

'Newsletter No. 26'

1. Activities

- o **October 8 - 11th Samcheong Forum (Grand Conference Room, 1st Floor, Peace Hall, Institute for Far Eastern Studies at Kyungnam University)**
 - At the 11th Samcheong Forum, Yang Uk, a research fellow at the the Center for Foreign Policy and National Security at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies, delivered a presentation on the topic "K-Defense vs. NK-Defense: Impact of International Conflicts on Korean Peninsula Security."
 - Research Fellow Yang Uk presented an in-depth analysis of the recent intensification of international conflicts, including the Sino-U.S. hegemonic rivalry, the Russia-Ukraine war, and the Israel-Hamas conflict, and their impact on the Korean Peninsula security.
 - He also emphasized that North Korea's growing military power, nuclear weapons development, and the establishment of its own version of the 'Nuclear Triad' are becoming critical variables on the Korean Peninsula security.
 - He predicted that to address future military challenges on the Korean peninsula such as strengthening nuclear posture and modernizing conventional warfare capabilities, the strategic role of K-defense will become more important than ever.

- o **October 29 - Meeting with Institute for Mongolian Studies of Dankook University (Institute for Mongolian Studies of Dankook University Conference Room)**
 - The meeting was attended by Byeong Gu Song, Director of the Mongolian Research Institute, Jun Young Kang, Senior Researcher at the Mongolian Research Institute; Mi Young Oh, Professor at Dankook University, Kwan-Sei Lee, Director of the Institute for Far Eastern Studies at Kyungnam University, Young Joon Choi, Director of International Cooperation at the Institute for Far Eastern Studies at Kyungnam University, and Miyamoto Satoru, Visiting Research Fellow at the Institute for Far Eastern Studies at Kyungnam University.
 - The two institutions reaffirmed the potential and necessity for mutual cooperation, agreeing to collaborate on multiple fronts, including sharing expertise, data and networks related to Mongolian studies, as well as jointly organizing seminars and academic projects in the future.

2. 2024 Fellowship

- o As of the end of October 2024, 3 out of a total of 6 fellows have completed the 2024 Fellowship program

< List of Completers of Fellowship Program >

Name	Nationality	Research Topic
Pan Binbin	China	China's Geoeconomic Practices Toward North Korea: Implications for Inter-Korean Relations
Liao Muchun	China	China's Evolving Policy on North Korea's Nuclear Programme: Implications for Future Economic Assistance
Kim Yeonhee	United States	Trust in the Digital Age? Digital Geopolitics and Confidence Building Measures on the Korean Peninsula

3. North Korea Trends

- o September 30 - Song Kim, Permanent Representative of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea to the United Nations addresses the 79th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (10.7 Ministry of Foreign Affairs of North Korea website)
 - "DPRK's right to self-defense, a legitimate exercise of its sovereign rights, is non-negotiable."
- o October 1 - Kim Kang Il, Vice Minister of National Defense of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea warned of the "possibility of reviewing and implementing an unpredictable new course of action," corresponding to the unannounced deployment of U.S. strategic assets (10.1. KCNA)
- o October 1 - Kim Jong Un sends a congratulatory message to Xi Jinping, General Secretary of the Chinese Communist Party, on the 75th anniversary of China's National Day (10.1 Rodong Sinmun, KCNA)
 - He emphasized the traditional North Korea-China friendship and expressed a commitment to further strengthen the friendly and cooperative relations.
- o October 6 - Kim Jong Un, provides on-site guidance at the construction site of a local industrial factory in North Pyongan Province and supervises a live-fire artillery drill by graduates of the Artillery Academy (10.6 Rodong Sinmun·KCNA)
 - Kim Jong Un provided on-the-spot guidance at the construction site of a local industrial plant in North Pyongan Province, expressed satisfaction with the soldiers' achievements in modernization, standardization, and

compliance with specifications, and instructed others to follow their example.

- o **October 6 - Press statement released by the Foreign Ministry spokesman, "NATO's condemnation of strengthening cooperation between North Korea and Russia is slander"(10.6. KCNA, 10.7. Rodong Sinmun)**
 - North Korea's Foreign Ministry spokesperson pushed back against the new NATO Secretary General's direct referral(10.5. VOA) of North Korea as 'expanding and prolonging Russia's war of aggression against Ukraine', stating that "this has distorted the core essence of the Ukraine crisis and slandered the legitimate cooperation that is strengthening between independent sovereign nations."

- o **October 7 - Kim Jong Un's speech at the congratulatory visit to Kim Jong Un University of National Defense (10.8, Rodong Sinmun · KCNA)**
 - Kim Jong Un stated, "we have no intention of attacking the Republic of Korea," "thinking of it is abominable, and we hate dealing with those in it."

- o **October 9 - General Staff Department of the Korean People's Army announced it was moving to "permanently shut off and block the southern border in contact with South Korea, the invariable principal enemy" and construction of fortifications (10.9 KCNA)**
 - Announced plans to cut roads and railways and embark on the construction of fortification from October 9 as military measures to separate territory from South Korea.

- o **October 11 - Foreign Ministry issues a major statement (10.11 KCNA, 10.12 Rodong Sinmun)**
 - North Korea's Foreign Ministry claimed that South Korea sent an Uncrewed Aerial Vehicle (UAV) three times (3rd, 9th, and 10th) into Pyongyang's airspace to distribute leaflets.

- o **October 13 - Press statement by Kim Yo Jong, Vice Department Director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (10.13 KCNA, 10.14 Rodong Sinmun)**
 - In her statement, Vice Department Director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea Kim Yo Jong criticized the South Korean Ministry of Defense's position on the drone incident released on October 13, and demanded that "provocative acts violating the airspace of other countries must be prevented from recurring."

- o October 13 - General Staff Department issued an operational readiness directive for “full readiness to open fire near the border,” ordered artillery brigades fully armed in a wartime mode to be on standby to open fire along the ‘border’, and reinforced anti-air observation posts in Pyongyang (10.13 KCNA, 10.14 Rodong Sinmun)
- o October 14 - Statement by Vice Department Director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (10.14 KCNA)
 - Kim asserted, “we clearly know that the main culprits of the Pyongyang drone incident are the military trash of South Korea,” claiming that the responsibility for the violation of the sovereignty of a nuclear-armed state (North Korea) lies with the United States.
- o October 15 - Statement by Kim Yo Jong, Vice Department Director of the Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, claiming to have secured clear evidence that the drones were sent by the South Korean military (10.15, KCNA)
- o October 15 - Reports of detonations that cut off the inter-Korean roads along the Gyeongui and Donghae lines, described as “in accordance with the demand of our Republic’s constitution regulating that the South Korea is the absolute enemy nation” (10.17 Rodong Sinmun·KCNA)
- o October 17 - Kim Jong Un visited the 2nd Corps Command and declared that South Koreans are a “legit enemy and not kin” (10.18 Rodong Sinmun·KCNA)
 - Key remarks by Kim Jong Un: ▲ South Koreans are a legit enemy and not kin ▲ The destruction of inter-Korean roads signifies the complete eradication of a sense of kinship and unification and a commitment to using force in response to violations of North Korean sovereignty. ▲The use of offensive capabilities against the South under hypothetical circumstances is a legitimate retaliatory action directed at an enemy state, not a fellow countryman.
- o October 27 - Ministry of Defense spokesperson announces final investigation results of drone incident (10.28 Rodong Sinmun·KCNA)
 - North Korea's Ministry of Defense claims to have collected flight plans and flight histories as 'evidence' for the drone incident over Pyongyang airspace, warning of retaliatory strikes at the source if it recurs.