

To recall 1988 Seoul Olympics

Finally, it's time for the Olympics to beat the heat of this scorching summer.

The 2016 Summer Olympics, ironically during the winter season of the host city of Rio de Janeiro, will kick off its 17-day run at 8 o'clock tomorrow morning (Korean Standard Time), amid global controversies.

The lead-up to the Games of the XXXI Olympiad or Rio 2016 has been troubled by controversies — health concerns surrounding the Zika virus, security, pollution and the instability of the host, as well as the doping scandal involving sports power Russia.

The word, Olympics, always reminds us, Koreans of the 1988 Seoul Olympics that definitely provided the momentum for positive changes in the course of not only South Korea but world history in late 20th century.

We did it 28 years ago. A small divided country in the Far East, which has still been technically at war with the warmongering communists only 40 kilometers away from its capital, surprised the world by making the Seoul Olympics one of the most successful global sports festivals in history.

The national unity and people's voluntary cooperation and participation were instrumental in the then unprecedented success of the Games. We remember well that even the pickpockets took time off during the sporting extravaganza.

Nature was no exception in helping make the global festival a tremendous success: typhoons usually hit the peninsula in September, the month of the Games, but 28 years ago, not a single one visited.

By bringing together the rivals of



TIMES COLUMN

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the then Cold War "Beyond Barriers" as the Seoul Olympics slogan put it, it heralded the collapse of the then Eastern bloc and the fragmentation of the Soviet Union.

There had been no other time when South Korea's capital had so seized the world's attention. Clearly proving the naysayers wrong, we showed our full potential, forcing people across the globe to admire our "can do spirit."

Watching Rio 2016 through the summer night, the Korean people feel a pang of regret, recalling the events of 28 years ago, in contrast to the grim reality the nation is now confronted with.

Where has all the glory, order, kindness and "can-do" spirit foreigners so admired us for gone?

The disgrace of the triumphant slogan "Beyond Barriers" lies at the existence of too many barriers...the barrier between the haves and have-nots, the barrier between conservatives and progressives, the barrier between the ruling and opposition parties and the barrier between the older and younger generation.

The Republic of Korea is reaching a crisis amid an acute split in public opinion over pending questions as keywords of the latest news suggest — the all-or-nothing conflict over the deployment of the THAAD system and China's threats about it,

incompetent bureaucracy, greedy politicians, corruption scandals involving high-ranking officials and a series of outrageous accidents.

Nobody would dispute the stark judgment that we failed to inherit and develop the spiritual assets we accumulated from the Seoul Olympics.

Both the national leaders (lacking leadership) and citizens (who do not care for their fellow humans) are caught up in an illusion that their nation had risen to the rank of advanced country overnight but popped up too early, not to mention the foreign media's quipping about us.

Politicians, especially the "excellencies" lawmakers who are the very target of public criticism, are adding insult to injury, devoting themselves only to political feuding as they put aside the mounting piles of national problems ahead of next year's presidential election (on Dec. 19).

The purge against corrupt politicians and officials is absolutely urgent and the implementation of the "Kim Young-ran Law" or anti-graft law is quite timely, but the people doubt its effectiveness as the legislators are not affected by the "stern" law provision.

The National Assemblymen are wasting time and the taxpayers' money without doing anything for the people, only being obsessed with their personal and parties' political interests.

They have to recall that the conflicting politicians declared a ceasefire 28 years ago to help stage the Seoul Olympics successfully and it worked. Such a consensus would lead to national unity.

A variety of threats against the

Olympics proves paradoxically the grand influence of the Olympics. Pierre Coubertin (1863-1937), a French educator and historian considered the father of the modern Olympic Games, said, "Olympism seeks to create a way of life based on the joy found in effort, the educational value of a good example and respect for universal, fundamental, ethical principles."

As the founder of the International Olympic Committee indicated, all the Olympic participants needs sincerity, morality and courage to overcome temptation of depraved desires. These elements also decide our future outside stadium.

From this point of view, all the Olympic contestants are warriors fighting for a brighter future.

Baron Coubertin also said, "The most important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win but to take part, just as the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle. The essential thing is not to have conquered but to have fought well."

Rio 2016, due to open at opposite side of our nation on the globe, may be a golden chance for Koreans to consider what they have to do now to help the nation tide itself over this crisis.

I hope that our athletes will return home after "fighting" well and Rio 2016 will follow in the steps of Seoul 1988 by overcoming all the difficulties the whole world is concerned about.

