

Research Program B: **Bottom-up Review of Security Policy**  
Sub-Project B-2: **The Korean Peninsula in an 'Age of Uncertainty' and  
Japan's Foreign/Security Policy**

### **1. Outline**

North Korea's rapid (though illegal) development of missile technology and its use of 'progress' in this regard to demonstrate its national strength mean that Japan cannot be a 'safe rear base' as long as the situation on the Korean peninsula remains fluid. Recent political and diplomatic developments in the ROK are potential factors for instability in Japan-US-ROK security cooperation, often called a 'quasi-alliance,' that could keep it from functioning as a sound public good in Northeast Asia. Given this perspective, the Korean peninsula is one of the most vital areas for Japan's foreign/security policy, and it will be crucial for policy-making not only to analyze the latest situation in North/South Korea from various perspectives but also to 'update' the information from those analyses.

The Korean peninsula's importance for Japan as noted above attracts the attention of Japanese observers to the latest developments, and this importance always causes their interest to be drawn to the latest moment. However, this presents the risk that observers will be content simply to describe the 'topography' of the current situation, possibly misleading them into a short-sighted attitude that limits their interest only to specific (popular) issues and keeps them from acknowledging other issues and correlations between issues. This myopic perspective can lead to a fragmentation of knowledge and exert an influence on policy-making.

Accordingly, analyzing issues pertaining to the Korean peninsula demands that analysts, especially those in Japan, maintain consistency in two regards simultaneously: 'subtlety' in individual analysis and 'comprehensiveness' in integrating various realms. This inductive attitude toward analysis is critical for experts and policymakers in Japan to draw further political implications.

In adopting this approach to studying the Korean peninsula, this research group has identified three principal topics with diplomatic and social significance for Japan – the ROK's domestic, economic, and diplomatic circumstances; the degree of genuine threat posed by the DPRK and possible countermeasures; and the effectiveness of, and problems with, the economic sanctions on the DPRK – and attempts a multi-layered approach to each topic. This research group's primary efforts will be focused on analyzing the latest circumstances on

the Korean peninsula from various aspects (e.g., domestic, economic, foreign and security policies) with particular emphasis on the correlations between them, and on making more comprehensive policy recommendations based on those analyses. Another (and essential) goal of the group will be to contribute through its research activities to achieving the overall objectives of Research Program B: determining the 'needs' of Japan's foreign/security policy from inside (domestic views) and outside (international context) and making bottom-up examinations .

## **2. Research Organization**

Project leader:

Masao OKONOGI, Professor Emeritus, Keio University

Members:

Yukiko FUKAGAWA, Professor, Waseda University

Katsuhisa FURUKAWA, former member of UN Panel of Experts established pursuant to Resolution 1874

Hisashi HIRAI, Visiting Editor, Kyodo News

Shunji HIRAIWA, Professor, Nanzan University

Yukihiko HOTTA, Research Fellow, The Kazankai Foundation

Tomoki IIMURA, Research Fellow, JIIA

Hajime IZUMI, Professor, Institute for International Strategy, Tokyo International University

Hideya KURATA, Professor, National Defense Academy; Adjunct Fellow, JIIA

Mitsuhiro MIMURA, Senior Research Fellow, The Economic Research Institute for Northeast Asia (ERINA)

Junya NISHINO, Professor, Keio University

Hideki OKUZONO, Associate Professor, University of Shizuoka

Yasuyo SAKATA, Professor, Kanda University of International Studies

Takeshi WATANABE, Senior Research Fellow, National Institute for Defense Studies, Ministry of Defense, Japan