With the death of Kim Jong-il last December, questions regarding succession and the North Korean power structure were at the forefront. But his son, Kim Jong-un, seems to have succeeded smoothly as he tries to emulate his revered grandfather Kim Il-sung. North Korea’s state media quickly referred to Kim Jong-un as the "Great Successor," and called on the people to "faithfully revere" the heir apparent who would guide them in changing "sadness to strength." Noted author and Northeast Asia specialist Glyn Ford will discuss the implications of North Korea’s second succession.

Glyn Ford, former East-West Center POSCO fellow, served as a Member of the European Parliament for over 25 years until 2009. He first visited Pyongyang in 1997 when North Korean diplomats requested his assistance in responding to the devastating famine in the country. His work with the European Commission led to one of the EU’s largest humanitarian responses ever. This aid also started political dialogue with Pyongyang, which was encouraged by the South Korean government of Kim Dae Jung when he launched his ‘Sunshine policy’ of openness to the North. That dialogue was later interrupted by the failures of the Agreed Framework and North Korea’s nuclear tests.

During his time as an MEP, Ford was responsible for implementing the Scientific Partnership Agreement with the Republic of Korea. In a personal capacity, Ford is a European Board Member of the North East Asia Economic Forum (NEAEF). He is also a writer for *The Japan Times* and has authored several books including “North Korea on the Brink: Struggle for Survival” (Pluto 2008).