



## Special Talk

# North Korea's Policy Shift and its Foreign Policy Orientations

→ 5 May 2011, 18:00 s.t.

→ Venue: “Besprechungsraum Japanologie” (meeting room japanology)

→ Language: English



Dr. Han S. Park is University Professor of International Affairs and Director of the Center for the Study of Global Issues (Globis) at the University of Georgia. Dr. Park has focused his research on the issues of human rights, sustainable development, and East Asian politics. Included in his extensive list of publications are *Human Needs and Political Development* (1984), *China and North Korea* (co-authored, 1990), and *North Korea: Ideology, Politics, Economy* (edited, 1996), *North Korea: The Politics of Unconventional Wisdom* (2001), and *North Korea Demystified* (co-edited, forthcoming). Born in China to immigrant Korean parents, Dr. Park received his education in China, Korea, and the United States, with advanced degrees in Political Science from Seoul National University, the American University and the University of Minnesota. Dr. Park has visited North Korea regularly since 1990 for over 50 times, most recently in April 2011. He has initiated and participated in track-II negotiations designed to alleviate tension on the Korean peninsula. Donald Gregg, a former U.S. ambassador to Korea, called him "an architect for inter-Korea rapprochement." Dr. Park is also a humanitarian practitioner. He is the organizer and founding president of the *Uniting Families, Inc.* that has helped many separated families across the borders in the Korean peninsula. As an expert analyst, he has appeared regularly on CNN International, *Jim Lehrer News Hour* on PBS, and serves as a consultant/analyst for ABC News. His remarks have widely been cited by major media throughout the world. Dr. Park is best known as a Global Thinker and Peacemaker and has been honored for his global peacemaking efforts with the awarding of the Gandhi, King, Ikeda Community Builder's Prize to him in 2010.

Despite the commonly held view that North Korea never changes, Professor Park's observation resulted from his numerous and routine trips to that country, the most recent being just last month, suggests that the DPRK's policy orientations have shown a series of changes, especially in the areas of security and economic policies. These changes have shown a discernible shift in Pyongyang's foreign policy postures. They have been made possible due to a number of factors including: the succession challenge, struggling economy (especially, food shortages), demonstrated nuclear capability, strategic changes for inter-Korea legitimacy competition, and the China factor. This lecture attempts at an in-depth analysis of these factors by utilizing the lecturer's own first-hand information as prudently as possible.