

Google boss tells N. Korea to use Internet

12th January, 2013



The chairman of Google, Eric Schmidt, has asked North Korea to open up its Internet to join the rest of the world. North Korea is one of the most closed and secretive

countries in the world. Only a few of its citizens have Internet access, but that is strictly controlled by the government. Almost no one can access the World Wide Web. Mr Schmidt said it was very important for the country to end its isolation so North Koreans can become richer. He said: "As the world is becoming increasingly connected, their decision to be [almost totally] isolated is very much going to affect their physical world, their economic growth, and so forth....It will make it hard for them to catch up economically."

The U.S. government was not happy about Mr Schmidt's trip. Officials criticised it and said it was "unhelpful". The White House is doing its best to get the North Koreans to end its nuclear weapons programme. One expert believes Mr Schmidt's visit gave North Korea the feeling it was an important world country. Greg Scarlatoiu of the Washington-based Committee for Human Rights in North Korea told the Voice Of America website: "Visits from senior officials and extraordinarily successful entrepreneurs are going to help to raise the profile of the North Korea regime. Probably, from the North Korean viewpoint, they may think this is also an opportunity to make some money for the regime."

Sources: *Washington Post* / *Voice Of America*

Writing

Eric Schmidt's visit to North Korea was a really bad idea. Discuss.

Chat

Talk about these words from the article.

chairman / Internet / secretive / strictly / isolation / connected / physical world / unhelpful / nuclear weapons / human rights / entrepreneurs / regime / opportunity

True / False

- Eric Schmidt is not the chairman of the company Google. T / F
- Not many people in North Korea have access to the Internet. T / F
- Schmidt wants N. Korea to end its isolation so North Koreans can be richer. T / F
- Schmidt said N. Korea could be a strong economy without the Internet. T / F
- The U.S. government sent Schmidt to N. Korea to give advice. T / F
- An expert said N. Korea feels more important after Schmidt's trip. T / F
- The article quotes a reporter from the Voice of Korea news agency. T / F
- N. Korea's leaders think they have the chance to make some money. T / F

Synonym Match

- | | |
|------------------|------------------------|
| 1. asked | a. firmly |
| 2. secretive | b. specialist |
| 3. strictly | c. visit |
| 4. isolation | d. tight-lipped |
| 5. growth | e. government |
| 6. trip | f. requested |
| 7. end | g. progress |
| 8. expert | h. business executives |
| 9. entrepreneurs | i. lack of contact |
| 10. regime | j. finish |

Discussion – Student A

- What springs to mind when you hear the words 'Internet access'?
- What do you think about Google?
- What do you know about North Korea?
- Do you think Internet access is a human right?
- Why do you think North Korea is so closed and secretive?
- Would North Korea be different if all people had Internet access?
- What do you like most and least about the Internet?
- What questions would you like to ask N. Korea leader Kim Jong-un?
- What do you think his answers might be?

Phrase Match

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. join the rest | a. increasingly connected |
| 2. one of the most closed | b. its best |
| 3. no one can access | c. up economically |
| 4. the world is becoming | d. entrepreneurs |
| 5. make it hard for them to catch | e. of the world |
| 6. The White House is doing | f. some money |
| 7. human | g. the World Wide Web |
| 8. successful | h. rights |
| 9. from the North Korean | i. and secretive countries |
| 10. an opportunity to make | j. viewpoint |

Discussion – Student B

- What would you do without the Internet?
- Why was the White House unhappy about Eric Schmidt's visit?
- How has the Internet changed the world?
- What would a North Korean who knows nothing about the Internet think about it?
- Is North Korea an important world country? Why do you think so?
- What do you think about Eric Schmidt's visit to North Korea?
- What questions would you like to ask Google chairman Eric Schmidt?
- What do you think his answers might be?
- Would you like to visit North Korea?

Spelling

- The airncam of Google
- closed and tericesv
- end its ioatlions
- becoming increasingly cnndotcee
- economic wthgor
- hard for them to catch up iocolneylmac
- idciictsrse it (UK) / zcirdceiit it (USA)
- weapons rmgoamper (UK) / weapons rgompra (US)
- human ghsitr
- extraordinarily seslscfuuc entrepreneurs
- help to raise the prieofl
- from the North Korean pevowntii

Answers – Synonym Match

1. f	2. d	3. a	4. i	5. g
6. c	7. j	8. b	9. h	10. e

Role Play

Eric Schmidt - You think your visit to North Korea was very important for the world. Tell the others three reasons why. You think talking is always the best thing to do. You do not agree with countries telling other countries what to do. Internet access is more important than ending N. Korea's missiles.

Barack Obama - You are very angry with Eric Schmidt for going to N. Korea. Tell the others three reasons why. You think only the U.S. government should talk to the N. Koreans. The most important thing is to end N. Korea's missiles. Internet access is for the N. Korean government to decide. You think Google wants money.

Kim Jong-un - As leader of North Korea, you are very happy that Eric Schmidt came to your country. Tell the others three reasons why. Barack Obama should also visit. You will neither open up the Internet in N. Korea nor end your weapons programme. You think the Internet is full bad sites and is bad for your people.

N. Korean - You're so happy Eric Schmidt came to your country. Tell the others three reasons why. You know Schmidt only wants money for Google. You also think Barack Obama should also visit. Tell Kim Jong-un all N. Koreans want Internet access. Internet access is more important than weapons.

Speaking – Favourite Sites

Rank these and share your rankings with your partner. Put the best at the top. Change partners often and share your rankings.

- social network sites
- music sites
- English study sites
- blogs
- gaming sites
- sports sites
- shopping sites
- news sites

Answers – True False

a	F	b	T	c	T	d	F	e	F	f	T	g	F	h	T
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Answers to Phrase Match and Spelling are in the text.