

Expert Roundtable on North Korea Studies with the Institute for Far Eastern Studies and Specialists in the Kansai Region

On Saturday, March 29, 2025, the Center for East Asian Peace and Cooperation Studies at Ritsumeikan University convened a roundtable discussion among experts from the Institute for Far Eastern Studies and specialists in North Korea studies based in the Kansai region of Japan.

The meeting brought together Japanese and Korean scholars engaged in research on North Korea across diverse fields, including history, media studies, diplomacy, and security studies. Participants held in-depth discussions on interpretations of the Kim Jong Un administration's "hostile two-state theory," which has been advanced since early 2024, as well as on prospects for North Korea's future foreign policy. The roundtable also facilitated an exchange of views on recent trends in North Korea studies in Japan and South Korea. A shared observation was that among the next generation of scholars, research interest is increasingly concentrated on the Kim Jong Un regime in particular.

Amid deepening global fragmentation, the meeting provided a valuable opportunity to reaffirm the significance and importance of dialogue and exchange between Japanese and Korean researchers on North Korea, a key source of concern in the contemporary international environment.

The Ritsumeikan Center for East Asian Peace and Cooperation actively promotes academic exchange with various research organizations, transcending language and disciplinary boundaries.

●Event Details

Date & Time: Saturday, March 29, 2025, 15:00-17:00

Venue: Ritsumeikan University, Kinugasa Campus, Gakuji-kan Conference Room 3

Organizer: Center for East Asian Peace and Cooperation, Ritsumeikan University

●Participants

Nakato, Sachio (Professor and Director, Ritsumeikan University; Director, Ritsumeikan University Center for East Asian Peace and Cooperation Studies)

Anzako, Yuka (Professor, Ritsumeikan University)

Jang, Youngjoo (Visiting Assistant Professor, Center for East Asian Peace and Cooperation Studies, Ritsumeikan University)

Mizuno, Naoki (Professor Emeritus, Kyoto University)

Itagaki, Ryuta (Professor, Doshisha University)

Mori, Tomoomi (Associate Professor: Setsunan University)

Kim, Kwangoon (Kyungnam University, Professor, b)

Cho, Jinku (Director, Japan Research Center, The Institute for Far Eastern Studies)
Kim, Sangbum (Director, North Korea Research Center, The Institute for Far Eastern Studies)
Jung, Jaewook (Director, USA Research Center, The Institute for Far Eastern Studies)
Park, Hyungjeon (Librarian)

Photos

