



2020 세계기자대회

WORLD JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE 2020

14(Mon.) - 16(Wed.) September 2020

Conference Book III

The 70th anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy
in the Korean Peninsula

한국전쟁 70주년과 한반도 평화전략

Hosted by  한국기자협회
JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF KOREA

Supported by  Ministry of Culture, Sports
and Tourism

 Global Inspiration
GyeongGI-Do

 한국언론진흥재단
Korea Press Foundation

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WORLD JOURNALISTS CONFERENCE 2020



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※ World Journalists Conference is funded by the Journalism Promotion Fund raised by government advertising fees.

Title World Journalists Conference 2020

Date 14(Mon.) - 16(Wed.) September 2020

Venue International Convention Hall [20F],
Korea Press Center

Hosted by  JOURNALISTS ASSOCIATION OF KOREA

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Theme

- **Conference I**
Various Countries' Examples of and Countermeasures to Fake News and The Future of the Journalism
- **Conference II**
Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods
- **Conference III**
The 70th anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in the Korean Peninsula

Objectives

- **Discuss the development of journalism along with changes in the media environment**
 - Share national journalism situations and discuss the future of journalism to cope with rapidly-changing media environment around the world
 - Seek countermeasures to the global issue of Fake News
 - Make efforts to restore media trust and develop business model sharing
- **Discuss status-quo and role of journalism in each country amid the spread of COVID-19**
 - Share the COVID-19 situation in each country and the quarantine system
 - Protect the public's right to know and address human rights issues related to the infectious disease
 - Introduce Korea's reporting guidelines for infectious diseases
- **The 70th Anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Strategy on the Korean Peninsula**
 - form a consensus on the importance of peace on the Korean Peninsula and the world commemorating in 2020 the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War
 - Let the world know the willingness of Koreans toward World Peace and gain supports
 - Discuss each country's views on the situation on the Korean Peninsula and the role of journalists to improve inter-Korean and North Korea-US relations

Opening Address



Although we may have different countries, genders and ideologies, we are journalists.

Fellow journalists from all over the world. It's a pleasure to meet you. And welcome from the bottom of your heart and soul.

I am Dong Hoon Kim, the president of the Journalists Association of Korea.

Established on 17 August, 1964 and celebrating its 56th anniversary this year, the Journalists Association of Korea is the nation's biggest association of journalists that has more than 10,000 journalists from 188 media companies as members.

First organized in 2013 by the Journalists Association of Korea with the aim of promoting world peace and contributing to the advancement of journalism, the World Journalists Conference is held for the eighth time this year.

For the last seven years, journalists from all over the world have been invited to World Journalists Conference (WJC) to provide them with opportunities to personally experience the reality of the divided Korean Peninsula, which is now the only separated nation on Earth. Thus, this reminds journalists of the importance of peace. Furthermore, I can proudly say that the conference is becoming one of the most significant events for journalists globally with each passing year as it expanded into a conference for mutual exchange and gave opportunities to discuss the future of journalism.

However, as COVID-19 continues to spread globally, we inevitably had to hold the event online this year. Therefore, we regret that we cannot show you the beautiful nature and culture of South Korea and the reality of the divided nation in person. Nevertheless it is equally a relief that we could prepare this event to contribute to the development of the journalism by sharing the situation in each country and mutually and healthily meeting in the online space.

Distinguished journalists,

Although we may have different genders, skin colors, and ideologies, we still share some commonalities. We, journalists, all work hard to make the truth known with a warm heart and cold rationality, ultimately for peace and freedom.

We are pleased to hold online World Journalists Conference 2020 with several distinguished

Opening Address

journalists from all over the world to discuss the themes of fake news and COVID-19, which are global problems, as well as peace in the Korean Peninsula, as we commemorate the seventieth anniversary of the Korean War this year.

Although we are only meeting online, I hope that you would all exchange opinions and recommendations so that we may all fulfill our calling as journalists as the conference provides us with precious opportunities to discuss major global issues.

Once again, I take this opportunity to express my deepest gratitude for your participation despite your busy schedules, and I hope that this conference would serve as a highly meaningful and beneficial event. Moreover, please make your unexchangeable experiences here widely known among fellow journalists and the people of your country as well.

I look forward to the end of the COVID-19 pandemic and inviting you all to South Korea to show our beautiful traditional culture and how Koreans, who love peace, live.

-

Dong Hoon Kim

President
Journalists Association of Korea

Congratulatory Message



Congratulatory Remarks for the World Journalists Conference 2020

Greetings. Let me begin by extending my congratulations on convening the World Journalists Conference 2020, held online this year due to COVID-19.

Despite its relatively short history of 8 years, the World Journalists Conference has been hailed as a shining example of public diplomacy.

I would like to express my appreciation for the hard work of President Dong Hoon Kim and members of the Korea Journalist Association, who managed to put together this meaningful event in these difficult times.

This year's World Journalists Conference looks to the future of journalism through three subjects: fake news, COVID-19, and the 70th anniversary of the Korean War.

As you may well know, the world has been besieged by an epidemic unprecedented in our lifetime and subsequent economic recession. Meanwhile, we are grappling with "fake news" that spreads like wildfire.

I am well aware that in order to avoid inhibiting freedom of expression, regulations that address fake news need to be tailored with a high level of precision. This perspective has driven the Korean government's response to COVID-19 fake news. To the extent that such misinformation poses a serious social problem threatening the health and safety of citizens, the government is making the utmost effort in preventive measures to avert an "infodemic." According to a paper published in a prominent U.S. journal, misinformation about COVID-19 has led to approximately 800 deaths and 5,800 hospitalizations.

That "fake news" poses such a real threat to human lives should sound an alarm.

I believe this demonstrates how vital trustworthy information is. In this regard, allow me to extend my respect to all the journalists around the world joining in this worthwhile occasion.

Distinguished guests from the media and press around the world:

This year marks the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War.

The two Koreas joined hands two decades ago for the June 15th South-North Joint

Congratulatory Message

Declaration, and again, two years ago, for the April 27th Panmunjom Declaration, but we have seen no further progress recently.

Nevertheless, our belief remains firm that permanent peace on the Korean peninsula is a noble goal and mission that South and North Korea must achieve.

In fact, the COVID-19 crisis has laid bare the reality that the two Koreas constitute not only a shared community of fates but a shared community of life in terms of public health.

I ask for your continued support of our resolute journey towards a 'Korean peninsula of life and peace.'

We now live in an era where digital technology enables everyone to produce news. However, the flood of information paradoxically throws into sharp relief the value of journalism.

I hope this year's event will serve as a venue of wisdom to reaffirm the importance of journalism and promote solidarity in preparation for the post-COVID-19 era.

Thank you.

Prime Minister **Chung Sye-Kyun**

Introduction of Journalists Association of Korea



A sentence that records history,
Images that deliver reality of the scene,
Journalists who are passionately seeking the truth as their calling,
And always standing behind them, is the Journalists Association of Korea.

Established on August 17, 1964 based on the consensus of Korean journalists, the Journalists Association of Korea celebrates its 56th anniversary this year.

The association has advocated five principles which are the democratic development of Korea, the improvement of journalists, the protection of freedom of speech, the promotion of friendship amongst the association's members, the achievement of peaceful reunification and homogeneity between North and South Korea, and the strengthening of ties with journalists around the world. The five principles serve as the Association's reason for being and as its ultimate goal.

The Journalists Association of Korea is the nation's biggest media body, boasting a current membership of 188 company members and 10,500 individual journalists. The association delivers 50,000 copies of its weekly paper across the nation to present various key issues and viable alternatives.

Also, the Journalists Association of Korea makes efforts to enhance capabilities of journalists by hosting various forums and seminars, and providing reporters with financial support for short- or long-term training programs or studies at domestic graduate schools. We present the annual Korea Journalist Award, which is the most prestigious and long-standing award in Korea's journalism, as well as the Award for Journalist of the Month. These help raise the status of journalism by boosting the morale of journalists and by encouraging the production of high-quality news articles.

Recently, the Journalists Association of Korea has been committed to ousting fake news given its escalation into a global issue and formed a committee to strengthen the ethics of press to promote ethical awareness of journalists. In addition, the Journalists Association of Korea is working to restore the public's faith in media by collaborating with journalists associations around the world.

At the same time, with a view to bolster the public role of the press, we have steadily engaged in the so-called "talent donation" by sending reporters to elementary, middle and high schools. We also make donation for less fortunate neighbors every year. To give

Introduction of Journalists Association of Korea



students a chance to deepen their thinking, we host national students essay contest. To boost members' unity and friendship, we hold national reporters soccer competition and reporters climbing contest every year.

Having recognized early on the importance of strengthening the bond with journalists around the world, the Journalists Association of Korea joined the International Federation of Journalists as a full member in 1966. It also interacts regularly with journalists of other nations by exchanging delegates with journalist associations including the All-China Journalists Association in 1993, the Vietnamese Journalists Association in 1994, the Indonesian Journalists Association in 2013, the Confederation of Mongolian Journalists in 2014 and the Association of European Journalists Bulgaria in 2015, the Russian Journalists Association and Delegation of mutual journalists in 2018. The Journalists Association of Korea is also continuously interacting with the US Society of Professional Journalists.

