

North Korea Economic Forum Panel Discussion The Pandemic's Impact on North Korea: Leadership Dynamics, Markets and Public Health



Monday, November 16, 2020
8:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m. (EST)
10:30 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. (KST)
Virtual Event via Zoom

EVENT DESCRIPTION

The COVID-19 pandemic has had significant effects on public health and resulted in disruptions in domestic politics and economics in many parts of the world. Although Pyongyang claims that it has no case of COVID-19, North Korea cannot be an exception from the global threats and challenges. Please join the North Korea Economic Forum of the GW Institute for Korean Studies for an online discussion on “The Pandemic's Impact on North Korea: Leadership Dynamics, Markets and Public Health.” Six experts will assess what the pandemic's impact has been thus far from their respective disciplinary perspectives and extrapolate from there to project how the situation might develop in the near-to-medium term future inside North Korea.

PROGRAM

Moderated by Celeste Arrington (Associate Professor, The George Washington University)

(1) Leadership Dynamics:

- Ken Gause (Director of Adversary Analytics Program, CNA Corporation)
- Eunjung Lim (Associate Professor, Kongju National University)

(2) Markets:

- William Brown (Principal, Northeast Asia Economics and Intelligence Advisory)
- Eul-Chul Lim (Director of ICNK Center at the Institute for Far Eastern Studies, Kyungnam University)

(3) Public Health:

- Kee Park (Director of Korea Health Policy Project, Harvard Medical School)
- Jiho Cha (Senior Lecturer, University of Manchester)

SPEAKERS



EUL-CHUL LIM is an Associate Professor and the Director of the ICNK Center at the Institute for Far Eastern Studies (IFES), Kyungnam University. He also serves as a member of the Policy Advisory Committee for the President for South-North Summit, National Security Council of the Blue House, ROK Ministry of Unification, and the other ministries. Prior to joining IFES, Professor Lim worked as a specialist in the Department of North Korea in the Korea Trade Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA). He was a visiting researcher at Georgetown University. He received his B.A. in Trade from Yeungnam University, an M.A. in Area Studies from Korea University and a Ph.D. in Politics and Diplomacy from Kyungnam University.



EUNJUNG LIM is an Associate Professor at Division of International Studies, Kongju National University (KNU). Her areas of specialization include international cooperation in the Asia-Pacific, comparative and global governance, and energy, nuclear, and climate change policies of East Asian countries. She currently serves as a non-standing director of Korea Institute of Nuclear Nonproliferation and Control (KINAC). Before joining the KNU faculty, Dr. Lim served as an Assistant Professor at Ritsumeikan University, in Kyoto, Japan. She also taught at several universities in the United States and Korea, including Johns Hopkins University, Yonsei University, and Korea University. She has been a researcher and a visiting fellow at academic institutes including the Center for Contemporary Korean Studies at Interfaculty Initiative in Information Studies at the University of Tokyo, the Institute of Japanese Studies at Seoul National University, the Institute of Japan Studies at Kookmin University, and Institute of Energy Economics, Japan. She earned a B.A. from the University of Tokyo, an M.I.A. from Columbia University and a Ph.D. from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies.



JIHO CHA, MD Ph.D. is a physician, multidisciplinary scholar, and humanitarian practitioner. He is currently affiliated as a senior lecturer in humanitarian studies (associate professor in UK) at Humanitarian and Conflict Response Institute (HCRI), University of Manchester, UK. After completing clinical training in 2005, he has worked for the North Korean and other marginalized populations around the world (eg. North Korea, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Indonesia, China) through non-governmental (eg. Médecins Sans Frontières), governmental (eg. South Korean Ministry of Unification) and international organizations (International Organization for Migration). His research interests lie in political inequality and health, humanitarian health system and digital technologies, multidisciplinary methods in hard to reach population. He received his PhD in international health (Health System) at the Johns Hopkins University, MD at the Donga University and MSc in forced migration at the University of Oxford. For COVID-19 pandemic, he is currently investigating multisectoral impacts of COVID-19 and lockdowns on the crisis affected populations in seven countries - Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Central African Republic, Libya, Iraq, Nigeria and Ukraine.



KEE B. PARK is a member of the faculty at Harvard Medical School where he studies the complex geopolitical factors influencing health in North Korea and the relationships between international security, health, and human rights and health diplomacy. His recent publications include “The Human Cost of UN Sanctions and Funding Shortfalls for Humanitarian Aid in North Korea” and “Injuries in North Korea: Addressing a Looming Crisis.” Dr. Park is the Director of the North Korea Program at the Korean American Medical Association. Since 2007, he has visited North Korea over 20 times to support the North Korean doctors. His last visit was in November, 2019. He is a member of the World Economic Forum Global Future Council on the Korean Peninsula, the National Committee on North Korea, and the Council of Korean Americans. He also serves on the Expert Panel on Surgical Care at the World Health Organization in Geneva.



KEN GAUSE is the Director of the Adversary Analytics Program at the CNA Corporation. His team is responsible for doing deep dive studies on the leadership/decision-making, armed forces, military doctrine, and capabilities of U.S. adversaries. Mr. Gause began his career as a Sovietologist for the U.S. government in the 1980s and has worked in think tanks since the late 1980s. He is a noted expert on North Korean leadership and is the author of several books on the topic.



WILLIAM B. BROWN (Bill) is principal of his consulting company, Northeast Asia Economics and Intelligence Advisory, LLC (NAEIA.com) and is Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service, where he teaches courses on the Chinese, Japanese, and Korean economies. Mr. Brown served a career in the federal government, working as an economist and East Asia specialist at the Central Intelligence Agency, Commerce Department, and National Intelligence Council (NIC). At the NIC, he served as Senior Research Fellow for East Asia and as Deputy National Intelligence Officer for Economics. His most recent service was as Senior Advisor to the National Intelligence Manager for East Asia in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. Mr. Brown's research is focused on the North Korean and Chinese economies and he is widely quoted in national and Korean media, especially with Voice of America. His publications include "Money and Markets in North Korea," an unclassified study for the National Intelligence Council, and the "Economics of Korean Unification" published by the Council of Foreign Relations.

MODERATOR



CELESTE ARRINGTON is Korea Foundation Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at the George Washington University. She specializes in comparative politics, with a regional focus on the Koreas and Japan. Her research and teaching focus on law and social movements, the media, lawyers, policy processes, historical justice, North Korean human rights, and qualitative methods. She is also interested in the international relations and security of Northeast Asia and transnational activism. She is the author of *Accidental Activists: Victims and Government Accountability in South Korea and Japan* (2016) and has published in *Comparative Political Studies*, *Law & Society Review*, *Journal of East Asian Studies*, *Pacific Affairs*, *Asian Survey*, and *the Washington Post*, among others. She received a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, an MPhil from the University of Cambridge, and an A.B. from Princeton University. She is currently writing a book that analyzes the role of lawyers and legal activism in Japanese and Korean policies related to persons with disabilities and tobacco control.

BACKGROUND

North Korea Economic Forum (NKEF) is part of the policy program at the George Washington University's Institute for Korean Studies (GWIKS). The Forum aims to promote the understanding of North Korean economic issues, distribute well-balanced, deeply researched, and multi-dimensional insights on the North Korean economy and to expand networks among various North Korea watchers, scholars, and policymakers. The Forum mostly involves closed and off-the-record meetings, where participants can freely and seriously discuss critical issues. Mr. Daniel Wertz is currently the chair of NKEF and is leading the meetings. NKEF also organizes special conferences made public throughout the academic year. The Forum is made possible by a generous grant provided by the KDI School of Public Policy and Management.

This event is on the record and open to the public.