

Panel: “It’s Complicated.”: Making Sense of China’s Relationships with the Two Koreas
(Violet/Cosmos)

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Organizing Institution: Korea Economic Institute (KEI)

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The division of the Korean Peninsula and the collapse of the Soviet Union have shaped Northeast Asia’s security environment with heavy uncertainties and deep mutual distrusts. Not only is the peace agreement of the Korean Peninsula yet to be signed, disintegration of the Warsaw Pact alliance has further directed North Korea to bear pressure from the US, ROK and Japan military alliance. Thus, North Korean leaders have sought to develop nuclear weapons in order to bargain with its military adversaries.

I propose four conditions that need to be fulfilled in order to obtain peace in the region: Firstly, the reduction of military pressure on North Korea; secondly, keeping a friendly environment for North Korea’s economic development and political reforms; thirdly, the Two Koreas should try to maintain an engagement through economic cooperation and non-governmental exchanges; and fourthly, both Koreas should independently base their policy decisions on their national interests.

China should continue to support the unification of the Korean Peninsula and adopt policies as follows: Firstly, maintaining the peninsula’s peace and stability; secondly, adhering to the policy of regional denuclearization; thirdly, promoting inter-peninsula communication; fourthly, bridging the Peninsula’s Economic cooperation; and lastly, maintaining close cooperation with the international community to promote peaceful settlement on inter-Peninsula issues.

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