

**The relationship between peace on the Korean Peninsula
and peace in Northeast Asia and International society.**

Lee, Seung-Hun, Chief, External Relations Department of Korea Democratic Labor Party
Choe, Gyu-Youb, president of the New Community Institute, the research arm of the KDLP.

1. The Geo-political Position of Korean Peninsula

The interests of the four superpowers of the US, Japan, China and Russia tied to the Korean Peninsula geo-politically. So the situation of the Korean Peninsula becomes more complicated. Especially, the divisive policy of the US has played a big role in the Korean Peninsula's ongoing confrontation after being divided into North and South over 60 years ago.

Because of the entangled relationship of the four powers around the Korean Peninsula, peace on the peninsula deeply involves not only Northeast Asia, but also international peace. So peace-building on the peninsula is a major threshold for the international peace-building.

2. Two Major Crises on the Korean Peninsula

The Korean peninsula has two crises that are interrelated, but have different background. The first crisis comes from relations between North and South Korea. As soon as the incumbent Lee Myung-bak administration took office, it declared its North Korea policy of "Denuclearization, Opening and US\$3,000." Simply put, "If North Korea denuclearize and opens, Seoul would make North Korea's per capita income \$3,000 dollars.

In addition, the Lee Myung-bak administration ignored or denied former administration's achievements with North Korea, such as the June 15th and the October 4th joint resolutions assuring a peaceful unification and interdependent relationship. The administration's policies and actions provoked North Korea's resistance and pushed the peninsula to the edge of military collision. The armistice treaty, the only legal measure to prevent military collision, was declared void by North Korea in June. The two Koreas are still technically at war because the armistice is a cease-fire only, not a formal peace treaty. In addition, South Korea is not a signatory to the armistice.

The second crisis comes from North Korea-US relations. The Obama administration regarded the North's missile launch as a provocative action, leading international sanctions against North Korea following the launch, which North Korea claimed was aimed at putting a communications satellite into orbit. However, the international sanctions that had existed before the test pushed North Korea into developing nuclear power. Financial sanctions and other barriers erected by US administrations pushed North Korea into an extreme situation.

3. Existing Crises in Northeast Asia

With the exception of the problem on the Korean Peninsula, there seems to be no existing military conflict in Northeast Asia.

However, we can't presume that there are no crises in Northeast Asia. If we regard political and diplomatic conflicts as crises in addition to military conflicts, there are lots of crises in Northeast Asia.

Military competition among the US, China and Japan gets fiercer and fiercer, while diplomatic tension for energy and resources is like war without gunshots. The possibility of territory conflicts always exists, even if it is not visible on the surface. The fact that we don't have a system to manage these crises peacefully in Northeast Asia is a serious issue. To make matters worse, the system to accelerate crises during the Cold War period still exists.

The most dangerous situation may be building alliances around the US through policy. On the ground of the US-Japan alliance, the US is trying to keep military supremacy in Northeast Asia, while Japan is expanding its military influence by using the US-Japan alliance. One example of this kind of situation is the Missile Defence system that the US and Japan have aggressively driven. This system has threatened the security of China and Russia. Therefore, those two countries also entered into military competition.

4. Solution for Building Peace on the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia

For Building Peace on the Korean Peninsula, the first solution is to normalize relations between the two Koreas. In order to normalize the relationship, they should adhere to the June 15th and October 4th declarations produced by the two summits.

The second solution is resume talks between the US and North Korea. Based on the North Korea-US communique that was signed by the governments in 2000, the Obama administration should withdraw its anti-North Korea measures. These are the preliminary conditions to resume talks.

Peace in Northeast Asia is much more complicated than just building peace on the Korean Peninsula. The first step toward building peace in Northeast Asia should be to impede US supremacy in Northeast Asia, particularly the US-Japan alliance and the US-Korea alliance. The US-Japan move to strengthen the MD system has to be stopped first and foremost, while the Lee Myung-bak administration's recent move to be involved in the MD system also has to be restrained.

Instead of only relying on the governmental collaboration, we should develop the cooperative actions among the civil societies for the peace-building in Northeast Asia.

During the last presidential election campaign, the KDLP announced the idea of making Northeast Asia into a community of peace. The KDLP thinks it is a very important principle for countries in Northeast Asia to agree on a mutual non-aggression pact so we have processes to address several causes of territorial and historical conflicts, which each country has.

5. Requests to the International Community

The KDLP's strong stance is for denuclearization on the peninsula. We strongly hold that the two Koreas should not have any nuclear weapons at all, and no nuclear weapons should be passed through the Korean peninsula. In addition, international society should not pose any nuclear threat to the Korean Peninsula.

Regarding this stance, Obama's reaffirmation of the US pledge to provide an extended nuclear umbrella over South Korea must be abandoned. Obama's pledge obstructs denuclearization and peace-building on the peninsula.

The US once stationed over 1,000 nuclear weapons in South Korea, and the KDLP is focusing on the situation that causes people to suspect that South Korea had nuclear weapons imposed on it by the US. We demand that the US be transparent in its nuclear policies in South Korea.

It is very important for the international community to have a united voice calling on the US to abandon its nuclear policies, including the nuclear umbrella over South Korea. Without abandoning its nuclear policies, Obama's idea to establish a world without nuclear weapons is only a wish that the US would monopolize the world's nuclear weapons.