Regular exchanges with reporters from these countries are role model cases in people-to-people diplomacy beyond conventional diplomacy and greatly contribute to harmony and improvement in bilateral relations. Looking forward, we hope to expand our network with more journalists from foreign countries.

In addition, JAK successfully hosted the IFJ's general meeting for the first time in Asia back in 2001, as well as the East Asia Journalist Forum in 2003, the Asia Journalist Forum in 2005, and the IFJ's special general meeting in 2007. We also held a conference with journalists from Korea, China and Vietnam in 2012. We are interacting with international media organizations like the Reporters Without Borders (RSF) for announcing the freedom of speech and the rights of journalists around the world. Organized annually by inviting journalists around the world since 2013, the 2019 World Journalists Conference is held for the eighth time this year.

The Journalists Association of Korea Would like to strengthen its solidarity with journalists from around the world through this World Journalists Conference. Of course, we share the status and quarantine of the COVID-19, which began late last year and spread around the world. And we're looking for a role in the media for a quick end to COVID-19. And I hope you have a chance to discuss ways to increase the credibility of the media in response to Fake News. Especially, with the 70th anniversary of the Korean War this year, we will let the world know our commitment to peace on the Korean we hope that this will serve as an opportunity for global peace and harmony to spread throughout the world, starting with the Korean Peninsula.

Overview

Introduction of Journalists Association of Korea



Mr. Dong Hoon Kim, the 47th president of the Journalists Association of Korea, and the Executive Department are determined to communicate with the public, realize social justice and closely monitor those who have power and authorities with keen eyes. Also, we will demonstrate journalism in which we stand by the less-privileged with warm heart. Also, we will take the lead in the efforts for our members' rights and welfare as well as our people's grand unity.

To this end, we will continue to strengthen ties with international outlets and build reliable friendships in the process. And, we will prepare for what lies ahead with constant reform and innovation.

Thank you.

Overview

Program

Time	9. 14(Mon.)	9. 15(Tue.)	9. 16(Wed.)
15:00 - 15:05	Opening Address		
15:05 - 15:10	Congratulatory Message	Introduction video	
15:10 - 15:15	Introduction video of R.O.K	Conference II Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods Presentation & Q&A	Conference III The 70th anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in the Korean Peninsula Presentation & Q&A
15:15 - 17:00	Conference I Various Countries' Examples of and Countermeasures to Fake News and The Future of the Journalism Presentation & Q&A		
17:00 - 17:10	Introduction video		
17:10 - 18:00	Debate Various Countries' Examples of and Countermeasures to Fake News and The Future of the Journalism	Debate Global Responses to COVID-19 and Disease Control Methods	Debate The 70th anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in the Korean Peninsula



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WJC World
Journalists
Conference
2020

2020 세계기자대회

Conference III

The 70th anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in the Korean Peninsula

- Biography
- Presentation Materials

※ The presentation materials are listed in alphabetical order of country.



Moderator

Sisoo PARK

The Korea Times / Journalists Association of Korea
Digital news desk editor / Chairman of the International
Exchange Division
Korea

• Curriculum Vitae

Park Si-Soo has been working since 2007 as a English newspaper reporter in South Korea. He is also an author of two books, YouTuber, lecturer and translator (KOR-ENG). Park has featured in various TV and radio shows at home and abroad, including BBC, Arab News, Arirang Radio and TBS eFM, commenting on major issues taking place on the Korean Peninsula. He currently serves as head of the international exchange division of the Journalists Association of Korea.



Special Speaker

Eul-chul LIM

Institute for Far Eastern Studies(IFES),
Kyungnam Universtiy
Professor
Korea

• Curriculum Vitae

- Associate professor, Institute for Far Eastern Studies(IFES), Kyungnam University
- Member of the policy advisory council, National Security Office, Cheong Wa Dae
- Member of the policy advisory council for Inter-Korean Dialogue, Ministry of Unification
- Member of the advisory council for Inter-Korean Summit
- Vice-president, The Korean Association of North Korean Studies(KANKS)



Speaker

Md Tawfique ALI

The Daily Star
Senior Reporter
Bangladesh

• Curriculum Vitae

- Twenty-year journalism career with Bangladesh's most trusted and influential English language national daily, The Daily Star, until March 2020.
- Attended and covered professional events in South Korea, China, Thailand, Poland, Denmark, India, etc.
- Extensively covered conservation of rivers, wetlands and floodplains, unplanned urbanization and environmental conservation, urban and transport planning, water conservation, among other issues.
- Post-graduate in journalism, Asian College of Journalism, India.
- Received journalism training, International Institute for Journalism of InWent, in Hamburg, Germany, in August 2004 and in Berlin in July-August 2008.
- Obtained BA and MA degrees in English literature from Dhaka University.

The 70th Anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in the Peninsula Perspective of a third-country citizen

Do Not Fight: People, Peace and Prosperity matter in the Peninsula

1) This presentation is an interpretation of historical facts and events with an objective deliberation on the woeful war fatalities that devastated the Korean Peninsula seventy years ago. This humble effort has a basis derived from some meagre experience of Korea gathered during my 2013 visit to the Republic of Korea, to the Demilitarized Zone and what I had known from the Korean people's yearning for peace and reunion.

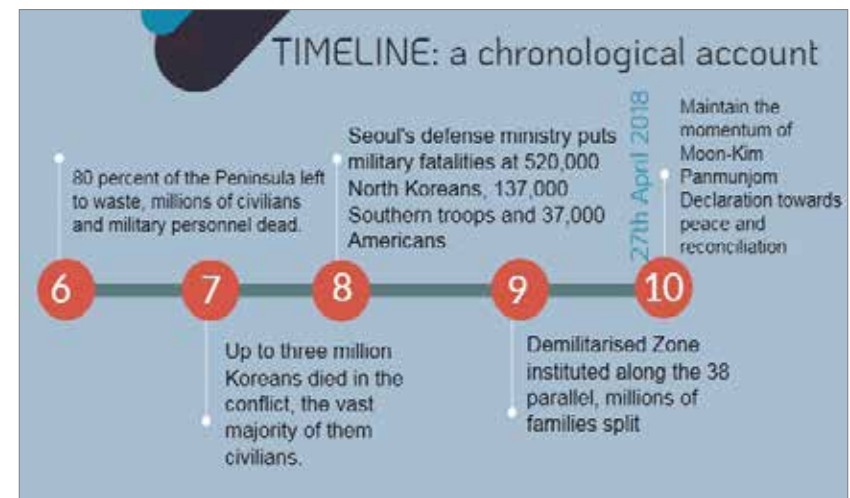
| Md Tawfique ALI

- 2) It also features an understanding of the complex 'war and peace' predicament in the Peninsula through the eyes of a child, a twelve-year old Bangladeshi sixth-grader, Tazreef Ali, as an avid fan of popular K-pop, is a passionate lover of Korean people and culture. She makes an earnest call to the feuding elders: "Do not Fight" and yearns for peace and unity of the Koreans. "They should come to sense and end the stupid war. Peace gives meaning and fulfilment to people," she says.
- 3) The Korean War broke out, as the Communist North Korea invaded the South in a bid to forcibly reunify the divided peninsula in June 1950. With an armistice agreed in July 1953, the three-year bloody fight halted, but the war did not, technically leaving the Korean peninsula perpetually at war.
- 4) The war atrocities, horror and ordeal the Korean people had to undergo are unfathomable in human terms unless one experienced it on the ground. The entire Peninsula was devastated, cities turned into ashes, civilians massacred and villages obliterated. The armistice was never replaced by a peace treaty. The peninsula and millions of families left split along a Demilitarized Zone.
- 5) Korean War was one of the deadliest in modern history, especially for the civilian population. Even the American military personnel who witnessed it, including some who had fought in the most horrific battles of World War II, felt shocked and disgusted with the scale of devastation.
- 6) In today's world, we understand no people can really afford letting their "peace and prosperity" be a perpetual hostage to some vicious cycle of a "military-industrial-complex," as Jessica Lee, a senior research fellow in Quincy's East Asia Program, says these endless wars and the profiteering from war must end. So, the people's priority for peace and prosperity must get precedence over any other.
- 7) A spectacular rapprochement took place in inter-Korean relations in April 2018 that brought three summits between North Korean leader Kim Jong-un and the South's President Moon Jae-in, and meetings between Kim and US President Donald Trump. So, in respect to the people's aspiration for peace, prosperity and reunification, it is of paramount importance to uphold and walk the path of the Panmunjom Declaration towards a Peace treaty to be the best tool to rejuvenate the reconciliation prospect initiated by President Moon Jae-in and Chairman Kim Jong-un. The momentum must live on.

| Md Tawfique ALI

- 8) So, it is crucial that the people of two Koreas focus on rebuilding the inter-Korean relations and denuclearization of the Peninsula simultaneously so the skeptics cannot brush aside the latest Moon-Kim engagement as mere theatrics. Must we not value the Moon-Kim engagement that paved the way for the Trump-Kim talks in the first place? The engagement must yield tangible fruits.
- 9) President Moon's idea of easing economic embargo on the North in exchange for the North's dismantling of large nuclear capabilities should gain ground to overcome the current US-North Korea stalemate following an aborted intermediate deal at the second Hanoi summit in March last year. One needs to examine whether the failure to reach the Hanoi deal harmed North's faith in the process and how to restore it.
- 10) To pave the way for an incremental cooperation and understanding, two Koreas must pursue economic projects they initiated at the Pyongyang summit two years ago. The hard-earned progress must Not retreat.
- 11) A joint declaration of end of the war by all parties would be a path-breaking move for a greater hope comes true, as the US Representative Ro Khanna said in July, "If we take the first step of declaring the end of the Korean War, it could incentivize leaders of the Korean Peninsula to take action."

| Md Tawfique ALI





Speaker

Rinith TAING

Khmer Times
Lead Journalist & Feature Writer
Cambodia

• Curriculum Vitae

I am great writer in all types of writing, in both Khmer and English, especially cultural, historical, and profile feature articles. Everywhere I have been, I've been recognized for my hard work, commitment, creativity, and imagination. My excellent language and communication skills allow me to build up a strong social network and relationships with important figures. I am also a great researcher with excellent investigating skill, and a very active learner who is keen on learning new things and show impressive responses to feedback.

