

Policy of Mutual Benefits and Common Prosperity

The Lee Myung-bak Administration's North Korea Policy



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"Unification of the two Koreas is a long-cherished desire of the 70 million Korean people. Inter-Korean relations must become more productive than they are now. Our attitude will be pragmatic, not ideological. Our primary task is to help all Koreans live happily and to lay the foundations for unification."

-President Lee Myung-bak's inaugural speech on February 25, 2008-

Vision and Guiding Principles

Present Inter-Korean Relations

- The two Koreas should pursue a more substantial relationship for peace and unification.
- North Korea has the dual aspect of being a potential military foe and a cooperative partner.

Current situation

Dialogue, exchanges and cooperation have been steadily expanded between South and North Korea

In 2007, roughly 160,000 South Koreans visited North Korea and US\$1.8 billion worth of goods were exchanged between the two sides.

Nonetheless, the two Koreas have failed to make qualitative progress commensurate with the quantitative increase in inter-Korean exchanges.

Despite support from the South, North Korea still has economic difficulties to overcome.

** The South has provided the North with about 400,000 tons of food every year since 2000 and roughly 300,000 tons of fertilizer since 1999.

Many North Koreans are still suffering from chronic food shortage. The economic gap between the two Koreas has continued to widen. Inter-Korean cooperation based on reciprocity has been stagnant.

Economic Gap between South and North Korea

☐ The volume of ROK's trade was 248 times that of the North in 2007.

South and North	Norea's Internation	nal Trade		(Unit: million dollars)
	2004	2005	2006	2007
South Korea	478,307	545,657	634,847	728,335
North Korea	2,857	3,001	2,996	2,941

1. Present Inter-Korean Relations

South Korean support and cooperation have failed to induce significant change in the North.

North Korea maintains its state doctrine of "Military-First Politics." While the North has been willing to pursue economic cooperation with the South, it has been passive in building trust and easing military tensions. Pyongyang has not made significant policy changes and has refused to open the country.

In the meantime, Seoul has not put a top priority on the denuclearization of North Korea in the past ten years.

Subsequently, North Korea's nuclear ambition has remained a threat to peace on the Korean peninsula and a stumbling block in inter-Korean relations.

For this reason, South Korean citizens have become increasingly critical of the former administrations' policy toward North Korea during the decade.

The previous administrations' North Korea policy has been criticized for spending taxpayers' money to aid the North without a national consensus and for having assumed an excessively humble attitude toward the North.

** According to an opinion poll conducted by EBS (December 30, 2007 - January 3, 2008), citizens responded that the following changes in North Korea policy were desirable: move away from unconditional aid toward the North (40.4%); implement policies based on a national consensus (29.9%); make efforts to resolve human rights issues in North Korea (17.9%); move away from unilateral appearament (11.8%).

In particular, public criticism has intensified in the wake of North Korea's missile and nuclear tests.

>>> The dual nature and special characteristics of inter-Korean relations

North Korea has the dual characteristic of being a potential military foe and a cooperative partner.

Based on a firm security posture, we must consistently pursue improved relations with North Korea and peace on the Korean peninsula.

The relationship between South and North Korea is not like one between two independent nations, but a unique and interim relationship pending national unification.

It is difficult to strictly apply international norms and standards to certain matters related to inter-Korean dialogue, exchanges, cooperation and aid to North Korea.

For this reason, a flexible approach is necessary in dealing with such matters. At the same time, we need to respect universal values and principles widely accepted in the international community.

In short, we should resolve inter-Korean issues while giving equal consideration to North Korea's dual characteristic, the unique aspects of inter-Korean relations and universal standards.

Related Documents

"Recognizing that their relationship, not being a relationship as between states, is a special one constituted temporarily in the process of unification" -Preamble to the Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-aggression and Exchanges and Cooperation between South and North Korea (Effectuated on February 19, 1992)-

"The relationship between South and North Korea is not a relationship between two nations, but a special one constituted temporarily in the process of unification." -Clause 1, Article 3 of the Inter-Korean Relations Development Act (Effectuated on December 29, 2005)-

Vision for the Future of Inter-Korean Relations

- Inter-Korean relations can reach a higher level of development with changes in North Korea.
- The Korean peninsula can be further advanced when it becomes part of a peaceful and economically cooperative community.
- Our goal is to have South and North Koreans live happily and to establish a foundation for peaceful unification.

Changes in North Korea and progress in inter-Korean relations

North Korea needs to expeditiously abandon its nuclear programs.

It will be impossible to establish a genuine peace without resolving the North Korean nuclear issue. We can expect that inter-Korean relations will reach a mature level of development only when peace is guaranteed.

North Korea should take a path to development.

North Korea should abandon its nuclear programs and become a responsible member of the international community. Also, the North should treat the ROK government as a partner in achieving mutual benefits and take part in economic cooperation between the two Koreas. When North Korea abandons its nuclear programs and makes changes for the better, inter-Korean relations will advance to a higher level of development.

Advancing inter-Korean relations for mutual benefits and common prosperity

We will advance inter-Korean relations for mutual benefits and common prosperity by achieving the denuclearization of North Korea and reducing military tension between the two Koreas.

The Vision 3000: Denuclearization and Openness is an initiative aimed at supporting North Korea's economic development and cooperating with the international community to coordinate the North's denuclearization process. Through this initiative, we will establish an inter-Korean relationship that helps North Korea build a self-supporting economy and furthers the advancement of the South Korean economy. South and North Korea should pursue co-existence and common prosperity for the happiness of all Korean people. This can be achieved by realizing mutually beneficial cooperation between the two Koreas.

