

# *Decade of Leadership: United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon*

**Reflections on holding  
'the most impossible job  
in the world' 2006-2016**





# TABLE OF CONTENTS:

## Decade of Leadership: United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, 2006-2016

A 'relentless' promoter of health as a human right.....	3
<i>Dr. Margaret Chan</i>	
U.N. chief Ban has most pride in climate deal, sees N. Korean nukes as world's worst threat.....	4
<i>Guy Taylor</i>	
'Good' proponent of gender equality .....	4
<i>Tarja Halonen</i>	
U.N. chief Ban: Steady hand, sound judgment .....	5
<i>Dr. Alexandre Mansourov</i>	
Congenial collaboration brought tangible results.....	6
<i>Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser</i>	
A cherished moment with JFK.....	6
<i>Dr. Graham Allison</i>	
Departing UN chief has almost 5 decades of public service.....	7
Pursuing peace on the Korean Peninsula — and a myriad of other goals .....	8
<i>Ambassador Joseph R. DeTrani</i>	
A tenure marked by earnest dedication and criticism, fair and unfair.....	9
<i>Ed Feulner</i>	
The most impossible job in the world.....	10
<i>Michael Kirby</i>	
A 'world champion' on climate change. ....	11
<i>Honorable Kessai Note</i>	
Stalwart advocate of a global climate pact .....	11
<i>Strobe Talbott</i>	



*"The Secretary-General job was designed to be more secretary than general, and rests on soft rather than hard power. Within those limits, Ban Ki-moon has done a good job of symbolizing the international community and appealing to the legal and cosmopolitan aspects of international relations to the extent the post permits." — Joseph S. Nye, Jr., professor at Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government and author of "Is the American Century Over?"*

**The  
Washington  
Times**

ADVOCACY/SPECIAL SECTIONS

Cheryl Wetzstein  
SPECIAL SECTIONS MANAGER

Advertising Department:  
202-636-3062

Larry T. Beasley  
PRESIDENT AND CEO

Thomas P. McDevitt  
CHAIRMAN

David Dadisman  
GENERAL MANAGER

Adam VerCammen  
DIRECTOR OF ADVERTISING & SALES

Andrea Hutchins  
SENIOR MARKETING MANAGER

Patrick Crofoot  
SUPERVISOR, GRAPHICS

Special Sections are multipage tabloid products that run in The Washington Times daily newspaper and are posted online and in PDF form on its website. Sponsors and advertisers collaborate with The Times' advertising and marketing departments to highlight a variety of issues and events, such as The Power of Prayer, North Korea's Nuclear Threat, Gun Rights Policy Conference and Rolling Thunder Memorial Day Tribute to Veterans. Unless otherwise identified, Special Sections are prepared separately and without involvement from the Times' newsroom and editorial staff.

# A 'relentless' promoter of health as a human right



By Dr. Margaret Chan

**O**ver the past decade, health issues have attained an unprecedented prominence at the United Nations.

Three health issues have risen to the highest level of discussion: noncommunicable diseases, such as diabetes, cancer and heart disease; the Ebola outbreak in West Africa; and on Sept. 21, the leaders of 193 countries came together to address one of the most pressing public health crises of today — the waning effectiveness of antibiotics and other antimicrobials.

If no action is taken, AMR (antimicrobial resistance) could kill as many as 10 million people globally every year by 2050, with a cumulative cost to the world economy as high as \$100 trillion, according to a recent review commissioned by the United Kingdom government.

The focus on health in three U.N. high-level meetings illustrates the profound leadership and broad impact we have seen under the current U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon.

When he took office in 2007, nearly 9 million children died annually before their fifth birthday from conditions that could be prevented or treated with access to simple affordable interventions. As he leaves office, the world is in a different situation. Major progress has been made in saving the lives of mothers and children, thanks to the Every Woman Every Child initiative that he launched in 2010. Today, fewer than 6 million children die before their fifth birthday.

Progress has also been achieved in turning around the malaria, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis epidemics; in combating global health crises, such as those caused by the H1N1, Ebola and Zika viruses; and in polio eradication.

The secretary-general has catalyzed

engagement on global health at international and national levels. He has relentlessly promoted health as a human right, advocating for increased access to medicines and health care for the most vulnerable communities in the world, and called for greater accountability in global health. He convened the United Nations High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines, a Commission on Information and Accountability for Women's and Children's Health, and a Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth to help find solutions on these issues.

In addition, Ban Ki-moon has broadened the scope of health as a multisectoral concern — positioning major health issues as a responsibility beyond medical and science communities to engage all parts of government that sustain development and progress of countries. This is why AMR is on the agenda at the G20, the World Bank and the U.N. General Assembly.

The secretary-general's concern for health capacity at the local level and his support for the World Health Organization's work have been demonstrated numerous times when he joined me on country visits to impoverished communities and health care

facilities. Specifically, his personal involvement in the polio-eradication campaign has been admirable. Whenever I had politically sensitive decisions to make, I knew he would always be there to take my call and give me profoundly wise advice.

worldwide.

These challenging health issues remain, but Ban Ki-moon has provided a way forward to address all of them. The Sustainable Development Goals adopted by the U.N. General Assembly in September 2015 give the interna-

**When he took office in 2007, nearly 9 million children died annually before their fifth birthday from conditions that could be prevented or treated with access to simple affordable interventions. As he leaves office, the world is in a different situation. Major progress has been made in saving the lives of mothers and children, thanks to the Every Woman Every Child initiative that he launched in 2010.**

On Dec. 31, Ban Ki-moon will pass the baton to his successor, and with it many health challenges that WHO and other U.N. agencies are still working to address. Health workers are still a target in many conflict zones today. Disease outbreaks that pose a risk of spreading quickly through international trade and travel will continue to threaten global security. Noncommunicable diseases have overtaken infectious diseases as the No. 1 killers

tional community an opportunity to work together across all sectors to improve the well-being of humanity. The current secretary-general has set a new bar for U.N. engagement in health issues. It will be essential for years to come.

