

# Cooperation with International Societies on the DMZ: Current Status and Suggestions

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## I. Significance of the Cooperation with International Societies

- Ensuring stable support from international societies on the DMZ
- Inducing and facilitating sustainable cooperation of North Korea
- Overcoming difficulties in proceeding a cooperation project between South and North Korea
- Securing financial resources for cooperation with international societies
- Establishing conditions of reconciliation and cooperation for the foundation of peaceful unification

## II. North Korea's views on the Peaceful Use of the DMZ

Date	Contents	Source
1995	The DMZ could be controlled only by the US and North Korea, and 'the concrete wall(defense wall)' had to be pull down	Statement of the National Committee on Environmental Protection spokesperson
2002	North and South Korea agreed to reconnect the main railway and build a highway parallel to it through the DMZ	-
2004	Opposed to designate the DMZ corridor as a UNESCO World Heritage Site	Statement of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea and of the Ministry of Land and Environment protection
2013	Discussions on the DMZ park plan would depend on the success of the talks on the Kaesong Industrial Complex	Kim Yang-gon, department head of North Korea's United Front, mentioned to the former CEO of the Pyonghwa Motors Corporation
2014/2015	Criticized the idea for the establishment of the DMZ peace park	Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of Korea, Statement of the Committee for the peaceful reunification of Korea, and Country Labor Coalition Association

❖ North Korean defector regard the concrete wall in DMZ as construction for the permanent division of two Koreaes

### III. Review of the International Cooperation on the DMZ

Date	Contents
1966~68	The former Korean Association for Conservation of Nature with Smithsonian Institution(US) investigated ecological surveys near the DMZ
1971	The chief representative of the Military Armistice Commission(MAC), Feliz H. Rogers, first suggested the demilitarization of the DMZ
1979	IUCN first suggested the creation of the DMZ World Peace Park as a way of using the DMZ peacefully
1992	UNEP proposed the concept of the DMZ park again
1994	UNDP suggested the designation of the nature reserve in the DMZ as one of the midterm cooperation projects between two Korea
1997	Korean National Commission for UNESCO published the report for the establishment of Transboundary Biosphere Reserve(TBR)
2001	A letter signed by the chairperson of MAB National Committee of the South Korea was delivered to the chairperson of the North Korea - The letter stressed the value and conservation of the DMZ and to suggest the establishment of the TBRs
2004	The international conference on DMZ publicized the opportunity for the DMZ to become a UNESCO World Heritage Site and Cross-Boundary Peace Park - 'A Statement on DMZ' was adopted

- IUCN: International Union for the Conservation of Nature
- UNDP: United Nations Development Program
- TBRs: Transboundary Biosphere Reserves
- EABRN: East Asian Biosphere Reserve Network

- UNEP: United Nations Environment Program
- UNESCO: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- MAB: Man and the Biosphere Program

### III. Review of the International Cooperation on the DMZ

Date	Contents
2007	Two transboundary initiatives were included in the program of Summit talks between the leaders of the South and North Korea with IUCN's Regional Protected Areas Program
2010	International Conference on Conservation and Peaceful Use of the Korean DMZ hosted by Ministry of Environment, Gangwon-Province, Gyeonggi-Province, UNESCO, IUCN - 'Recommendations for Achieving Nature, Peace and Local Development in the DMZ and adjoining areas' was adopted
2011	The 5 <sup>th</sup> IUCN Asia Regional Conservation Forum - The pavilion about the DMZ, wetlands, and Korean national parks was operated
2012	Korean Pavilion about green growth and the DMZ was operated at WCC, Jeju
2014	International Symposium on Biodiversity Conservation and Peace Building in the Korean DMZ held in Pyeongchang, South Korea - IUCN encouraged the South and the North Korea to work towards consensus and to apply for international recognition of the DMZ as an UNESCO Biosphere Reserve - 'A Statement on Transboundary Conservation for Biodiversity and Peace' was adopted
2015	The first World Leaders' Conservation Forum held in Jeju, South Korea - Experts suggested a more scientific approach to the Eco-Peace Park in the DMZ

- WCC: World Conservation Congress

## IV. Internal and External Conditions of Cooperation on the DMZ

### 1. Internal Conditions

- Possible improvement on inter-Korean relations after the inauguration of the Moon government
  - During the Presidential election campaign, Democratic Party of Korea announced the development of the DMZ as a tourism area for ecology, peace, and security
  - Seeking a way to cooperate with North Korea on the DMZ with the international Societies
- Launch of the Green Climate Fund(GCF) in Korea
  - Development Bank(KDB) became Korea's first accredited entity(AE) of the GCF in December 2016
  - ※ AEs carry out a range of activities that usually include the development of funding proposals and the management and monitoring of projects and programs
- International non-governmental organizations in Korea
- Lack of funds and control tower for the peaceful use of the DMZ

## IV. Internal and External Conditions of Cooperation on the DMZ

### 2. External Conditions

- U.N. agency to continue aid provisions to North Korea
  - In 2016, UNDP provided aid worth 3 million U.S. dollars with North Korea for food insecurity, energy developments in rural area, environment, and natural disaster mitigation(especially watershed management and forest restoration to respond to the natural disasters)
  - International Agencies working in North Korea

**United Nations in North Korea**

- Six resident UN agencies working in North Korea: FAO, UNFPA, UNICEF, WFP, UNDP, and WHO

**Resident International NGOs**

- Six European NGOs function under the aegis of the Europe Union’s Aid Cooperation Office  
 - They are known internally as EUPS(European Union Program Support) units

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**International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies(IFRC) and International Committee of the Red Cross**

**Foreign governments**

-The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation  
 -The Italian Development Cooperation Office  
 -A Swedish Agricultural Rehabilitation Project

- Not enough interest from the international society in the peaceful use of the DMZ



## IV. Internal and External Conditions of Cooperation on the DMZ

### 2. External Conditions

- Severance of the communication channel with North Korea
  - North Korea's rocket launch and a series of the nuclear tests caused the aggravation in relation between two Koreas
  - In Feb. 2016, Seoul shut down joint North-South Korea industrial complex, one of the last symbols of cooperation between two Koreas
- Intensified sanctions against the North Korea
  - US House approved new sanctions on North Korea in May 2017
- North Korea's negative views on the peaceful use of the DMZ
  - North Korea strongly oppose the use of the DMZ
  - North Korea normally views the DMZ as the result of the Korean War and the permanent division

## V. Suggestions

### 1. Direction of cooperation

- Mutual benefit among concerned parties
  - Building mutual trust
  - Reconnected railways and highways through Heavily armed DMZ (Economic Benefic)
- Multilateral approach
  - Participation of international societies including surrounding countries (China), INGO
- Conform to the efforts of the international community
  - Contribution to help achieve Sustainable Development Goals(SDG) goals
- Comprehensive approach

## V. Suggestions

### 2. Suggestions for international cooperative projects

- Apply climate change adaptation programs for developing countries to the DMZ project
  - A project on the management and utilization of the South-North shared river for the prevention of natural disasters as an adaptation to climate change
  - A project on the prevention of the forest damages by blight and harmful insects
  
- Conduct an ecological survey on the DMZ
  
- Retry to designate the DMZ as a biosphere zone by UNESCO
  
- Promote the DMZ as a hub for the preservation of the Asian ecosystem

Thank You!