2. Vision for the Future of Inter-Korean Relations

Establishing a concrete foundation for peaceful unification of the Korean peninsula

The Lee Myung-bak administration aims at creating a new peace structure on the Korean peninsula through a pragmatic, rather than a political or contrived approach.

Now, the time has come for us to go beyond the 20th century agenda of dismantling the Cold War structure and to discuss the creation of a new peace structure and vision for unification by aggressively responding to the rapidly changing strategic environment in the 21st century. We need to build a new peace structure on the Korean peninsula by resolving the North Korean nuclear issue, easing tensions and building trust on the peninsula.

The Lee Myung-bak administration pursues reconciliation and cooperation, peaceful coexistence and gradual unification of the Korean peninsula.

The administration seeks reconciliation and cooperation, peaceful coexistence and gradual unification of the two Koreas as it upholds the Korean National Community Unification Formula (KNCUF), which was created under a national consensus in 1994. National unification should be realized steadily through a long-term process while taking into account the following issues: the North's nuclear programs; the special aspects of inter-Korean relations; the differences in political and economic systems; the lack of political and military confidence between the two Koreas; and the considerable economic gap between the two sides. In order to lay the foundation for peaceful unification of the Korean peninsula, we should go beyond policies based on ideology. We need to reach a national consensus and secure cooperation with the international community through an open and comprehensive view.

The ROK government will respond proactively to the rapidly changing regional environment to create a new peace structure on the Korean peninsula; establish an inter-Korean economic community to enhance the quality of life for all Koreans; and create an environment that would ultimately enable political unification of the nation by transforming the peninsula into a thriving, single economic zone in the long run.

A new peace structure on the peninsula can be built through the denuclearization of the Korean peninsula and creation of a peace structure; establishment of friendly and cooperative relations with the United States, Japan, China and Russia and a cooperative regional security regime in Northeast Asia; and establishment of the foundation for an inter-Korean economic community.

An inter-Korean economic community could be built when a new peace structure is established on the peninsula and when North Korea raises its per capita income to US\$3,000, which can be expected after North Korea allows the free flow of capital, labor and services between the two Koreas. Unification of the nation would denote the first step toward an advanced, democratic welfare state in which freedom, welfare and dignity of the people are guaranteed.

Korean National Community Unification Formula

During a speech given in celebration of Korea's Independence Day in 1994, former president Kim Youngsam presented the three-phased Korean National Community Unification Formula (KNCUF) based on three basic principles of autonomy, peace and democracy, in which he further advanced the unification formula his predecessor President Roh Tae-woo had introduced on September 11, 1989. The three phases in the KNCUF are as follows:

Phase 1: Expansion of reconciliation and cooperation

Phase 2: Creation of the Korean Commonwealth

Phase 3: Establishment of a single unified nation

Guiding Principles

- We will be pragmatic and press for results based on a spirit of reconciliation and cooperation.
- We will be firm on our principles, but flexible in our approaches.
- We will transparently implement policies supported by national consensus.
- We will achieve a balance between international cooperation and inter-Korean cooperation.

>>> Pragmatism and result-orientedness

Inter-Korean issues will be resolved according to pragmatism, rather than ideology. We will design North Korea policy in a way to produce the results desired by the public and try to reduce unnecessary time and effort in the policy-making process.

The criteria to determine whether a given policy is pragmatic and result-oriented are as follows: Does the public agree?; does it improve the quality of life for the North Korean people?; is it cost-effective?; does it facilitate the economic development of North Korea?; and does it contribute to the peaceful unification of the Korean peninsula?

>>> Strict principles and flexible approaches

We will hold to the principles of achieving the denuclearization of North Korea and pursuing sincere and effective dialogue. Yet, we will be flexible in our approaches considering the reality of inter-Korean relations.