.....  
*Margaret Chan, M.D., is the seventh director-general of the World Health Organization.*



Dr. Margaret Chan, director-general of the World Health Organization, and U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon met with vaccine manufacturers during the 62nd World Health Assembly in 2009, where they discussed medical responses to the H1N1 influenza pandemic. Image courtesy of the World Health Organization.



# U.N. chief Ban has most pride in climate deal

## Sees N. Korean nukes as world's worst threat

By GUY TAYLOR  
THE WASHINGTON TIMES

**NEW YORK** — U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon says that his greatest achievement at the helm of the world's biggest international organization was last year's climate change accord in Paris, and he expressed open frustration that Republicans in the U.S. continue to obstruct President Obama and to politicize the subject.

"The debate on science and the debate on politics as far as climate change is concerned is over," Mr. Ban told The Washington Times in an exclusive interview on Sept. 15. "Still, the Republican Party, they are not convinced."

"There should be no political consideration on this," he said. "There should be no room for politics to get involved."

Mr. Ban, who has been secretary-general for a decade and is nearing the end of his tenure, made the comments in a wide-ranging interview on topics including Syria's civil war and the mounting threat of a nuclear-armed North Korea.

The South Korean native at one point stressed that North Korea's potential use of nuclear weapons now represents a graver danger to humanity and the international order than any other single conflict raging around the world.

"We are talking about nuclear bombs," he said. "Whatever we see, a conflict in Syria or South Sudan or Central African Republic or elsewhere, they do not have any nuclear weapons. North Korea has nuclear weapons, and they've tested [them] five times successfully."

"They have [also] launched short- and midrange ballistic missiles," Mr. Ban said. "So, it seems that they are in the process of making smaller, lighter, longer-range ballistic missiles where they can have this nuclear warhead on top."

"They publicly, have openly said that their target is to strike the United States with much lighter, longer-range ballistic missiles," he said. "This is quite worrying, a very worrying situation."

But the secretary-general stressed that the window remains open for a diplomatic solution with Pyongyang.

While China and the U.S. are widely seen to be on opposing ends of the North Korea crisis, Mr. Ban said progress made by Beijing and Washington on other fronts — specifically on climate change initiatives — should serve as an impetus for the two powers to work together on defusing the North Korea threat.

China is Pyongyang's main ally and financial backer, and U.S. officials have for years called on Beijing to take a stronger role in discouraging provocations from Pyongyang. After heated negotiations early this year, Beijing joined with

Washington on the U.N. Security Council in adopting expanded economic sanctions against North Korea, with the goal of limiting Pyongyang's ability to expand its nuclear weapons capabilities.

"China understands the seriousness and urgency of addressing the North Korean issue," Mr. Ban said Thursday evening.

He said Chinese and U.S. diplomats are again in deep negotiations at the Security Council level over how best to respond to Pyongyang's fifth nuclear weapon test carried out this month.

"It's mainly the United States and China negotiating at this time what kind of measures should be taken," he said, "in close consultation with the Republic of Korea and also Japan."

Asked whether the Security Council should impose even more biting sanctions, Mr. Ban said, "At this time, the trend or direction should be [toward] measures which can [send] a tougher, clear message to North Korea."

### A diplomat's legacy

The 72-year-old Mr. Ban has won praise for pushing world leaders to cut last year's climate change deal. Although it has not been fully ratified, the agreement is widely regarded to be a historic step toward coordinating more nations than ever to engage in dramatic reductions of carbon dioxide emissions.

But Mr. Ban has also been lauded by many for his energetic defense of human rights, often publicly calling out nations where abuses are occurring and shaming leaders for turning a blind eye to oppressed people around the world.

Still, critics say the secretary-general's notoriously low-key style has sometimes made his successes hard to measure. Some also note that he has presided over the United Nations at a time when conflicts raging around the world have spawned the most refugees in decades — particularly as a result of the multifront

civil war that has gripped Syria.

Mr. Ban told The Times that he feels regret over the horror of Syria's war — that it has been allowed to carry on for so long. He said the conflict has been extremely difficult to overcome because of a kind of "perfect storm" of circumstances that precipitated and underpinned the violence.

He lamented that divisions have played inside Syria over the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad, while the region's national governments have remained divided and world powers have done the same on the U.N. Security Council.

He praised Secretary of State John F. Kerry and Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov for continuing to push for a diplomatic solution. "We must not waste valuable time," Mr. Ban said, adding that outside powers must increase pressure to ensure that U.N.-backed humanitarian aid can reach civilians in the war zone.

On a more personal front, Mr. Ban pushed back against criticism about his low-key persona.

"I am not a perfect person," he said. "I think I have done, in my own authentic and determined way, to contribute to world peace and human rights," he said. "I've been speaking out loud and clear whenever I saw injustice and abuse of human rights. I have been speaking out."

### What next for Mr. Ban?

With the secretary-general slated to step down at the end of the year, talk has been widespread over what he will do next. Many believe he will emerge as a leading candidate for president back home. South Koreans vote in December 2017, and President Park Geun-hye is limited by law to a single term in office.

Mr. Ban has become more outspoken as his term winds down, saying too many world leaders have failed to make the welfare of their citizens a priority and calling for institutional reforms to make

the United Nations itself a more forceful voice in world affairs.

He told The Associated Press recently that too many leaders are focused on getting elected "by whatever means." Once elected, he said, such leaders "rule over people, and they are mostly corrupted, and they do not respect the voices of the people."

Mr. Ban also has called into question the requirement that so many issues that come before the General Assembly and the Security Council require a unanimous consensus or supermajority before a decision can be made.

His proposal to set a goal of resettling 10 percent of the world's refugees annually was watered down in the run-up to next week's annual General Assembly gathering because of objections from a small number of states, human rights groups say.