Looking Forward to New Learnings Through Sharing Experiences With the R.O.K.

Greeting from Cambodia, ladies and gentlemen

My name is Rinith Taing, a journalist from Khmer Times, and it is my greatest honour to be attending the World Journalist Conference this year.

First and foremost, on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of the Korean War, I would like to congratulate the Republic of Korea on long years of peace on the Korean Peninsula, thanks to the outstanding peace policy established by the government. Of course, we cannot forget the sacrifices made the fallen heroes of war.

President said earlier this year and I quote, "I believe that when inter-Korean reconciliation and peace inspires the world with hope, we will be able to truly repay the noble sacrifices made by our fallen heroes who gave their entirety to the country."

| Rinith TAING

Born and raised in Cambodia, although I was born right just before the end of the civil war in the country, I precisely understand the pain and suffering that it brought to people, which did not end immediately even after the war is finished. My parents and grandparents also experience the similar hardship felt by the Korean people during the war on the Korean Peninsula. People were starving, and families separated. Both countries had to went through hell and hot water to get to their statues today.

Today, during this peaceful times, the Republic of Korea and the Kingdom of Cambodia is fighting a battle with an invisible enemy, known as COVID-19, the very reason that brought this conference online for the first time. The pandemic is one of the worst economic and public health crisis of all time, but together, we can win this battle. I also would like to take this occasion to express my gratitude of Korea for a series of donations to my country so that my country, still a developing country, can combat this virus effectively. Together, I believe we can flatten the curve.

Also, amid the pandemic, a number of political problems emerges, which could lead to even more serious problems and affect people's lives if no solution is found. And that is why we are here to discuss this.

I am looking forward to learn from your and your countries' experience as well to share my and my country's experience. I hope this year conference will be concluded with a satisfactory result, with everyone happy about having learn new things.

Thank you.



Speaker

Angel Fernando GALINDOO ORTEGA

El Tiempo
Freelance Journalist
Colombia

• Curriculum Vitae

Angel Galindo is a Colombian Spanish teacher with eleven years of working experience. Also he worked as a freelancer journalist for 'El Tiempo', (one of the biggest newspaper in Colombia from 2005 until 2013) and as no permanent lecturer for the Universidad Central's movie club from 2012 until 2014. Currently he is writing for the movie blogs 'debatesdecineblogspot.com' and 'El marrano del pantano' and for the pharmaceutic British website 'The pharmaletter'.

The Korean Cinema as a cultural reflection of the Korean War to the world

Main goal: Make a brief historical review of the most important movies and directors that have made a perspective of the Korean War and its consequences by means of their artistic work.

Topics that will be discussed in the following order:

1. The Korean movies from the Postwar period: 'Madame Freedom' a brief review of the importance of this movie to reflect the culture that raised after the Korean War.
2. The first Golden age of the Korean movies: How the literary influence allowed to establish the first films about the Korean war, and the consequences of this conflict for the society. This part will be focus on the director Yu Hyun Mok and his work in depicting the society of his time in movies as 'Aimless Bullet' (1961), that showed the consequences of the war in its survivors and the emotional changes that the war have made on their relationships.

| Angel Fernando GALINDOO ORTEGA

3. The New Korean Wave: In this topic is going to be discussed how the new wave of the Korean cinema not only represented the influence of the Hollywood industry but also the political conflicts that South and North Korea were living in that decade, by means of movies like 'Shiri' (1999) and 'Brotherhood of War' (2004), among others. It will be discussed how these movies gave to local and international audiences a mixed approach that was from the epic to the realistic one, blended historical drama with social criticism.
4. Documentaries: A realistic perception of the Korean conflict: In this topic will be discussed how the support of the Korean Film Council allowed that independent filmmakers made their own approach of the Korean War and its consequence in the society by means of documentaries as 'Repatriation' (2004) directed by Kim Dong Won that described to the audiences the real lives of North Korean prisoners on Seoul who never gave up their positive point of view about the North Korean government, and 'Our schools' (2006) that explore the life of a South Korean group of students who are in a school that supports the North Korean regime.
5. A contemporary approach to the Korean war: A blending of history and melodrama: In this topic will be depicted how the current directors like Yoon Je Kyoon, Kang Hyeong Cheol among others, in spite of working in different cinematographic styles have mixed different genres to approach a fresh perspective of the Korean War to a new kind of public and show a fresh standpoint about that conflict. For this section, it will be briefly commented movies like 'Ode to my father' (2014), 'Operation Chromite' (2018), 'Swing Kids' (2018) and 'The

Battle of Jangsari' (2019), to give a current approach to the Korean war not only to local audiences but also for international ones.

Bibliography:

This first approach was taken from the texts 'K movie The World's Spotlight to the Korean Film' editions 2012 and 2015 and from the Han Cinema website, which is focus on the Korean independent cinema.



Speaker

Ranjit KUMAR

Rakshak News
Chief Editor
India

• Curriculum Vitae

Presently an independent journalist and contributing to various newspapers and magazines on International affairs. Worked with India's prominent Hindi Daily Navbharat Times as Diplomatic Editor.
Authored three books on South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), India's Nuclear Bomb and Kargil Conflict
Invited as Visiting Press Fellow in Cambridge University in 2004.

Unified Korea in post – Covid world order

The issue of Korean unification has been under scanner of the strategic community world over, especially among the East Asian giants, as any possible unification of the Hermit Kingdom with its southern brother will have a long term economic and strategic fallout on them. The 70th anniversary of Korean war is a right moment to discuss , whether the two Koreas can unite for permanent peace in Korean peninsula and its impact and place in post Covid world order.

As a distant observer from India , I would also agree with the prevailing view in the strategic circles that peace and security is contingent upon rational behaviour of the maverick leader of the North Korea who orders the removal of his closest long term colleague on slightest suspicion of conspiring against him.

In fact long term peace and stability in the Korean peninsula is dependent on the cordial relations between the two Koreas. With a nuclear armed and heavy militarised North Korea,

| Ranjit KUMAR

led by a despotic authoritarian ruler, this seems to be very uncertain. As long as the maverick Kim Jong - Un is in power in Pyongyang, the Korean peninsula will not have tension free environment. A peaceful unification of two Koreas seems to be an impossible proposition as long as the present regime is propped up by its heavy weight biggest neighbour as a counter balancing factor.

To speak frankly China would not like the merger of two Koreas, as it would lead to the emergence of economic powerhouse right at its door in just a few years , which would be considered an alternative to China . The unified Korea would not only emerge as an economic counterweight to China but in strategic sense also , the Koreans aligned with the Americans , would pose a strategic challenge to them. The Chinese are already worried over the US move to deploy the THAAD anti- missile systems on the South Korean soil . The South Koreans also enjoy a security and nuclear umbrella provided by the Americans, which the Chinese certainly do not like.

Since last three decades, ever since the end of Cold War, the issue of Korean unification has been widely discussed with pros and cons and cost and benefits of reunification of the two Koreas. Experts are still debating whether the two Koreas can at all unite and form a common national identity.

In my view, since the two Koreas have diametrically opposite political systems, the unification would only be possible when one of the political systems is dissolved . Since the South Koreans have a well entrenched democratic polity, any political observer can easily say that the South Koreans are not going to live under a totalitarian regime, where as the North Korean despotic regime would also never accept and will not surrender to a democratic ruler in the South.

So, the issue of unification hinges on whether the North Korean regime, protected by its big brother, can be dethroned and the poor North Koreans can be freed from the clutches of the North Korean dictator . If that happens, the North Koreans would not take a minute to cross the Demilitarized Zone, as we have seen during German unification , when thousands of East Germans rushed towards West Berlin and demolished the Berlin Wall.

Giving a view from India, I would like to say that India would be hugely interested in the future of Korea , as it would be positively impacted by the Korean unification. India has over the years developed deeper strategic and economic engagement with the South Korea and it would welcome the unification of the two Koreas, as India has been a victim of North

| Ranjit KUMAR

Korean policy of engaging in proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

However I would not be discussing the impact of possible unification from India's perspectives. As independent observer of the International relations, I would like to say that the issue of Korean unification has assumed new dimensions in post Corona pandemic world order. The Corona pandemic has already further widened the fault lines in the existing world order. In fact the corona pandemic has accentuated this divide and created a rethinking among the international community especially among the Western world, about the nature of China's aggressive behaviour in trying to establish its suzerainty over the South China Sea.

