



NCNK

ANNUAL REPORT

2025



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DEAR FRIENDS,

NCNK is an extensive network of diverse individuals dedicated to promoting engagement with North Korea and reducing the prospects of war on the Korean Peninsula. Our membership represents a wide range of specialties including agriculture, development, medical, scientific, nuclear nonproliferation, academic, divided family issues, and the recovery of American POW/MIA personnel from the Korean War. These individuals take the long view on engagement, weathering the ups and downs of international diplomacy, and they are the strength and collective voice of NCNK.

In 2025, there were positive indicators from North Korea regarding renewed people-to-people diplomacy that are expected to continue. NCNK's niche role puts us on the frontlines of US-DPRK engagement efforts and we will continue to be an effective resource for our members, policymakers, and the public as events unfold in 2026. Through the work of our members and their predecessors, past Track II talks between the US and North Korea enhanced clarification of key topics included in bilateral negotiations and thousands of North Korea's neediest citizens directly interacted with US humanitarian NGO workers. North Korean Leader Kim Jong Un followed through on the terms of the 2018 Singapore Summit, which included the return of 55 boxes reportedly containing remains of US personnel from the Korean War, and we look forward to the prospect of President Trump and Leader Kim again connecting.

NCNK would not exist were it not for the financial support of our major donors and individual members. We thank the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Henry Luce Foundation, Ploughshares Fund, the Russell King Family Charity Fund, the Pacific Century Institute, the James L. Kim Foundation and you for making our work possible.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Keith Luse". The signature is fluid and cursive.

Keith Luse
Executive Director
National Committee on North Korea

ABOUT NCNK

The National Committee on North Korea (NCNK) supports and facilitates principled engagement between the U.S. and North Korea in order to promote peace and security on the Korean Peninsula and to improve the lives of the North Korean people.

NCNK is a non-governmental, non-partisan organization whose membership reflects a broad range of perspectives and subject-matter expertise related to North Korea. NCNK serves to share information among its members, advance their work, and provide the broader public with substantive and balanced information about North Korea. NCNK was founded in 2004 by Mercy Corps, a global aid and development organization.

During 2025, the Internal Revenue Service determined that NCNK, Inc. is exempt from federal income tax and therefore has 501(c)(3) status. The transition from the National Committee on North Korea, separating from Mercy Corps, to NCNK, Inc., a stand-alone corporation, will be completed in 2026.

STAFF



KEITH LUSE
President



SETH JOYNER
Sr. Program Manager



MARISA MCPHERSON
Program Officer

OUR DONORS

In 2025, the National Committee on North Korea continued to be an independent project of Mercy Corps, a 501(c)(3) charity.

NCNK's major donors are the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Henry Luce Foundation, Ploughshares, Pacific Century Institute, the James L. Kim Foundation and the Russell King Family Charity Fund. NCNK also receives donations from individuals.

NCNK does not receive funds from any foreign government, or from any organization based in the United States or elsewhere which is a recipient of funds, directly or indirectly, from a foreign government. NCNK also reserves the right to not accept funds, at its sole discretion, from any person or organization, including but not limited to U.S. or international individuals or organizations whose purpose or mission may be inconsistent with NCNK's purpose and objectives.



**HENRY LUCE
FOUNDATION**



Pacific
Century
Institute

PLOUGHSHARES

**THE JAMES L. KIM
FOUNDATION**

**THE RUSSELL KING
FAMILY CHARITY FUND**

BOARD OF DIRECTORS



KEITH LUSE
President



PHILIP YUN
Chair



BRAD BABSON
Treasurer



JAMES MIN
Secretary



FRANK AUM



DAVID AUSTIN



KELSEY DAVENPORT



SUZANNE DIMAGGIO



DEBORAH FIKES



YERI IM



DR. KATHARINE MOON



DR. STEVE NOERPER



DR. KEE PARK



NANCY YUAN

INITIATIVES

KNOWING NORTH KOREA

Our flagship next-generation workshop brings graduate-level scholars and young professionals to Washington, D.C. to provide them with a deep bench of knowledge on critical topics related to North Korea. In 2025, we hosted our largest cohort to date.