Mr. Ban also leaves as an unusually spirited and uncertain race has broken out over his successor. *[Editor's note: Antonio Guterres, the former prime minister of Portugal who now serves as the top U.N. official dealing with the refugee crisis, was chosen as the next secretary-general on Oct. 5.]*

On Thursday evening, the secretary-general said the selection process should play out without his influence and that he hopes only that the "best possible person" is selected.

But he added that he has fought tirelessly for "gender empowerment" during his time as secretary-general.

"Speaking plainly, half of the world's population, they are women. But most of the potential of women has not been fully explored or utilized," he said. "Of the many resources around the world, the least-utilized resource is women and women empowerment."

• This article was originally published Sept. 15, 2016.



## 'Good' proponent of gender equality

"Mr. Ban Ki-moon is a seasoned, discreet diplomat who has accomplished a lot during his term as secretary-general of the U.N. He has been a good proponent of gender equality and the rights of women, children and adolescents. The HeForShe campaign that he has led together with UN Women is a wonderful example and it has been a great success. His commitment is also apparent in the nominations he has made within the U.N. system and programmatic work. Mr. Ban Ki-moon has done a great job in bridging the Millennium Development Goals into the era of the Sustainable Development Goals with emphasis on gender equality. His support for the working groups that I have led has been evident — even when some of the themes have been difficult and seen as controversial by some." -- Former Finland President Tarja Halonen



# U.N. chief Ban: Steady hand, sound judgment



By Dr. Alexandre Y. Mansourov

A big picture can be clearly seen from a distance. Only historians are likely to properly judge the truly remarkable achievements of the most invisible secretary-general in the history of the United Nations — Ban Ki-moon.

His short-sighted critics like to contrast him with “charming” Kofi Annan and “dashing” Dag Hammarskjöld, painting Ban as being “passive,” “powerless,” “feckless,” and “colorless.” But, they tend to lose the sight of the forest behind the trees.

When Ban inherited one of the toughest jobs on the planet 10 years ago, the world’s organization was mired in the corruption and mismanagement scandals, facing mounting budget deficits and the great powers increasingly tired of combating “dangerously charismatic” and unresponsive Annan.

It was Ban whom the world leaders of the time called for the rescue. And, an unassuming South Korean diplomat rose to the occasion and proved himself as an astute statesman, great leader of a global organization, and a visionary advocate of universal values and the public good for the benefit of

all humanity.

Humble, industrious and amiable Ban, who is not a talker but a doer, proved to be a very effective central administrative officer, who turned the United Nations around by pushing internal reforms that balanced the budget, rooted out corruption and introduced new codes of conduct for U.N. employees.

Under his fair and balanced leadership, the United Nations unequivocally denounced North Korean WMD provocations and military threats and imposed tough sanctions on Pyongyang for repeated violations of the U.N. Security Council resolutions. He condemned human rights atrocities in Syria and organized effective relief for hundreds of thousands of refugees in the Middle East and Africa. Under his watch, the U.N. successfully carried out numerous peace-keeping operations around the world.

His major forward-looking achievement was the successful conclusion of the landmark climate change agreement at the Paris climate conference (COP21) in December 2015, a signature project of his entire tenure that will benefit the entire mankind for generations to come.

Some of his impatient critics insist that the U.N. should have reacted faster to global crises and done more to solve the world’s problems. But Ban had to work within the confines of the international law, respect the opinions of the veto-wielding powers of the U.N. Security Council, and operate under the severe constraints imposed on him by a large multinational bureaucracy accustomed to moving at a glacial pace and mostly by inertia. While pushing the proverbial envelope as far as he could, he understood that international diplomacy was the art of the possible.

Ban Ki-moon’s greatest achievement — the continued effectiveness of the

United Nations as a universal platform for public expression of diverse, albeit often opposite opinions, and a global mechanism for peaceful conflict resolution among nation-states — can probably be appreciated from the future vantage point.

We live at the time when renewed and escalating East-West conflict

Ban Ki-moon deserves a lot of credit as the man whose “invisible” hand masterfully steered the United Nations between Scylla and Charybdis and saved it from taking sides, falling victim to great powers rivalries during the emerging second Cold War, and ending up in the dustbin of history just as its ill-famous predecessor.



**Humble, industrious and amiable Ban, who is not a talker but a doer, proved to be a very effective central administrative officer, who turned the United Nations around by pushing internal reforms that balanced the budget, rooted out corruption and introduced new codes of conduct for U.N. employees.**

undermines one after another existing international institutions, from G-8 to PACE. Historians remind us that the League of Nations collapsed when some great powers were isolated or decided to walk away from it, and its disappearance eventually led to the outbreak of the Second World War in the 1930s.

.....  
Alexandre Y. Mansourov, Ph.D., is a former diplomat and security practitioner. He is currently professor of security studies at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service and professor of Asian studies at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C.





# Congenial collaboration brought tangible results



**By Ambassador  
Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser**

I have known Mr. Ban Ki-moon for more than a decade. In the next few paragraphs, I will talk about the man that I had the privilege to work with, as our paths crossed together since 2001 while juggling different portfolios within and across the U.N. system.

In 2001, Mr. Ban was the Chief of Cabinet of the President of 56th Session of the U.N. General Assembly and I was the Permanent Representative of the State of Qatar to the United Nations.

In 2006, the State of Qatar, my country, started serving a two-year term as a non-permanent member of the U.N. Security Council. It was the same year Mr. Ban was elected as the eighth U.N. secretary-general. Qatar supported Mr. Ban as an Asian candidate.

In 2011, I was elected President of the 66th Session of the U.N. General Assembly. It was a dynamic and eventful year, as it witnessed the political transformations that took the Arab world by storm. It was also a significant year in our working relationship. Our solid

cooperation, which was cemented along the years, was manifested in two historically significant trips that we undertook together.