Before the Corona pandemic the international community was already grappling with China's aggressive economic dominance and making the rest of world dependent on them. The Western community feared China's technological and economic dominance and its manoeuvres to make the rest of the world dependent on them, which has destroyed the manufacturing bases all over the world, from US to India to Europe and Africa. The way China has been promoting its 5-G technology companies, leading to the fears of data security breach from USA to India to Australia and Europe, was under discussion among the strategic elites of these countries.

However in spite of Chinese claims, the spread of corona virus to rest of the world has led to strong anger and resentment against Chinese aggressive policy of dominating the world both economically and strategically.

In this fast changing post corona world environment, there seems to be a strong prospect of process of realignment to begin, among nations, who earlier did not dare to speak against China. Countries from Australia to Canada to Germany, are having a rethink on continuing the same level of trust and cordial relations with China.

In this background, an Unified Korea would heavily impact the strategic scene in East Asia, as two Koreas after merger would emerge as an economic powerhouse not only in the region but also in the world. The South Koreans are already world's 11th largest economy. The unified Koreans are likely to eat away most of the economic and strategic gains the Chinese have made in past decades.

To preserve and promote its new found strength a Unified Korea would like to further strengthen the New Southern Policy of present Moon Jae-In regime. Though there seems to be an ambivalent attitude towards free and open Indo-pacific policy propagated by USA

| Ranjit KUMAR

and embraced by countries from Japan to Australia and India, the New Southern policy would find a natural partner among all these countries, irrespective of tensions in Japan Korea relations.

In this respect, a unified Korea would emerge as a balancing factor in Indo-pacific area, which will go a long way in promoting peace and stability in the region.



Speaker

Neha BANKA

The Indian Express
Senior Sub-Editor
India

• Curriculum Vitae

Neha Banka is a Senior Sub-Editor at The Indian Express newspaper, based in Kolkata, India and reports primarily on Asia with a focus on the Korean Peninsula. Most recently, she was awarded a fellowship by the Korean Press Foundation that allowed her to report from Seoul on issues pertaining to South Korea and India's diplomatic relations, South Korean culture and politics and the 70th Anniversary of the Korean War. She graduated from Columbia University in New York City with a Masters in Journalism and has reported from several countries around the world. She also reported from the DPRK-US Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam in 2019 and hopes to further pursue a career as a foreign correspondent, focussing on diplomatic affairs in East Asia and Southeast Asia.

India's lesser-known roles during the Korean War

안녕하세요.

My name is Neha Banka and I am a journalist based in Kolkata, India. I work as a Senior Sub-Editor for The Indian Express, one of India's oldest and largest newspapers. I report primarily on the Korean Peninsula, East Asia and Southeast Asia for the publication. I want to talk about a subject that doesn't often find mention in discussions pertaining to the Korean War; and that is India's role prior to, during and after the Korean War was halted in 1953.

On the 70th anniversary of the war this past July, I did a special news series for The Indian Express, where among other subjects, I reported on some of India's lesser-known contributions. I want to start by quoting a paragraph from my news report on this subject to put the story in context:

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"Close to the border between North Korea and South Korea at the Joint Security Area in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) is a small grey statue that features the flags of 22 countries that participated in the Korean War under the UN Command, helmed by the United States. The North Korean border just steps away, makes this statue easy to miss if one isn't paying attention. Among the flags featured, one is that of India, the saffron colour having faded away due to years of exposure to the elements, but the navy blue Ashoka Chakra in the middle and the India green band below are still distinct."

Just like that little flag is easy to miss for visitors to the DMZ, few are aware of India's innumerable contributions during the war years and my news report was an attempt to highlight some of these contributions. Within the designated time frame, it really isn't possible to focus on all aspects, but I'll try to cover as much as I can. In this report, I tell India's story from the perspective of surviving Indian veterans of the war and how they remember their time in Korea, along with the perspective of researchers and India's diplomats, of how they view the Korean War in retrospect.

India's role is interesting, because unlike the other parties involved in the war, including those that sent forces to fight in the Korean Peninsula as part of the UN Command, India didn't really have any specific geo-political interests in the region. India's perspective at that time was just that the Korean Peninsula shouldn't become another theatre of the Cold War. So why then did Indian forces find themselves in Korea? The story starts a little before the start of the Korean War.

A little more than a year after India attained independence in 1947, the UN officially recognised the Republic of Korea in December 1948. India's representative to the UN, K.P.S Menon, a brilliant diplomat, although against the division of Korea, found himself in favour of US draft resolutions for general elections in South Korea, in the interest of India's wider diplomatic relations.

In 1950, following North Korea's invasion of South Korea, the UN Security Council passed the Resolution 82 in June that year and called on member countries for assistance. It was the start of the Korean War.

22 countries stepped in to contribute to the UN Command under US forces, including India. India's then Prime Minister Jawarhlal Nehru however, wasn't enthusiastic about plunging headlong into the war. India had just attained independence only three years before the start of the Korean War, from approximately two centuries of brutal rule under the British,

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and the newly independent country wasn't very keen on getting involved in a distant war.

In an interview for this new story, India's Ambassador to South Korea, Mr. Skand Tayal who served between 2008-2011, and has also written a book on South Korea told me something I found very interesting: "Nehru believed that Asia should decide its own fate. Syngman Rhee and Nehru detested each other and Rhee thought that Nehru was a closet communist. Rhee's ideologies had been shaped by his time in the US." This gives some context to why India was reluctant to take on a combat role during the Korean War.

But it wasn't the only reason. Indian diplomat V.K.K. Menon also believed in non-alignment in foreign policy, something that wouldn't happen if India sent forces to the war. And so, in July 1952, India sent the 60 Para Field Ambulance, a field ambulance with an attached surgical unit under Lieutenant Colonel A.G. Rangaraj that was attached to the 27th Commonwealth Brigade in Korea.

So India was providing assistance to the Commonwealth Forces, only not in a combative role in allegiance to its foreign policy at that time and was also contributing to peace in the Korean Peninsula in its own way. This unit remained in Korea, providing essential medical services to those who required it till the Korean War halted, and even later on. The mission of this Indian Field Ambulance therefore, was to tend the sick and wounded soldiers under the UN Command and to also provide medical assistance to local Korean hospitals.

In addition to the assistance that India was providing to the UN Command, it was also working as a liaison between the West and China during the war because both the West and China believed that India would adopt a non-aligned role, again since it didn't really have any specific interests in the region, unlike other countries.

In June 1953, after the armistice became effective, the final exchange of prisoners, one that was code-named 'Operation Big Switch', took place between North Korea and the UN forces, over a period of one month, between August to September. The problem was that there were many soldiers who did not wish to be repatriated to their own countries, and this included Americans.

A huge obstacle in the implementation of this armistice agreement was the status of these soldiers, especially under the UN clause that every soldier had the right to their own choice. With no resolution in sight, at the UN, India proposed the setting up the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, also called the NNRC, to facilitate the repatriation of prisoners of

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war. This proposal was accepted by the UN after initial reluctance by China and Russia, and India was placed at the helm of this commission.

India's stance was clear: under the provisions of the Geneva Prisoners of War Convention, force could not be used against prisoners of war to prevent or impact their return to their homelands. Under the proposal, the status of the prisoners who had not been repatriated following the expiry of 90 days after the armistice would be determined by a post-war political conference.

Prisoners of the Korean War who refused to return to their countries would be placed under the protection of the NNRC. The four other members of this committee were Switzerland and Sweden to represent the Western Bloc, with Poland and Czechoslovakia to represent the Communist Bloc.

India was tasked with sending a Custodian Force comprising military and civilian personnel who would ensure the welfare of all prisoners of war who did not wish to be repatriated. At the helm of the entire operation were India's Lieutenant General K. S. Thimayya, DSO, chairing the NNRC, and Major General S. P. P. Thorat, DSO, commanding the CFI.

India's instructions to the CFI were clear: under no circumstances were troops to assume political affiliations and were reminded to ensure neutrality during their mission. They were also not permitted to engage in force, coercion, the threat of force or violence against prisoners. Allowances were only made for minimum use of force but only for self defence.

The motto of this contingent was 'For the Honour of India'.

Something interesting happened at that time. The troops were on their way to Incheon, Korea on board the United States Air Force C-124 Globemaster in September 1953, when they were denied permission for landing. Angered by Indian Prime Minister Jawarhal Nehru's stance of neutrality during the war, South Korea's President Syngman Rhee refused permission for landing. And so the Americans simply sidestepped Rhee, using a helicopter to transport this contingent directly to the DMZ where Rhee had no control.

Memoirs of Indian veterans and records belonging to India's Ministry of Defence show how within hours of landing, the Custodian Forces set up a little India at the DMZ. The Custodian Forces of India set up three camps around the southern half, with prisoners of war under the UN Command housed in nearby camps.

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One Indian veteran told me during an interview how the soldiers had renamed this part of the DMZ, 'Hind Nagar' after the Indian soldiers who had set up camp there. With the arrival of the CFI, the 60 Para Field Ambulance merged operations with them and began working as a single cohesive unit.

