

South Korea's Tech Diplomacy: Navigating Global AI, Quantum, and Supply C

Technology Diplomacy · Answer Key · 12 Questions

1. In December 2024, South Korea passed the AI Basic Act, becoming the second jurisdiction after the European Union to enact a comprehensive AI regulatory framework. What is a core principle shared between South Korea's AI Basic Act and the EU's AI Act?

- A) A focus on open-source AI development exclusively.
- B) A risk-based approach to AI system classification and oversight.**
- C) Mandatory implementation of AI-generated content watermarking.
- D) Emphasis on autonomous AI decision-making with minimal human intervention.

2. South Korea has actively pursued international collaboration in quantum technology. Which of the following initiatives highlights a significant commitment to joint research and development with the United States and Europe, involving substantial funding over several years?

- A) The establishment of the Korea-US Quantum Technology Cooperation Center and a commitment of roughly \$1 billion over eight years for joint research.**
- B) A unilateral funding program for Korean researchers to seek foreign partnerships.
- C) Exclusive collaboration with Asian nations to develop quantum encryption standards.
- D) Participation in a regional quantum computing competition without significant financial investment.

3. In the realm of cybersecurity, South Korea's 2024 National Cybersecurity Strategy emphasizes a proactive defense posture, mirroring aspects of the U.S. 'Defend Forward' strategy. What is a key implication of this proactive approach for international cooperation?

- A) It necessitates tracking malicious actors globally, thus requiring robust cooperation with experienced allies like the United States.**
- B) It involves solely focusing on domestic cyber defense capabilities without external partnerships.
- C) It prioritizes reactive measures like post-attribution responses after cyber incidents occur.
- D) It limits cooperation to non-aligned nations to avoid geopolitical entanglements.

4. South Korea hosted the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Leaders' Summit in October-November 2025. What was a key focus of South Korea's agenda at this summit regarding technology and international relations?

- A) Advocating for reduced tariffs on traditional manufactured goods.
- B) Spearheading international consensus-building for AI regulation and innovation, building on the APEC Digital and AI Ministerial Statement.**
- C) Promoting the adoption of blockchain technology for all APEC member states.
- D) Focusing solely on climate change initiatives without technological integration.

5. South Korea has made significant strides in establishing global standards for the metaverse. Which South Korean research institute is playing a leading role in international metaverse standardization by chairing a key ISO/IEC JTC 1 advisory group?

- A) Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology (KAIST).
- B) Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute (ETRI).**
- C) Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST).
- D) Korea Aerospace Research Institute (KARI).

6. Regarding critical minerals and supply chain resilience, South Korea aims to reduce its dependence on specific countries. What is a stated target for reducing import dependency on critical minerals by 2030?

- A) To increase import dependency from 80% to 90%.
- B) To reduce import dependency from approximately 80% to 50%.**
- C) To maintain import dependency at 80% for strategic minerals.
- D) To eliminate all imports and focus solely on domestic production.

7. South Korea and the European Union concluded negotiations for a Digital Trade Agreement (DTA) on March 10, 2025. What is a primary objective of this DTA, which builds upon the EU-Republic of Korea Digital Partnership?

- A) To impose stringent restrictions on cross-border data flows to protect domestic industries.
- B) To establish binding rules that build consumer trust, ensure predictability, and prevent unjustified barriers to digital trade.**
- C) To exclusively promote data localization requirements for European companies operating in South Korea.
- D) To create a separate digital currency for bilateral trade between the EU and South Korea.

8. In the space sector, South Korea has established the Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA) in May 2024. What is a significant aspect of KASA's role in advancing international cooperation, particularly with the United States?

A) KASA's primary function is to limit South Korea's participation in international space missions.

B) KASA aims to solidify South Korea's role as a responsible space-faring nation and strengthen bilateral partnerships, including through a joint statement of intent with NASA.

C) KASA is solely focused on developing military space capabilities without civil or commercial collaboration.

D) KASA's establishment signifies a withdrawal from existing international space agreements like the Artemis Accords.

9. South Korea's National Cybersecurity Strategy for 2024-2025 outlines five strategic tasks. Which of these tasks directly relates to South Korea's ambition to be a 'global pivotal state' in cyberspace?

A) Bolstering offensive cyber defense operations and building global cooperation mechanisms.

B) Focusing solely on national infrastructure resilience without international engagement.

C) Limiting cybersecurity efforts to deterring North Korea's cyber activities.

D) Developing advanced AI for cyber defense without considering international norms.

10. The AI Seoul Summit, held in May 2024, resulted in the Seoul Declaration for Safe, Innovative and Inclusive AI. What was a key common dedication affirmed by the participating world leaders?

A) A commitment to exclusively advance AI for military applications.

B) Fostering international cooperation and dialogue on artificial intelligence amidst its unprecedented advancements.

C) Establishing distinct national AI regulatory frameworks with no intention of interoperability.

D) Prioritizing AI development that may potentially undermine democratic values and human rights.

11. South Korea is increasingly focusing on strategic partnerships in emerging technologies. In late 2023, the Ministry of Trade, Industry, and Energy announced the '3050 Strategy'. What is the primary objective of this strategy concerning critical materials?

A) To completely isolate South Korea from international supply chains.

B) To stabilize the supply chain of 185 critical materials and decrease dependence on particular countries to less than 50 percent by 2030.

C) To exclusively rely on China for the supply of all critical materials.

D) To cease all investments in industries requiring critical minerals.

12. South Korea's ambition to become a global leader in quantum innovation by 2035 is supported by legislative and strategic initiatives. Which act, taking effect in November 2024, provides a legislative framework for the quantum technology industry?

- A) The Artificial Intelligence Basic Act.
- B) The Metaverse Industry Promotion Act.
- C) The Quantum Technology Industry Act.**
- D) The Framework Act on Supply Chain Stabilization Support for Economic Security.