The first trip was to Libya on Nov. 2, 2011. We were the first high-level officials to visit Tripoli right after the change of the regime of Colonel Muammar Gaddafi. The joint visit demonstrated the U.N.'s strong support for the Libyans as they embarked in their critical journey of reconciliation, democracy and reconstruction.

The second joint mission was to Somalia on Dec. 9, 2011. It was the first visit by the U.N. secretary-general and a sitting president of the U.N. General Assembly. The devastating situation in Somalia had slightly improved due to increased humanitarian assistance. Three out of six regions were lifted out of famine a month earlier.

A roadmap was adopted in September of that year. That was an opportune moment to reaffirm to the Somali people the support of the international community. I had proposed the visit to Mr. Ban during our monthly luncheons. He agreed with enthusiasm.

We met in Nairobi, as Mr. Ban was arriving from a climate change summit in South Africa. As we were reviewing our plans, the chief of security entered the room to let us know that our itinerary had been leaked. The Boeing 737 that will be transferring us would be an easy target. We were advised to postpone the trip for our own safety. We agreed that postponing our trip would send the wrong signal to a country that sorely needed our support. I suggested to Secretary-General Ban and our security detail that we arrive earlier than anticipated. And this what we did. We safely made our way to the Somali presidential office at Villa Somalia. The visit demonstrated how the U.N. secretary-general and the president of the U.N. General Assembly working together could

enhance the visibility and effectiveness of the United Nations.

In a similar way, we continued to work closely together again as of 2013 to date. It was the year I assumed the position of the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations (UNAOC). The Alliance is the political initiative of the U.N. secretary-general, co-sponsored by the governments

him as well.

I have been deeply privileged to work by his side. Together, we have made important gains and I can say that the progress we made in activities, in which we both collaborated closely in the past years, is our shared legacy.

During his decade-long leadership, Mr. Ban has demonstrated his diplomatic skills in a quiet and an unassuming

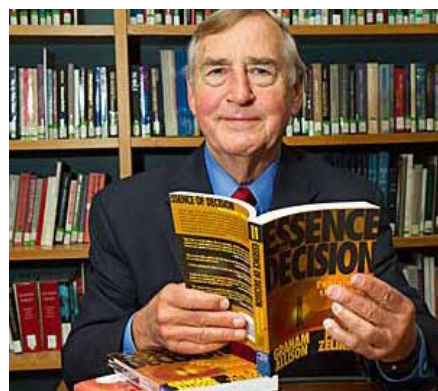


of Spain and Turkey. His efforts have advanced UNAOC causes by upholding our shared values: peace, dialogue, tolerance, respect and diversity. He has regularly participated not only in our annual high-level ministerial meetings and global fora. But he has done more. He has actively engaged in supporting our project activities, participating in UNAOC youth events, summer school, and the Intercultural Innovation Awards. His active engagement has been energizing for all of us, and if I may say so, for

demeanor in a global arena rattled by turmoil. His door has always been open to everyone, including his critics.

I am very proud to have known Mr. Ban not only as a reliable and respected colleague but also as a loyal and devoted friend.

*Ambassador Nassir Abdulaziz Al-Nasser is the High Representative for the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations.*



**By Dr. Graham Allison**

I suspect you may not be aware of the similarities between Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and President John F. Kennedy.

## A cherished moment with JFK

While most observers will be most impressed by their differences, I note a significant similarity: their determined purposefulness.

I have had the good fortune to know Ban Ki-moon for several decades, since he showed up as a student at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard of which I was the "founding dean."

At an opening reception in which I shook hands with and chatted with each of the new students, when he arrived at the front of the line, he introduced himself as: "JFK."

I reacted with predictable surprise. He responded with a wry smile: "Just from Korea." Thereafter, among his classmates, he was nicknamed "JFK."

His path from the foreign service in Korea to foreign minister and then secretary-general of the U.N. reminds us again of the role of accidents of history.

In the early 1960s, as a young foreign service student touring the U.S., Ban Ki-moon had a chance to visit the White House, where President Kennedy spoke to the group.

When Ban Ki-moon became

secretary-general, Massachusetts Sen. Ted Kennedy found in the JFK Library archives a photo from that event that included both the former president and Ban Ki-moon, and gave it to the secretary-general. He has always kept it as a valued memento in his office.

*Graham T. Allison, Jr., Ph.D., is director of the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.*

# Departing UN chief has almost 5 decades of public service

By THE WASHINGTON TIMES  
ADVOCACY DEPARTMENT

**O**utgoing United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's journey to the world's largest international body started in a war-torn country that received emergency assistance from the same institution.

"When I was 6, the Korean War broke out, and all the classrooms were destroyed by war. We studied under the trees or in whatever buildings were left," Mr. Ban once said.

As he grew up "in war," he noted, he "saw the United Nations help my country to recover and rebuild. That experience was a big part of what led me to pursue a career in public service."

"As Secretary-General, I am determined to see this Organization deliver tangible, meaningful results that advance peace, development and human rights," he said at the beginning of his tenure in 2007.

Mr. Ban was later unanimously re-elected by the General Assembly to a second five-year term, which ends Dec. 31.

His public service on a global stage may not be over — Mr. Ban is viewed as a likely



candidate for the South Korean presidency, a post that has been battered by scandal connected to President Geun-hye Park.

Mr. Ban, 72, told a final U.N. press conference on Dec. 16 that he will ponder his future plans after he returns home in early January.

"I will really consider seriously how best and what I should and I could do for my country," he said, according to an Associated Press report.

"I can understand and share the anxiety

of people about the future of their country," he told the press conference. "And this is one of the biggest challenges the Korean people are encountering."

Mr. Ban, who was born June 13, 1944, in Eumseong County in North Chungcheong Province in the Republic of Korea, has been in foreign service almost five decades, having passed his South Korean Foreign Service exam in 1970.

He earned his undergraduate degree in 1970 from Seoul National University and a master's degree from Harvard University in 1985. He married Yoo Soon-taek in 1971, and has three children and several grandchildren.

