



**IVAN ALLEN COLLEGE
THE SAM NUNN SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY, TECHNOLOGY, AND POLICY**

Dinner Presentation by Dr. James Kwon

Tuesday, April 1, 2008

On the evening of April 1, 2008 at Veni Vidi Veci's in midtown Atlanta, Dr. James Kwon, Counselor at the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Korea to the United Nations and other International Organizations in Vienna, spoke regarding the road to zero nuclear weapons, East Asia, and the North Korean nuclear crisis. From 2003-2006 Dr. Kwon served as the Director for Disarmament and Nonproliferation in the ROK's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, where he dealt with global nuclear nonproliferation and disarmament issues, including the NPT and the IAEA. Dr. Kwon also has government experience in Somalia, the former Yugoslavia, and Lebanon.

The attendee list for dinner included distinguished guests from the IAEA and the Korean consulate in Atlanta, along with former U.S. Ambassador John Kelly and Georgia Tech faculty, staff, and graduate students. Following a dinner discussion which included a range of topics from the stability and security in East Asia to the role of verification inspections in the denuclearization process, Dr. Kwon gave a speech to the table as a whole. He began his speech by laying out the timeline and details of the denuclearization talks with North Korea, speaking on the 1994 Agreed Framework, the 2002 HEU controversy, and the 13 February 2007 Denuclearization Action Plan, among other topics.

Dr. Kwon also spoke regarding the road to zero nuclear weapons and how this path would effect East Asia and the Korean Peninsula. He stated that there exists a significant perceptions gap between nuclear weapons states and non-nuclear weapons states which must be addressed prior to any significant efforts to move forward in the process of full denuclearization. Dr. Kwon also added that no nuclear weapons in Northeast Asia means an end to the U.S. strategy of extended deterrence, which will result in heightened regional tensions and a conventional arms race in Northeast Asia. His speech was followed by an informal question and answer and discussion session, in which several different issues were discussed, including the validity of the 2002 U.S. claims regarding North Korea's suspected HEU program and the political issues surrounding the current verification process in Yongbyon.

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