

# Current Issues & Policies



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## North Korea's selection through Eighth Congress of the Korean Workers' Party

**Dr. CHOI Eun-ju**

(ej0717@sejong.org)

*Research Fellow, the Sejong Institute*

### English Abstract

North Korea hosted the eighth Congress of the Workers' Party of Korea from January 5th to 12th. Through the party congress, the North Korean leadership consolidated the party-state system by formalizing the political path of the Kim Jong-un era, and critically analyzed the five-year national economic development strategy, and finally, proposed a new five-year economic development plan based on domestic and external circumstances. While maintaining the strategic line proposed in 2018, the Congress presented practical tasks mainly in areas that can directly affect the people's lives. The plan was established by taking the current external environment surrounding North Korea into consideration. Therefore, rather than actively improving relations to create an environment favorable for the North's economic development as it did in the past, the North Korean regime is expected to focus more on the domestic economic construction maintaining the current situation. The South Korean government should actively seek ways to prepare momentum to resume dialogues with the North while considering these choices of North Korea.♣

*※ Translator's note: This is a summarized unofficial translation of the original paper which was written in Korean. All references should be made to the original paper.*

*※ This article is written based on the author's personal opinions and does not reflect the views of the Sejong Institute.*