

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**

- **Funded by:**

- **Korea Foundation**
- **Hanshin University**

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

*Thriving, Surviving, Collapsing  
or...?*

*Options and Opportunities*

*Nautilus Then and Now*

## *Nautilus Institute Mission*

***ision:***

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

***ission:***

*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

An aerial photograph of a vast, densely packed urban area. The buildings are tightly clustered, creating a complex pattern of colors and textures. The horizon is visible in the distance, appearing hazy and blue. The overall scene conveys a sense of scale and complexity.

**Thinking about the future is a puzzle,  
planning for it is a bit like gambling;  
Predicting it is impossible,  
we easily make big mistakes**

**think 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;

*the uncertainty scenarios?*

## ***Uncertainty Scenarios***

*the preferred tool of the Nautilus Institute*

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Strategic Tool for being better prepared for an  
uncertain future...

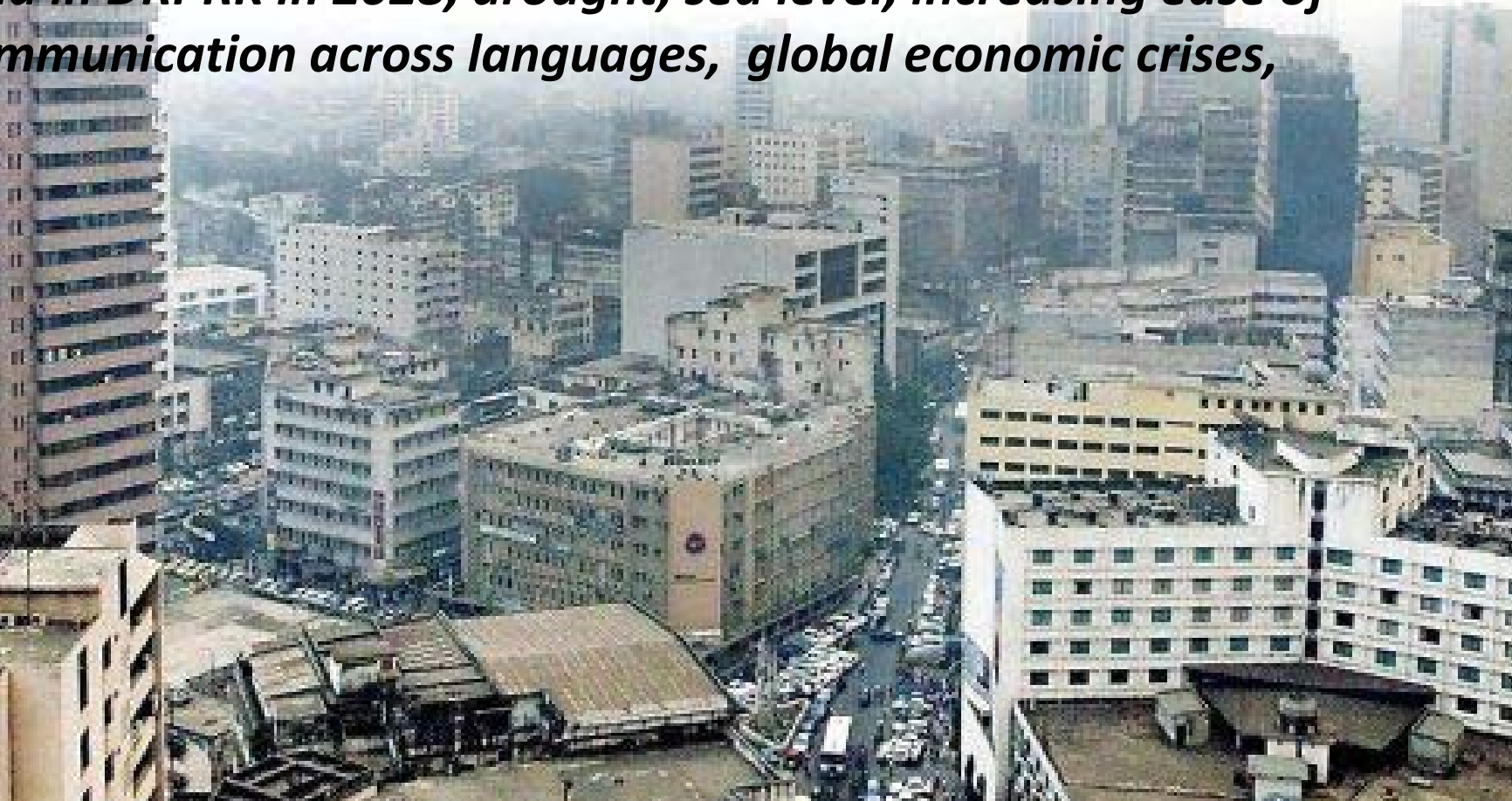
A tool that can help us understand what we  
should be doing today to increase the likelihood  
of a more secure tomorrow.

