

Panel: A Reassessing North Korea's Nuclear Threat after the 3rd Nuclear Test (Regency Room)

Date/Time: Tuesday, February 19, 2013 / 12:30-13:45

Talking Points for: Kim Yongho, Professor of Political Science and Director of Yonsei Institute for north Korean Studies (YINKS), Yonsei University

North Korea will never abandon its nuclear weapon. Nuclear weapon and closed society are two main tools for maintaining the Kim dynasty's political power. Although there is little North Korea could earn by conducting nuclear tests, North Korea would go on if there is little to lose. The recent Iranian success —declared— in bringing back the monkey into the atmosphere signifies Iran has acquired the technique and material to protect nuclear warhead when it reenters into the atmosphere from the stratosphere. If this technique is transferred to North Korea, North Korea could possess three core techniques to manufacture ICBMs with nuclear warhead. The denuclearization of South Africa and Sweden and the nuclearization of Pakistan suggest several scenarios. Domestic consensus and risk-taking are two interconnected keys to deal with the nuclear North Korea.

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