This veteran also told me how he went back to South Korea many years later and met with some locals who had survived the war. "The locals still remembered (Indian soldiers). We had treated injured civilians as well. The US Army would refuse medical treatment to many civilians because they wanted to keep supplies for themselves and their allies. But our duty was not related to fighting. It was humanitarian," the veteran had said.

By December 1953, final decisions regarding the future of the remaining prisoners of war were underway. The UN Command made final attempts at convincing prisoners of war, a group that included at least 23 Americans and one British soldier, to return home. Not one agreed. Another month was allotted to deliberate on the future of the prisoners of war since the discussions had ended in a stalemate.

Lieutenant General K.S.Thimayya, chairman of the NNRC stated that the Custodian Forces of India could not continue to keep the prisoners in custody beyond the stipulated date. While the UN Command, helmed by the US, was willing to take back its men, it wasn't so in the case of North Korea and China. Approximately 22,000 prisoners were handed over to their various representatives while a group of 88 prisoners who had not wanted to return home, were brought to India to further process their requests. This group included 12 Chinese, 74 North Korean and 2 South Korean nationals.

South Korea's President Syngman Rhee was still angry over India's neutrality during the Korean War and denied permission to CFI troops to transport prisoners to Incheon on a train for their onward journey to India. With the support of UN Command troops guarding this train, the CFI set sail for India, along with the prisoners on five ships to the Indian city of Madras, now called Chennai.

Soon after the prisoners of war arrived in India, two Chinese nationals and four North Korean nationals wanted to return to their countries and India facilitated the process. The Indian government did not wish to indefinitely look after the remaining 82 prisoners of war in the country and records show that India did not receive financial assistance from the UN for related expenses.

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Post 1955, some prisoners of war who had continued living in India and had not relocated to other neutral countries or returned to their countries of origin, assimilated into Indian society. However, at the time of reporting and researching for this news article, it was not immediately clear if they had acquired Indian citizenship over the years.

India's former ambassador to South Korea, Mr. Skand Tayal had some very interesting closing observations that he mentioned in his interview with me: "It was very much a US-led war. During the Korean War, India's Ambassador to China, K.M. Panikkar served as a mediator between Chinese Premier Zhou Enlai and the UN. Many sane voices at that time, including Mr. Panniker's, said that the UN forces were to be against war."

"The UN's role was not to reunify Korea, but to stop the war. However, events unfolded in a way that the very opposite occurred. The people of Korea did not want the division. It was really a war between the Soviet Union, China and the US, because the Americans had the army, resources and the will to fight communism. It was a war between capitalism and communism."

Seven decades on, there is only a semblance of peace on the Korean Peninsula.

My article can be read in its entirety here:

<https://indianexpress.com/article/research/70-years-of-korean-war-indias-lesser-known-role-in-halting-it-6476030/>

감사합니다.

Thank you.



Speaker

Bob ISKANDAR

Persatuan Wartawan Indonesia(PWI) Indonesian Journalists Association
Senior Director of Confederation of ASEAN Journalists Indonesia

• Curriculum Vitae

- University Lecturer-subject International Relation, Communication, Journalism
- International Observer for IRCOP, Defence & Peace, Military and Politics
- Exchange visits amongst journalists around the world as Coordinator
- International Guest Lecturer in ASEAN, Asia Pacific and South Asia/SAARC
- PIC in Indonesian National Press Day (HPN) in February every year to arrange, invite and coordinate international guests to participate the event eg Ambassadors, UN Reps etc

The 70th Anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in The Korean Peninsula



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NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA ARE TOODBY MARKING THE 70th

Anniversary of The confict that famously never ended, Korean War began on 25 June 1950 and stopped, with only an Armistice in 1953.

The Korean War Represent " THE ULTIMATE "Forever War", a low level Iconflict fareups that have claimed countless lives over decade. "There is no sign it will formally be concluded anytime soon.

But while Seoul continues to push for a permanent peace treaty, the greatest priority for its ally the US has now be came the need to remove North Korean leader Kim Yong Un's nuclear arsenal, which could hav e the potential to reachthe mainland United States. This is why US worry about.

Progress in talks on denuclearisation has, like inter relations, spralled rapidly downhill sice the historic summit between Mr. Kim and Mr. Trump in Singapore, in June 2018.

A suspension of Military deplay ments has been ordered by North Korean Leader. To the border that would have undone all the whilst the US progress made.

In 2018, but levels of tension remain very high. And Sound Korea marked by issuing a joint statement reminding Pyongyang to " Meet its Commitments" made in Singapore, when Mr. Kim pledged to work towards the denuclearisation of the Korean Peninsula.

The South Korean and US said they "Remain firmly committed to defending the hard fought peace on the Korean Peninsula, to include supporting on going diplomatic efforts for the complete denuclearisation of The Democratic people's Republic of Korea. The statement, which talks of the Us's " Ironcled Commitment to the defence of the Republic of Korea " (South Korea), makes no mentioned of working towards a permanent peace treaty.

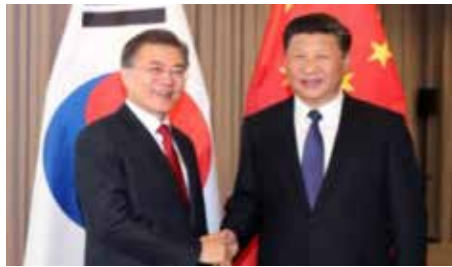
One of the questions that is on the mind of many propenents for Korean peace is why the two countries, even after to many decades have passed, are not closer, despite various agreements for peace and reconciliation.

North Korea is now a nuclearweapons state, something the US simply won't admit to or craft policies to mitigate. Instead, Washington demands Pyongyang surrender its nuclear arsenal- its only security, the ultimate military insurance policy - something most likely it will never do. Many experts have suggested Kim's ultimate goal in talking to the US is to gain reconciliation as a nuclear power.



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Highlighted the rivalry among the major powers as one of the big reasons preventing the Two Koreans from achieving price in the last 70 years. There are also domestic factors "South Korea has been ineffective without a leader who could unite South Koreans before uniting the two Koreans. South Korea first need a leader with "Sophisticated understanding of global politics and wisdom to hell South Korea is polarized politics" before talking about unification.



To overcome the current impasse and defuse political tension, the key parties concerned - the two Koreans, US and China - should keep diplomatic channels open. " The first rule of keeping tensions down is to keep channels of dialogue open ". All for parties reduce risks of conflict by staying at table, even when negotiations are not making progress. The US and China can support the two Koreans are reducing or severing the lines or communications, as is occurring at present. Experts highlighted that efforts toward mutual trust, cooperation and various exchanges must continue despite the current difficulties. Such efforts can lead to actual outcomes, such as reunions of

divided families.



The involved parties need to " To work together seriously, strategically, in a sustained fashion and in a good faith to build trust through simultaneous, phased action for action- for-action on a range of issues including denuclearization of North Korea, economic cooperation, military-confidence-building and people-to -people exchange. For a real breakthrough for a peace, a declaration of the end of war is seen as crucial.



"By ending the Korean war, if Donald Trump, Moon-in and Kim Jong-Un were all to sign some sort of agreement, they would all do something that no other leaders that

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have tackled this issue have done-and gain politically from this act. This will all give them the ability later to make tough compromises that will be needed to continue any sort of peace drive-such as embracing arms control first instead of demanding North Korea completely hand over all of its nuclear weapons".

HOW NICE TO BE TOGETHER LIKE THIS WHICH NEVER HAPPENED BEFORE. WE ALL HAVE TO MAKE SURE THIS TWO KOREAS WILL BECOME TOGETHER AS BIG FAMILLIES AND IN UNITY FOREVER



UNITY IS WHAT KOREAN PEOPLE WANTED EITHER FROM THE NORTH KOREA NOR SOUTH KOREA. WE ALL SUPPORT FOR THE UNITY. HAPPY HARD TALKING WITH SMILE



Speaker

Eddy SUPRATO

Masagar News / RCTI

Managing director /Former Chief Editor/ Former Alliance
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• Curriculum Vitae

Eddy Suprato is a journalist for 20 years. Lastly, he became the Chief Editor of RCTI TV. Now managing Platform Content. Author of the Panglima TNI book, songwriter and film script writer, economic opinion writer. Hobby climbing mountains.

Peaceful Journalism in the Digital Age

The 21st century is often referred to as the digital age. In the 21st century the governance of communication and communication production has changed. Without realizing it, the internet has changed the way the media industry looks and looks. The presence of the convergence media has broken down the barriers of print journalism, television and radio. Converged media offers a multiplatform journalism, blending text, images, sound and audiovisual.

Internet has brought progress in various aspects of human life, politics, economy and social life. In political life, the internet has become a significant means of communication and political mobilization. In fact, in some world, state leaders control power and take public policies via twitter. Even the 21st century has shifted the role of journalists in reporting. The presence of digital technology, the general public, is able to produce content, news and broadcast via free channels, namely Youtube. The advancement of digital technology has made everyone a journalist, everyone can produce content. The presence of robotic technology on the internet further weakens the position of journalists. The role of journalists in producing is fenced off with signs for the journalist's code of ethics, which is destroyed by digital content produced by the general public. Because of the importance of the internet for human life, there is a tendency in the world to recognize internet access as a human right. A survey conducted by the BBC and Workscan on March 7, 2010 showed that the

| Eddy SUPRATO

majority of earth's inhabitants want access to the internet as a basic human right. In a global survey involving 27,000 respondents from 26 countries, 79% of respondents wanted internet access to be recognized as a human right.

