

Foreword

If we look back the history of the Korean Peninsula after the World War II, we find that the year 2010 marked the 60th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War as well as the 10th anniversary of the first North-South Summit. Consequently, specialists on Korean security issues are engaged in lively discussions regarding the causes of the Korean War and the implication of the North-South dialogue.

When the North-South Summit came to realization in June 2006 between South Korean President Kim Dae-jung and North Korean National Defense Commission Chairman Kim Jong-il, international community hailed it as a major breakthrough toward a new age when both parties would refrain from any more military actions each other. It is not long before this view proved just too optimistic. In fact, two incidents, which happened in 2010 between them, remind us of the reality that the Armistice Agreement of 1953 is not a peace treaty and that North Korea is willing to use force if necessary.

In the night of March 26, a South Korean Navy patrol vessel, Cheonan, exploded and sank in the Yellow Sea with many casualties. Soon after the incident, an investigation team was set up by specialists of South Korea, the United States, Australia, the United Kingdom and Sweden. On May 20, the team announced the result saying that the vessel was torpedoed by a North Korean midget submarine. Then, in the daytime of November 23, North Korea fired on a South Korean island, Daeyeonpyeong-do, abruptly without warning.

It is a growing concern for international community that North Korea keeps on developing nuclear arms and longer range missiles. At the Six-Party Talks held in September 2007, Pyongyang pledged not only to dismantle its entire nuclear facilities but also to submit a complete and accurate report of its nuclear program. North Korea, however, did not move into the verification process by December 2008 when the Six-Party Talks was broken off. On the contrary, Pyongyang announced the resumption of nuclear tests in May 2009, followed by the disclosure of its policy to weaponize plutonium and to enrich uranium next month. Moreover, Pyongyang announced the completion of reprocessing its used nuclear rods in November 2009, and invited some American specialists to check the facilities in

November 2010. In the meantime, North Korea launched missiles on the trot in April and July 2009, and flaunted its new types of ballistic missiles at the military parade of October 2010.

In the light of explosive security environment in East Asia mentioned above, National Institute for Defense Studies (NIDS) hosted the 2010 International Symposium on Security Affairs under the title of “Deterrence and Dialogue: The Korean Peninsula after the Cheonan Incident.” As the symposium was held immediately after the outbreak of Yeonpyeong-do incident, active and genuine discussions on the topic was carried out among the specialists invited from South Korea, the United States, China, Russia and Japan. The NIDS would like to express sincere gratitude to the specialists who took part in the Symposium. It would be a great pleasure for the NIDS if the report provides clues to comprehend and solve the problem.

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