Over the course of two days, the workshop supplied participants with a comprehensive overview of critical topics related to North Korea, as well as an introduction to practical skill sets that can enhance and broaden a career in North Korea-focused analysis and research. Participants also had the opportunity to network and engage in discussion with North Korea specialists, policy professionals and US government officials.

The 2025 agenda featured speakers Dr. John Delury, Dr. Kathryn Weathersby, Kelsey Davenport, Ankit Panda, Dr. Jung Pak, Troy Stangarone, Masakatsu Ota, Dr. Andrew Yeo, Heidi Linton, Dr. Kee Park, Michael Schiffer, Jennifer Hendrixson White, Rorry Daniels, Dr. Stephen Noerper, and officials from the US State Department.



The 2025 cohort at the US Department of State.

INITIATIVES (CONT.)

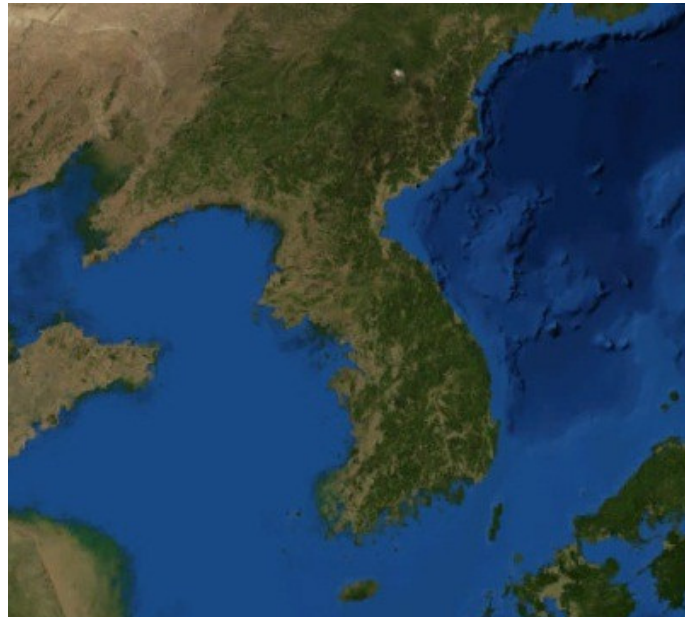
NUCLEAR ANALYSIS HUB

Our online hub is an outlet for multifaceted perspectives, balanced analyses and thought-provoking conversations on the implications and consequences of nuclear war with North Korea. Featured authors include Ankit Panda, Dr. David Albright, Lynn Rusten, and Anton Sokolin. **Many thanks to Ploughshares for their inspiration and input on this project.**



NORTH KOREA IN THE WORLD

This initiative connects researchers, policymakers, journalists, and the general public to easily accessible information about North Korea's external relations through a website shared with the East-West Center in Washington. In 2025, the site drew nearly 20,000 visitors, demonstrating North Korea in the World's niche appeal to both the public and expert sectors alike.



MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES



EAST & WEST COAST MEMBERS MEETINGS

NCNK hosts two Members Meetings on an annual basis: a West Coast meeting in early spring and an East Coast meeting in summer. These meetings convene our membership in a closed-door setting where they receive expert briefings, updates from government officials, peer-to-peer dialogue, and opportunities to hear from next-generation Korean Peninsula specialists.

HUMANITARIAN AND DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

This annual event brings together NCNK's network of US-based humanitarian practitioners who have a longstanding record of engagement with North Korea for two days of in-depth conversation, workshop-style sessions, skills exercises, preparedness assessments, and relationship-building opportunities. The conference report from the 2025 conference captured the attention of US government officials and was featured in *NK News*.

These meetings were made possible by the generous support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York and the Henry Luce Foundation.

PUBLICATIONS

NCNK's Issue Briefs and Special Reports bring critical issues to the forefront of the conversation. In 2025 we debuted four publications, attracting thousands of views to our website.