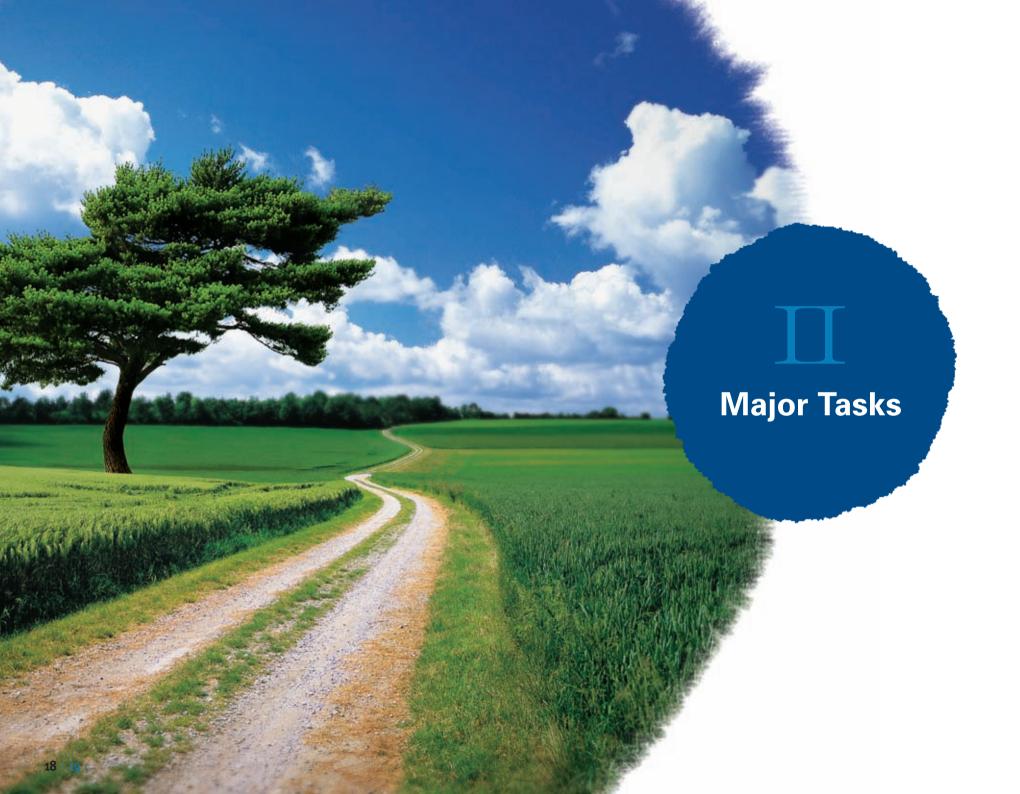
>>> National consensus

We will make sure that the public can participate throughout the policy-making process in various ways. We will heed public opinion and implement policies based on national consensus. We will disclose as much information as possible to the public and implement the North Korea policy in a transparent manner.

Balance between international cooperation and inter-Korean cooperation

Korean peninsula issues are not only inter-Korean matters but also international ones. In particular, cooperation with the international community has gained more importance since the emergence of the North Korean nuclear issue.

The ROK government is committed to the peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue through the Six-party Talks and intends to handle inter-Korean relations in a way that promotes peaceful resolution of the nuclear issue. We will build trust with the international community so that it supports reunification of the Korean peninsula and extend necessary cooperation.



Promoting Inter-Korean Dialogue with Sincerity

- We will engage in sincere dialogue to resolve pending issues.
- We will foster an atmosphere where South and North Korea respect each other.

Inter-Korean dialogue should help resolve issues.

The South and the North should engage in sincere, open-minded dialogue to resolve outstanding issues, including the denuclearization of North Korea the establishment of peace on the Korean peninsula, the creation of an inter-Korean economic community, the restoration of national commonality, and the resolution of humanitarian issues.

In order to achieve these objectives, we will always leave the door open for dialogue. The leaders of the two Koreas may meet any time if they do so in good faith with the goal of reunification and a better life for the 70 million Korean people.

We will foster a positive atmosphere that promotes mutual respect and prohibits slandering of each other during inter-Korean dialogue.

Sincere dialogue begins with respect for the other side. It is difficult to engage in sincere dialogue while only criticizing the other side. South and North Korea have already agreed to acknowledge and respect the other side's government and system. In addition, the two Koreas have agreed not to slander or defame the other side and not to attack a specific person of the other side.

This spirit of the Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-aggression and Exchanges and Cooperation between South and North Korea in 1992 should be respected and observed.

We will build political trust through inter-Korean dialogue based on mutual respect.

"The political leaders of the two Koreas need to share their thoughts on how to ensure a good life for the 70 million citizens and how to open the door to unification based on mutual respect. If it is for this purpose, I believe the leaders of the two Koreas should meet whenever necessary to open up and engage in dialogue."

-President Lee Myung-bak's inaugural speech on February 25, 2008-

Establishing Peace on the Korean Peninsula

- We will resolve the North Korean nuclear issue.
- We will reduce military tension and build trust between the two Koreas.
- We will establish a permanent peace structure on the Korean peninsula.

Complete resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue

The North Korean nuclear issue must be resolved to achieve genuine peace and stability on the Korean peninsula.

North Korea's nuclear programs create instability and insecurity on the Korean peninsula and it poses the biggest challenge to improving inter-Korean relations. Genuine peace cannot be established without resolving the North Korean nuclear issue, and there can be no stability without peace. Nuclear programs do not help the North. North Korea will be able to enjoy prosperity and become a member of the international community only when the North Korean nuclear issue is resolved.

We will make diverse efforts for a peaceful resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue.

We will continue to encourage North Korea to give up its nuclear programs through the Six-party Talks. In particular, we will induce the dismantlement by urging it to resolve the nuclear issue when engaging in inter-Korean dialogue. We will facilitate inter-Korean cooperation in the economic realm and other areas with regard to the progress in resolving the North Korean nuclear issue. We will work to create a cycle in which inter-Korean relations support the progress of the Six-party Talks and progress in the Six-party Talks leads to better inter-Korean relations.

"North Korea needs to make good on promises made during the Six-party Talks. The South Korean government will make efforts so that North Korea will abandon its nuclear weapons program by engaging in close consultations with other members of the Six-party Talks."

-President's special interview with economic newspapers from four nations on March 22, 2008-

2. Establishing Peace on the Korean Peninsula

Military tension reduction and confidence building

We will ease military tension and build trust based on a strong security posture.

The two Koreas are in sharp military confrontation across the armistice line. We will protect our national security with strengthened self-defense capabilities, stronger ROK-US alliance and increased cooperation with neighboring countries. We will ease tension and build trust between the two Koreas in all areas, including political, military, economic, and social and cultural areas while maintaining a strong security posture.

We will launch the South-North Joint Military Commission to build military confidence between the two sides. We will maintain firm military stability through the existing armistice agreement until a new peace regime is established on the Korean peninsula.

We will establish an institutional framework to reduce tension between the two Koreas through the peaceful use of the Demilitarized Zone.

We will continue our efforts to utilize the DMZ in a peaceful and environment-friendly manner. Peaceful use of the Demilitarized Zone will help build trust and ease military tension between the two Koreas and raise the utility of the area in terms of land use.

Establishment of a new peace structure

We will establish a new peace structure that is conducive to peaceful unification.

