

**Panel:** How Safe Are Nuclear Power Plants in South Korea? (Grand Ballroom III)

**Date/Time:** Wednesday, February 20, 2013 / 14:00-15:15

**Talking Points for:** Kim Jiyeon, The Asan Institute for Policy Studies

Koreans in general perceived to be supportive of nuclear energy and the country's power plants. More than 75% of Koreans approved of using nuclear energy to generate electricity, while only 19.8% of opposed. Moreover, 86.8% of the Korean public thinks that nuclear power generation is necessary. Yet, a majority feels unsafe about the nuclear power plants in Korea. The primary reason for the Korean public to be wary of nuclear safety is lack of transparency in the management process in the event of a nuclear accident. It is followed by the belief that personnel at nuclear plants are not sufficiently aware of the importance of safety issues. In addition, when it comes to the government policy relating to nuclear safety, a majority of Koreans expressed distrust. This is where a partisan gap on emerges, whose result illustrates that nuclear policy can be politicized to become a partisan issue.

---

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