

Policy Forum 98-02: DPRK Energy Sector: Current Status and Scenarios for 2000 and 2005

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**DPRK Energy Sector:
Current Status and Scenarios for 2000 and 2005**

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The Role of KEDO and Nuclear Power In the DPRK Energy Sector: Current Status and Scenarios for 2000 and 2005

Introduction and Background

The actions, postures, and circumstances of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (the DPRK or North Korea) have been the focus of significant world attention over the past four years. The much-publicized problems regarding North Korea include concerns about nuclear proliferation, economic decline, ever-present security issues, energy shortages, floods, and most recently, food shortages. All of these problems have their roots in both recent and more distant Korean and world history -- roots that are both deep and tangled. Various bilateral and multilateral approaches have been fashioned or proposed over the last few years to attempt to address the problems of the DPRK. The Korean Peninsula Development Organization (KEDO), for example, was created to address the politically linked problems of nuclear proliferation, electricity-sector development, and more broadly, engagement of the DPRK in cooperative projects of concern to the nations of Northeast Asia.

The goal of this paper is to provide a brief overview of the recent and current status of the DPRK energy sector, as well as some of the factors that will influence the development (or continued decline) of the sector over the next eight years and beyond. The energy sector in the DPRK has been a particular focus of the authors' research and analytical work over the past several years.

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