Kang - Assignment 2

Summary of Project Topic:

The Democratic People's Republic of Korea is the least understood country in the world. My fascination with the country is rooted in its mystery as well as the fact that one set of my grandparents left the North for the South during the Korean War. Using the geographic information system, I want to design a project that explores something about North Korea that may be useful and interesting for the greater society. Given the limited data available on North Korea, I am still trying to figure out what would be practical and feasible; my two general ideas are as follows:

1. Mapping refugee trails from North Korea (either using existing information from reports to track typical routes out of North Korea, or using maps to explore alternative routes and best methods of escape)
   a. What is the best route of escape from North Korea?
   b. The value of this idea is that it could potentially be used by NGOs to aid in escape. The danger is that it could unwittingly shut the routes down by leading the North Korean authorities to them.

2. Mapping drug trafficking/smuggling routes into and out of North Korea (pointing out locations where arrests have been made)
   a. What is the flow of the black market in North Korea and how does it relate to the various regional areas? (i.e. does trafficking occur in rural or urban areas?)
   b. The flow of illegal drugs from North Korea to China is increasing. Usually, police tracking down drug smugglers is part of domestic law enforcement, but the North Korean government is allegedly involved in producing illegal drugs (opium and methamphetamine) as well as counterfeit currency and smuggling it through China.

References:

   a. Using Jessica's methodology, I could analyze the terrain, location of guards, location of lighthouses, locations susceptible to natural disasters (i.e. flooding) to determine the best routes of escape from North Korea. The information can potentially be used by NGOs that help North Koreans cross the border.

   a. This dissertation illustrates how GIS can be used to support proactive law enforcement and pioneers a new spatio-temporal forecasting method for use by an early warning system for drug markets.

Existing data sources:

(Free)


http://www.diva-gis.org/gData

http://www.openstreetmap.org/?lat=39.02385&lon=125.7511&zoom=12&layers=M


(For purchase)

http://www.cartographic.com/xq/asp/north/korea/topographic/maps/rid.148/tid.8/sid.0/cid.0/vid.0/oid.0/qx/hub/index.asp