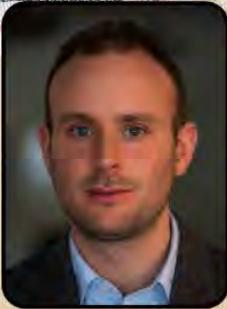


Michael Jenkins
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NORTH KOREA'S ECONOMIC DILEMMA: MORE OF THE SAME OR OPPORTUNITIES FOR CHANGE?

Tuesday, January 18, 2021: 2 PM EST



Dr. Benjamin Katzeff Silberstein
Associate Scholar, Foreign Policy Research Institute; Non-Resident Fellow, Henry L. Stimson Center



Dr. Norman A. Bailey
Professor of Economics and National Security; Former Senior Director of International Economic Affairs, White House National Security Council



Dr. Michael Jenkins
President, The Washington Times Foundation, President UPF International



Mr. Roger Weatherall
Coordinator, International Association for Peace & Economic Development U.S.A.

Observers of the North Korean economy and situation in general are looking for signs that might indicate even slight changes of direction from tight party controls. For example, in the recently-released report of the 8th Party Congress, 40% was devoted to the rural sector. Is this a positive sign that the Party is ready to redress long-standing economic imbalances in favor of Pyongyang, the military and heavy industry? Could reforms to the agricultural system be on the horizon and is there any evidence that a new village movement to raise rural incomes and well-being, modeled after the saemaul movement of the 1970s in South Korea's could be attempted? Looking toward 2022, what other areas of the economy are in trouble?

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