Korean Peninsula Peace Forum: Prospects for Lasting Peace on the Korean Peninsula

Friday 12 April 2019

Chatham House, London

This one-day conference will discuss the prospects for peace on the Korean peninsula following the second US-DPRK Summit, held in Hanoi in February 2019. It will consider prospects for denuclearization and the US role, the future of inter-Korea relations under President Moon Jae-in, as well as how other parties, including China and Russia, might contribute to stability on the peninsula.

This conference is supported by the Embassy of the Republic of Korea in the UK.

10:30-11:00 Registration

11:00-11:15 Welcome Remarks
Enna Park, Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the United Kingdom
Lord Peter Ricketts, UK Ambassador to France (2012-16) and Strategic Adviser, Lockheed Martin

11:15-12:00 Keynote Address: Assessing the Second US-DPRK Summit: Next Steps for Securing Peace on the Korean Peninsula
Moon Chung-in, Special Advisor to President Moon Jae-in

Chair: Lord Peter Ricketts, UK Ambassador to France (2012-16) and Strategic Adviser, Lockheed Martin

12:00-13:15 Session One: Denuclearization and Building a Peace Regime on the Korean Peninsula

The panel will examine the diplomacy of the Trump Administration towards the DPRK, considering how it has evolved since 2017 and how it differs from past US initiatives towards the DPRK. What we know currently about the state of the North’s nuclear weapons programme, the motivations on the DPRK side (particularly the thinking of Kim Jong-un) to engage in disarmament, and the practical steps that will be needed to verify that the North is serious about giving up its nuclear stockpiles? Discussion will include the role of international inspectors, relevant time lines for disarmament, but also the particular incentives and reassurances that the United States might provide to the North to encourage it to comply.

Speakers:
Hong Seok-in, Director-General for Public Diplomacy and Cultural Affairs, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Korea
Patricia Lewis, Research Director, International Security Department, Chatham House
Paul Beijer, Distinguished Associate Fellow, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI); Ambassador of Sweden to the DPRK (2001-05)

Chair: Champa Patel, Head, Asia-Pacific Programme, Chatham House
13:15-14:15  Lunch

14:15-15:30  Session Two: North-South Korea Relations, President Moon and the Legacy of ‘Sunshine’
The panel will analyse the current state of North-South Korea relations, the prospects for a 4th Kim-Moon summit, and the extent to which the terms of the April 27 Panmunjom Declaration have been realized to date. It will also consider the important role of public opinion in South Korea in shaping and supporting the efforts of the Blue House to effect a peace agreement with the North, and the impact of opposition parties in the ROK in assisting or impeding this process. The panel will also discuss internal changes in the North, both within the leadership and the wider public, that may help in fostering closer North-South ties.

Speakers:
Alison Evans, Senior Research Analyst – Country Risk, IHS Markit
Sung Ki-young, Senior Research Fellow, Peace Strategy Division, Institute for National Security Strategy
Antoine Bondaz, Research Fellow, Foundation for Strategic Research

Chair: Martin Uden, former UK Ambassador to the Republic of Korea

15:30-15:45  Coffee break

15:45-17:00  Session Three: Third Parties, Regional Stability and Security on the Korean Peninsula
The panel will look at the role of other states and institutional actors that might assist or complicate the longer-term agenda of peace on the Korean peninsula. In particular, this panel will focus on the role of European actors (whether individual states or the European Union), former members of the Six Party Talks (China, Russia and Japan), and the United Nations in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue and reaching a long-term agreement to promote peace on the Korean peninsula.

Speakers:
Choe Jong-hyun, Former Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to the Netherlands
Yu Jie, Research Fellow, Asia-Pacific Programme, Chatham House
Pavel Baev, Research Professor, The Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO)

Chair: John Nilsson-Wright, Senior Research Fellow, Asia-Pacific Programme, Chatham House

17:00-17:15  Wrap-up
John Nilsson-Wright, Senior Research Fellow, Asia-Pacific Programme, Chatham House

17:15-18:00  Drinks reception