

NIDS International Symposium on Security Affairs 2016

**The Kim Jong Un Regime and
the Future Security Environment
Surrounding the Korean Peninsula**

The National Institute for Defense Studies

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Foreword

The recent security environment surrounding the Korean Peninsula has become far severer. The Kim Jong Un regime adapted a dual strategic line of promoting economic and nuclear development simultaneously or the *Pyongjin* strategic line in 2013 and re-confirmed it at the 7th Workers' Party Congress in May this year, which was held for the first time in 36 years. Based on the *Pyongjin* strategic line, North Korea conducted its fourth nuclear test which it referred to as the "hydrogen bomb test" in January, launched a *de facto* long-range ballistic missile allegedly carrying the *Kwangmyongsong 4* in February, and has continued to launch a multitude of short and medium-range missiles including a submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM). North Korea's buildup of nuclear and missile capabilities represents a serious threat to the surrounding and relevant countries. Furthermore, North Korea's cyber attacks on South Korea have become even severer, and such offensive capabilities will likely add to the security threat posed by North Korea in the future. While there is an observation that North Korea's economy has made some progress under the Kim Jong Un regime, the effectiveness of the economic sanctions is open to various possibilities and remains to be seen.

Against this uncertain situation in the Korean Peninsula, the National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) aims to hold an open symposium where domestic and overseas experts deepen their discussion on the Kim Jong Un regime and the future security environment surrounding the Korean Peninsula, and to help raise the public awareness of this critical issue through this symposium.

Yoshiaki Sakaguchi
Executive Director
NIDS

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