

DPRK LOOKS AT ECONOMY FOLLOWING NUKE TEST

The North Korean cabinet opened a session on October 9, almost immediately following its announcement of a successful nuclear test. At the general assembly meeting, domestic economics and next year's economic recovery was discussed. As this general assembly meeting of the DPRK cabinet opened immediately after the announcement of a nuclear test, discussion on the possible impact on the North Korean economy was on the table.

China's Shinwha News Agency quoted the October 10 edition of the North Korean 'Democratic Chosun' bulletin as printing, "electricity, coal, and metals production, as well as this year's harvest, etc. was discussed" at the cabinet meeting that day. North Korea suffered damage to 20,000 hectares of farmland during typhoon rains last July, losing over 10,000 tons of crops and thousands of homes and other buildings.

The 'Democratic Chosun' reported that, while specific economic figures for North Korea were not revealed, the cabinet's mission this year is to resolutely meet economic goals, specifically, to decidedly increase production in electricity, coal, and metals industries and prepare to take on next year's economy with a new vigor.

According to this paper, the cabinet assigned responsibility for each economic area, and set aside necessary funds and materials for production in the electricity, coal, and metals industries, as well as calling for economic efficiency, realignment of technology and equipment, and institution of a gradual plan to reduce and conserve energy use. In addition, the cabinet allotted power, fuel, packing materials and farming equipment necessary for harvesting, and prepared sufficient funding while calling for expanding harvests in order to be able to store more food reserves.