STRENGTHENED NORTH KOREA-RUSSIAN RELATIONS POSES RISK TO THE US AND ITS ALLIES

By Bruce Klingner



THE ROLE AND AUTHORITIES OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND CONGRESS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A POTENTIAL NORTH KOREA AGREEMENT

By Michael Schiffer



FROM RHETORIC TO REALITY: A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF LEGAL PROVISIONS IN ADDRESSING VIOLENCE AGAINST NORTH KOREAN WOMEN AMID UN INCONSISTENCIES TOWARDS GENDER EQUALITIES IN THE DPRK

By Dr. Gianluca Spezza and Mandana Saman Abdullah



NORTH KOREA'S RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA: A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE

By Dr. Kathryn Weathersby

EVENT CALENDAR

NCNK regularly hosts a variety of events that convene our members, policymakers, local and international government officials, the public, and other stakeholders in US-DPRK engagement. In 2025, we hosted or co-hosted 28 events.

Event co-hosts include the American Friends Service Committee, 38 North, Children of Korea, the US-Asia Institute, Council of Korean Americans, the US Institute for Peace, and the Harvard Medical School Program in Global Surgery and Social Change.

JAN 14 The Healthcare System of North Korea: How It Looks and Works* Webinar	JAN 17 Beyond the Armistice: Efforts for Peace on the Korean Peninsula* Book Discussion	JAN 28 “Changing Dynamics in NE Asia, Russia & North Korea” with former Mongolian President Elbegdorj Lunch Salon	FEB 12 NCNK West Coast Members Meeting Conference
FEB 18 How North Korea Managed the COVID-19 Pandemic* Webinar	MAR 11 Closed Roundtable with Glyn Ford and Guillermo Gallent Lloria Lunch Salon	MAR 19 “A New Era of US-North Korea Policy” with <i>NK News</i> * Congressional Briefing	MAR 21 Closed Roundtable with <i>NK News</i> analysts Lunch Salon
MAR 25 What Chinese Customs Data Reveal About North Korea's Health Priorities* Webinar	APR 22 New Era of Engagement with North Korea in Health* Webinar	APR 28 Closed Roundtable with Dr. Jin-hyang Kim* Mini Salon	MAY 6 Closed Roundtable with Andrei Lankov Salon
MAY 12 Closed NGO Meeting with the US Department of State Webinar	MAY 14 Closed Virtual Roundtable with Dr. Chung-in Moon Member Salon	MAY 29-30 Knowing North Korea Student & Young Professional Workshop Next-Gen Event	JUNE 9 Closed Roundtable with the Venerable Pomnyun Sunim Member Salon

*Co-hosted event

EVENT CALENDAR

JUNE 16

Future Prospects
for US Business in
North Korea

Closed Webinar
JULY 11

NCNK East Coast
Members Meeting

Conference
AUG 8

Building Bridges:
Pathways to Trust
between the US and
North Korea*

Lunch Salon
SEPT 12

KNK Alumni
Mentorship Happy
Hour

Next-Gen Event
OCT 10

The Mount Paektu
Research Centre: Lessons
Learned From 14 Years of
Scientific Engagement
with the DPRK*

Virtual Roundtable
OCT 14

“Ask Me Anything”
Fireside Chat with
Ambassador Joseph
DeTrani

Next-Gen Event
OCT 16

Virtual Roundtable on
DPRK IT Workers with
James Elliott

Member Salon
OCT 28

“Fallout: The Inside
Story of America's
Failure to Disarm
North Korea” with
Joel Wit*

