

**“Role of scientists in reaching a peaceful solution to the
North Korean nuclear crisis”
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My comments follow my recent visit to the DPRK Nuclear Scientific Research Center at Yongbyon. I will cover the role of scientists since I am not yet able to discuss the results of my visit. I see three important roles.

First, scientists (and engineers, of course) can facilitate a diplomatic solution to the nuclear crisis. They can help to bring clarity to a situation that is highly ambiguous today, and has been so for the past 15 years. Visits and discussions by scientists with scientists should lead to mutual respect and will help to bring clarity to the situation. Some of the ambiguity about the DPRK nuclear program may be deliberate. However, such ambiguities can lead to miscalculations and in the nuclear arena, such miscalculations could have disastrous consequences.

Second, scientists will be required to implement diplomatic solutions. Whether the solution is a nuclear freeze or elimination of nuclear capabilities, it must be implemented with the help of scientists. Diplomats must be told what is possible technically – what makes sense technically and what is safe and secure. This is required so that the solution does not pose new and perhaps greater risks than the current problem. So, scientists can advise and implement.

Third, whatever agreement is reached – perhaps a freeze followed by complete denuclearization, it is important that such an agreement is monitored and can be verified. Again, scientists must play a key role. They must advise the diplomats on what is possible. They must develop the methodology and be intimately involved in the actual monitoring. Such monitoring may be done in a bilateral, multilateral, or international (IAEA) mode.