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New energy industry: Korea's next growth engine

By Joo Hyung-hwan

Korea has never stopped seeking fast-growing sectors for targeted investments that can provide new impetus to the country's economic growth.

As its latest initiative for a new growth engine, the Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy (MOTIE) unveiled a detailed investment plan on July 5 to promote the "new energy industry" as Korea's next growth driver.

The gist of the investment plan is that Korea will invest a combined 42 trillion won (\$36.6 billion) into new energy businesses by 2020, including renewable energy, electric vehicles (EVs), energy storage systems (ESS) and smart grids. The plan aims not only to fight climate change but also to nurture a new export industry.

Germany's recent renewable energy revolution provides a model for how the climate crisis can be turned into an opportunity. The renewable energy sector has transformed into one of Germany's fastest-growing export industries. As of today, Europe's largest economy exports more than 65 percent of the solar power generated in the country and nearly 70 percent of the wind power.

Germany's clean energy industry is also one of the country's biggest job creators, more than making up for the jobs lost due to the slowdown of traditional manufacturing.

As of 2014, a total of 370,000 jobs have been created in Germany's new energy sector, outnumbering redundancies in the traditional manufacturing industries.

The number of jobs created in the new industry is expected to reach half a million by 2020.

MOTIE sees Germany's successful energy ventures as a blueprint for Korea. The only thing needed is a clear policy direction and detailed action plans to attain the best results.

First of all, to develop and promote Korea's new energy industry, 30 trillion won out of the total investment plan is slated to be

spent on the construction of renewable energy power plants with a combined power generation capacity of 13 million kilowatts, equivalent to that of 26 coal plants.

To speed up renewable power plant construction, the ministry will raise the "renewable portfolio standard" to 5 percent from an earlier target of 4.5 percent in 2018, and from 6 percent to 7 percent in 2020.

The renewable portfolio standard, a regulation that requires more power to be generated from renewable sources, is a globally accepted tool to facilitate renewable energy.

In addition, incentives will be offered to solar power producers utilizing ESS, which will double the ESS market to 600 billion won by 2020.

A deregulation drive is another critical piece for the development of the new energy industry. A

series of deregulatory measures will be put into action in the renewable energy sector. One such measure is to allow solar power generators to sell electricity to individual and corporate customers via the Korea Power Exchange.

MOTIE expects the opening of the power generation and supply market to draw more private companies into the new energy market.

The long-term investment goal is to develop these new energy companies into exporters. For this, pairings will be sought with Korean financial institutions and public energy giants such as Korea Electric Power Corp. that have global reputations and business experience to help new Korean energy ventures tap into overseas markets.

Since the historic Paris Climate Agreement last December, a growing number of countries, including Korea, have been pursuing the shift to clean energy. Whether climate change turns out to be an opportunity or a burden to Korea will depend on our success in developing the new energy industry into Korea's next growth engine.

Joo Hyung-hwan is the trade, industry and energy minister.



Zika aid

So far, the only mosquitoes in America carrying the Zika virus are confined to one neat square mile north of downtown Miami. And public health officials seem confident that they will be able to keep most of them there.

There is no reason for panic, in other words. The U.S. is unlikely to experience a widespread epidemic of Zika. But there is ample reason for frustration, and Congress needs to ensure that state and federal public health authorities get the funding they need.

More than 1,650 people in the U.S. have been infected with Zika after traveling to other countries or through sex. The mosquito that carries Zika inhabits a coast-to-coast swath of the southern U.S. So it's quite possible that local transmission of Zika will happen in other parts of the U.S. as well. The Gulf Coast is especially vulnerable.

Yet Congress has still not allocated a dime toward containing the threat of Zika or developing a vaccine to prevent it.

Both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which is helping Florida contain its infected mosquitoes, and the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, which is trying to better understand Zika and help develop vaccines and treatments, have borrowed money from other parts of their budgets to keep working at full speed. But Anthony Fauci, the NIAID director, has warned that his agency is "precisely close" to running out of money.

The NIAID has too little money to prepare for a second-phase vaccine trial that should be scheduled for January.

Some congressional Democrats are calling for an emergency session to finally fund the \$1.9 billion Zika spending bill that President Barack Obama sent in February. At the very least, Congress should pass that legislation the moment it reconvenes after Labor Day — and without the partisan poison pills Republicans tried to add to a truncated version of the request last month.

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How to deal with Trump gone wilder

By Bernard-Henri Levy

PARIS — If Donald Trump were to become President, the United States would have a problem with many dimensions. So would the world.

