

'Newsletter No. 28'

1. Activities

- **December 10 - The 13th Samcheong Forum (Jeongsan Hall, IFES)**
 - At the 13th Samcheong Forum, Jenny Town, Senior Researcher at the U.S. think tank Stimson Center and Director of 38 North, was invited to deliver a presentation and engage in discussions on the topic of "Changing International Security Landscape around North Korea."
 - At the forum, Senior Researcher Jenny Town highlighted that "North Korea is actively participating in networks aimed at building a multipolar system and countering the Western influence. At the same time, it is working to secure weapons and military technology through its partnership with Russia, while persistently striving to portray itself as a normal state."
- **December 18 - The 74th Unification Strategy Forum (Conference Room, IFES)**
 - The 74th Unification Strategy Forum focused on five key topics (△Trump's Reelection and the Outlook for US-China Strategic Competition △The Impact of Trump's Reelection on the Russia-Ukraine War △Trump's Approach to North Korea, North Korean Nuclear Issue, and Inter-Korean Relations △Trump's Alliance Policy and Prospects for Changes in ROK-US Alliance △The Rise of Trump and the Potential for South Korea's Independent Nuclear Armament). Discussions centered on the potential changes and future prospects for the Korean Peninsula under the second Trump administration.
 - The forum was recognized as a valuable opportunity to build consensus on the importance of policymakers thoroughly understanding and addressing the increased uncertainty surrounding developments on the Korean Peninsula under the second Trump administration. Furthermore, it was regarded as a meaningful platform for shaping the direction of South Korea's unification, North Korea, and diplomatic policies for the upcoming year.

2. Publications

- **December 1 - 『ASIAN PERSPECTIVE』 (Vol. 48, No. 4, FALL 2024)**
 - In this issue, authors discuss China's cooperation in the electric vehicle market with Gulf Council States; China-US relations as viewed by the Chinese public and from the multiple perspectives surrounding the IR debate on their great power relations; and the meaning, issues, and implications behind North Korea's recent fundamental policy shift toward

South Korea and Korean unification.

o **Focus on Korean Peninsula**

- December 9 - Implementation of Decisions and Challenges in Each Area of the 8th Party Congress
- December 20 - The Sense of Crisis Over Changes in North Korea's Younger Generation and Cultural Control

o **December 24 - Korean Peninsula Report (2024-2025)**

- The Korean Peninsula Report, which provides an analysis of the international situation surrounding the Korean Peninsula in 2024 and explores future prospects and strategic responses, has been published.

o **December 31 - 『Korea and World Politics』 (Vol. 40, No. 4, Winter 2024, Issue No. 127)**

- This issue features a total of six papers, including “Prospects for U.S. Force Reinforcements in a Korean Contingency” by Professor Yoo Inseok from the Department of Military Science at Yeungnam University.

3. Fellowship

o **6 fellows completed the 2024 Fellowship program**

- A total of 37 fellows from 10 countries completed the Fellowship program from 2020 to 2024

o **December 20 - Comprehensive evaluation meeting of the Academic Exchange Support Program for North Korean and Unification Studies (5 years)**

- The comprehensive evaluation of the Academic Exchange Support Program for North Korean and Unification Studies, operated over the last 5 years, was held to foster the exchange of ideas among program participants, paving the way to strengthen networks and promote post-program engagement among participants of the Fellowship program and participants of the MOU-UNKS North Korean Studies Scholarship program.

4. North Korea Trends

o **December 24~27 (5 days) - Enlarged meeting of the 11th plenary session of the 8th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea held**

- Summary of the 2024 party and state projects in the political, economic, cultural, defense, and diplomatic sectors, and proposal of the development

direction and tasks for 2025 to successfully complete the Five-Year Plan.

- 7 agendas discussed (3 resolutions adopted): ① Review of the implementation of the policies of the Party and state in 2024 and direction for projects in 2024 ② Status of projects of the Central Inspection Commission of the Party in 2024 ③ New regional development policy of the Party and its future tasks ④ Enforcement of a series of measures for strengthening the educational foundations of the country ⑤ Examining and reviewing the implementation of the state budget for 2024 and the draft state budget for 2025 ⑥ Work for the inner-Party structure ⑦ Organizational matter

- o November 29 - Kim Jong Un meets with Russian Defense Chief for talks, “Will expand development in political, economic, and military fields according to the North Korea-Russia agreement” (November 30 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)

- o November 29 - North Korea-Russia Defense Ministers' Meeting, “Will strengthen combat unity and strategic-tactical cooperation between North Korean and Russian armed forces” (November 30 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)

- o December 1 - Choe Ryong Hae conducts on-site inspection of various sectors in South Hamgyong Province (including food, machinery, agriculture, livestock, education, etc.) (December 1 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)

- o December 4 - Report on Premier Kim Tok Hun conducting on-site inspection of Kumsong Tractor Factory and Namhung Youth Chemical Complex (December 4 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)

- o December 10 - Report on Premier Kim Tok Hun conducting on-site inspection of Hwanghae Iron and Steel Complex and Tae-an Heavy Machine Complex, etc. (December 10 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)

- o December 19 - Press statement by Spokesperson for Ministry of Foreign Affairs, “We will not impose any restrictions on defending and exercising the legitimate right granted to our sovereign state” (December 19 KCNA)

- o December 20 - Kim Jong Un attends and delivers speech at the Inauguration Ceremony of Regional-Industry Factories in Songchon County, The first-year achievement for the WPK's Regional Development 20×10 Policy, “My long-held sense of regret toward the regional people has somewhat eased” (December 21 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)

- o December 21 - Kim Jong Un attends and delivers speech at the Inauguration Ceremony of Dwelling Houses in Flood-hit Areas of North Pyongan Province, “It was an occasion for further cultivating the spirit of self-sustenance” (December 22 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)