Book Discussion
NOV 2-4

NCNK Humanitarian &
Development
Conference

Conference
NOV 17

NE Asia Peace Game
Simulation*

Public Event
DEC 4

Plenary Session
with the Korean
Sharing Movement

Conference
DEC 4

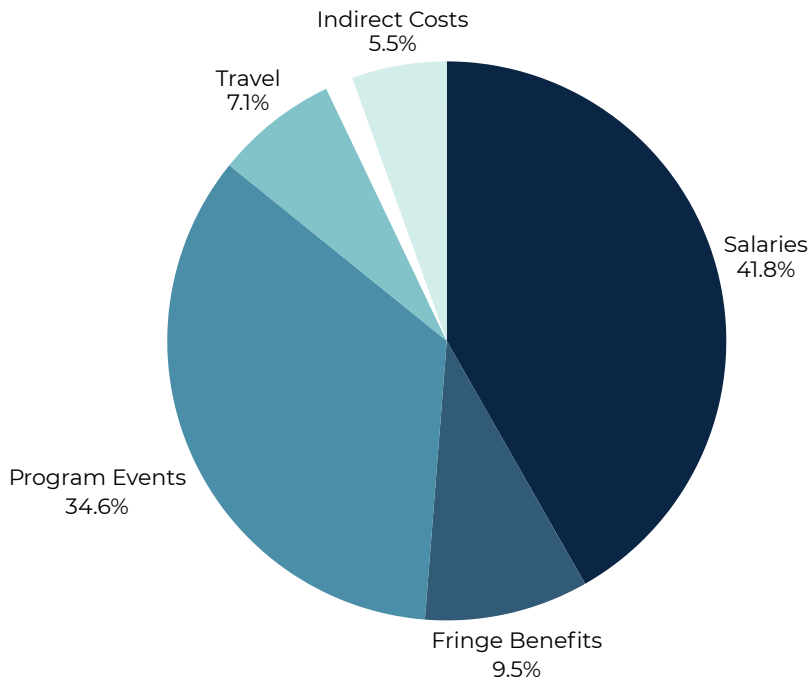
NCNK, Inc. Annual
Board Meeting &
Member Briefing

Member Briefing


FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

NCNK ESTIMATED SPENDING

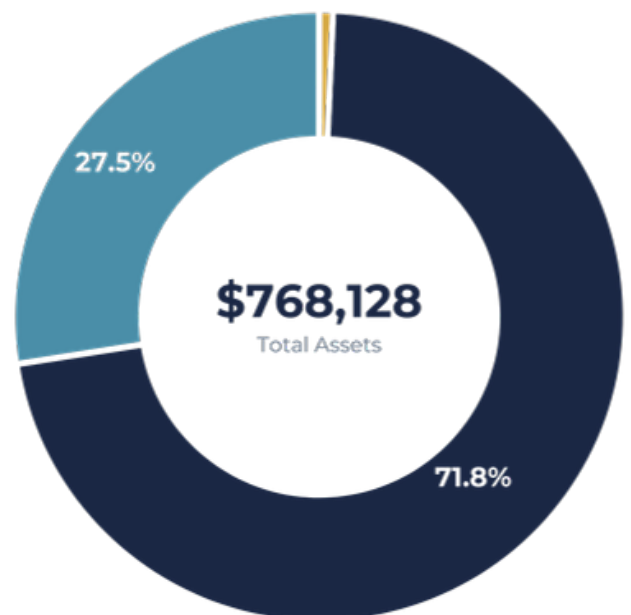
AS OF DECEMBER 2025



- **UNRESTRICTED DONATIONS: \$210,989**
- **RESTRICTED GRANTS: \$551,639**
- **PROPERTY & EQUIPMENT: \$5,500**

Restricted grants represent 71.8% of total assets, with unrestricted donations providing 27.5% in flexible funding.