This desire seems reasonable, considering that the internet has become a daily part of the lives of earth's inhabitants. Still according to the same survey, the internet is the main source of information for humans (47% of respondents), a means of social relations (32% of respondents), a source of entertainment (12% of respondents) and suggestions for buying goods and services (5% of respondents).

So powerful is the internet for human life, the inhabitants of this earth want freedom in cyberspace. According to 78% of respondents, cyberspace is a place where they can feel free. Meanwhile, 90% of respondents stated that the internet is their place of learning, and 51% of respondents stated that the internet is the most comfortable place for social interaction through means such as Facebook or Myspace.

Regarding freedom of expression, the views of people on this earth are divided. As many as 48% of respondents stated that the internet is a safe place to express opinions, while 49% stated otherwise.

Whatever their opinion of the internet, the people of this earth want democracy on the internet. As many as 53% of respondents wanted there to be no internet regulation. This shows, self-regulation is an option for the world's internet citizens.

However, the tendency of people who want democracy on the internet often clashes with the political interests of authoritarian government.

Democracy VS Fake News

In several countries the desire for democracy on the internet has been asked by one of the country's leaders because their twitter has received a response from censorship and filters. By checking the facts by the owner of the content provider. The internet has created a number of major changes in the world and is expected to increasingly determine the future of human civilization. The new media has changed our political, economic and social face.

The dispute over democratic freedom in the new media is hotly debated. Some world leaders want absolute freedom without filters without a fact check column. Meanwhile, hoax hoxs are the daily consumption of world citizens.

| Eddy SUPRATO

The digital era prioritizes the speed and response of a person in carrying out counter attacks in every problem. Because he prioritizes speed, sometimes the fallacy of the truth of a story is left behind.

We have seen recently how provocative issues, fake news (hoaxes), and various other negative content spread, are consumed by the public, so that they often create conflicts, even conflicts that are widespread in society. Not a few provocative media have emerged with the mission of certain groups, or media that only spread sensations with bombastic titles to simply attract the attention of readers and gain profits from there. Finally, an issue is reported unequally, it only provokes the community to judge certain individuals, groups or parties. As a result, society is dragged into a flow of unhealthy perspectives, into hot dark puddles, full of prejudice and hatred for others, and often leads to conflicts, even violence and division.

Seeing this problem, the peaceful journalism approach is very relevant to be practiced by every media worker journalist. Jake Lynch (2008) explains that peace journalism is a situation when editors and reporters make choices about what to report and how to report it, which creates opportunities for the wider community to consider and assess non-violent responses to conflict. The journalism approach formulated by Johan Galtung, Rune Ottosen, Wilhem Kempt, and Maggie O'Kane aims to avoid or prevent violence in society. This approach has the principle of framing the report of an incident to be broader, more balanced, and more accurate by being based on information about conflicts and changes that occur by directing the delivery of information that has an impact on peace. The implementation of peaceful journalism is based on the determination and commitment of the press, from editors to journalists, to choose a way to resolve problems peacefully.

But there will be a big problem if fake news full of conspiracies produced by heads of state or political leaders to overthrow political opponents is produced and disseminated through new media and hopes that there will be no censorship. Finally, a strong law is what wins becomes the basis of strength, then the democracy that the world's citizens want in the new media will not be achieved. The new media is moving to make a revolution through your hands. Technology does bring blessings to the 21st century generation, but in the midst of the changing new media revolution, the key remains "content". Media magnate Rupert Murdoch said, content is the king. This means that no matter how powerful the technology is, if our program content has no weight, it is meaningless. Finally, in the midst of the independence of the digital era, people can speak out loud, but fake news becomes a pebble for democracy in today's digital age.

Speaker



Pooneh NEDAI

Shokaran Magazine / Asia Journalist Association
President and Editor-in-chief / Vide President
Iran

• Curriculum Vitae

Pooneh Nedai, born in Tehran 1974
Administrator and editor in chief of Shokaran magazine
Administrator of Amrood publication
Adminostrator of Hoo gallery
Poet, artist

Korea, the Strong Country That Survived the War and Revived Like a Phoenix

I have a perfect reason to choose the topic of peace in Korean peninsula and 70th anniversary of Korean war , since I am from a country that was involved in a 8year old war with Iraq and now has a shaking situation to remain in peace. Iran is under a heavy sanction of US while the pandemic situation affected our country like many other countries. We are facing the economic pressure, struggling to stay alive under the stress of trigger of US and Covid 19.

Iran and Korea has a long historical relationship within 1500 years through the silk road and the latest relation was the large market of Korean goods in iran and oil trading. Korea had to end oil trading with Iran for the sake of US sanction.

In such a situation, South Korea has its own tendency to stay in peace with North Korea.

Whenever I think of Korean union, I remeber the famous photo that shows a little bird flying over the border between south and north. I can feel how Korean people dare to be a bird to fly to each side of their brother land easily.

| Pooneh NEDAI

Korea is a strong country that could survive the war and came back to power like a phoenix. There are lots of stories, film and theatre which show the pain of Korean people during the war and at the same time their admirable resistance to keep Korea alive.

I have travelled to DMZ several times with other journalists. We tried to deliver the message of peace in Korean peninsula to the world each time.

This time, we have to keep in touch online but our heart is laid in the tiny line between the brother lands wishing peace and dialogue between the two parts.

Special Speaker



Eul-chul LIM

Institute for Far Eastern Studies(IFES),
Kyungnam Universtiy
Professor
Korea

• Curriculum Vitae

- Associate professor, Institute for Far Eastern Studies(IFES), Kyungnam University
- Member of the policy advisory council, National Security Office, Cheong Wa Dae
- Member of the policy advisory council for Inter-Korean Dialogue, Ministry of Unification
- Member of the advisory council for Inter-Korean Summit
- Vice-president, The Korean Association of North Korean Studies(KANKS)

The 70th anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in the Korean Peninsula

This year marks the seventieth anniversary of the Korean War and the sixty-seventh anniversary of the July Twenty-Seven Armistice. Even though seventy years have passed since the war that claimed millions of lives, the wounds it left are yet to heal or yet to become fully internalized. In addition, the division brought by the hands of men has long sustained the grief of the separated families on the other side of the border. Today, we still find ourselves confronted with a monumental task and challenge. The three Inter-Korean Summits in 2018 have facilitated many agreements that can advance the goals of denuclearization, peace, and cooperation. Still, the lack of progress in the relationship between North Korea and the United States has subsequently stalled inter-Korean relations. Differences and conflicts between North Korea and the United States regarding the disposal of North Korean nuclear weapons have become the most significant threat against peace in the Korean Peninsula. The United States sustains its demands for North Korea to cease provocations, adhere to their duties as determined by the UN Security Council, and return to sustainable and actual negotiations. Moreover, the United States has repeatedly emphasized that despite the slow progress in visible achievements, the door for discussions and progress is still open. The

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United States also reiterated that it will continue to intervene to fulfill the four goals outlined by the 2018 North Korea–United States Singapore Summit. In light of these reiterations, senior officials in the United States have indicated that working-level talks are available as an option for North Korea as summit meetings are not available before the US presidential elections in November.

To this claim, North Korea has consistently put forward a set of positions since the breakdown of the 2019 Hanoi summit, and it is as follows. First, discussions with the United States will not be initiated because of the antagonistic policies against North Korea, namely, the ROK–US military exercises and sanctions. Second, President Trump must fulfill his agreements and promises, including ending US military exercises. Third, discussions will not acquiesce to being used as a political tool for the reelection of President Trump. Fourth, as decided in the plenary session of the Central Committee of the Workers’ Party of Korea last year, North Korea–US relationships are to be handled with a long-term strategy. Fifth, North Korea shall continue to strengthen its nuclear deterrence irrespective of the domestic political schedule of the United States. Sixth and last, North Korea will continue to focus on building its nuclear power and economy to overcome the sanctions in the long-term. Considering these positions, it is unlikely that the talks between North Korea and the United States will resume at an earlier time, let alone show any progress.

The Korean government has underlined the following three principles to facilitate the resumption of talks with North Korea and provide a peaceful resolution in the Korean Peninsula: a firm stance against war, a mutual guarantee of security, and a call to co-prosperity. Moreover, it continues its efforts to discuss its strategies with the United States should talk on denuclearization progress. Such discussions include ideas on denuclearization, a virtuous cycle of inter-Korean and North Korea–United States relations, and the establishment of a peace regime. Moreover, the Korean government plans to continue its commitment toward denuclearization and the peace regime across the peninsula, while, at the same time, strengthening its diplomatic efforts to implement the existing agreements made as a part of the previous inter-Korean summits.

