CENTER FOR ENERGY AND SECURITY STUDIES HOLDS A SERIES OF MEETINGS IN PYONGYANG

Pyongyang, DPRK: On April 22-25, 2014, the Center for Energy and Security Studies (CENESS) held another series of meetings on pressing nuclear issues with representatives of the North Korean research organizations and the DPRK Foreign Ministry.

The discussions involved experts of the North Korean Foreign Ministry’s Institute for Disarmament and Peace, the Institute of Economics of the North Korean Academy of Social Sciences, and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry. They centered on prospects for North Korea declaring a moratorium on nuclear tests, the possibility of the resumption of the Six Party Talks, and North Korea’s plans to develop nuclear energy and set up an export control system.

North Korean specialists confirmed Pyongyang’s willingness to resume the Six Party Talks without any preconditions by the United States. They stressed that North Korea itself does not put forward any such preconditions. They also emphasized that the results of negotiations and agreements achieved so far as part of the Korean Peninsula talks have, on the whole, been damaging to North Korean national interests. For example, the Agreed Framework with the United States of October 21, 1994 and the Six Party Talks have led to even tougher sanctions against Pyongyang. North Korean representatives argued, in particular, that their country’s nuclear industry “had wasted 15 years” as a result, and estimated losses in the national energy sector at more than 6 billion dollars.

North Korean experts said during the meetings that joint military exercises by the United States and South Korea on the Korean peninsula were growing in their intensity and scale, and that they were provoking a further escalation of tensions in the region, forcing Pyongyang to strengthen its nuclear deterrent. They expressed particular concern over the increasingly provocative nature of the scenarios of these exercises. They also noted that if the United States and South Korea carry on with their annual military maneuvers on the peninsula, North Korea will reserve the right to hold nuclear tests on an annual basis as part of the Korean People’s Army’s military drills.
CENESS experts were informed about North Korea’s efforts to overcome acute electricity shortages in the country. DPRK specialists are working on a long-term plan to increase the country’s energy generation capacity, with a particular emphasis on hydroelectric resources. The goal is to make a better use of alternative energy sources such as wind, solar, and geothermal. In the medium-term, Pyongyang aims to bring the share of nuclear energy in the country’s electricity generation capacity to 2 per cent from the current figure of 0.1 per cent. As part of the third stage of its nuclear energy development program, North Korea is also building a nuclear power plant based on an experimental indigenously designed pressurized light water reactor with an electrical output of 100 MW(e).

Representatives of the DPRK Foreign Ministry’s Institute for Disarmament and Peace confirmed their intention to take part in the next Moscow Nonproliferation Conference, which is scheduled for November 20-22, 2014. The event will be attended by about 200 experts from 40 countries.

The Moscow Nonproliferation Conference is held by the Center for Energy and Security Studies every 30 months. In 2010 the event was held on March 4-6; it was attended by 185 participants from 38 countries. The 2012 Conference, held on September 6-8, was attended by 196 participants from 40 countries.

Cooperation between the Center for Energy and Security Studies and the DPRK Foreign Ministry’s Institute for Disarmament and Peace was launched in 2010. In March 2010 and September 2012 the institute’s experts visited Russia and participated in the Moscow Nonproliferation Conference. In 2012 and 2013 CENESS experts visited Pyongyang for a series of bilateral meetings.

Detailed information about the visit by CENESS experts to Pyongyang was presented at briefings for Russian experts and foreign diplomats held in Moscow on June 3.

This news release was prepared by CENESS on June 6, 2014. Contact: +7 (499) 147-51-92.