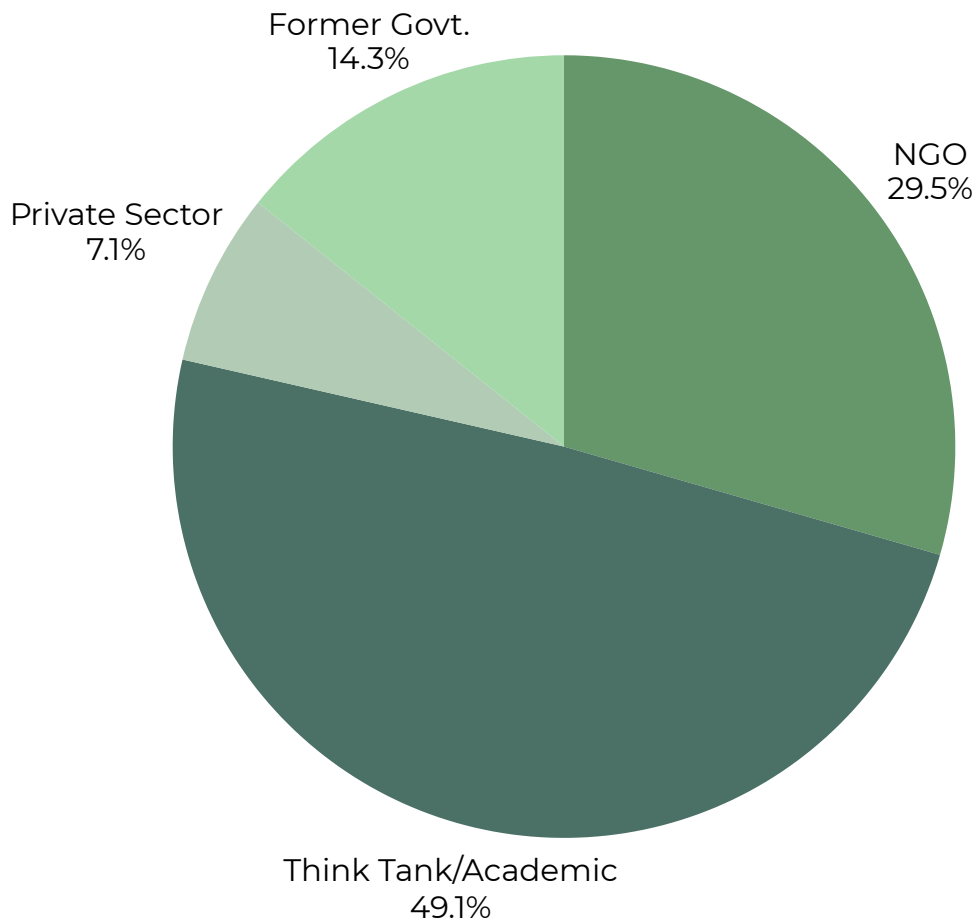
ESTIMATED ASSET COMPOSITION



OUR MEMBERS

NCNK's greatest strength lies in our members, who are at the forefront of our programming and represent the core of who we are. Our membership consists of more than 100 individuals whose unique perspectives, backgrounds, and issue areas bring rich diversity to the field of US-North Korea relations.

Membership in the National Committee on North Korea is open to those who have a record of consistent principled engagement with North Korea or on issues related to North Korea; who accept the principles of the mission statement; and who are willing to share information and be collaborative. Members must have no direct employment with either the U.S. government, a foreign government, or an international organization composed of member states, and must be citizens of the United States. Prospective NCNK Members must first be nominated by a current Member; NCNK's Membership Committee meets annually to review and approve nominations.



