Grappling with Complexity and interconnected global problems

A different perspective
Will Northeast Asia Mega-cities be Secure and Sustainable in 2050?

- Hosted by:
The Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability
  - and
- Hanshin University Center for Peace and Public Integrity

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Will Northeast Asia Mega-cities be Secure and Sustainable in 2050?

Thriving, Surviving, Collapsing or...?

Options and Opportunities
Nautilus Institute Mission

We hold that it is possible to build peace, create security, and restore sustainability for all people in our time.

To this end, we convene a community of scholars and practitioners who conduct research on strategies to solve interconnected global problems. With networks of partners, we develop and apply these strategies to the linked threats of nuclear war, energy insecurity, and climate change in the Asia Pacific region. We encourage civil society to strengthen regional governance of these common problems and shared solutions.
Hanshin University Center for Peace and Public Integrity:

We believe that active commitment to peace and public integrity will build cooperation and partnerships for reconciliation and sustainability in Asia and Pacific region.

Mission: We develop cooperation and partnerships between academics and practitioners across sectors and borders by implementing the vision through research, education, deep discourse, and publication.
Mega-cities?

50% of the world’s population lives in cities;
Mega-city is a city over 10 million people;
10% of the world’s population live in mega-cities;
2050......70% in mega-cities
What mega-cities are represented in this room?
Role of community?
Is a mega-city a collection or series of mini-cities?
Mega-cities vs. countries
Challenges of mega-cities—embody threats to global security: energy, urban infrastructure, sustainability, resource limitations, human needs on a huge scale
Thinking about the future is a puzzle, planning for it is a bit like gambling; predicting it is impossible; we easily make big mistakes.
hink there is a world market for maybe five computers."--
as Watson, chairman of IBM, 1943
But we are not helpless.....
Nautilus develops and uses tools for Strategic Global Problem Solving

Three types of tools:

- **Information** (NAPSNet, APSNet, ...),
- **Deep research** (LEAP, FOIA, complexity mapping),
- **Uncertainty** (scenarios)

In the process of helping to resolve complex global problems, we evaluate and refine and improve our GPS tools so that we can share them with others including civil society, scholars, policy makers, etc;
Uncertainty Scenarios

A tool preferred by the Nautilus Institute for being better prepared for an uncertain future...

A tool that can help us understand what we should be doing today to increase the likelihood of a more secure tomorrow.
## Overview of Scenario Process

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Identify key driving forces/factors</th>
<th>Identify Key uncertainties in the future</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Choose a matrix</td>
<td>Create Four unique scenarios</td>
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<tr>
<td>Identify</td>
<td>Develop action plans for Civil society based on the defining moment you chose to address from your scenario</td>
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<tr>
<td>Defining moments/opportunities: decisions, policies, events.....</td>
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**What are uncertainty scenarios?**
Our matrix:

Northeast Asia

2050

NEA

known for its strong green economy / struggling green my

Secure/stable Northeast Asia
Some of our drivers: technology, climate change, disease, shifts in public policy, resource wars, regime changes, pandemics, olympics held in DRPRK in 2028, drought, sea level, increasing ease of communication across languages, global economic crises,
Our matrix: Northeast Asia 2050

Secure/stable Northeast Asia

NEA known for its strong green economy
Discuss your world

What does your world in 2050 look like?
How are governments operating?
What is the state of our natural environment?
How has civil society evolved?
What has happened to NEA mega-cities?
Who is suffering more than today, who less?
Human psychology: optimistic? discouraged?
Who is framing the public conversation?

Discuss your world as defined by the matrix—what is it like?

15 minutes
Our matrix: Northeast Asia 2050

Secure/stable Northeast Asia

DPRK reforms, NWFZ, Strong NEA coop, giga city China, ROK, Japan

NEA known for its strong green economy

Jaws: Threats lurking and Attacking from seemingly Healthy world—dependence Nice clean unclear energy Turned upsidedown by earthquake And mega damage to reactors...

Struggling green my

Dark Age of Mega Cities in NEA; drought; Resource conflicts, decrease econ growth results in psychological meltdown and region struggling

Chinese refugees o to Russia and DPRK; Regime transition fueled by green growth;
Mega-cities 2050

Analyze your scenario for insight into:

Defining Moments—events and decisions that propelled us in a certain direction;
Implications and opportunities for civil society to increase the likelihood of a secure and sustainable 2050 in megacities in Northeast Asia?
Defining moments and leverage points: New leadership DPRK; education local Communities on green growth, US shifts deterrence and encourages NWFZ in Region; civil society watch-dog groups help implement environmental policies, Pool regional natural resources in region by human need, not country; exploit Non-political opportunities to shift relationships in the region;