

‘Newsletter No. 29’

1. Activities

o Major achievements of IFES in 2024

- Hosted 32 domestic and international academic conferences and seminars, including the Samcheong Forum, published four research books, including *Is a New Cold War Coming?* (Lee et al.), five issues of the *Focus on Korean Peninsula*, including *Foreign and Security Policy of the Kishida Regime*, and eight periodicals, including *Korea and World Politics*, 35 issues of the IFES Forum, and held 26 rounds of Library Information Sessions with a total of 250 attendees.

o January 22 - *Korea and World Politics* Special Issue Workshop (Conference Room, Peace Hall, IFES)

- An in-depth discussion was held in celebration of the 41st anniversary of *Korea and World Politics* for the Spring special issue, featuring contributors and panelists of the issue, including Editor-in-Chief Professor Jong-Dae Shin (University of North Korean Studies) and guest editor Professor Hee Ok Lee (Sungkyunkwan University), on the topic of "Sino-North Korean Relations and International Political Theory."
- Professor Hee Ok Lee, this issue's guest editor, mentioned that despite the limited number of researchers specializing in Sino-North Korean relations, this forum provided a meaningful opportunity for scholars to come together and analyze the relationship from multiple perspectives using various theoretical frameworks as analytical tools, and expressed hope that such research would continue to expand in the future.

2. Publications

o Publication of Two IFES Forum

- January 24 - The 12th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly: Implications, Key Characteristics, and Insights (Eul-Chul Lim, Director of Research)
- January 31 - The Launch of Trump's Second Term: A Turning Point for North Korea's Nuclear Issue and the ROK-U.S. Alliance? (Jae Yong Jung, Visiting Research Fellow IFES and Former Senior Reporter at Yonhap News Agency)

3. IFES Update

- o January 22 - The Institute for Far Eastern Studies of Kyungnam University held a New Year's Meeting for its chair professors, invited professors, and visiting researchers (Conference Room, Peace Hall, IFES)
 - About 30 participants including Dr. Jae Kyu Park, president of Kyungnam University, and Dr. Sun Hyang Kim, chairperson of Shimyeon Institute for UNKS, 4 visiting chair professors (former Unification Minister In-Duk Kang, former Ambassador to the U.S. Ho-young Ahn, former Ambassador to Japan Su-Hoon Lee, and former Director of the Korean National Diplomatic Academy Byung-Jae Cho), 4 visiting professors, 8 visiting researchers, and IFES professors attended the meeting.
 - President Jae Kyu Park expressed his appreciation to the participants for the contribution to the development of the institute through their many research outcomes over the past year. He also asked for their continuing active cooperation in academic research for the development and improvement of inter-Korean relations in 2025.

4. North Korea Trends

- o January 1 - Kim Jong Un attends New Year's celebrations performance (January 7 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)
- o January 2 - Kim Jong Un joins a photo session with labor innovators and meritorious persons, and members of the art troupe of Korean schoolchildren in Japan at the headquarters of the Workers Party of Korea's Central Committee in Pyongyang (January 3 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)
- o January 6 - Kim Jong Un's virtual observation of test launch of the "new hypersonic medium- and long-range ballistic missile," carried out by the Missile General Bureau (January 7 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)
- o January 6 - Kim Jong Un attends the completion ceremony of a local industrial factory in Chaeryong County (January 7 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)
- o January 13 - North Korean Premier Pak Thae Song conducts on-site inspection of key projects including Rakwon General Machine Enterprise, a chemical fiber plant in Sinuiju, headquarters of the construction of 50,000 units of new homes in Pyongyang (January 13 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)
- o January 22 - Kim Yo Jong, deputy department director of the Central

Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea makes a statement on North Korea-Belarus relations, "The DPRK would welcome with joy the Belarusian side without any reason if it wishes to develop friendly and cooperative relations with the DPRK." (January 20 KCNA)

- o January 22~23 - The 12th Session of the 14th Supreme People's Assembly (January 24 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)
- o January 25 - Kim Jong Un observes the test of key weapon system (sea-to-surface strategic cruise guided weapons) (January 26 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)
- o January 26 - Kim Jong Un inspects the nuclear material production base and the Nuclear Weapons Institute (January 26 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)
 - Kim Jong Un toured the nuclear material production base and Nuclear Weapons Institute to inspect key processes involved in the production of nuclear weapons-grade nuclear material, assess the current state of nuclear material production, review future plans and examine the plan of the Nuclear Weapons Institute in 2025.
- o January 26 - Statement by Chief of Foreign News Section of DPRK Foreign Ministry condemning the U.S. and South Korea for conducting Buddy Squadron joint air drills, "DPRK should counter the United States with the toughest counteraction from A to Z." (January 26 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)
- o January 27 - The 30th Enlarged Meeting of the Secretariat of the Eighth Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea, Kim Jong Un states "It is useful for and beneficial to the revolution to boldly recognize such a grave deviation in the Party." (January 27 KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)
 - Kim Jong Un stated "It is useful for and beneficial to the revolution to boldly recognize such a grave deviation in the Party and to deal with it as an especially serious case in time," highlighting the risk of forming a "corrupt group" who abuse their power and reaffirmed the importance of establishing strict Party discipline.
- o Reports on South Korea
 - ▲ Foreign media reactions to the president's arrest ▲ State media coverage of the president's impeachment trial and indictment (January 3, January 17, January 24, January 29) KCNA, Rodong Sinmun)