Mr. Ban's foreign service has included postings in India; Washington, D.C.; and Austria, and prominent appointments, including foreign policy adviser to South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun in 2003.

He declared his candidacy for the U.N. leadership position in 2006 while serving as South Korean minister of foreign affairs and trade. He was appointed as secretary-general on Oct. 13, 2006, and became the eighth person to hold that post on Jan. 1, 2007.

Major initiatives under Mr. Ban's leadership included the 2007 Climate Change Summit and anti-poverty Millennium Development Goals.

He urged the creation of UN Women, a major new agency to consolidate the global institution's work on these issues. Within the U.N., Mr. Ban increased the number of women in senior management positions by 40 percent, according to the U.N.

Mr. Ban worked to strengthen humanitarian efforts to Myanmar (2008), Haiti (2010) and Pakistan (2010), as well as peacekeeping efforts in world conflict zones; some 120,000 U.N. "blue helmets" are dispatched around the world.

He further worked to enhance the disarmament agenda and bring renewed attention to nuclear safety and security after a March 2011 earthquake and tsunami shook the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

Mr. Ban further made strong efforts to make the U.N. bureaucracy more transparent, effective and efficient.

This broad history — plus his recognition of the urgent need to defuse the North Korean threat — have made him an attractive candidate to lead South Korea.

For the time being, though, Mr. Ban is looking forward to some family time.

His public service has stretched 46 years, without a break, Mr. Ban told a recent edition of Beijing Review. "So I may need some rest first of all. And have some more time with my grandchildren."



## The Washington Times Foundation

**The Washington Times Foundation promotes educational activities and opportunities for the sake of healing the great rifts that exist between peoples, races and faith traditions.**

**May every sunset in the coming new year see humankind coming closer together.**

The Washington Times Foundation is a 501(c) 3 private foundation that supports a variety of initiatives to resolve human conflict and strengthen peace through building bridges of understanding.

3600 NEW YORK AVENUE, NE • WASHINGTON, DC 20002 • 202.636.3256  
INFO@TWTFFOUNDATION.COM



# Pursuing peace on the Korean Peninsula — and a myriad of other goals



**By Ambassador Joseph R. DeTrani**

was fortunate to have had the opportunity to meet on numerous occasions with Ban Ki-moon when he was the Republic of Korea's minister of foreign affairs and trade.

During those meetings, it was apparent to me and others responsible for negotiations with North Korea that Minister Ban Ki-moon was seized with finding a peaceful resolution of the North Korea nuclear issue. He believed strongly that peaceful resolution of this issue would bring peace and prosperity to the region. Minister Ban Ki-moon's focus always was the people in North Korea and the need to ensure that food assistance reached the people in a timely manner.

Not surprisingly, Minister Ban Ki-moon played a key role when the Six-Party Talks with North Korea succeeded in securing the joint statement on Sept. 19, 2005. It committed Pyongyang to comprehensive and verifiable denuclearization in return for security assurances, economic development aid, and eventually the provision of light-water reactors for civilian nuclear energy — once the North returned to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty (NPT) as a non-nuclear-weapons state.

This focus on North Korea did not change when Ban Ki-moon became the eighth secretary-general of the United Nations on Jan. 1, 2007.

What did happen, however, was that Ban Ki-moon could now dedicate his energies to other security and humanitarian issues, in addition to those in North Korea.

Thus, during Ban Ki-moon's 10 years as secretary-general, we've witnessed

an activist Ban Ki-moon making his priorities in a myriad of issues: climate change, pandemics, economic upheaval, nuclear disarmament, women's issues, pro-democracy movements in the Middle East and North Africa, and bringing more attention to global food, energy and water issues.

In Ban Ki-moon's first year as secretary-general, he attended the 2007 Climate Change Summit and launched the Caring for Climate initiative. At the U.N. Conference on Sustainable Development in Brazil in 2012, he got member states to agree on clear and practical measures for implementing sustainable economic development, tackling climate change by improving energy efficiencies, addressing ocean acidification, and taking other concrete steps to end worldwide poverty. Indeed, bringing attention to the food, energy and economic crises that peaked in 2008, Ban Ki-moon appealed to the G20 for a \$1 trillion financing package for developing countries.

Ban Ki-moon's advocacy for women's rights led to the creation of UN Women, which is the United Nations' entity for gender equality and empowerment for women. Internally at the U.N., he has increased the number of women holding senior management positions by more than 40 percent, the highest level in U.N. history.

Strengthening U.N. peace efforts in conflict zones was another one of Ban Ki-moon's major priorities: There are



**Strengthening U.N. peace efforts in conflict zones was another one of Ban Ki-moon's major priorities: There are now over 120,000 United Nations "Blue Helmets" serving in conflict zones over the world.**

now over 120,000 United Nations "Blue Helmets" serving in conflict zones over the world.

Not surprisingly, Ban Ki-moon's focus has also been on weapons of mass destruction (WMD). On Oct. 24, 2009, he presented a five-point plan for nuclear-weapons states to become

nuclear-free. And this issue of nuclear weapons brings me back to my first encounter with Ban Ki-moon, when he eloquently spoke of the need to peacefully resolve the North Korea nuclear issue.

In a recent Associated Press interview regarding North Korea, he said the impact of North Korea starting a conflict would have much deadlier consequences than what we're seeing in Syria because this would be a worldwide issue. Indeed, during Ban Ki-moon's two terms as secretary-general, he has worked tirelessly to promote peace on the Korean Peninsula.

These efforts have failed, mainly because North Korea refused to engage directly with Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. For Ban Ki-moon, reducing tension with North Korea and eventually resolving the North Korea nuclear issue are key issues that will continue to require priority attention from the U.N. and the new secretary-general.

Personally, I hope that Ban Ki-moon will continue to work for peace on the Korean Peninsula once he leaves the U.N. and returns to the Republic of Korea. I know his involvement with this important issue will have significant positive impact.

