

You know, when we joined this fusion group, people laughed at us, that we didn't have enough expertise. At that time, Hazel O'Leary was the U.S. Department of Energy head, and I was Science Minister of Korea, and we reached an agreement. At that time, the Princeton Plasma Physics Lab had a new design study done. It was called the Tokamak Plasma Experiment, TPX, and I asked: Since the DOE scrapped that plan, whether they could give us the design so that we could improve on it and build a really advanced tokamak machine. So, they agreed, and that's why, for example, David Montgomery, who is an expert on superconducting magnets, came out to Korea to hear what's happening with our superconducting magnet systems.

So it was not, in my opinion, our own work, as much as it was through a U.S.-Korea alliance. And we improved the design, by the way, so it's much better than the TPX. And KSTAR, the Korea Superconducting Tokamak Advanced Research, was the biggest project at the time, in 1995. I had a lot of potshots from the scientific community, that it was a

crazy thing we were doing. But our engineers were able to do it, because, for example, we had high vacuum systems. We had other industries which used high vacuum systems, so we borrowed them.

And then we had all kinds of providers of technical services and engineering companies. So together we improved them. That's how KSTAR became the first successful device, and in my opinion, our general technology-based industrialists are ready to tackle KSTAR.

Question: My last question is about space exploration. To achieve a long, stable energy development, the mining of helium-3 (as fusion fuel) from the Moon's surface is necessary. Right now, India and China have space exploration programs, and they are committed to send probes to the Moon, to get samples, and they are developing equipment to mine the Moon. What is their collaboration with the Korean space program?

We do have collaboration. When I was minister in 1995, we had an integrated space research program set up. And the key was, communication satellites plus

launching technology. Well, I envisioned a completely Korean effort in propelling this, but in the meantime, the program changed to have Russian technology, so we are having difficulties now.

But we will overcome those difficulties, and we will become actors in space research. I think going to the Moon—there are so many applications of a space visit. That's what we are looking for now. . . .

I am over 70 years old now, and retired. But I am conducting this international nuclear graduate school as a consultant for KEPCO, the Korea Electric Power Corporation.

Question: This is commendable at your age. Lyndon LaRouche, a founding editor of 21st Century and Executive Intelligence Review has put together a team in the United States looking at the challenges of achieving plasma propulsion, the challenges of going to Mars. . . .

You know, I have heard about him. Is he still very active?

Question: He is 88, and will be giving a webcast in the United States. . . .

Ssang-Su Kim: Nuclear Best Solution for the Future

Ssang-Su Kim, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Korea Electric Power Corporation, who spoke at a plenary session of the conference, was asked: "Korea is one of the very active players in the nuclear renaissance. What are your views of the future of nuclear?"

Kim replied:

"Currently the world is confronting the Chinese because of their CO₂ emissions, but renewable energy is not a total solution for that. For CO₂ reduction, nuclear will be one of the best solutions for the future.

"About 20 years ago, we were facing the crisis of the Chernobyl accident. But, after that era, lots of people have developed the technological improvements and advancement of the safety of nuclear. In Korea, we have had no problem in safely operating nuclear power for 30 years. And for Korean safety, the capacity of nuclear power plants for total electricity gen-



Ilko Dimov

Ssang-Su Kim, President and Chief Executive Officer, Korea Electric Power Corporation (KEPCO): Nuclear is one of the best solutions for the future.

eration will be increased from 28 percent to more than 40 percent by 2030.

"The world is facing the new adjustment of the nuclear-implementing countries, such as the Middle Eastern

countries, which are the world's largest oil exporters, and also South Africa. And in my point of view, the challenging problem we are facing now is that of constructing and operating and managing nuclear power plants safely. To increase and have enough manpower to do that, KEPCO is now starting a nuclear training school, which is one of the first operating schools for nuclear technology and management.

"This particular school is fostering masters degree students with the concept of operating and making nuclear better, from the technological point of view. And we are planning to accept students, 50 percent from Korea, and 50 percent international. . . .

"I sincerely hope that the world-renowned energy companies will have a similar program for fostering the engineers and technological manpower to contribute to the safety of nuclear power plants for the future. . . ."