To begin with, the problem would be his unfathomable vulgarity. America has seen many things, but not a potential president discussing the size of his penis during a televised debate.

The problem would also be his pathological hatred of women. In a 1992 conversation with architect Philip Johnson, reported in New York magazine, he said, "You have to treat 'em like shit." He still views them as disgusting creatures, with — as he said of Fox News journalist Megyn Kelly — "blood coming out of [their] wherever."

The problem would also be his unabashed racism. This is a man who, according to his first wife, long kept a collection of Hitler's speeches on his bedside table, and who blithely calls blacks "lazy," derides Mexi-

cans as "rapists," and judges Muslims collectively guilty for Islamist terrorism.

The problem would be his anti-Semitism, too, lurking in table talk about not wanting his money counted by anyone other than "little short guys that wear yarmulkes," or in tweets emphasizing the comedian Jon Stewart's Jewishness, or in his angry remark last December to the Republican Jewish Coalition. "You're not going to support me," he said, "because I don't want your money!"

The problem would be his gross lack of knowledge, not just of the world, but also of his own country. A few days before the referendum on Britain's continued membership in the European Union, he didn't know the meaning of the word "Brexit." This month, he showed that he doesn't know how many articles the U.S. Constitution contains.

But, most seriously and worryingly, the problem would be that the leader of the world's leading power would have a catalogue of simplistic

ideas in the place of a geopolitical vision. And it is a catalogue that, despite Trump's promise to "Make America Great Again," would undermine U.S. prosperity and security.

Consider his idea, floated in early March and probably inspired by his private bankruptcies, of renegotiating the U.S. national debt. The idea was idiotic (the American government, which holds a monopoly on issuing the world's leading reserve currency, has nothing to "renegotiate"). But had Trump been in power when he proposed it, the consequences would have been devastating: an immediate hike in interest rates; a tanking dollar; and a breach of confidence between the U.S. (now seen as behaving like Argentina or Greece) and everyone else.

Or consider his statement, during his nomination acceptance speech in Cleveland, that, if elected, he would revise NATO's policy of automatic support for threatened members of the alliance. In the world according to Trump, Russia would then be able to follow

through on its threat to reexamine the legality of the process that led to the Baltic states' independence. It would be free to adjust its border with one neighbor or come to the rescue of a Russian-speaking minority "held hostage" by another. It could invade Poland or, of course, Ukraine. And why would Russia stop with NATO and its neighbors? It could pick a fight with Japan or any other Western allies in the Asia-Pacific region.

And then of course there is Russian President Vladimir Putin himself, whose praises Trump never misses an occasion to sing. As he once told CNN's Larry King (while promoting his bestseller Think Big and Kick Ass), Putin is a great leader who did a "great job ... rebuilding Russia." In September 2013, he described as a "masterpiece" a commentary signed by Putin in the New York Times that criticized U.S. policy in Syria. In September 2015, after almost two years of a Cold War-like standoff over Ukraine, he told Fox News that Putin deserved an "A" for leadership.

The truth is that Trump's personal ties with Russia are old and close. They date from the time in the early 2000s, when Trump, having been blacklisted by U.S. banks, turned to Russian investors to finance projects in Toronto, SoHo, and Panama.

And reports are beginning to surface of a galaxy of influences and interests that formed around him at that time for his benefit: a firmament of Gazprom directors, former lobbyists for Ukrainian dictator Viktor Yanukovich (including Paul Manafort, now Trump's campaign manager), and prominent organized-crime figures.

Some observers, like Franklin Foer,

regard Trump as "Putin's puppet." Others, like George Stephanopoulos, a former adviser to President Bill Clinton, speculate about possible organic links between Trump's campaign and the Russian regime.

And now the Russians appear to be behind the leak, two days before the Democratic National Convention in Philadelphia, of 19,252 email messages detailing how Democratic Party leaders favored Hillary Clinton over her rival, Bernie Sanders. Worse, Trump then suborned cyberespionage by a foreign power against his opponent: "Russia, if you're listening," he told a press conference, "I hope you're able to find 30,000 emails that are missing."

The implications of Trump's election would be truly terrifying. The problem would not only be his vulgarity, sexism, racism, and defiant ignorance. It would be his possible infidelity to America itself. The party of Eisenhower and Reagan has been commandeered by a corrupt demagogue who betrays not only his country's ideals, but also its fundamental national interest.

American vertigo. Global disaster.

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