WEST COAST EXCHANGE 2026

Program

September 17–19, 2026 · The Week& Resort, Incheon
All sessions and dinners are under the Chatham House Rule.
Parallel sessions: registered participants will be notified to confirm their selection. Speakers to be announced.

DAY ONE · THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17

The Constructive Provocation

15:00 — HOTEL LOBBY
Check-In

16:00 — ROOFTOP
Setup and Guests Gather

16:30–18:00 — ROOFTOP
Welcome Remarks, Keynote & Networking
Welcome remarks by Chad O'Carroll · Keynote by Stephen Biegun

18:10–19:30 — AQUA HALL
Oxford Debate
Motion: This House believes that the Korean Peninsula will be safer with a nuclear South Korea.
Moderated by Jeongmin Kim

19:30–21:00 — AQUA HALL
Dinner

DAY TWO · FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

The Uncomfortable Realities

7:00–9:00 — THE FIVE
Breakfast

9:00–9:05 — AQUA HALL
Welcome Remarks and Housekeeping

9:05–9:20
Preparations for Sessions

MORNING SESSIONS 1 · 9:20–10:20

Parallel sessions — select one

AQUA HALL
What can we do over the next 20 years to make the peninsula safe if North Korea never gives up the bomb?

VENTUS 1
The Alliance That War Built: What Moscow and Pyongyang Keep After Ukraine

VENTUS 2
Did Human Rights Activism Hit a Dead End?

10:20–10:30
Coffee Break

MORNING SESSIONS 2 · 10:30–11:30

Parallel sessions — select one

AQUA HALL
A New Age Of Cyber Warfare

VENTUS 1
Fireside Chat

VENTUS 2
What Is Xi Jinping's Grand Strategy with North Korea in the Next Decade?

AFTERNOON PROGRAM

11:45–12:45 **Lunch and Assembly for Departure**

13:00–14:30 BUS
Transfer to Aegibong Observatory — Guided Tour

14:30–15:15 AEGIBONG OBSERVATORY
Real Life Inside North Korea: Economy and On-the-Ground Observations

15:15–16:20 AEGIBONG OBSERVATORY
Observatory Free Time and Group Photo

16:30–17:45 BUS
Return Transfer to Hotel

EVENING PROGRAM

18:00–19:00 HOTEL BAR
Welcome Drinks and Networking

19:00–19:20 **Transfer to Dinner Venues**

19:20–21:00 RESTAURANTS
Beachside Group Dinners

DAY THREE · SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

What We Do Next

7:00–9:00 THE FIVE
Breakfast and Check-Out

9:00–9:30 **Networking**

MORNING SESSIONS · 9:30–10:30

Parallel sessions — select one

AQUA HALL
The Next Four Years: Inter-Korean Relations and the Alliance After Trump

VENTUS 1
Information Warfare Into, Out of, and About North Korea

VENTUS 2
The Country We Invented: How Analysts Build North Korea from Bad Evidence

10:45–11:45 AQUA HALL
What If: Black Swans, by Korea Risk Group

11:45–12:00	AQUA HALL **Closing Remarks**
12:15–14:00	**Lunch and Beach Walk**