

## 1. Publication

- *North Korea's Nuclear Problem and Changes in External Relations* textbook published
- The Institute for Far Eastern Studies, Kyungnam University and the University of North Korean Studies jointly published a textbook that organizes and analyzes the changing situation of the Kim Jong Un regime from the perspective of nuclear weapons development.
- North Korea's Nuclear Problem and Changes in External Relations*--volume 1 in the series--analyzes and explains the external changes over the 40 years of North Korea's nuclear development and the various implications.
- A soon-to-be-released second textbook (volume 2) details various aspects of North Korea's internal system (politics, economy, society, culture, military, etc.) in relation to the country's nuclear development.
- IFES is pleased to announce the publication of *Asian Perspective*, Vol. 48, No. 1 (Winter 2024), which includes the special issue on *Infrastructure Connectivity in Europe with Chinese Characteristics—Part 1*.
- In this issue, several articles focus on China's investment in European infrastructure and the implications of these activities.
- 3. 31. Publication of special issue of *Korea and World Politics* (Vol. 40, No. 1, Spring 2024, Issue 124)
- *Korea and World Politics*, Vol. 40, No. 1 includes eight special issue papers covering the theme “North Korea-US relations and international political theory.”

## 2. Activities

- 3. 5. The 6th Samcheong Forum held (Conference Room, 1st floor, Peace Hall, IFES)
  - At the forum, Professor Lee Dong-Ki (Kangwon National University Graduate School of Peace) gave a presentation on the topic, “East Germany’s abandonment of unification during the German division and the outlook for inter-Korean relations.”
  - In the presentation, Professor Lee said, “The current North Korea is more similar to East Germany in 1971, when it declared ‘two nations,’ than East Germany in 1968, when it declared ‘abandonment of unification.’” He diagnosed that this new turn is in fact a separation policy with the characteristics of the ‘two nations theory.’
- 3. 8. Meeting held with Niklas Swanstrom (Director of the Swedish Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP))
  - A meeting was held with Niklas Swanstrom, (Director of the Swedish Institute for Security and Development Policy (ISDP)), Mats Engman, (Director of the Korea Center at the Institute for Security and Development Policy), Byong-Chul Lee, director of the North Korean Nuclear Research Center at the IFES, Kyungnam University, and Jaewook Chung, Director of USA Research Center at the IFES, Kyungnam University. These scholars and others who attended exchanged their opinions on the current security status of the Korean Peninsula and the surrounding environment.
- 3. 16. In-Asia Forum regular academic conference hosted and held by the China Research Center of the IFES on Korea-China relations
  - About 20 domestic experts on Korea-China relations, including Lee Sang-Man (Director of the China Research Center, IFES) and Park Sang-Soo (Professor of International Business, Chungbuk National

University and Chairman of In-Asia Forum), attended the seminar, with presentations and discussions given on three detailed topics.

• 3.21 Delegation from American University in Iraq, Sulaimani Visits IFES

-On Thursday, March 21, 2024, Professors Gianluca Spezza and Tobin Hartnell from the Department of Social Sciences at the American University in Iraq, Sulaimani (AUIS) paid a visit to the Institute for Far Eastern Studies of Kyungnam University in Samcheong-dong, Seoul.

-Dr. Hartnell (Dean of the Faculty & Associate Professor of Archaeology and World History) and Dr. Spezza (Chair of the Social Sciences Department & Assistant Professor of International Relations) met with IFES vice director Dean Ouellette to introduce AUIS, its various programs, and the Social Sciences department's plans and efforts for curriculum and program development and expansion, as well as to exchange ideas on possibilities for cooperation, including on academic exchanges and research.

-Over the past few years, the AUIS has been making progressive efforts to develop its East Asian studies programs, as interest in the Asian region, especially Korea, is growing among students. The department also recently expanded its Korea-related program agenda by establishing the Institute for Korean Studies in the Middle East (IKSM) -- the first of its kind in the region. The new institute will focus on conducting research and facilitating the dissemination of knowledge about Korea academically within Iraq; coordinating various Korean-related classes in language, history, culture, society, politics, etc.; and promoting and expanding knowledge and appreciate for Korea in the Middle East, in particular in Iraq-Kurdistan region where the university is located.