed on being a distribution and international business center, this could create an environment of production vacuum. Manufacturing has been the pillar that supports the Korean economy, but now it is facing a serious situation. According to material from the Korean Chamber of Commerce, 44% of the manufacturing sector has already been relocated abroad and 33.8% is in the process of doing so.

The policy of making the country a distribution and business center is likely to expedite this trend. Therefore, measures need to be devised that will strengthen complex resources and production in the technology, information and knowledge sectors.

Free trade zones are designed to make a country more business oriented, not only for international firms, but also for domestic entrepreneurs. Hence, it is better to make the entire country into an FFZ oriented towards technology, information and knowledge. Alongside this all regulations, which have been abused as a means of corruption by bureaucrats and businesses, it needs to be boldly reformed to create a transparent and clean business environment. Workers and managers should recognize that if they fail to transform their hostile relations, recognized as the biggest obstacle to doing business in the country, to amicable ones, then they will fail to survive in

the international market.

The main interest of this study are focused on the following issues:

1) To develop the country into a free trade zone centered on technology, information, and knowledge that encourages production, rather than heading towards a logistics and

headquarters country.

2) To create a country free of corruption and labor disputes with a lower tax burden.
3) To produces a “paradise for business” so that the country can jump forwards internationally.

COMMENT

キム、ジェオング両先生は上の評題のもと、韓国の地理的、経済的現状から、韓国の果たすべき役割を講じている。

一言でいえば、韓国は物流センターとしてではなく北東アジアにおける技術・情報知識のセンターとしての役割を果たすべきである、ことを強調して。

すなわち、インチョン国際空港の建設にみられるように、未だ政府は製造業を前提とした国造りに励んでいるが、世界的にインフラ環境が激変している今日、技術・情報知識のフリートレードゾーンを設けることにより北東アジアの情報技術の中心として生き抜くべきとしている。

卓見であるが、私の考えとしては、

1 伝統ある製造技術（これは韓国の社会、文化、

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経済と深い関わりを持つ）との連関なくしては、技術・情報知識が発展しない。

2 情報技術センターを発展させるためには、“物理的な情報ネットワークの国際的なセンター（ハブ）”となること、又、これらネットワークと産業間（とくにソフト産業）に亘る「ソフトハードの結合したネットワーク・システムの形成」が不可欠であること。

3 本論文にもう一つの問題としてあげられている腐敗、労働紛争も情報システムにより解決の道がつけられること。

の三つの視点が重要である。

とくに2の視点によるN-Wの国際的な連携を日本、中国などと連携して行うべきであると考え