

Seminar on

Life in North Korea from Two Perspectives: for Ordinary North Koreans and for Expatriates Working There

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Date: 7 May 2014 (Wednesday)

Time: 4:00pm

Venue: Room 201, 2/F, May Hall, HKU

Abstract

The focus of the presentation is on life in North Korea for ordinary North Koreans and for expatriates working there, including a number of facts and figures about the country.

The presenter also provides insights about the housing situation, how food is provided through the public distribution system and nowadays also the markets. Included is also information about the health and education systems.

What life is like for the few foreigners that reside in North Korea, the majority either working at embassies or involved in aid projects, is another part of the talk.

Based on five years of work experience in Pyongyang heading the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, the presenter concludes that isolation and sanctions hinder development potential and that engagement is more likely to be a constructive way forward.

About the speaker

Katharina Zellweger is currently a Visiting Fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation at Stanford University. Prior to that she was the Pantech Fellow in Korean Studies at the Walter H. Shorenstein Asia-Pacific Research Center, in residence at Stanford University from November 2011 to August 2013. Zellweger received the Bishop Tji Hak-soon Justice and Peace Award in 2005 from a South Korean foundation established to promote social justice, and in 2006 the Dame of St. Gregory the Great from the Vatican for her work in North Korea. (More could be viewed online at www.hkihss.hku.hk/kz.pdf)

All are welcome, no registration required. Seats are limited; first-come, first-served.