

From Parallel Transformations to Strategic Complementarity

South Korea and Chile in a Turbulent Pacific

Korea-Chile Policy Seminar | Session 2
Korea and Chile in a Turbulent Geopolitical Landscape
Santiago | 11 August 2026



2026 Korea-Chile Summit

Santiago, 30 July 2026

From diplomatic friendship to implementation

Core argument

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CLAIM

Strategic complementarity can reduce the brittleness of Pacific interdependence.

Not a choice between major-power blocs
Preserve meaningful options
Link resources, technology, institutions and people



**Regional
resilience**

A relationship with strategic depth

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MILESTONES



The 2026 summit moved a familiar relationship toward a more operational partnership.

Parallel transformations, different paths

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South Korea

Export-oriented industrialization
Heavy and Chemical Industry drive, 1973
Democratic breakthrough, 1987
Reference point for industrial upgrading

Chile

Import substitution → trade liberalization after 1973
1988 plebiscite; civilian government in 1990
Reference point for openness and social development
Different political and institutional conditions

Parallel ≠ identical. Comparable political-economic learning under external dependence.

Strategic competition meets the AI transition

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CONTEXT

US–China rivalry runs through trade, controls, subsidies, standards, data and minerals
AI systems require chips — and also power, data centers, grids, cooling and copper
Resilience means reducing single-point dependence, not closing the economy



AI is digital at the surface, material underneath

Strategic autonomy = retaining meaningful options

AI-era complementarity

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South Korea

Semiconductors + HBM
Batteries
Advanced manufacturing
Shipbuilding + infrastructure
Digital systems

Chile

Copper + lithium
Renewable energy potential
Atacama astronomy
Antarctic research & logistics
Trade networks

Complementarity is a platform for resilient production, not a simple minerals-for-technology formula.

July 30 summit: from friendship to implementation

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IMPLEMENTATION AGENDA

FTA + regional frameworks

Agreement to reactivate
the Free Trade Commission
(after a 10-year interval)
Trade & investment improvement
CPTPP, Pacific Alliance, DEPA

Five MOU fields

Mineral resources and mining
Public security
Antarctic research
Maritime safety and security
Investment cooperation and
promotion

Additional agenda

AI, quantum computing,
biotech, astronomy, energy
Researcher mobility
Defense and shipbuilding
Chacao Bridge; illegal maritime
activity

MOU fields are described cautiously where official English legal titles differ across public accounts.

Three priorities for the next phase



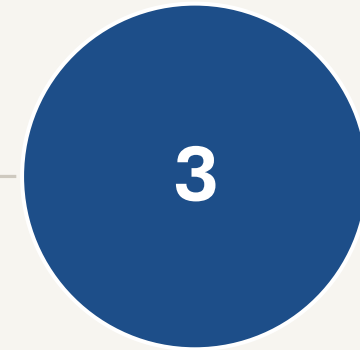
Critical minerals + advanced industry

- Processing, recycling, cleaner production
- AI for mining and energy
- Water efficiency and value creation



Civilian maritime cooperation

- Illegal fishing, port cybersecurity
- Maritime-domain awareness
- Fourth UN Ocean Conference (2028)



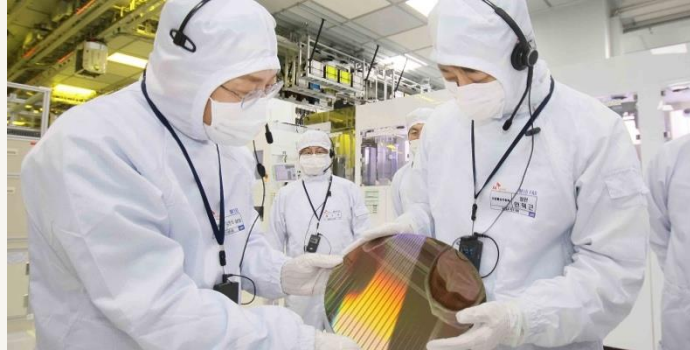
People, culture + peace

- Student and researcher exchanges
- Two-way cultural channels
- Korean Peninsula peace and stability

From parallel transformations to shared strategy

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**South Korea and Chile can help keep the Pacific open,
resilient and cooperative.**



Not a simple formula of minerals from Chile and technology from South Korea

A partnership of options, institutions and trust