# AT: SOKO Not Pushing

**KORUS will pass- South Korea’s on board**

**Korea Times** **8/5** (Chung Min-uck, 8/5/11, " GNP pushes to pass KORUS FTA ", http://www.koreatimes.co.kr/www/news/nation/2011/08/113\_92264.html)

The ruling Grand National Party (GNP) is accelerating its bid to pass the Korea-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (FTA) bill during the extra session of the National Assembly this month, as U.S. senate leaders agreed to work toward the ratification of the pact. On Thursday (Korean time), U.S. Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid and Republican Minority Leader Mitch McConnell issued a joint statement which supported passing long-stalled bilateral trade agreements with Korea, Colombia and Panama after the August recess with the condition of assured passage of a Democrat-led bill on worker’s aid being separate from the trade bill. The Democrats had linked the Trade Adjustment Assistance program, originally introduced in 2009, with the FTA to provide retraining programs and financial support to people negatively affected by the market opening. The U.S. Congress reconvenes on Sept. 6 and Korea’s special session begins Aug. 8. GNP members welcomed Washington’s move as the ruling party gained momentum to push ahead with its original plan to pass the pact in the August session, despite protest from the opposition parties. “We have to submit (the FTA bill) to the standing committee during the August session,” said GNP lawmaker Nam Kyung-pil, the chairman of the parliamentary committee on foreign affairs, trade and unification. Concerning Washington’s agreement to accelerate the passage of the deal, he said, “It is significant process.” “The agreement is meaningful since it provided an opportunity for the National Assembly to have a sincere and in-depth discussion,”said GNP floor leader Hwang Woo-yea. He had insisted on reaching an agreement with the opposition Democratic Party (DP) before making any unilateral moves on the issue but changed his stance. “We too have to spur ratification so that the two nations could pass the bill around the same time and meet people’s expectations,” said Hwang. “Since the U.S. Congress set the timetable, the ruling and opposition parties should align their positions as quickly as possible.” Yet, the DP held on to its original position of renegotiating the deal with the trade counterpart prior to passing the bill. “The government should stop hesitating and start the renegotiation with the U.S. according to the DP’s ‘10 plus 2 FTA Re-Renegotiation,’” said DP chairman Sohn Hak-kyu, during a supreme council meeting on Friday. Last month, DP proposed a platform of mending the trade deal on 10 issues which includes postponing the date to elimination tariffs on imported American beef and two other backup measures for people negatively affected by the trade pact. The GNP and DP lawmakers, together with high-ranking officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, had a consultative meeting at the National Assembly on Friday, the fourth of its kind. But they failed to resolve the issue. During the meeting, the government called for the passage of the trade pact in the extra session. The trade pact was initially signed in 2007 and was supplemented last December at Washington’s request.

# Uniqueness Wall

**KORUS will pass- bipartisanship is there**

**Bellingham Herald 8-4** – Lisa Mascaro and Don Lee, “Senate leaders agree to move ahead on trade pacts”,

<http://www.bellinghamherald.com/2011/08/04/v-print/2129725/senate-leaders-agree-to-move-ahead.html>

Senate leaders announced a breakthrough on long-stalled trade agreements with South Korea and other U.S. trading partners, promising swift votes on one of President Barack Obama's top priorities after Congress returns next month from its August recess. The accord comes at a time of growing economic uncertainty in the U.S. as growth stalls, unemployment remains high and the president and members of both parties struggle to show voters that jobs and the middle class are their top priority.

**KORUS will pass- bipartisanship, business group push, and it’s top of the docket**

**Reuters 8-4** –Doug Palmer, “House Democrats wary of ‘path’ to trade deals”,

<http://www.reuters.com/article/2011/08/04/us-usa-trade-congress-idUSTRE7736TM20110804>

"The path forward in the House (of Representatives) as well as the Senate must be ironclad in its assurance that TAA (Trade Adjustment Assistance) will be renewed," Representatives Sander Levin and Jim McDermott said in a joint statement. Levin, the top Democrat on the House Ways and Means Committee, and McDermott, the top Democrat on the panel's trade subcommittee, issued the statement after Senate leaders late on Wednesday outlined a plan for action on the trade deals with South Korea, Colombia and Panama and the TAA program. The understanding raised hopes the agreements could be approved by late September or early October, after lawmakers return from their month-long August break. All three of the pacts were signed more than four years ago. A congressional aide said Democrats were concerned about Republican House Speaker John Boehner's statement welcoming the understanding between Senate Democratic Leader Harry Reid and Senate Republican Leader Mitch McConnell. Boehner said he looked forward to passing the three trade pacts, but only promised that the TAA would be "considered" by the House at the same time. Democrats are worried a stand-alone TAA bill could be killed in the House even if it passes the Senate. However, Carol Guthrie, a spokeswoman for the U.S. Trade Representative's office, did not echo that concern. "While some sequencing details remain to be worked out, the Speaker has now clearly committed to floor consideration of TAA along with the trade agreements. The Senate leaders' agreement on a way forward is an important step on the path to submission of the pending agreements," Guthrie said. The White House had hoped Congress would approve the deals before the summer recess, but a disagreement over TAA and the fight over raising the U.S. debt ceiling prevented that. TAA is nearly 50-year-old program to help workers that have lost their job because of import competition or their workplace moving overseas. It was expanded in 2009 to cover more workers with improved benefits, but that expired early this year. Many newly elected House Republicans balked at renewing the program, which they consider costly and ineffective. SLIMMED DOWN TAA To address those concerns, the White House negotiated a slimmed down version of TAA. But its plan to sidestep a direct vote on TAA by inserting it in the legislation for the South Korea pact angered many Republicans. The White House no longer appears committed to that approach. Levin and McDermott said TAA should be attached to the South Korea pact unless Republicans provide an ironclad guarantee that the program will not be defeated. Meanwhile, business groups welcomed the Reid-McConnell agreement and urged quick follow through. "While there will be many legislative priorities when Congress returns, the administration and Congress must now move to a vote and finally take yes for an answer on trade," said Chuck Dittrich, vice president for regional trade issues at the National Foreign Trade Council.