



## **Korea-U.S. Business Forum aims to strengthen ties between Houston and South Korea**

The Greater Houston Partnership and the Federation of Korean Industries (FKI) welcomed Minister of Trade, Industry and Energy, Sang-jick Yoon for the Korea-U.S. Business Forum on Thursday, June 18 at the Hilton Post Oak Hotel. According to Minister Yoon, South Korea is looking to partner with Houston companies, particularly in the areas of energy, aerospace and manufacturing.

“Houston has a vibrant, globally-minded business community and I believe there are quite a few opportunities for us to forge mutually-beneficial relationships going forward,” said Bob Harvey, Partnership President and CEO, in his opening remarks. “South Korea is poised for an era of strong economic growth and business opportunity and, through today’s forum, we look forward to continuing the dialogue as we can further strengthen our nation’s partnership.”

The forum also featured three panel discussions focused on energy, investment, and aerospace and engineering. Expert panelists included Chevron, GE, Houston Airport System, SK E&S and AECOM.

Bob Pertierra, Partnership Chief Economic Development Officer, moderated the panel focused on investment. He noted that foreign direct investment in Korea increased 30 percent in 2014, hitting a record \$19 billion in U.S dollars. “As these numbers illustrate, there is already tremendous investment activity between South Korea and the United States, with much potential for further growth,” he added.

Additionally, the Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA) hosted one-on-one sessions following the event; providing the opportunity for Houston companies to meet with representatives from the Korean government as well as the private sector.