It is clear that there is no other solution for North Korea’s nuclear problem aside from diplomacy. For North Korea and the United States to establish a new relationship and achieve the goals of the Singapore Joint Statement, which include the denuclearization and the establishment of a permanent peace regime, both North Korea and the United States must implement clear and concrete measures toward the next stage. Both leaders have agreed to “establish new US–DPRK relations” in the Joint Statement. To fulfill this agreement,

| Eul-chul LIM

the United States must guarantee a “fundamental solution that reexamines the antagonistic sanctions toward North Korea and its threat against the right to life and development of the state,” as demanded by North Korea. Although North Korea has claimed that it will no longer fixate itself to the relaxation of sanctions, the country’s effective and lasting denuclearization is unlikely without a corresponding relaxation of sanctions of any form. Thus, both states must simultaneously agree and implement the actions that are gradual, mutual, and verifiable to make real progress on its goals of denuclearization and peace.

Above all, North Korea and the United States must exchange proactive measures that will build trust between the two states. For example, the United States can implement a permanent channel of communication between Pyongyang and Washington, expand exemptions in the entry of humanitarian assistance toward North Korea, and rescind travel limitations to North Korea. Meanwhile, North Korea should implement measures, such as the official continuation of its suspension on nuclear and ballistic missile testing, its cooperation with the extradition of prisoner-of-war and veteran remains from the Korean War, as well as its cooperation with the United States for a family reunion event. These measures should further lead to an audacious step toward officially ending hostilities, thereby officially ending the Korean War as well. Even if the measures taken are limited and tentative at the present stage, North Korea and the United States should, at the very least, strive to implement a single measure that they agreed upon in the summit. Establishing a bare minimum of trust between the two states will serve as the stepping stone to the next stage. Finally, I would like to emphasize once again that peace in the Korean Peninsula will serve as a significant opportunity for greater peace and co-prosperity in Northeast Asia and around the world. With the support of our dear guests from international media outlets in this year’s World Journalists Conference, I am sure that the realization of peace in the Korean Peninsula will become a reality in the days to come.



Speaker

Son Taek WANG

Yeosijae
Research Associate
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• Curriculum Vitae

- A Research Associate at Yeosijae, a think tank in Seoul.
- Ph.D. in North Korean Studies
- Former Diplomatic Correspondent at YTN
- Former Washington D.C. Correspondent of YTN
- Former Vice President of the Journalist's Association of Korea.

The 70th anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in Korean peninsula

How are you, everyone? I am Son Take WANG, a research associate at Yeosijae, which is one of the private think tanks in Seoul. I was a journalist for 26 and a half years at YTN, a cable TV news channel in Korea until last month. And I think that I am still part of the journalism world. I'd like to thank Mr. Kim Dong hoon, the president of the Journalist's Association of Korea for inviting me today. And, I am honored to have an opportunity to share my opinion with the distinguished journalists around the world on the issue of peace in this part of the world.

I prepared some points about the reason why Koreans want a peace regime and what is necessary for achieving it. Koreans want peace regime because the division of the single nation and the military hostility in Korean peninsula for decades is too much painful and costly. Besides the fact that you must live in the fear of war, there are lots of pains. First, we have an issue of separated family. The Korean War in 1950 separated millions of family members. As it happened 70 years ago, thousands of older generation people are passing away year by year. I think this is one of the serious humanitarian tragedies in the global village. Second, unlike the South, North Korea experienced major setbacks in economic development especially after the end of the cold war. So, the quality of life of North Korean

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people plunged and the poverty became a source of humanitarian tragedies. Third, the division was originated by an agreement between the superpower countries in 1945, the US and then the Soviet Union. Koreans never agreed on it. If Koreans accept the division as a given fact, it might not be different from that Koreans admit themselves as a slave people. This cannot be acceptable for Koreans.

Fourth, the hostility relation between the two Koreas has extended the sense of insecurity around the North East Asia. And it became a military or economic burden to the neighbor countries including the US, China, Japan, Russia. Fifth, the North has argued that they need the nuclear weapons because their enemy, the US is a superpower nation with the formidable nuclear weapons. However, this is a clear provocation against a non-proliferation regime. It should be resolved, and the peace building efforts should go together. Sixth, the military tensions have limited opportunities for the more prosperity around the North East Asia. So, there are various kinds of agonies and shackles from the division. And Koreans are the major victim of it. Therefore, they have craved the peace regime in the peninsula.

Koreans have tried a lot to achieve the goal for the peace. There were some major progresses in the year of 2018. However, the efforts were violently halted since the collapse of Hanoi summit in February last year. Though the situation is regrettable, there is no time for frustration, and we must stand up and run again for the peace. Considering the several years of trials and errors, I think we have three missions to do. First, the South Korean government should secure the bipartisan support on the peace policies from the domestic political arena. Without resolving this issue, the efforts for the peace would repeat the one step forward and one step back. Second, the North Korea should show the clearer willingness and cooperation for the denuclearization and peace regime. Third, the support from the international society is critical. The South Koreans including myself are responsible for the first issue of the bipartisan domestic support. For the North Korean cooperation, Chairman Kim Jong Un is the only leader who can make a historic decision. For the supports from the international society, it is up to the political leaders and the public opinion leaders around the world. So, I'd like to ask all of you journalists to help. I am sure the peace regime in Korean peninsula can positively contribute to the global community in terms of humanitarian perspective, security, and prosperity. Your help can lead us to the final stage of the 30-year old, if not 70-year old tragic campaign for the peace regime. That's it. Thank you for listening. (end)



Speaker

Bilal BASSAL

Asia Journalist Association
Journalist & Art Critic
Lebanon

• Curriculum Vitae

Bilal Bassal is a Lebanese Artist and Journalist, currently living and working in Paris, France. He is a member of AJA, Asia Journalist Association in South Korea. Gained a diploma in drawing and painting from the Institute of Fine Arts at Lebanese University in 1999. He then settled down in France, where he studied The Art of Engraving and Printing at École supérieure des arts appliqués | Duperré Paris. He held his first exhibition in 2000 in Beirut. His second major appearance was in 2002 when he took part in the 12th Space International Print Biennial in Seoul, where he was awarded the selection Prize. Consequently, his work was displayed at the Museum of the Sungkok in Seoul. Since then, he participated in many art exhibitions held in Lebanon, France, Tunisia, Spain, Germany, and Korea.

The option of peace must always precede the option of war.

When I read about the Korean War and how it was started 70 years ago, on 25 June 1950, between North Korea with the support of China and the Soviet Union, and South Korea with the support of the United Nations, my thoughts took me directly to the Lebanese Civil War that has caused deep wounds to the country and people.

There are many similarities between the sad events in both countries, including the fact that many international countries supported the war inside our small Mediterranean country known then as the "Switzerland of the East".

The biggest losers in a war are people, and for me, human lives are much more important than political gains. From this humane point of view, I decided to make a comparison between the Korean and the Lebanese war.

The war on the peninsula has devastated the Republic of Korea and split it into two parts,

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North and South. Families were separated, personal ambitions were shattered, aspirations for Koreans were dismissed. The sight of the numerous messages at the DMZ from families seeking to find a parent, a relative, a friend, a neighbor breaks our hearts.

The same division occurred in Lebanon, but there is a difference. The Lebanese War did not split the country geographically, but divided its people into different sectarian and social groups.

Between two wars, there were many common points. For example, the strange situation where the people of the same country killed one another. Years after the armed conflicts, both countries today have the same concerns: They fear break out of a new war and the terrible tragedies.

So, let us remain optimistic and hope that this new dreaded war will never happen again. But, to be able to avoid it, we have to learn from the past and prepare for the future. It might be even possible to witness the rebirth of the united Korean Peninsula, to cancel the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), and let the people of both Korean sides meet and be with each other, one people in one country. This is what the South Korean President Moon Jae-in is trying to do actually, by pushing the peace efforts with the North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

What kind of lessons do we have to learn from the past? A simple answer is that wars never were a good solution for the people. For politicians, it may be different, but for the people, there is no doubt that wars are not good for them.

In both Korea and Lebanon, millions of civilians and military personnel have died, most of whom were common citizens. Yet, at the same time, millions of people are still alive, remembering, and suffering psychologically through their own personal experience or the stories of their parents, relatives, neighbors and friends.

In Seoul, for example, it is not difficult to meet someone who has members of his family in North Korea and whom they haven't met for a long time. It is the same in Beirut where people are shocked when they hear stories of how relatives, sometimes brothers, fought against one another, killed one another because they were members of different fighting parties.

It is the duty of everyone to work towards promoting peace because it is the only way for co-existence, tolerance and mutual acceptance. It is normal that there are differences among

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people, communities and countries. But it is not normal to solve these differences through the use of weapons and arms. Conflicts do not actually solve problems. There are those who think that force is the best way to end differences or to dominate others. But this option is not viable as modern history clearly shows.

As a journalist and artist, and looking at the 70th anniversary of the Korean War and the centenary of the founding of Lebanon, I strongly believe that it is a duty to remind the people, mainly politicians in both countries, of the significance of peace and to stress the tragedies caused by wars. The aim is to help ensure there will be no more wars in the future.

This can be done through conferences, documentaries, exhibitions, and cultural events highlighting that the option of peace must always precede the option of war.