A new peace structure indicates an order of mutual benefits and common prosperity on the Korean peninsula. It will be created through sincere dialogue and productive exchanges and cooperation between the two Koreas. We will bring an end to the Cold War structure and fully establish a permanent peace on the Korean peninsula through international cooperation and inter-Korean relations for mutual benefits and common prosperity. We will work to transform the current armistice into a solid state of peace.

Expanding Economic Cooperation for Mutual Benefits and Common Prosperity

- We will seek mutually beneficial economic cooperation in order to achieve qualitative development of inter-Korean relations.
- We will further develop existing economic projects and promote new projects while creating an improved investment environment.
- We will build an inter-Korean economic community by realizing the Vision 3000: Denuclearization and Openness.

Economic cooperation characterized by mutual benefits and complementarity

The two Koreas should now seek qualitative development in economic cooperation.

We need to pursue economic cooperation that is productive and beneficial to both South and North Korea. Inter-Korean cooperation in the areas of forestry, agriculture, fisheries and resource development can help solve the economic difficulties of the North and improve the South Korean economy. We will develop the Gaeseong Industrial Complex and make investment in the North in a way that complements each other by combining the resources and labor of the North and the capital and technologies of the South.

** North Korea has 4 billion tons of magnesite deposits (the second largest in the world), 2 million tons of graphite (third in the world) and roughly 200 other minerals that could be mined with a potential value of about 3,719 trillion won, or about 18 times the value of South Korea's mineral deposits. In the meantime, South Korea is highly dependent on imports for key minerals. For example, it imported 1.33 million tons of zinc ore and 270, 000 tons of magnesite in 2007.

3. Expanding Economic Cooperation for Mutual Benefits and Common Prosperity

Substantial economic cooperation based on four principles

We will remove obstacles in promoting existing economic projects.

The high costs of inter-Korean economic cooperation cannot be reduced as long as delays in communication, passage and customs clearance and personal safety issues remain unresolved. We will continue to seek resolution of these issues to the best of our ability. We will launch the Inter-Korean Commercial Arbitration Committee as soon as possible to resolve disputes between inter-Korean project participants. The committee will help resolve difficulties in ongoing projects and remove obstacles to further economic cooperation.

New economic cooperation projects will be implemented according to the four criteria: progress in North Korea's denuclearization, economic feasibility, our financial capability and national consensus.

We will strictly adhere to these four criteria, but at the same time take a flexible approach depending on the attitude of North Korea and inter-Korean consultations.

We will encourage the private sector to promote new joint projects independently in accordance with market principles.

►►► Implementation of the Vision 3000: Denuclearization and Openness

The Vision 3000 is a strategic initiative that encourages the North to give up its nuclear programs in exchange for tangible benefits.

The Vision is a detailed action plan to create an inter-Korean economic community.

We will cooperate with the international community to help North Korea raise its annual per capita income to US\$3,000. To this end, we will carry out projects in five key areas: economic development, education, finance, industrial infrastructure and the quality of life. However, the projects will be implemented step by step with regard to the progress in North Korea's denuclearization. We will devise institutional mechanisms necessary to implement the initiative, such as an inter-Korean consultative body and an inter-Korean economic cooperation agreement.

We will support North Korea's economic development and its participation in the international community.

We will assist North Korea so that it can effectively adapt to changes in the international community and globalization. In accordance with progress in North Korea's denuclearization, we will support the normalization of relations between North Korea and the United States, as well as between North Korea and Japan. We will also work to create an international environment where North Korea can engage in exchanges with the international community.

The Vision 3000 will provide a new growth stimulus to the South Korean economy. The economies of the two Koreas will assume a mutually complementary form and lead to the establishment of a concrete foundation for peaceful unification. Even before North Korea's denuclearization, we will manage inter-Korean relations in a stable manner while providing humanitarian aid and continuing dialogue and exchanges.

3. Expanding Economic Cooperation for Mutual Benefits and Common Prosperity

The Vision 3000: Denuclearization and Openness

Concept

- The Vision 3000 is the Lee administration's strategic initiative to help North Korea raise its annual per capita income to US\$3,000 within ten years. The administration plans to accomplish this by implementing joint projects in five key areas in cooperation with the international community, as North Korea's denuclearization makes progress.
- ▶ North Korea has to develop into an economy with an average per capita income of US\$3,000 in order to build a foundation for peaceful unification that can absorb the social shock and financial costs of unification.

>> Implementation

Realization of a US\$3,000 per capital income economy for of North Korea North Korea within ten years international cooperation · Improve the quality of life for North Koreans · Lay a foundation for unification by forming an inter-Korean economic community · Expand security and economic cooperation in Northeast Asia Step 2.

Promotion of major development projects in five key areas of economy, education, finance, industrial infrastructure and the quality of life

North Korea's decision to denuclearize

Improved security environment in Northeast Asia through progress in the denuclearization

· Economic support through

Development of specific projects according to the following steps:

Completion of declaration and agreement on nuclear dismantlement

Implementation of the nuclear dismantlement agreement

Step 3. Completion of nuclear dismantlement

 Economic cooperation in the private sector · Humanitarian aid

The vision is a flexible and active measure aimed at encouraging the North to decide for a better future by laying out detailed proposals in every step.