# What are uncertainty scenarios? Overview of Scenario Process

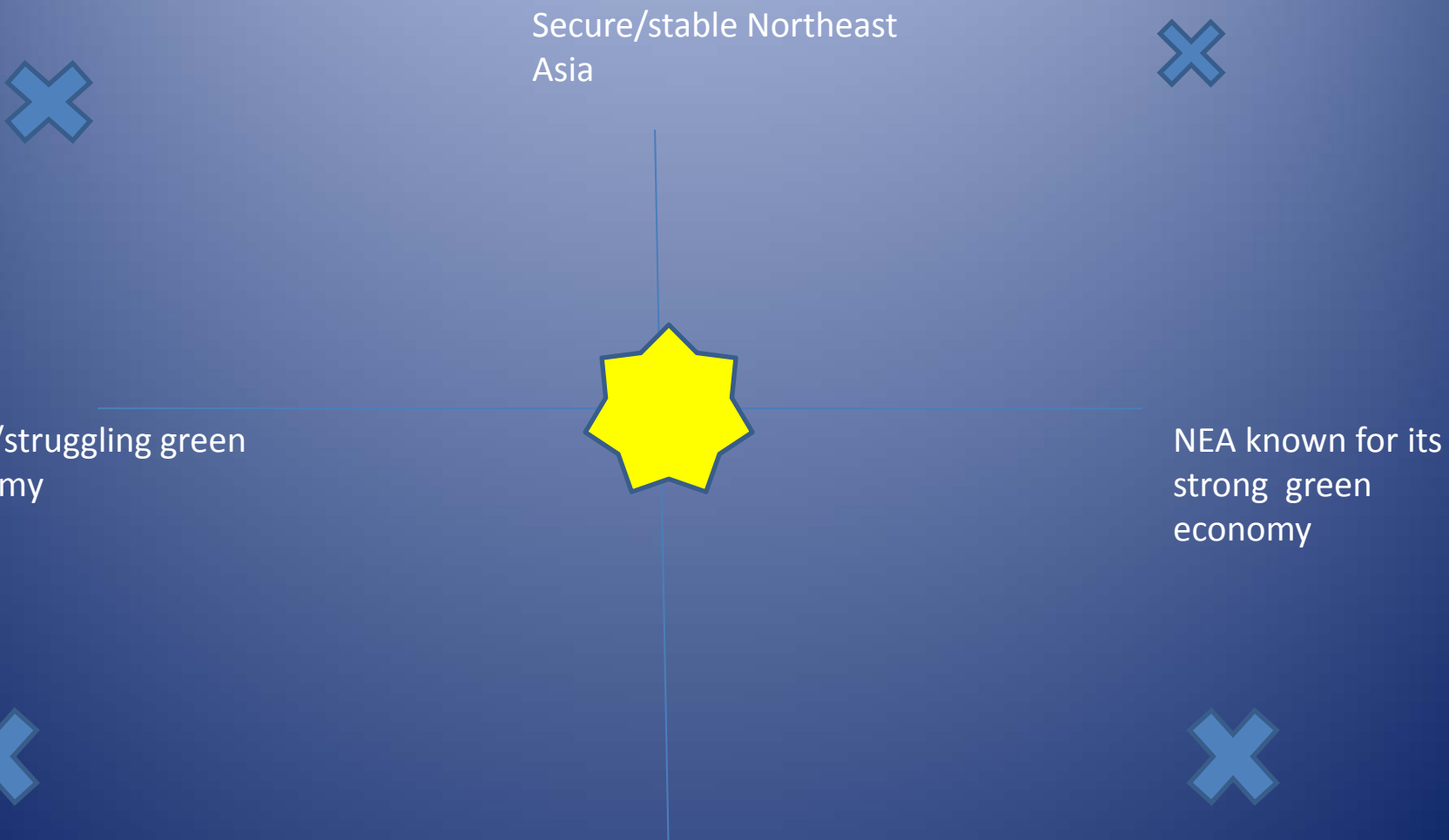
Identify key driving forces/factors	
	<b>Identify</b> Key uncertainties in the future
Choose a matrix	
	<b>Create</b> Four unique scenarios
Identify defining moments/opportunities: decisions, policies, events.....	
	<b>Develop action plans for</b> Civil society based on the defining moment you chose to address from your scenario



*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



## *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



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# *Mega-cities 2050*

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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;



