

## Focus on the Northeast Asia Cooperation Dialogue

The seventeenth NEACD meeting took place in April 2006 in Tokyo. In partnership with the Japan Center for International Cooperation, **this meeting was the largest and most ambitious of IGCC's NEACD sessions** and was the catalyst for an intensive round of sideline meetings by senior diplomats from many of the countries who participate in the official Six-Party Talks ([link to a full report on the meeting](#)).

The United States, Republic of Korea, and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea sent their chief representatives to the Six-Party Talks to participate directly in the NEACD meeting. **The DPRK dispatched its largest and most senior group of participants ever.**

The NEACD event was divided into three distinct phases, each of which addressed important policy issues that are anticipated to be on the agenda of the Six-Party Talks:

1. *A special one-day workshop on the "Economic and Energy Development on the DPRK in the Framework of the Korean Peninsula Nuclear Issue" sponsored by the Carnegie Corporation of New York.* A diverse group of economic experts, including representatives from World Bank and International Monetary Fund, discussed economic issues for the first time with North Korean representatives.
2. *A session on nuclear verification during the main NEACD plenary meeting.* Presentations were given by specialists from the Lawrence Livermore Nuclear Laboratory, the U.S. State Department's Bureau of Verification, Compliance, and Implementation, the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, and the Republic of Korea's Institute on Foreign Affairs and National Security.
3. *A session devoted to examining the possible deconflicting of conventional forces on the Korean Peninsula* at the Defense Information Sharing workshop that took place after the main NEACD meeting. Presentations were given by specialists from the Rand Corporation (U.S.) and the Republic of Korea Institute on National Unification (ROK).

**The economic workshop has resulted in the establishment of a new**

## NEWS & HIGHLIGHTS

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### NEACD Background:

Meeting roughly every eight months, NEACD provides a "track II," or unofficial, forum where foreign and defense ministry policy-level officials, military officers, and academics from China, Russia, North and South Korea, Japan, and the United States are able to meet and frankly discuss regional security issues.

**Did you know? Founded in 1993, NEACD is considered the leading track II forum in Northeast Asia.**

**Track II dialogue to encourage North Korea's economic reforms and engagement with the outside world**, which has received the approval of the North Korean government. Susan Shirk, the convener of NEACD, will lead a small group of specialists to Pyongyang in September 2006 at the invitation of the North Korean government to meet with economic specialists and ensure their participation. Dr. Shirk discussed this new economic dialogue track idea with senior U.S. government and international financial institution officials in May 2006, who all strongly supported this mechanism.

Another important outcome of the NEACD meeting were detailed exchanges of ideas between Track I representatives and IGCC representatives as to how NEACD could further provide direct support to the official Six-Party Talk process.

The presence of senior North Korean, U.S., and other representatives led to extensive international press coverage of the NEACD meeting. More than 100 media organizations were registered to cover the NEACD meeting. While details of discussions during the NEACD sessions were kept confidential, a press briefing was given by Dr. Shirk following the end of the meeting.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

**Public Policy and Biological  
Threats Bootcamp  
July 23-August 5, 2006**

**IGCC Steering Committee  
Meeting  
October 2006**

**Managing Beach Water  
Quality Workshop  
December 2006**

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