Step 1 North Korea completes disablement of its nuclear facilities

- ▶ Initiate discussions for the implementation of the Vision 3000 and the realization of an inter-Korean economic community
- ▶ Devise legal and institutional mechanisms for economic cooperation between the two Koreas
- * Once the North disables its nuclear facilities and the disablement is verified, the ROK government will! immediately prepare to implement the vision. We plan to hold discussions on the details of the vision through a high-level meeting for the realization of an inter-Korean economic community. Measures will be taken to ensure the legal and institutional promotion of economic cooperation and the liberalization of trade and investment between the two Koreas

North Korea implements dismantlement of its nuclear programs Step 2

- ▶ Initiate a number of projects in the areas of education and the quality of life with regard to tangible results in the dismantlement of North Korean nuclear programs.
- * If the nuclear dismantlement process makes progress, then we can immediately launch some projects that are relatively easy to promote, especially in the areas of education and the quality of life in North Korea, In addition, we will continue to promote the complete resolution of the North Korean nuclear issue through close cooperation in the Six-party Talks.

North Korea completes nuclear dismantlement Step 3

- ▶ Launch full-scale projects in five areas: economic development, education, finance, industrial infrastructure and the quality of life
- ▶ Raise US\$40 billion in international cooperation funds to assist North Korea's economic development
- ** The timing for launching the Vision 3000 initiative is flexible as we intend to adjust the pace of economic cooperation with the North depending on how actively North Korea responds. Once this initiative is fully realized, a foundation will be in place for the establishment of an inter-Korean economic community, which will in turn lead to the political unification of Korea.

Expanding Social and Cultural Exchanges

- We will enhance the sense of national commonality through social and cultural exchanges.
- We will promote substantial exchanges in the private sector.
- We will establish an institutional framework to facilitate stable expansion of social and cultural exchanges.

We will enhance the sense of national commonality through inter-Korean exchanges and contacts.

The long national division has nurtured the sense of heterogeneity between the two Koreas. Exchanges and contacts between the two Koreas in various forms will create a foundation for unification by building mutual understanding and trust. We will enhance the sense of national commonality by increasing communication and exchanges in various fields, such as history, culture, academics, religion and sports.

We will actively support exchanges in the private sector.

The government will provide support so that various forms of private sector exchanges occur between the two Koreas in a transparent manner. We will focus on meaningful and substantial exchanges that can produce tangible results.

We will establish a framework to institutionalize social and cultural exchanges.

We will regularize and institutionalize exchanges that are in progress. We will form a consultation body between South and North Korean authorities to provide guidance and to open the path toward social and cultural exchanges in the private sector, thereby enabling the stable development of inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation.

Number o	f Cross-b	order V	isitor	s for So	ocial an	d Cultu	iral Exc	change	es			(Unit: p	ersons
Direction	′89~′97	′98	′99	′00	′01	′02	′03	′04	′05	′06	′07	June 2008	Tota
Northward	701	239	330	1,150	2,916	2,501	3,395	3,557	10,777	4,324	12,217	1,493	43,600
Southward	534	0	62	404	32	937	941	280	675	293	483	76	4,71
Total	1,235	239	392	1,554	2,948	3,438	4,336	3,837	11,452	4,617	12,700	1,569	48,317
Governme				,,,,,					11,402	4,017	12,700	,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	: case
Year '91	′97	′98	′99	′00	′01	′02	′03	3 ′04	4 ′05	′06	′07	June 2008	Total
Teal 31													

Resolving Humanitarian Issues

- We will pursue a fundamental resolution of the separated family issue.
- We will resolve the issues regarding the South Korean POWs and abductees in the North while emphasizing the importance of protecting our citizens.
- We will approach human rights in North Korea as a matter of universal value.
- We will provide humanitarian aid to North Korea in the spirit of brotherhood and humanitarianism.

Humanitarian issues regarding separated families, abductees and POWs remain unresolved 60 years after the division of the Korean peninsula. National division has led to great sorrow in both Koreas. In order to put a final end to such national suffering, we must take an approach based on universal values rather than narrow political interests. We will make all possible efforts for an early resolution of the humanitarian issues between the two Koreas. We will no longer ignore the pain of South and North Koreans.

>>> Promoting regular reunions of separated families

The issue of separated families must be resolved immediately. Every year, between three and four thousand members of separated families pass away. Noting this reality, we will give a priority to separated family members aged over 80 so that they can visit their families in the North. We will allow more reunions to enable separated family members to learn whether their family members are still alive and to meet each other.

We will establish a system for regular reunions when the Mt. Geumgang Reunion Center opens. For the fundamental resolution of the separated family issue, we will enable separated family members to check the addresses of their family members in the North and see if they are alive and arrange more and larger reunions. They will also be able to exchange letters and visit their hometowns on the other side.

Separated Family Exchanges

- ☐ Total number of applicants who have registered to the Information Center for Separated Families is 127,251. Of them, 91,774 persons are still alive while 35,477 persons are deceased.
- ☐ Since 2000, a total of 16 reunion events and 7 video reunions took place and total 3,935 families (19,960 persons) were reunited.

	South	North	Total
Face-to-face Reunions (16 times)	1,683 families (10,673 persons)	1,695 families (5,539 persons)	3,378 families (16,212 persons)
Video Reunions (7 times)	279 families (2,257 persons)	278 families (1,491 persons)	557 families (3,748 persons)
Total	1,962 families (12,930 persons)	1,973 families (7,030 persons)	3,935 families (19,960 persons)

* In February 2008, 20 families, each from the South and the North, reunited through a pilot exchange of video messages.

5. Resolving Humanitarian Issues

>>> Resolving the POW and abductee issues

We will put a priority on the POW and abductee issues as they are our citizens whom the government should protect. We will raise the issue as an agenda for inter-Korean dialogue in order to persuade the North to take active and sincere measures.

