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**THE KOREA-U.S. FTA PROSPECTS AND IMPLICATIONS FOR THE BILATERAL STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP**

Joseph A.B. Winter, President of Winter International, writes, "In light of the KORUS FTA negotiations would represent a serious setback to the overall U.S. relationship; if agreement cannot be reached in an area which is so clearly win-win for both sides, then how are the two countries to deal with the difficult political/security issues where a mutually satisfactory resolution of many issues is less clearcut?"

**OPRK PURSUING FACTORY MODERNIZATION THROUGH FOREIGN JOINT VENTURES, COOPERATIVES**

This report, published by the Institute for Far Eastern Studies at Hanyang University, notes, "North Korean authorities are emphasizing the modernization of factories and enterprises throughout the country since 2000. They are faced, however, with shortages of the necessary capital, materials, and equipment, not one of which is easily resolved. Because of this, North Korea has pulled out all the stops with a policy of pursuing the formation of foreign joint-ventures and cooperatives."

**NAPSNET TOP STORY: S. KOREA URGES NORTH TO HALT U.S. PROPOSAL**

Associated PressA reported that ROK renewed a call for the DPRK to seriously consider U.S. proposals before returning to Six Party Talks. The United States has offered security guarantees, a peace treaty and normalization of relations as well as removal from Washington's list of states sponsoring terrorism if it dismantles its atomic weapons program. "I expect North Korea to come to the table with realistic and positive proposals after seriously reviewing the U.S. offers," Foreign Minister

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