

DPRK's nuclear issue is a major stumbling block in the implementation of the Basic Agreement.

- The military imbalance between the two Koreas is a factor impeding arms control negotiations. It appears that North Korea has a negative view of arms control due to its fear of losing military superiority over the South. The North believes that its superiority translates into political leverage over the South, and might not be willing to surrender the leverage for the sake of arms control. An economic factor might work in a positive way for inter-Korean arms control. That is, North Korea might come to favor arms control as a way to reduce the burden of military spending.

- Inter-Korean arms control is further impeded by the conflicting nature of the national goals of the South and North. The national goal of the ROK is peaceful coexistence; this goal dictates a gradual arms control process. The DPRK's goal is unification on its terms; either by force or/and unified front strategy, i.e., subversion of South Korean system.

The key issues likely to be disputed by the two sides include: (1) linkage of CBMs to arms reduction talks, (2) inclusion of the US forces in Korea as a component of military parity, and (3) introduction of intrusive verification means.

- Perhaps, it is premature to expect tangible results in inter-Korean arms control, since the recent spate of arrangements and declarations between the two sides might be a necessary condition, but not a sufficient condition for further progress in inter-Korean relations, including arms control.

THE DPRK'S NUCLEAR ISSUES AND RELATED PROBLEMS

- The DPRK is now allowing IAEA inspections on some of its nuclear facilities, while denying any intention to develop nuclear weapons. Nevertheless, these inspections are inadequate due to the limitations of the IAEA mandate, and because of the North's refusal to accept inter-Korean mutual inspections.

- Why is Pyongyang playing the nuclear card so persistently? The nuclear option may be seen as the last resort for a North Korean leadership faced with internal economic crisis and international isolation. However, it is believed that the DPRK's nuke program can not be used as a bargaining chip anymore.

- Then, what reasons are explaining for the DPRK to pursue the nuclear weapons? Some plausible motivations from the DPRK's standpoint might be the followings: (1) nuclear weapons