

▶ Chapter 1

Kim Jong-un's Governance Style and Internal Risks

——Instability Lurking within Stability

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[Key Points]

- Since December 2011, Kim Jong-un has succeeded to positions of supreme authority over the organs of the military, the party, and the state. Kim Jong-un's priority has been to consolidate the legitimacy of succession from his predecessor and establish his own personal appeal. As well as emphasizing political continuity with Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il, he is pursuing efforts to strengthen his regime through socioeconomic change and the fruits thereof.
- He is devoting considerable energy to placing his leadership on a sound footing and augmenting his power base via organizational restructuring and strengthening of the party-centered regime. He is bolstering the Cabinet's ability to implement policy by expanding its mechanisms and handpicking bureaucrats with practical and specialist skills. Kim Jong-un is also making progress in consolidating his hold over the military and securing his power base, by such means as reinforcing the party's control over the military and building direct governance systems.
- How Kim Jong-un solves the issue of the conflict of interests between nuclear and missile development and building cooperative external economic relationships – not to mention dealing with North Korea's foreign relations in their current confrontational state – will be a key variable that determines whether or not the Kim Jong-un regime is able to place itself on a firm and stable footing.



Key Data

Kim Jong-un's Public Appearances in Each Field

Rank	2012 (151 times in total)			2013 (209 times in total)			2014 (172 times in total)			2015 (153 times in total)		
	Field	Proportion	Number of Times	Field	Proportion	Number of Times	Field	Proportion	Number of Times	Field	Proportion	Number of Times
1	Military	32.5%	49 times	Economics	34.0%	71 times	Economics	36.0%	62 times	Economics	45.8%	70 times
2	Economics	24.5%	37 times	Military	29.7%	62 times	Military	32.6%	56 times	Military	30.1%	46 times
3	Society & Culture	21.9%	33 times	Society & Culture	22.0%	46 times	Society & Culture	16.9%	29 times	Society & Culture	12.4%	19 times
4	Politics	19.2%	29 times	Politics	12.4%	26 times	Politics	14.0%	24 times	Politics	6.5%	10 times
5	External Relations	2.0%	3 times	External Relations	1.4%	3 times	Other	0.6%	1 time	External Relations	2.0%	3 times
6	Other	-	-	Other	0.5%	1 time	External Relations	-	-	Other	3.3%	5 times

Source: *Choson Sinbo*, Korean Central News Agency, Yonhap News Agency