

## ‘Newsletter No. 30’

### 1. Activities

- **February 2 - 『The 75<sup>th</sup> Unification Strategy Forum Held』 (at IFES Jeongsan Hall)**
  - Kyungnam University’s Institute for Far Eastern Studies (Director Kwan-Sei Lee) held the 75<sup>th</sup> Unification Strategy Forum under the title ‘Assessment of the North Korean Situation in 2024 & Outlook for 2025’. At the forum, five subtopics were presented and discussed.
  - ※ (The Five Subtopics) North Korean Politics: 2024 Assessment and 2025 Outlook / North Korea’s Hostile Policy towards South Korea: Changes and Outlook / North Korea’s Foreign Policy: The Second Trump Administration and Outlook on the North Korea’s Strategy towards the U.S. / North Korea’s Foreign Policy: Continuity and Change in North Korea-Russia Relations / North Korea’s Economy: Assessment and Outlook on the ‘Five-Year Economic Development Plan’

※ Watch the full Presentations  
& Discussions



※ Watch the Strategic  
Forum YouTube Video



- **February 5 - Results of an In-Depth Survey of 40 Domestic Experts**
  - Kyungnam University’s Institute for Far Eastern Studies (Director Kwan-Sei Lee) released the results of an in-depth survey conducted among 40 experts on the outlook for the Korean Peninsula under the second Trump administration.

- The majority of experts predict that “tangible progress in both North-South and U.S.-North Korea relations is unlikely.”
  - “Even if the engagement between the U.S. and North Korea is resumed, achieving tangible and visible results will be challenging. As for inter-Korean relations, due to the structural issues, tensions are expected to persist regardless of the U.S.-North Korea relationship, making it necessary to seek a new paradigm for North-South relations.”

※ View the Full Survey Analysis Results



- o February 5 - The Seminar on the Inauguration of the Trump Administration and the Outlook for the Korean Peninsula in 2025 Held (at the Conference Room, Peace Hall, IFES)
- Kyungnam University's Institute for Far Eastern Studies (Director Kwan-Sei Lee) held a seminar on 'Journalistic Insights into Trump's Second Term and the Korean Peninsula in 2025'.

## 2. Publications

### o International Relations Study

- February 10 - World-System and Chinese Socialism: The Interactions and Reactions of Imperialism and Civilization (Sang-Man Lee, Director of China Research Center and Professor at IFES of Kyungnam University)



※Read the Full Paper

### o IFES Brief

- February 10 - U.S.-Japan Summit: Key Points and Implications (Jin-Goo Cho, Director of Japan Research Center and Professor at IFES)



※Read the Full Brief

### o IFES Forum

- February 3 - The First Step President Trump Has to Take for North Korean Nukes: Strengthen the NCG (Nuclear Consultative Group) (Ho-Young Ahn, Visiting Distinguished Professor at IFES)



※Read the Full Article

## 3. IFES Update

- o February 12 - Choi Yong-Hwan, the new president of The Korean Association of North Korean Studies, paid a courtesy visit to Dr. Park Jae Kyu, President of Kyungnam University
- o February 13 - IFES Professor Sang-Man Lee's Retirement Ceremony was held (at the Conference Room, Peace Hall, IFES)

## 4. North Korea Trends

- o Kim Jong Un's Speech at the Ministry of National Defense on the 77th Anniversary of the Founding of the Korean People's Army (Feb. 8, KCNA)
  - He declared plans to strengthen nuclear capabilities and a commitment to supporting Russia.

- o **Attempt to Sever the Inter-Korean Air Traffic Control Communication Channel Starting this Year, Notification to the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) at the End of 2024 (Feb. 13, Dong-A Ilbo)**
- o **Kim Jong Un's Visit to Kumsusan Palace of the Sun (Feb. 16, KCNA)**
  - His first public visit to this site in four years since February 2021
- o **Statement from the North Korean Foreign Ministry Spokesperson (Feb. 18, KCNA)**
  - In response to the U.S. principle of 'Complete Denuclearization of North Korea,' calling it 'practically and conceptually impossible, unrealistic, and absurd,' and dismissing it as not worth responding to
- o **Banquet Celebrating Russia's Defender of the Fatherland Day in Pyongyang (Feb. 21, KCNA)**
  - North Korean Defense Minister No Kwang Chol, in his speech, assessed that since the June 2024 summit between Kim Jong Un and Vladimir Putin, the bilateral relations have transcended and evolved into a comprehensive strategic partnership and invincible comrade-in-arms relationship. **//END//**