Estimated Number of POWs and Abductees

Alive			Dead		Missing PC)Ws
560 person	ns		910 persons		19,409 perso	ons
net-Korpan War a	ahdurtaa	e				
			Korean Airline crew	Soldiers and Policemen	Others Domestic	Others Oversea
Category	Total 3.797	Fisherman	Korean Airline crew	Soldiers and Policemen	Others Domestic	Others Oversea
ost-Korean War a Category Abducted Returned + Escaped	Total					

"We need to also resolve the POW, abductee and separated family issues. The first generation of separated families and POWs are now in their 70s or 80s. The North and the South have a moral duty to enable these people to meet their separated family members freely and to return to their birthplaces for visits."

-President Lee Myung-bak's speech at the opening of the 18th National Assembly on July 11, 2008-

>>> Improving the human rights situation in North Korea

We will address human rights in North Korea as a matter of universal value. During the 7th session of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), which took place in Geneva in March 2008, the ROK called for North Korea to take appropriate measures to address the international community's concerns over the lack of improvement in the North's human rights situation.

Furthermore, a draft resolution was adopted for the extension of duty for the special rapporteur on human rights in North Korea. We will continue to press for substantial improvements in the human rights situation in North Korea. For this, we will cooperate with the international community, including the United Nations.

>>> Providing humanitarian aid

The ROK government will provide humanitarian aid unconditionally.

North Korea is still suffering from chronic food shortage. Food shortage leads to serious problems among its population such as malnutrition of pregnant women, nursing mothers, infants and children. Now there is a wide gap in the heights and weights of children in the two Koreas because of malnutrition and stunting in the North.

Aid to the North is intended to improve the humanitarian situation of the North Korean people. We will provide food aid to North Korea unconditionally from a humanitarian perspective and in the spirit of brotherhood toward fellow North Koreans. When the North makes a request for food aid, we will provide direct assistance after reviewing it in a way to benefit those in need. In case of a serious food crisis or disaster in the North, the ROK government will be active in delivering food aid based on public consensus. In doing so, the government will seek to improve transparency in the distribution of aid considering the purposes of the humanitarian programs.

North Korea should show its sincerity in resolving the issues of separated families and South Korean POWs and abductees so that the ROK's humanitarian programs can win public support.

The ROK government is also prepared to move forward with development assistance so that the North can manage its internal difficulties on its own.

[&]quot;The food crisis experienced by North Koreans is a humanitarian issue and, therefore, food aid should be differentiated from full-scale economic cooperation. Food aid should be treated as a humanitarian issue."

⁻President Lee's interview with The Washington Post on April 17, 2008-

[&]quot;I am planning to continue humanitarian aid to the North, irrespective of the nuclear issue. However, I hope North Korea does its part and gives humanitarian consideration to South Korean POWs in the North and roughly 400 abducted fishermen."

⁻President Lee's interview with economic newspapers from four nations on March 23, 2008-

Appendix 30 Questions and Answers

Policy of Mutual Benefits and Common Prosperity

How is the Lee Myung-bak administration's North Korea policy different from those of the previous administrations?

The policy objectives are the same. The Lee Myung-bak administration's North Korea policy also aims at establishing a foundation for peaceful unification and promoting peace on the Korean peninsula by improving inter-Korean relations. However, the process and methods of the new policy will be pragmatic and based on the firm principle of the denuclearization of North Korea. We will promote changes for the better in the North, rather than providing unilateral support, and move forward with cooperation that will benefit both Koreas. In particular, we will put a priority on improving the quality of life for the North Korean people.

2 What is the meaning of "inter-Korean relations for mutual benefits and common prosperity?"

It means creating an inter-Korean relationship that achieves peace and stability on the Korean peninsula, that is beneficial to both sides and that promotes happiness for all the people in the South and North. It means achieving sustainable development in inter-Korean relations through the North's denuclearization and the establishment of a mutually-beneficial cooperative relationship.

3 What does a "pragmatism-based approach" mean in terms of North Korea policy?

It means although we will make efforts to promote peace on the Korean peninsula and to achieve developments in inter-Korean relations based on the spirit of reconciliation and cooperation, the process and methods for policy implementation will be based on pragmatism. We will devise measures that bring about meaningful progress in inter-Korean relations through new ideas and approaches. We will make an agreement on small but tangible measures and execute them one by one.

4 What does it mean to be firm on principles, but flexible in approaches?

We will consistently uphold the principle that North Korea must abandon its nuclear programs. In terms of methods and policy implementation, we will consider all practical options and think flexibly to find effective solutions. Opening sincere and substantial dialogue between the two Koreas is the starting point to the resolution of all issues.

A. Policy of Mutual Benefits and Common Prosperity

5 What is the government's formula for Korean unification?

The Korean National Community Unification Formula (KNCUF) still remains the ROK's official formula for national unification. The KNCUF was established in 1989 based on national consensus. The Kim Youngsam administration partially revised it in 1994 and the Kim Dae-jung and Roh Moo-hyun administrations also officially pursued this formula. According to the formula, complete unification should be steadily achieved through a process that includes a phase of reconciliation and cooperation followed by a phase of Korean Commonwealth.

Under the basic guidelines, the Lee administration will pursue inter-Korean relations for mutual benefits and common prosperity through pragmatic and result-oriented approaches. The administration will: 1) create a new peace structure on the Korean peninsula by proactively responding to the rapidly changing regional environment; 2) establish an inter-Korean economic community; and 3) eventually establish a foundation for political unification through the promotion of common prosperity.

