The Asia Society has just surveyed Non-governmental Organizations in North Korea, financed by the Luce Foundation with help from the Korea Society. There are only 30 or so NGOs operating there, equally divided between humanitarian and public policy organizations, most involved for 5-6 years. U.S. NGOs have begun to be accepted, though officials are suspicious and hesitant about them. In 1996, the Carter Center and Rockefeller Brothers Fund provided agricultural assistance; later U.S. AID negotiated a technical assistance program for potato-growing. At first, the North Koreans treated our group like enemies, subjecting us to diatribes. But they signed the agreement as we wanted it. Generally, if the North Koreans see a clear benefit, they will be positive. If a proposal is not specific, they will reject it. NGO relations with North Korean officials depend on U.S. government relations with them. If you’re considering NGO services to North Korea, there are lots of useful tasks, but success requires patience – think 5-10 years. North Korea wants to be treated like a large state. They call U.S. policy hostile to them; we assured them we are not hostile, but President Bush’s statement was not reassuring. Now, Secretary Powell’s statement allows for “somewhat piecemeal” negotiations.