

Reducing the Threat of Weapons of Mass Destruction on the Korean Peninsula and from Terrorist Groups

A Roundtable at the George Bush School of Government & Public Service
held during the Conference on “China-U.S. Relations: Past, Present & Future”
Texas A&M University, November 5-8, 2003

Summary

Fourteen scholars (5 from the People’s Republic of China, 5 member of the Texas A&M faculty, 4 graduate students from Texas A&M including 3 from China, and a distinguished professor from Johns Hopkins University) participated in the roundtable on Friday and Saturday, November 7-8. The roundtable opened with presentations on the analysis of the current situation with regard to nuclear weapons in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (North Korea) from Dr. David M. Lampton, Director of China Studies at Johns Hopkins University and Dr. Zhang Qingmin, Associate Chair of the Department of Diplomacy, Foreign Affairs College in Beijing. A general discussion and assessment followed.

The seminar continued with presentations by individual participants on their research as it might pertain to this problem or the more general issue of WMD in North Korea or from non-state terrorist groups. The purpose of the individual presentations was to provide all roundtable participants with an opportunity to discover potential areas for joint or collaborative future work. These presentations included the following:

Professor Joe Cerami, “Exploring Cooperative Strategies for Reducing the Threat of WMD Proliferation”

Professor Shen Dingli, “Building a Nuclear Weapons Free Regime on the Korean Peninsula: Security Assurance and Verification”

Professors Kishore Gawande & Hank Jenkins-Smith, “Using Chinese & American Technical Experts to Reduce Prospects for Terrorist Groups Acquiring WMD”

Professor David M. Lampton, “Contingencies Flowing from the Six-Party Talks”

Professor Charles F. Hermann, “An Exploration of International Regime Analysis and its Possible Application to the Korean Problem”

Professor M. Jae Moon, “Political and Media Framing of North Korean Nuclear Issue”

Professor Jiemian Yang, “Anti-Terrorism Studies”

Mr. Yi Edward Yang, “Computerized Process Tracing of Decisions in Cross-Cultural Settings”

Each presentation was followed by discussion. On Friday evening all participants engaged in an informal conversation over dinner with the intention of allowing individuals to explore possible

intersections of research interests surfaced during the day's presentations.

On Saturday morning, November 8, the roundtable heard a proposal from Dr. Klaus Aurisch, a retired member of the Germany foreign ministry now teaching at the Bush School, about possible interaction with representatives of North Korea through the German Embassy in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and through retired German diplomats who had served in that embassy.

Professor Yang Jiemian, the Vice President of the Shanghai Institute of International Studies proposed a possible follow-on conference at his Institute. Specific ideas for such a further exchange were discussed. (Note: Professor Yang Jiemian has subsequently returned to the Bush School for further exploration of this possibility.) Professor Shen Dingli, Deputy Director of Fudan University's Center for American Studies proposed that individual participants continue the exploration of possible joint efforts electronically.

Professor Hermann promised to keep all members of the roundtable informed of further developments.

Recommendations

As indicated above plans are currently underway for a follow-on conference in China to be held possibly in 2005. Several individual faculty members at the Bush School have developed their proposals further since the conference concluded and have shared them with individual participants attending from China. In addition, Dr. Aurisch returned to Berlin and met the Ambassador from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, who expressed interest in the idea of a meeting between one or more representatives of North Korea and some members of the roundtable for an exchange of ideas. He proposed Berlin or New York as possible locations. Individual Bush School faculty are prepared to submit research proposals for funding. Professor Jiemian and Hermann seek funding for the proposed larger follow-on conference.