



*News Release #1-19 – May 18, 2019*

## **CENTER FOR ENERGY AND SECURITY STUDIES HOLDS ITS NINTH 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 May 13–15, 2019.

Anton Khlopkov met the DPRK Foreign Ministry's Institute for American Studies (IFAS) President Kwon Jong Gun. They have held six meetings in total since Kwon Jong Gun's appointment in April 2018. CENESS Director also held discussions with experts of the IFAS and of the Institute for Disarmament and Peace (IDP), as well as officials representing the DPRK MFA's International Organizations Department and First European Department.

The discussions focused on the political and military developments on the Korean Peninsula in January-May 2019, prospects for dialogue in the region after the U.S.-DPRK summit in Hanoi (including potential formats of such dialogue) and ways to maintain positive security dynamics on the Korean Peninsula. In the context of Chairman Kim Jong Un's New Year Address and his April 2019 speech to the First Plenary Session of the 14<sup>th</sup> DPRK Supreme People's Assembly, the issue of nuclear energy use to meet the DPRK electricity needs was touched upon.

CENESS and DPRK research organizations held a detailed exchange on the continued use of the platform offered by CENESS 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 the First Vice Foreign Minister in April 2019. For more details about IFAS participation in the 2017 MNC, *see [Conference website](#)*. The next Moscow Nonproliferation Conference will be held on November 7–9, 2019.

CENESS Director was invited to Pyongyang by IFAS President 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. For CENESS experts, this was their ninth visit to North Korea.

Detailed information about the latest CENESS visit to Pyongyang will be presented at the briefings to be held for Russian experts and foreign diplomats in Moscow on May 20, 2019. For more information, please contact CENESS Research Associate Anastasia (Asya) Shavrova at [shavrova@ceness-russia.org](mailto:shavrova@ceness-russia.org).

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