*Ambassador Joseph R. DeTrani was the Special Envoy for Talks with North Korea from 2003-2006. He is currently president of Daniel Morgan Academy.*





# A tenure marked by earnest dedication and criticism, fair and unfair



By Ed Feulner

**B**an Ki-moon, the eighth secretary-general of the United Nations, is wrapping up his second and final five-year term with the global body at the end of this year. His dedication to the U.N. is strong and personal — he was a recipient of U.N. assistance during and after the Korean War. However, U.N. supporters have criticized him as being, in the words of *The Economist*, “the duller — and among the worst” of the individuals serving in that capacity.

Although Ban has had his problems, this characterization is unfair.

I first met him when he was South Korea’s deputy foreign minister, years before he became the U.N. chief. Ban was a sharp and engaging diplomat, with a keen interest and knowledge in global affairs. It didn’t surprise me that he eventually moved up to be foreign minister in 2004.

I was one of the early supporters of Ban’s candidacy for the top post at the U.N. Although he was not considered a serious contender at the beginning of the 2006 secretary-general selection process, he ran a good campaign and ultimately prevailed.

The past nine years have been challenging for the U.N. Ban has received criticism — some fair, some undeserved — for failing to resolve problems and crises confronting the world body during his tenure. Indeed, my own organization, The Heritage Foundation, has been a frequent critic of the U.N. during his tenure.

But it seems that Ban has been held up for special scorn by those who traditionally champion the organization.

Looking back, U.N. devotees have been quick to excuse the failings of previous secretaries-general. Frequently, they quote Trygve Lie, the first secretary-general, who described the office as “the most impossible job on this earth.”

Indeed, it is a difficult job. The secretary-general has limited authority

and must constantly navigate between the competing interests of the U.N.’s 193 member states.

But the job is made even more difficult by the unrealistic expectations of its strongest advocates.

Consider the perspective of James Traub of the Center on International Cooperation: “The U.N. secretary-general is often called ‘the secular pope’ because his position permits him, indeed compels him, to speak on behalf of all men and women. The world is his flock. Like the pope, he has none of the usual instruments of power, but he does have great moral authority — if he possesses the gift of exercising it.”

What person could meet this standard? The bottom line is that the secretary-general can climb the bully pulpit, but has very little real power at his disposal.

The demands for the secretary-general to take up the flag on various moral causes are endless: development, human rights, gender equality, climate, sustainability, resolving conflicts, and on and on. Repeatedly sounding the alarm on so many issues depreciates the currency of the secretary-general’s limited power. After a while, the clarity of the bully pulpit fades into indistinct clamor and din.

Ban’s predecessor, Kofi Annan, is often praised for his record. He used his charm to great effect in putting himself in the spotlight and highlighting various issues. But let us not forget, the U.N. also experienced significant failings under Annan, including the biggest financial scandal in its history.

Ban took up this challenge, but far less



**Looking back, U.N. devotees have been quick to excuse the failings of previous secretary-generals. Frequently, they quote Trygve Lie, the first secretary-general, who described the office as “the most impossible job on this earth.”**

appreciated by the press and the broader public is the management side of the secretary-general’s job. But this is really where the secretary-general should focus his efforts. The U.N. Charter specifically assigns the secretary-general only one function: to be the organization’s chief administrative officer, not a secular pope.

This job is more than enough to occupy the time of the secretary-general. The United Nations has major responsibilities, including thousands of specific tasks and mandates assigned it by the Security Council and the General Assembly.

For 2016-2017, the United Nations’ regular budget was \$5.4 billion. It has more than 10,000 professional and general service employees. The U.N. also deployed, as of July 31, more than 118,000 uniformed and civilian personnel in 16 peacekeeping operations around the world, with a budget of \$7.9 billion.

The secretary-general is expected to oversee all of this while lacking the authority to shift resources and personnel to meet waxing and waning priorities. He is burdened, in the meantime, by antiquated mandates, regulations and human resource practices, all while working under the constraints of member states that have resisted efforts to address these problems or to improve oversight, transparency and accountability. Ban has worked closely with the U.S. and other major contributors to constrain budget growth over the past few biennial budgets and improve fiscal transparency.

Any fair evaluation of his tenure has to acknowledge his failings. But Secretary-General Ban has served the international organization with a high degree of dedication and an earnest attempt to improve it. That may not deserve a ticker tape parade, but it merits our respect.

.....  
*Ed Feulner is the founder of The Heritage Foundation (heritage.org).*





# The most impossible job in the world



By Michael Kirby

**W**hile the world was transfixed by the election for the next president of the United States, less attention was paid to the process that delivered the next secretary-general of the United Nations, Portuguese diplomat Antonio Guterres.

The position of U.N. secretary-general has been rightly called the most impossible job in the world. The holder of the position must speak for the global organization and on causes of humanity, big and small, for all of us. The officeholder needs to reflect the idealism that lay behind the creation of the United Nations. But this must be done while avoiding the pitfalls of geopolitics and the inertia of a huge and often unwieldy bureaucracy.

U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon was the foreign minister of South Korea when he was originally elected by the U.N. General Assembly in October 2006. His re-election for a second term in 2011 occurred by a unanimous vote of the Security Council and without a contrary vote in the

General Assembly. His service to the United Nations will end Dec. 31.

It is far too early to evaluate Secretary-General Ban's achievements, but they have been many.

In three different areas, I have seen him up close, although I cannot claim the intimate engagements that staff, colleagues and diplomats, and political figures around the world will have had.

Still, my engagements with him have demonstrated elements of his character that deserve to be noticed, especially as we look to the future and seek to ascertain and assess the qualities of his successor.

Between 2013 and 2014, I served as chair of the U.N. Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights Violations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea). This brought me to meet him on a number of occasions.

