

Panel: Future of the ROK-US Nuclear Cooperation Agreement (Regency Room)

Date/Time: Wednesday, February 20, 2013 /09:00-10:15

Talking Points for: Yim Man-sung, Professor, Korea Advanced Instituted of Science and Technology (KAIST)

- Differences in historical background of the 1974 Agreement vs. 2014 Agreement: In 1974, the ROK was just about to introduce commercial nuclear power through a turn-key contract. In 2014, the ROK is 6th largest nuclear power state with 23 operating nuclear units and has become a nuclear exporter.
- Major issues: Uranium enrichment for fuel supply and pyroprocessing for spent fuel management. These are important for ROK's energy security, spent fuel management, and for competitiveness in future nuclear export. But U.S. consent to the use of these technologies by the ROK directly challenges the current U.S. nonproliferation norm.
- The factors that affect the outcome of the current negotiation process include:
 - Impact on global nuclear nonproliferation and the follow-on new or renewal 123 agreements.
 - Civilian nuclear cooperation between the ROK-US and related economic implications.
 - The ROK-US alliance in Northeast Asia and its implications on China, North Korea, and Japan
 - Future of global nuclear governance with the rise of Russia and possibly China as dominant nuclear exporter.

* The views expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the views of the Asan Institute for Policy Studies.