OUR MEMBERS



MATTHEW
ABBOTT



DR. DAVID
ALBRIGHT



FRANK AUM



DAVID AUSTIN



BRADLEY
BABSON



JAMES
BANFILL



THOMAS
BYRNE



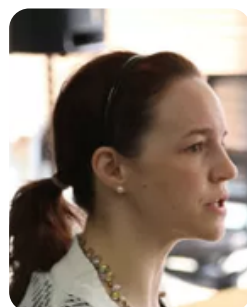
ROBERT
CARLIN



DR. FREDERICK
CARRIERE



DR. VICTOR CHA



DR. BRIDGET
COGGINS



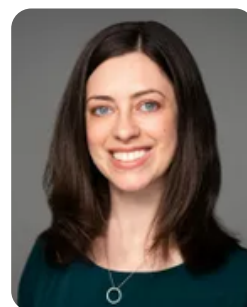
JONATHAN
CORRADO



RALPH COSSA



DR. PATRICK
CRONIN



RORRY DANIELS



KELSEY
DAVENPORT



JENNIFER
DEIBERT



DR. JOHN
DELURY



AMB. JOSEPH
DETRANI



SUZANNE
DIMAGGIO



RICHARD
DOWNES



DR. DARCIE
DRAUDT-VEJARES



MATT
ELLINGSON



DEBORAH FIKES



GORDON FLAKE



DR. PATRICIA
GOEDDE



AMB. DONALD
GREGG



DR. MEL
GURTOV



DR. STEPHAN
HAGGARD



AMB. TONY
P. HALL



DR. JUSTIN
HASTINGS



DAVID HAWK



HALL HEALY



DR. SIEGFRIED
HECKER



DR. DAVID HONG



DR. VICTOR
W.C. HSU



AMB. THOMAS
HUBBARD



DR. BALBINA
HWANG



ESTHER IM



YERI IM



FRANK
JANNUZI



DR. DAVID C.
KANG



DR. YE JIN
KANG



CAROLINE
KEARNEY



WALTER KEATS



DR. ABRAHAM
KIM



CHARLES KIM



DR. DUYEON
KIM



SYLVIA KIM



DARYL KIMBALL



AMB. ROBERT
KING



STEPHANIE
KLEINE-
AHLBRANDT



DONNA KNOX



AE KYUNG LEE



JEAN H. LEE



PAUL KYUMIN
LEE



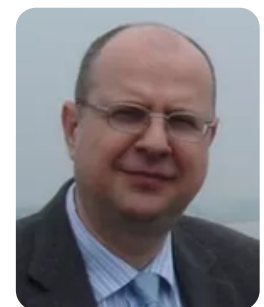
DR. LINDA
LEWIS



CHOON LIM



HEIDI LINTON



DR. ALEXANDRE
MANSOUROV



WILLIAM R.
MCKINNEY



DR. JOHN
MERRILL



JAMES MIN



DR. KATHERINE
H.S. MOON



COLLEEN
MOORE



B.G. MUHN



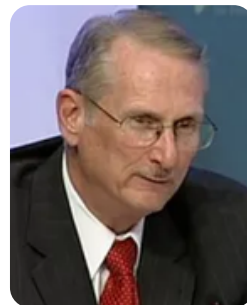
STACY NAM



DR. C. JERRY
NELSON



DR. NORMAN
NEUREITER



WILLIAM
NEWCOMB



DR. STEPHEN
NOERPER



DR. MARCUS
NOLAND



ANKIT PANDA



DR. KEE B. PARK



DR. KYUNG-AE
PARK



DAVID
PHILIPS



DR. C. KENNETH
QUINONES



CHRISTOPHER
RICE



ERIC
RICHARDSON



JEROME
SAUVAGE



JAMES
SCHOFF



DR. GI-WOOK
SHIN



DR. SUSAN
SHIRK



DR. LEON V.
SIGAL



NATALIA
SLAVNEY



SCOTT A.
SNYDER



DR. WADE J.
SPERRY



DR. ROBERT
SPRINGS



LINDA
STAHELI



AMB. KATHLEEN
STEPHENS



RICHARD
STONE



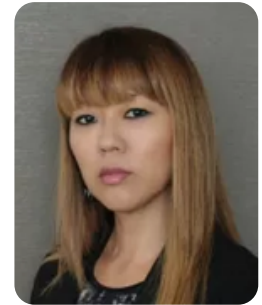
SUSAN
THORNTON



DR. STUART
THORSON



MARK TOKOLA



JENNY TOWN



DR. GEORGE
VITALE



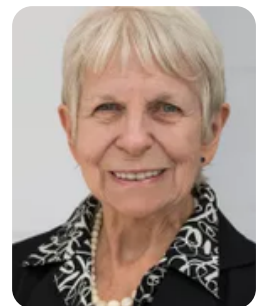
DR. JAMES
WALSH



MARTYN
WILLIAMS



JOEL S. WIT



DR. LINDA J.
YARR



DR. ANDREW
YEO



JOY YOON



DR. STEPHEN
YOON



NANCY YUAN



PHILIP YUN



NAZANIN ZADEH-
CUMMINGS



DR. DONALD S.
ZAGORIA
IN MEMORIAM





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