The challenge of North Korea was naturally an issue that would be close to the mind and heart of a secretary-general of Korean ethnicity.

Secretary-General Ban had nothing to do with my appointment, and he took no steps to intrude in any way in the independence of the mandate we were performing. His approach throughout was professional, impartial and even reserved. At no time, either by action or suggestion, did he intrude into our investigations. This was so, despite the horrors on the part of North Korea that were revealed in the public hearings and investigations carried out for the United Nations.

Still, his own commitment to making Eleanor Roosevelt's Universal Declaration of Human Rights a top priority for the United Nations became an important ingredient in the work of our commission. His commitment to the initiative, Human Rights up Front, was a theme that helped mobilize the relevant U.N. agencies to support our investigations.

A commitment to human rights was henceforth to be placed "up front" in the work of the United Nations. It was not to be an afterthought, as politicians and diplomats scrutinize security and economic implications of the dangerous world of today.

The perplexing challenges presented by North Korea to our world remain unresolved. Indeed, recent events show that they are even more urgent now than when revealed. Yet, they will never be resolved by concentrating only on security issues or negotiating geopolitical priorities.

Where "crimes against humanity" have been demonstrated, the U.N. secretary-general has the vital role to uphold the objectives enshrined in the U.N. Charter. This puts human rights

"up front," just as Secretary-General Ban demanded the U.N.'s cumbersome machinery should always do. And we did so.

Over the last year, I have taken part in another project in which Secretary-General Ban's values would be seen. This was the High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines, which he established in November 2015 to give operational effectiveness to one of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) adopted by the United Nations in September 2015.

delivered in September, does not solve all the problems. But it brings us closer to making the language of the SDGs a practical action plan and not just an empty U.N. resolution.

The third initiative of Secretary-General Ban has been one of importance to me. It has shown his courage and empathy with the downtrodden. This has been his less-well-known leadership on the human rights of LGBTI people everywhere.

The hostility and hatred that is still sometimes felt towards gay people



**The perplexing challenges presented by North Korea to our world remain unresolved. Indeed, recent events show that they are even more urgent now than when revealed. Yet, they will never be resolved by concentrating only on security issues or negotiating geopolitical priorities.**

SDG 3 committed the United Nations to "ensure healthy lives and to promote well-being for all people of all ages." Translating that big objective into action by 2030 is quite a challenge. One aspect of the challenge is the "policy incoherence" between the human rights ideal regarding access to essential health care and the sometimes-inconsistent operation of the global law on intellectual property (for which read pharmaceutical patents).

This extremely sensitive issue has legitimate objectives that need to be harmonized on both sides of the debate. The easy way out would have been to leave its resolution to a successor. Yet, Ban Ki-moon grasped the nettle. He established the high-level panel on medicines — and ensured that the voices of the poor and of international pharma would be heard at the table.

The resulting consensus report,

worldwide has led, in the past, to its issues being put in the "too-hard basket" of the United Nations. But it has been under Secretary-General Ban that, effectively for the first time, important steps have been taken to address the violence and discrimination suffered by people on the grounds of their sexual orientation and gender identity.

In July 2013, supporting initiatives in the Human Rights Council in Geneva, Secretary-General Ban said in ringing words: "To those who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender, let me say, you are not alone. Your struggle for an end of violence and discrimination is a shared struggle. Any attack on you is an attack on the universal values the United Nations and I have sworn to defend and uphold. Today, I stand with you, and I call upon all countries and

» see **KIRBY** | C11





# A 'world champion' on climate change



## By The Honorable Kessai Note

Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has been an effective leader of the United Nations in the recent decade.

His leadership on issues such as global warming, climate change and conservation, peacemaking and peace-keeping is admirable. His unrelenting efforts on poverty reduction, combatting HIV/AIDS and other social and health issues facing underprivileged and underdeveloped countries, and his personal engagement in regional conflicts and international terrorism resolution are to be deeply commended.

The small islands countries, such as the Republic of the Marshall Islands, have tremendously benefited by his strong conviction to hasten global actions on sea-level rise and forging commitment on the provision of resources to

implement conservation and restoration efforts by small and underdeveloped communities in the Pacific region.

The Pacific Islands countries and people are most vulnerable to climate

“world champion” in the fight against global warming and climate change.

Secretary General Ban Ki-moon's time at the U.N. will soon end, but his vision, integrity and convictions toward

**And unless and until the world community is able to reverse the trend on global warming, many of the islands and their citizens will become “climate change refugees,” and eventually become a lost civilization.**

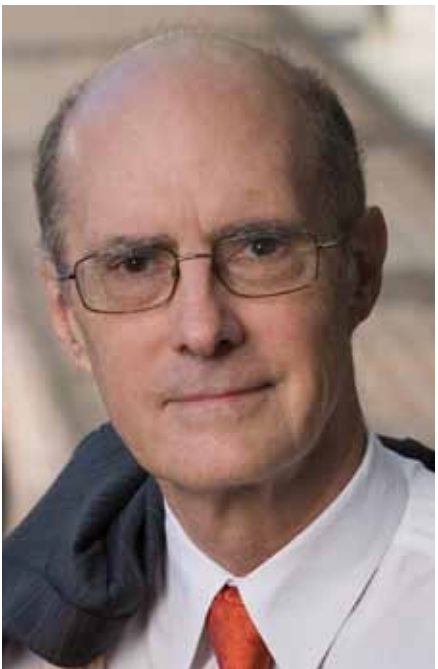
change and sea-level rise. And unless and until the world community is able to reverse the trend on global warming, many of the islands and their citizens will become “climate change refugees,” and eventually become a lost civilization.

For this reason, U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon is regarded by many leaders in the Pacific countries as the

a prosperous, peaceful and secure world for our common humanity will long be remembered.

