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

Pyongyang, DPRK: The Center for Energy and Security Studies (CENESS) held a series of meetings on March 5–7, 2018, with senior DPRK Foreign Ministry officials and representatives of the DPRK MFA research organizations.

During the visit to Pyongyang, the CENESS delegation met experts of the DPRK Foreign Ministry's Institute for American Studies (IFAS), the Institute for Disarmament and Peace (IDP), and the Institute of International Studies (IIS). Two meetings were held with the newly-appointed Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, who is in charge of DPRK–US relations and nuclear issues. There were also two meetings with the Acting President of IFAS, Choe Kang Il.

The discussions focused on the security situation on the Korean peninsula, pressing nuclear issues, and the outlook for resuming talks in various formats in order to reduce tensions in the region as a first step. The DPRK MFA representatives stressed their openness for dialogue without any preconditions in a format where each party could present any existing concerns regarding the security developments in Northeast Asia.

The CENESS delegation and DPRK MFA officials held detailed discussions on the continued use of CENESS-offered platform to promote further international dialogue at the level of experts. IFAS representatives thanked CENESS for the invitation to attend the 2017 Moscow Nonproliferation Conference (The 2017 MNC), held on October 19–21; the event gathered 259 experts from 40 different countries. The 2017 MNC sessions were attended by five DPRK representatives. The IFAS delegation was led by Choe Son Hui, who served as the IFAS President at the time, and who has been appointed Vice Foreign Minister in February 2018. Previously, DPRK MFA research organizations experts attended the Moscow Nonproliferation Conferences in 2010, 2012, and 2014.

During its latest trip to Pyongyang, CENESS representatives visited the Science and Technology Information Center (STIC), the Museum of Natural History, newly-built streets in central Pyongyang, and several other cultural and public facilities in the DPRK capital.



Photos (left to right): CENESS Director Anton Khlopkov, IDP Deputy Director-General Song Il Hyok, and CENESS Advisor Alexander Vorontsov after a joint meeting; Alexander Vorontsov, Ambassador of Russia to the DPRK Alexander Matsegora, DPRK Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, and Anton Khlopkov at the Pyongyang People's Palace of Culture; Alexander Vorontsov, Acting IFAS President Choe Kang Il, and Anton Khlopkov at the meeting in the Pyongyang Koryo Hotel.



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CENESS experts were invited to Pyongyang by Choe Son Hui. Regular exchanges between the Moscow-based Center for Energy and Security Studies and the DPRK Foreign Ministry's research institutes were launched in 2010. For CENESS Director Anton Khlopkov, this was the seventh visit to North Korea. During the meetings in Pyongyang, Khlopkov discussed plans for mutual academic exchanges between CENESS and the IFAS in 2018–2019.

Detailed information about the visit by CENESS experts to Pyongyang will be presented at the briefings to be held for Russian experts and foreign diplomats in Moscow on March 16. For more information, please contact Dmitry Konukhov at konukhov@ceness-russia.org.

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