Megatons to Megawatts
A New Energy Policy for North Korea

John K. Yi
M.A. Candidate
Center for Eurasian, Russian and East European Studies
Georgetown University
MEGATONS TO MEGAWATTS PROGRAM

BOMB-GRADE URANIUM FROM RUSSIAN WARHEADS

LOW ENRICHED URANIUM FOR AMERICAN NUCLEAR POWER PLANTS

United States Enrichment Corporation
Megatons to Megawatts
http://www.usec.com/megatonstomegawatts.htm
MEGATONS TO MEGAWATTS PROGRAM FOR NORTH KOREA

NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAM

AN ALTERNATE APPROACH to the relationship between energy assistance and nuclear weapons program.

NUCLEAR ENERGY PROGRAM
MEGATONS TO MEGAWATTS PROGRAM FOR NORTH KOREA

1. Separate North Korea’s nuclear weapons ambitions from North Korea’s energy needs.

Pursue a **multilateral effort** to assist North Korea with its energy needs through the conversion of its nuclear weapons programs.

2. Assure North Korea of energy assistance and a potential future of energy independence.
MEGATONS TO MEGAWATTS PROGRAM FOR NORTH KOREA

AN ASIDE: I do not propose that this alone will compel North Korea to rid its nuclear weapons program.

Energy Deficiency in the DPRK is a real problem for the state and its development and attributes to the regime’s sense of insecurity.

However, is this insecurity an effective bargaining tool in persuading Pyongyang to dismantle its nuclear weapons program?
MEGATONS TO MEGAWATTS PROGRAM FOR NORTH KOREA

INSTEAD, assist in creating an energy-independent North Korea and thus provide a more hopeful future in Six Party Talk negotiations and eventual complete dismantlement.

- Security Assurance for North Korea (DRPK’s top priority).
- Benefits to Economy: Future Integration and Human Aspect.
- The Slow “Opening,” of North Korea’s Nuclear Program.
DETAILS OF THE PROGRAM

CONVERSION OF STOCKPILE

CONVERSION OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES
CONVERSION OF STOCKPILE

Highly Enriched Uranium (HEU) $\rightarrow$ Low Enriched Uranium (LEU)

Still minimal in energy yield.

*Wikimedia Commons: “Enriched Uranium” Entry*
CONVERSION OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES

YONGBYON, SINCHON, & TAECHON
Nuclear Power Plants

PAKCHON, PYONGSAN, PYONGYANG, YOUNGDOKTONG, SUNCHON...
Uranium mining facility, milling facility, research facility...etc

CONVERSION OF NUCLEAR FACILITIES

Refitting Nuclear Facilities

Introduction of MOX Nuclear Fuel Process
IN CONCLUSION...

Separate Nuclear Weapons Regime Question and Nuclear Civilian Energy Regime Question.

Ensure the DPRK with energy independence by assisting with a “Megatons to Megawatts” transition.

Encourage a DPRK that feels more secure and thus provide a pathway to better concessions in the Six Party Talks.