*The Honorable Kessai Note was president of the Republic of the Marshall Islands from 2000 to 2008, and also served as speaker of the nation's National Parliament.*

# Stalwart advocate of a global climate pact



## By Strobe Talbott

Ban Ki-moon's signature contribution as secretary-general will be his stalwart advocacy of an effective international global climate agreement. While the bilateral agreement between the United States and China before the Paris summit was a crucial breakthrough, Mr. Ban worked hard and long to prepare the ground for multilateral progress.

In particular, he made an effective case that the major economies should act in and through the United Nations. His persuasiveness on that issue helped the U.S. and China find common ground, bringing 193 other countries into the Paris agreement.

Mr. Ban will also be remembered with gratitude for his role in the Sustainable Development Goals. He was able to put the U.N. in a stronger position than it has been in the past with regard to development, potentially leaving his successor with more room to tackle the next phase.

These two achievements have in common Mr. Ban's innovative nurturing of bottom-up diplomacy, thus engaging political buy-in and resources from the member states.

As for the crucial business of promoting peace and security, it took Mr. Ban some time to get his footing on what is, of course, treacherous and shifting ground. But by the time he did so, he identified the core problems and diligently tried to apply effective measures.

While preparing to leave office, Mr. Ban has sought to eradicate the stain of refusing to admit responsibility for the outbreak of cholera in Haiti after the earthquake. His tardiness in that regard was regrettable, but he did the right thing in the end. It should also be remembered that he led a flexible and assertive response to the earthquake itself.

While confronting inherited and new challenges, the next secretary-general will be grateful to Ban Ki-moon for bringing a more inclusive set of states and other international actors together.

*Strobe Talbott is president of The Brookings Institution.*



## KIRBY

From page C10

people to stand with you too.”

History will judge Secretary-General Ban well over his leadership and dedication to human rights on this issue. There will be no U-turning from his stance. It has been the more powerful because it was expressed in such language by a prudent, professional diplomat, whose background was as a diplomat from East Asia.

So, here are the essential requirements of the post:

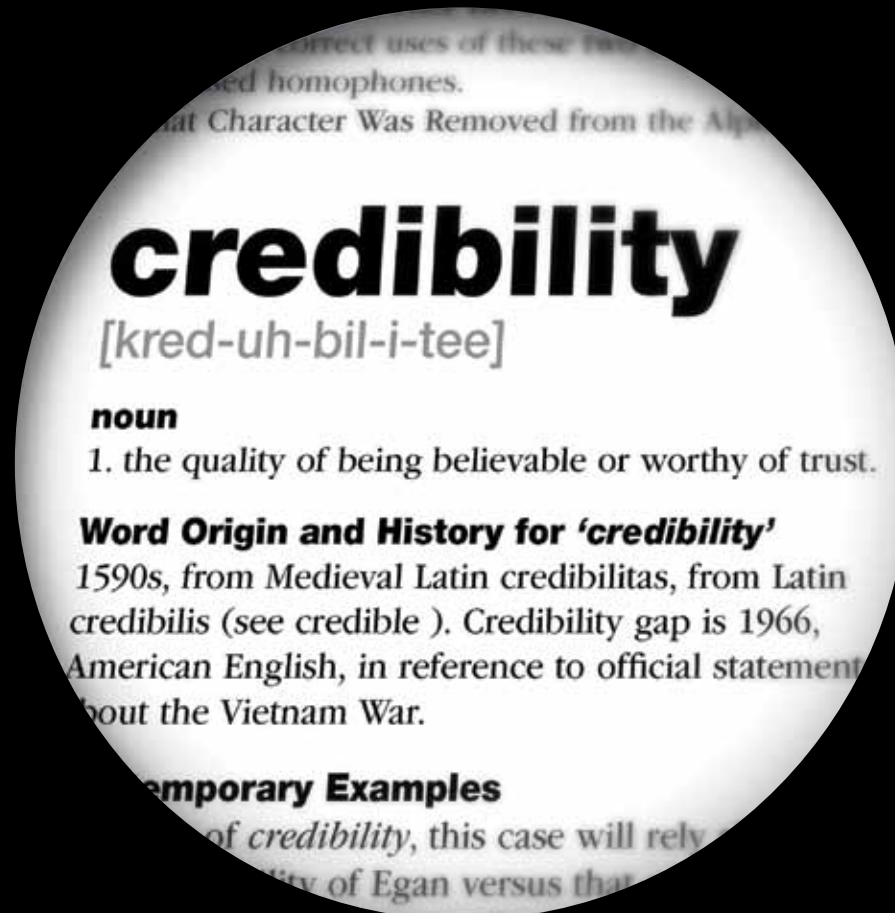
Prudence, professionalism, and neutrality, when that is called for. Courage, principle, and inspiring words, when they are needed. Converting high ideals into strategic and

practical action. Achieving peace and security, but never forgetting the great moral commitments of the United Nations, as expressed in Eleanor Roosevelt's Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

These important qualities must now be remembered as the world pins its hopes on Antonio Guterres as he becomes the ninth person to take over the most difficult post in the world.

*Michael Kirby is a retired justice of the High Court of Australia and served as chair of the United Nations Human Rights Council's Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.*

# In a world of **fake news**, turn to a **credible news source**. **The Washington Times**



## **Society of Professional Journalists Washington DC Pro Chapter**

2016 Dateline Awards, Winners  
Daily Newspaper Division:  
Investigative Journalism, Commentary & Criticism

## **White House News Photographers Association**

2015 First Place

## **Pictures of the Year International**

Second Place - Campaign 2012

## **Associated Press Sports Editors**

Top 10 Award Winners 5 years in a row



## **Virginia Press Association**

2012 Best in Show - In-Depth or Investigative Reporting  
2010 First Place - Critical Writing

## **Scripps Howard Foundation**

2009 First Place - Editorial Cartooning Award

## **MDDC Press Association**

2009 First Place - Investigative Reporting

## **2010 APME Journalism Excellence Awards**

International Perspective Award

[www.washingtontimes.com](http://www.washingtontimes.com)