



Embassy of Italy
Seoul



“AMBASSADOR FOR A DAY” CONCEPT NOTE

- ❖ **Date:** March 7 (*to capitalize on content throughout the day on March 8*)
- ❖ **Venue:** Seoul
- ❖ **Participants:** protagonist of the day will be the female winning student from a Korean university; the meetings will see the participation of the Italian System (Italian Cultural Institute – IIC, Italian Trade Agency – ITA, Defense Attaché, Italian Chamber of Commerce in Korea – ITCCK) and of distinguished representatives of the diplomatic, political, institutional and scientific context. The meetings will be partly open to the press.
- ❖ **Area of interest:** adopt proactive policies to achieve gender equality (5th goal of the UN Agenda 2030) encouraging reflection on alternative and ambitious career opportunities in different areas: political, diplomatic, economic, S&T, and cultural.

Introduction

"Ambassador for a day" is a project launched in 2021 by the Embassy of Italy in Seoul, with the aim of informing and bringing female university students closer to the diplomatic world and promoting the participation of women in the diplomatic career and at the top of the political, institutional and scientific worlds. The project, created to celebrate International Women's Day (8 March), proactively pursues gender equality in all job positions, especially in positions of influence.

Topic

This year the project will focus on the participation of women in decision-making positions and it will be linked to the role that women can play in ensuring peace and security around the world, especially in such trying times for the international geopolitical scenario: "How breaking the crystal ceiling can help contribute to peace and security around the world". The topic of "breaking the crystal ceiling" was mentioned in the inaugural speech of the first woman to become Prime Minister in Italy, Hon. Giorgia Meloni; the crystal ceiling refers to all those invisible barriers that hinder, slow down or complicate the professional growth of working women, keeping them away from top, managing or decision-making positions. This concept has furthermore been linked to the crises that the world has endured and is enduring globally: studies conducted by the UN have shown that women's participation in crisis management contributes to the durability of solutions, such as peace agreements. The participating students will be asked to write an essay on this topic,

creatively contributing to the discussion. The selected student will work alongside the Ambassador of Italy, Federico Failla, for a day, participating in all activities normally carried out by him, in particular meetings with Italian and Korean institutional, political, scientific and economic representatives.

Objective

The aim of the project is finally to encourage the winning student to reflect on alternative and more ambitious career opportunities; the opportunity to dialogue and test herself with leading figures from various agencies and administrations should serve as an incentive not to preclude herself from any job position in the future. The event will also be a useful opportunity to allow the selected student to increase awareness of her abilities and increase her personal general knowledge thanks to the activities that will be carried out during the day.

Program:

10.00 – 11.00 **Staff Meeting** of the *Embassy of Italy in Seoul* with *Office of the Italian Defense Attaché* and *Italian Cultural Institute of Seoul*

11.45 – 12.30 **Board Meeting** with *Italian Chamber of Commerce in Korea*

16.00 (**TBC**) **Meeting in VTC** with Amb. *Vincenza Lomonaco*, Director General for Globalization and Global Issues on "The important role of diplomacy in the international context"

17.00 (**TBC**) **Meeting in VTC** with Dr. *Fabiola Gianotti*, Director General of the European Organization for Nuclear Research on "Content Management System: collaboration between CERN and Korea"

18.00 (**TBC**) **Meeting in VTC** with Dr. *Maria Tripodi*, Undersecretary of State at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy on "Perspectives for the future: bilateral relations between Italy and Korea"