

# Korean Perspective on the Dark and Quiet Skies for Science and Society

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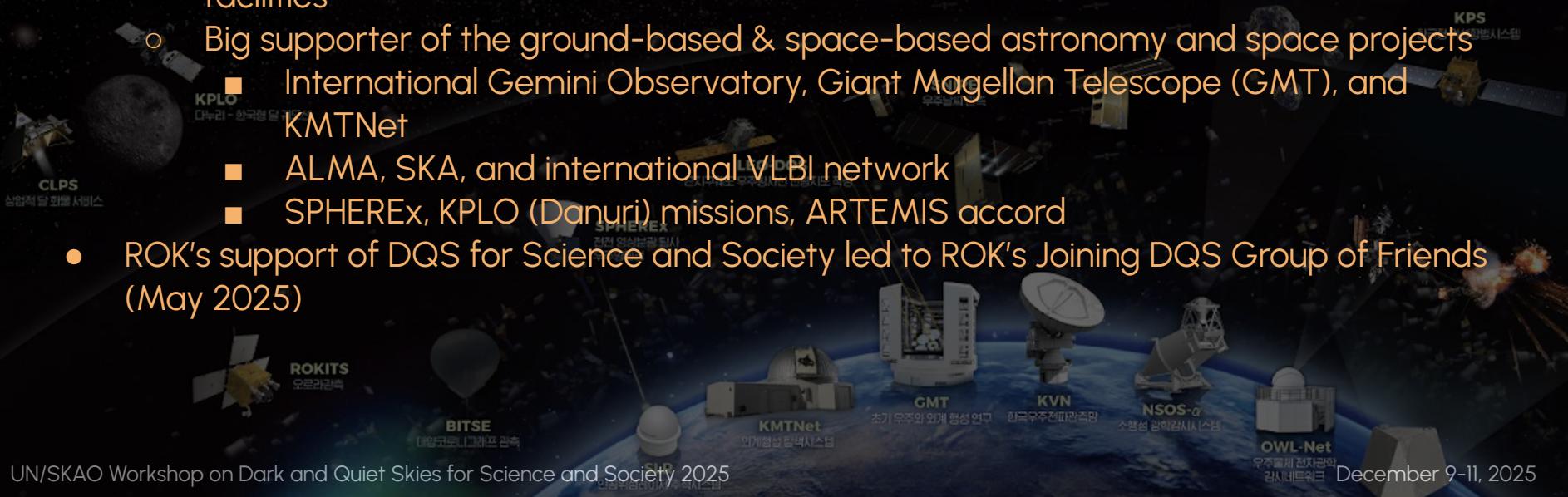
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# Recognizing the Value of the Dark and Quiet Skies

- Korea as a country of light; still recognizes the importance of DQS, and peaceful use of space
  - Operating multiple nation-wide and world-wide observing & space monitoring facilities
  - Big supporter of the ground-based & space-based astronomy and space projects
    - International Gemini Observatory, Giant Magellan Telescope (GMT), and KMTNet
    - ALMA, SKA, and international VLBI network
    - SPHEREx, KPLO (Danuri) missions, ARTEMIS accord
- ROK's support of DQS for Science and Society led to ROK's Joining DQS Group of Friends (May 2025)



# Support of DQS Across Multiple Domains

- Korean Astronomical Society
  - Special Session on the Dark and Quiet Sky for Astronomy (Oct. 2024)
  - Official Statement supporting the protection of Dark and Quiet Sky (Feb. 2025)
- Korean Space Science Society - Special Session on the Sustainable Space (Oct. 2024)
  - DQS is a core part of the Sustainable Use/Development of Space
- UN COPUOS
  - Support the adoption of DQS agenda item to STSC since June 2023
- ITU-R WRC-27
  - Protection of radio astronomy (RA) in specific Radio Quiet Zones (RQZs), and in the frequency bands allocated to the RA service (AI 1.16, 1.18)
  - Vision for Astronomy on the Moon: ITU-R discussions to protect the RA in the Shielded Zone of the Moon (SZM)

# Dark Sky Protection: Connecting with the Legacy

- Civil Society and Government Initiatives:
  - (1992) Nationwide stargazing and dark sky promotion events by civil support groups.
  - (2004) "Turn off light to turn on starlight" campaign with Government support.
- Legislative Milestones:
  - (2010) Local Government Ordinance on the Prevention of Light Pollution.
  - (2014) Enactment for the Prevention of Light Pollution by Artificial Lighting.
- International Recognition:
  - (2015) Yeongyang Firefly Eco Park - Asia's first Dark Sky Park approved by Dark Sky International.
- Recent Work:
  - (2025) Korean translation of the Dark and Quiet Sky brochure by IAU CPS.

“하늘이 없다면 천문학도 없습니다.  
그렇기 때문에 밤하늘을 보호하는 것이  
국제천문연맹(IAU)의 핵심 임무입니다.”

빌리 벤츠(Willy Benz) 국제천문연맹(IAU) 총재

어둡고 조용한  
하늘 보호하기

# Way Forward for DQS in Korea

- Real Case Studies with Korean owned & operating observing facilities
  - Introduction of mitigation measures for science productivities
- Connecting with Government, Industries, and Academies
  - DQS working group at KASI: coordinates actions and responses to international bodies (e.g., COPUOS, ITU-R)
  - Formation of Inter-Agency Discussion Group (KASA, KASI, KARI, etc.)
  - Provide advice to Policy makers
  - Proactive engagement with Industries
- Sustainable Public Outreach
  - Promoting citizen science activities: stargazing parties and sky brightness monitors
  - Contributing public lectures and articles
  - Creating materials for Journalists

# Thank you