6 What is the new direction of education on Korean unification?

The ROK government will seek to establish a future-oriented unification mindset, a sound awareness of national security issues and a balanced perception of North Korea. We are moving toward unification-related education that conveys facts about North Korea as well as the current status of inter-Korean relations and the security environment surrounding the Korean peninsula as they are. We will make efforts to help citizens develop objective and balanced views so that they can understand the environment surrounding the issue of national unification.

Inter-Korean Dialogue with Sincerity

7 What is "sincere" dialogue?

"Sincere" dialogue requires both Koreas to engage in bilateral dialogue for the achievement of reconciliation, peace and co-prosperity. For this, South and North Korea should acknowledge the reality as it is and respect each other. This means that the two Koreas need to open up and engage in dialogue to resolve pending issues, rather than only pursuing strategic goals during inter-Korean dialogue.

8 Why is a permanent dialogue channel between the two Koreas necessary?

To achieve mutual benefits and common prosperity, substantial and sincere inter-Korean dialogue should take place on a regular basis. Given that inter-Korean dialogue has been often suspended, the Lee administration has emphasized the need for having substantial inter-Korean dialogue on a regular basis.

9 When will another inter-Korean summit take place?

The political leaders of the two Koreas should share their thoughts on how to ensure a good life for 70 million Koreans and how to pave the way for unification based on mutual respect. Meetings of the leaders are meaningful in themselves, but producing actual results from the meetings are even more important. If a summit can make real accomplishments for the two Koreas, the leaders should meet whenever possible to engage in dialogue with open minds.

B. Inter-Korean Dialogue with Sincerity

10 What is the government's stance toward the June 15, 2000 Joint Declaration and the October 4, 2007 Summit Declaration?

The two Koreas have reached many agreements on several occasions. For example, inter-Korean agreements include the July 4 Joint Communique in 1972, the 1992 Basic Agreement, the Joint Declaration of the Denuclearization of the Korean peninsula in 1992, the June 15 Joint Declaration in 2000, and the October 4 Summit Declaration in 2007, among others. Nonetheless, many of these agreements have not been fully implemented.

The two Koreas need to come up with measures to implement these agreements based on mutual respect. It is time for change. Both sides need to engage in dialogue with sincerity. We need to move from an era of declarations to an era of actions. There is a dire need for a new way of thinking and a new direction in inter-Korean relations. It is not easy to develop a new path, but the two Koreas must move toward a relationship characterized by mutual benefits and common prosperity.

11 What is the government's stance regarding the phrase "Korean people by themselves (uriminjok kkiri)" as stated in the June 15 Joint Declaration?

We cannot hope for national development with closed-minded thinking and inward-looking actions. The spirit of "Korean people by themselves" must pursue open-minded nationalism. While the two Koreas should play a central role in resolving unification issues independently, they should also closely cooperate with the international community. Inter-Korean issues are national affairs, but there also are international aspects to some outstanding issues on the Korean peninsula.

12 How will the October 4, 2007 Summit Declaration be implemented?

We will consider various factors and have discussions with the North to determine ways to implement the declaration. We will draw up a detailed execution plan coherent to the four principles: progress on the North Korean nuclear issue, economic feasibility, our financial capability, and national consensus.

13 Some people say that North Korea is implementing a strategy of talking only with the U.S. and ignoring the South.

North Korea has long pursued a strategy of communicating directly with the United States while closing down relations with South Korea. However, such strategy cannot succeed because of the strong alliance between the ROK and the United States. Exchanges and cooperation between the two Koreas have become routine. North Korea's economic dependence on the South has deepened. Even if the North attempts to talk only with the U.S. while ignoring the South, the U.S. and the international community would not agree with this approach. We are also playing an important role in the Six-party Talks that are aimed at resolving the North Korean nuclear issue. Pyongyang's strategy of talking only with Washington and ignoring Seoul is structurally impossible.

North Korea will find shortcuts to promote regime stability and to resolve economic difficulties only when it improves relations with the U.S. and the South simultaneously. The ROK government would like Pyongyang to improve its relationship with Washington in the process of abandoning its nuclear programs.

Establishment of Peace on the Korean Peninsula

14 Will the ROK government do nothing until North Korea denuclearizes?

We will implement the Vision 3000: Denuclearization and Openness step by step according to the progress in North Korea's denuclearization. Denuclearization does not refer to a specific point or situation, but a process in which the North Korean nuclear threat disappears. The Lee administration would provide the North with comprehensive economic support as part of the vision during North Korea's denuclearization process.

Humanitarian aid will be given to the North irrespective of its nuclear issue. As part of the humanitarian aid, we can provide food and medical support for the prevention of flood damage and deforestation in North Korea.

We will let the private sector pursue exchange and economic cooperation programs according to market principles.

15 How will the government ease tension and build military trust between the two Koreas?

We plan to fully utilize inter-Korean dialogue, which is now focused on economic cooperation, to establish and implement military cooperation. We will begin with practical measures to build military trust and take other measures gradually.

First of all, we will expand military assurance measures in inter-Korean projects, including operation of the cross-border train, flood prevention in the Imjin River and the joint excavation of human remains from the Korean War. We will also regularize meetings between military authorities of the two Koreas and ensure that the other side receives prior notifications of military exercises as well as invitations to observe them. We will also pursue peaceful use of the Demilitarized Zone, but all of these measures will be taken depending on the general progress in inter-Korean relations.

16 What does it mean to establish permanent peace on the Korean peninsula?

Denuclearization is the first step toward the establishment of a genuine peace on the Korean peninsula. Peace will be realized steadily during sincere and productive dialogue and in the process of implementation of inter-Korean agreements.

When inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation are expanded and political and military trust is built, we can take practical measures to ease tension and guarantee peace on the Korean peninsula. Then, we will be able to discuss the establishment of meaningful peace. A peace structure on the Korean peninsula cannot be established simply by signing a peace agreement. It can be established only when the two Koreas implement practical measures that guarantee peace.

Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation

17 North Korea is rejecting the Vision 3000: Denuclearization and Openness. What will the South do?

We will persuade the North to understand that abandoning its nuclear programs and becoming part of the international community will be more beneficial politically and economically than maintaining its the nuclear programs. North Korea was also extremely opposed to the sunshine policy during the initial days of the Kim Dae-jung administration. We will engage in sincere dialogue with the North to help them understand the benefits of denuclearization.

18 Will the international community also take part in the Vision 3000: Denuclearization and Openness?

The international community has expressed its intention to support the ROK government's Vision 3000. United States and Japan officially supported the vision during the Korea-U.S. and Korea-Japan summits held in April 2008. Denuclearization and the opening of the North are demanded not only by the South, but by the international community as well. All the members in the Six-party Talks also have agreed to the principle of denuclearization. We will be able to implement the vision once North Korea cooperates and there is progress in the North Korean nuclear issue.

19 When will the Vision 3000 be implemented?

We regard denuclearization as a process, rather than a status or a condition. We will implement the vision in a phased manner according to progress in the resolution of the nuclear issue. We are determined to strictly abide by the principle of denuclearization while being flexible in our approaches.

20 Will the ROK government not move forward with inter-Korean economic cooperation before denuclearization?

The North Korean nuclear issue must enter the phase of resolution and there must be a national consensus before implementing economic cooperation projects that require significant government funding. Nonetheless, private sector projects that are carried out according to market principles will be continued even before denuclearization.

21 How will institutional mechanisms necessary for the promotion of inter-Korean economic cooperation be established?

The ROK government will first seek to resolve the outstanding issues at the Gaeseong Industrial Complex, which involve delays in communications, passage, and customs clearance. We will expand the allotted time for passage into North Korea and simplify the passage procedures. We will seek to expand communication facilities and streamline customs clearance. We will launch the Inter-Korean Commercial Arbitration Committee as soon as possible and improve the investment environment by establishing a land transportation route between Gaeseong and Pyongyang. Without such measures, it will be difficult for South Korean firms to make profitable investments in North Korea.

22 What will happen to the Gaeseong Industrial Complex project?

The government will allow the current project contractors to continue their business according to market principles. These projects should not be subsidized just for the sake of inter-Korean cooperation, but promoted according to their profitability and economic feasibility.

Social and Cultural Exchanges

23 What are the government's guidelines in relation to social and cultural exchanges in the private sector?

The ROK government respects the autonomy of the private sector, but we believe it is important that the parties involved in inter-Korean exchanges maintain order and abide by relevant laws so that they can help establish an atmosphere of reconciliation and cooperation.

24 Based on what criteria will the government disburse Inter-Korean Cooperation Funds for social and cultural exchanges in the private sector?

We will decide on disbursements by reviewing various aspects of the exchanges, including their significance, public support, cost-effectiveness and whether they promote changes for the better in the North. We will manage projects funds transparently so that the projects are executed according to their initial plans and purposes.

Humanitarian Issues

25 What measures will the government take to resolve the issue of separated families, particularly as it pertains to elderly family members?

Once the Mt. Geumgang Reunion Center is opened, we will expand the scale of family reunions. We will also engage in discussions with the North and request that elderly family members be allowed to visit their hometowns first.

26 What measures are being taken to resolve the POW and abductee issues?

The ROK government is determined to resolve the POW and abductee issues since it is a basic responsibility of a government. Although North Korea has not acknowledged the existence of POWs and abductees in the North, we will consider various measures to encourage the North to cooperate with us on resolving these issues.

27 What efforts will be made to improve human rights in North Korea?

We will aggressively reflect public opinions on the human rights situation in North Korea. We will let the public know the facts about the human rights situation in the North by providing clear information. We will also pay attention to discussions on North Korean human rights in the international community. In addition, we will try to persuade the North to understand that improving its human rights situation will eventually help the North.

F. Humanitarian Issues

28 Will the provision of aid to the North be linked to the issues of separated families and POWs?

We plan to provide humanitarian aid to the North without conditions. However, we will call for North Korea to cooperate and help resolve humanitarian issues when large amounts of aid are provided.

29 How much food and fertilizer aid will be given to the North and when?

We will review North Korea's food situation comprehensively from a humanitarian perspective. When the North makes a request for food aid, we will provide it directly after reviewing it in a way to benefit those in need. In case of a serious food crisis or disaster in the North, the ROK government will actively push ahead to deliver food aid provided that the public support it. We would provide the assistance on a priority basis when extremely serious food shortages have been confirmed or when there has been a serious natural disaster.

30 How can you confirm that food aid in the North is being distributed transparently?

We have been working to implement measures to ensure a certain level of transparency in aid distribution, such as on-site monitoring. When we provided food aid to the North in the past, we held discussions with the North over its distribution and transparency. However, the general level of South Korean monitoring in terms of the number of personnel or frequency of visits has been lower than that enjoyed by the World Food Programme (WFP) and other international organizations in the North.

In 2007, the WFP carried out on-site monitoring 60 times a month on average for its aid worth \$36 million. In contrast, the ROK provided 400,000 tons of food worth \$1.7 billion, but was able to monitor merely five sites (three on the east coast and two on the west coast) and paid 20 visits for every 100,000 tons of food that was delivered.

When providing humanitarian assistance to North Korea in the future, the ROK government will seek to enhance transparency in distribution to make sure that the most needy are most likely to receive the aid.

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