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

Pyongyang, DPRK: CENESS Director Anton Khlopkov held a series of meetings with senior DPRK Foreign Ministry officials and representatives of the DPRK MFA research organizations on November 20–22, 2018.

During his visit to Pyongyang, Mr. Khlopkov met with Vice Foreign Minister Choe Son Hui, who is in charge of DPRK–US relations and nuclear issues. This was their fourth meeting this year. Mr. Khlopkov, who will chair the 2019 Moscow Nonproliferation Conference (The 2019 MNC), invited Choe Son Hui to take part in the event, which is scheduled for November 14–16, 2019.

CENESS Director also met with 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), as well as officials representing the MFA’s International Organizations Department and First European Department. Two meetings were held with IFAS Director-General Kwon Jong Gun, who was appointed in April 2018 after four years of service at the DPRK Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York.

The agenda of the discussions included practical implementation of the Panmunjom Declaration and the Pyongyang Declaration following the two inter-Korean summits, and of the Singapore Joint Statement issued by U.S. President Donald Trump and DPRK Chairman of the State Affairs Commission Kim Jong Un. The parties also exchanged views on possible mechanisms for keeping up the momentum for the significant progress in reducing tensions on the Korean Peninsula that has been achieved over the past ten months until November 2018.

The meeting with senior officials of the DPRK MFA Disarmament Division focused on the potential of DPRK cooperation with the relevant international organizations as part of the efforts to implement the US-DPRK Joint Statement adopted in Singapore and the Pyongyang Declaration. The parties also discussed the results of work of the First Committee on Disarmament and International Security during the 73rd Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

As part of the arrangement on exchanging publications that was achieved during a CENESS delegation visit to Pyongyang in March 2018, Mr. Khlopkov donated CENESS publications in English and Russian on pressing nuclear nonproliferation issues to the IIS Library.

CENESS and DPRK research organizations held detailed exchange on the continued use of CENESS-offered platform to promote further international dialogue at the level of experts. DPRK MFA research organizations experts attended the Moscow Nonproliferation Conferences in 2010, 2012, 2014, and 2017. The 2017 MNC gathered 259 experts from 40 different countries, including five DPRK
representatives. The IFAS delegation was led by Choe Son Hui, who served as the IFAS President at the time and has been appointed Vice Foreign Minister in February 2018. For more details about IFAS participation in the 2017 MNC, see Conference website.

Following his meetings in Pyongyang, CENESS Director Anton Khlopkov was interviewed by the ITAR-TASS news agency. To download the transcript of the interview, click here.

CENESS Director was invited to Pyongyang by IFAS Director-General Kwon Jong Gun. Regular meetings between the Moscow-based Center for Energy and Security Studies and the DPRK Foreign Ministry’s research institutes started in 2010. This was the eighth visit to North Korea for CENESS experts. Earlier this year exchanges between CENESS and IFAS took place in Pyongyang (March), and in Moscow (October).

Detailed information about the recent CENESS visit to Pyongyang will be presented at the briefings to be held for Russian experts and foreign diplomats in Moscow on December 6, 2018. For more information, please contact CENESS Research Associate Anastasia (Asya) Shavrova at shavrova@ceness-russia.org.

This news release was prepared by CENESS on November 29, 2018. Contact: +7 (495) 227-0829.