

## **EAI Weekly Talking Point**

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### **The Kim-Trump Meeting in Vietnam**

On the second summit between Kim Jong-un and Donald Trump, EAI experts argue that it is natural for Kim to reach no deal with Trump. To the United States, eliminating all facilities is a goal of denuclearisation. Making a meaningful deal is the top option, though a no deal is not out of question. Evidently, the nuclear deal cannot be achieved in a day. It is still at the beginning of the process, not mention that is clearly a lack of trust between the two sides.

The Trump administration is seemingly less organised and unpredictable. For the Trump and Kim summit, as the objective is to at least make some headway in the negotiation, both sides may eventually feel frustrated with a no-deal result. However, as EAI scholars pointed out, there is a deal suspension mechanism and time to negotiate further. They have apparently reached some degree of trust so far providing the basis for making progress, which makes the Korean Peninsula more stable compared to the period before Trump. For example, the United States has suspended two largest military exercises. A third summit may take place this year or next year as Trump has left the door open, and both sides have agreed to move on to the next round of negotiation.

For this second summit in Vietnam, EAI scholars believe that China has given North Korea the backing; however Trump may not be satisfied with what the North has done with denuclearisation as he has withheld the signing of the document at the last moment. Many Americans believe it is better for the United States to have no deal than a bad deal as a bad deal would entail criticisms in the United States against Trump. On the other hand, neither China nor North Korea has been prepared to reach a deal. Japan and South Korea were also partially relieved on the no deal as they are worried about the United States withdrawing all its troops.

Japan is worried that if Trump and Kim reached a deal, the deal would cancel only the intercontinental ballistic missile programme while leaving the mid-range missiles, which are only good of American national interests. If Trump and Kim did not reach a deal, there might still be space for Japan to pressure both sides to cancel middle-range missiles. Many South Koreans have no trust in North Korea as the North had breached deals made with South Korean many times before.