Speaker



Keshab Prasad POUDEL

New Spotlight News Magazine
Editor
Nepal

• Curriculum Vitae

Keshab Prasad Poudel is currently working as an editor of New Spotlight National Magazine of Nepal and its online version. He completed his Master Degree from Tribhuvan University Nepal Specializing Journalism. Poudel was also completed media fellowship in University of California Berkeley. Having started journalism 28 years ago, Mr. Poudel has worked in various issues related to international relations. Mr. Poudel took part various international seminars and workshop.

The 70th anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy: Nepal's Perspective

In terms of physical, economic, emotional and human losses, Korean War was one of the sorrowful wars in the human history. It has not only divided nations but also families, destructions of human life and property as well. This is the reason global community including Nepal has been pursuing for peaceful unification of Korea. Nepal government has been supporting all the moves for peace in Korean Peninsula. However, the genuine peace and unification is yet to achieve. Despite optimum diplomatic flexibility and genuine efforts of Republic of Korea (ROK) for peace and unification of Korean Peninsula and backing and support of peace loving people, the region is unable to achieve the long lasting peace. For seventy years, ROK has been constantly pursuing the peace and stability in the region. However, Democratic Republic of Korea (DPRK) often reciprocated with armed and military threat. Unification on the Korean peninsula will contribute not only to the prosperity of Korea but also to the peace and prosperity of Northeast Asia and the rest of the world. A peaceful and unified Korea that is free from the fear of war will be a catalyst for economic development in Northeast Asia.

| Keshab Prasad POUDEL

Whenever the chances of peaceful unification appear in horizon, North Korean regime has not spread any effort to destroy the process with provocative acts. In recent years, peace, unification and denuclearization of Korean peninsula was heading towards rightful direction. Suddenly, North Korea as its usual strategy has pushed it again in dark side. As the North Korean regime is weaker economically, it is more unpredictable now than before. Its recent actions indicate that it is long way to go to see unification and peace in Korean Peninsula.

People from around the world witnessed the shocking move of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) destroying the inter-Korean liaison office in Kaesong just a few days before the marking of 70th Anniversary in June. Opened only a year ago, the building was supposed to herald a new era of ROK-DPRK diplomacy and peace-making in order to ease tensions on the Korean peninsula and pursue greater inter-Korean cooperation.

Not only this, North Korea issued multiple threats, cut off inter-Korean communication lines and massively assembled armed forces on its side. Suffered badly from economic slowdown caused by UN Economic Embargo and COVID-19 Pandemic, North Korean regime used this latest tactic to press the world and ROK. However, this act further exposed North Korea's intention.

Although there are so many ups and downs, Korean Peninsula remains peaceful for the last 70 years. Economically weak and globally isolated, North Korean regime has been using all means to flare up the situation to make gain. However, South Korean political leadership and people maintain their efforts to achieve the genuine and long lasting peace. They have been pursuing a dialogue for sustained peace and unification. Even most disputed period, South Korean leaders offered the talks and there are strong civil society pursuing for unification and peace.

Commemorating 70th Anniversary in June, President of Republic of Korea Moon Jae-in called leadership of the north to take bold move to end the war and paved the way for unification and peace. Despite peaceful border for 70 years, the Korean Peninsula remains in a technical state of war as the three-year war ended with an armistice rather than a peace treaty.

"If we are going to talk about unification, we have to achieve peace first, and only after peace has continued for a long time will we be able to finally see the door to unification," said president Moon in his statement delivered in a program to commemorate 70 years on June 24, 2020.

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The two countries have been following completely different systems as North Korea is authoritarian communist regime rule by the family of Kim. South Korea is under a democratic liberal system with periodic elections. Although North Korea has been using all propaganda to show communist regime is best, ROK has shown no intention to force its system on the communist neighbor and emphasized the importance of building peace first. ROK pursues peace and intend to live well together and they have been continuously search for routes that are mutually beneficial for both Koreas through peace. Along with unification, ROK is pursuing the policy of friendly neighbors first. For South Korea Peace is genuine agenda but peace is merely a political propaganda for family rulers of North Korea.

Although North Korea's violent acts do not affect South Korea much and it has nothing more to lose in terms of economy. However, all these actions will actually hurt North Korea as its decision to dramatically ramp up tensions with the view of forcing South Korea appeared counterproductive. As a state seeking to suppress people and to protect authoritarian regime in the name of survival, North Korea believes in doing whatever it sees fit in order to maximize its political leverage.

To cover of death of tens of thousands of North Korean due to starvations and economic debacle, North Korean regime always takes unpredictable, irrational and dangerous move. This has been causing damage to peace and unification process of Korea.

After the election of Moon Jae-in as president, ROK has rigorously pursued a path of peace with North in the belief that doing so could pave for the stability, family reunion and so many other. North Korea also saw this move as an opportunity to win concessions. ROK's President Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un signed Panmunjom Declaration, which entailed a vision to end the Korean War and also resume inter-Korean cooperation on projects such as the Kaesong Industrial Zone and the Mount Kurgan tourism zone. The liaison office was also a product of this agreement.

With shrinking economy in 2020 for a fourth straight year, it was battered by international sanctions aimed at stopping its nuclear program and by drought. UN sanctions that were added and strengthened in 2017 had a severe impact as output. North Korea's international trade fell drastically as toughened international sanctions cut exports by nearly 90 percent, the worst loss in exports since the central bank started publishing data nearly 30 years ago.

As the troubles facing economy already functioning badly because of inefficiencies and isolation, North Korean regime reversed its destructive decisions within a few weeks. UN

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tightening international sanctions over North Korea's nuclear weapon and ballistic missile programs has been instrumental in Kim's decision to pursue its peaceful approach.

The current president of South Korea genuinely wants to improve the relationship between the two Koreas. The peace can improve the security situation on the Korean peninsula.

Nepal on Korea Unification and Peace

Since the establishment of diplomatic relation between Nepal and Republic Of Korea in May 1974, the two countries have been enjoying very cordial and progressive relation with tremendous growths in various fields including political, economic and social fronts. Nepal sees peaceful unification of Korea will bring lot of economic benefits to it as well. Since there are around 35 thousand Nepali workers currently working in Korea under the Employment Permit System (EPS), any kind's tension in the region will have a greater fall out to Nepal. This is the reason Nepal has give high importance to the peace process initiated by ROK. Opening up of Nepali Embassy in Seoul in 2009, Nepal has shown the importance attached by both the countries to each other's relation. The number people visiting each other's country is increasing rapidly especially after the Korean Air began its direct flights linking Seoul and Kathmandu in November 2006. Korean companies are very much willing to invest in Nepal whereas some Korean companies are already engaged in hydropower projects. Korea and Nepal also share mutual understanding and support to each other in various UN and international platforms. From these perspectives, the present state of relation between our two countries is very much satisfactory.

Nepal has high respects and regards towards the current president Moon who visited Nepal twice on a personal note, and once in June 2016, he was even involved in a reconstruction works of a school in Nuwakot district that was damaged by the devastating earthquake of 2015. His empathy towards the earthquake victims and his attachment to Nepal is a solid proof of our shared values toward humanity and the importance of cooperation. There are always multiple facets of relation between any two countries and it is not only the government of each country but the people who play vital roles in enhancing the bilateral relations though various means such as tourism, trade, sports and social works etc. Many renowned Korean mountaineers have come to Nepal and ascended highest peaks of Nepal including Mt. Everest. Similarly, every year thousands of Buddhists visit Lumbini for a pilgrimage. Such an exchange of people between two countries is the basic foundation for strengthening bilateral relations.

| Keshab Prasad POUDEL

Nepal-Republic of Korea Relations

The relations between the two countries are based on goodwill, friendship and mutual cooperation. Frequent exchanges of visits at various levels have further strengthened these relations. Two countries celebrated the 40th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations in 2014. Nepal has appointed its Honorary Consul in Busan city.

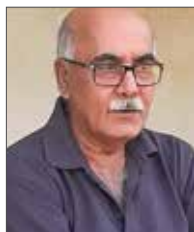
Nepal and the RoK have concluded an agreement for the establishment of Consultation Mechanism between the Foreign Ministries of both countries in October 2001. Four meetings of the mechanism have concluded so far. The fourth meeting was held in Seoul on 23 July 2018. The mechanism provides an opportunity for both sides to discuss on various dimensions of the bilateral relations and to share views on further enhancing bilateral cooperation in upcoming days.

High-level visits from Nepal to the Republic of Korea include the visit of Mr. Mahendra Bahadur Pandey, then Minister for Foreign Affairs, from May 12 to 16, 2014 to attend the program organized by the Embassy of Nepal in Seoul marking the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the bilateral relations between Nepal and the RoK, and visit of Foreign Secretary Mr. Shanker Das Bairagi from 11 to 16 June 2016 to hold bilateral meeting, the visit of Hon.

Similarly, high-level visits from the Republic of Korea to Nepal include the visit of Yu Myung-hwan, Minister for Foreign Affairs and Trade on 22 June 2009, visit of Mr. Kyung-soo Lee, Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs of the Republic of Korea from 25 to 27 November 2014 to participate in the 18th SAARC Summit and the visit of Mr. Chung Eui-hwa, Speaker of the National Assembly of the Republic of Korea from 24 to 26 April 2016 leading a 22-member delegation including four members of the Parliament.

Nepal and the RoK have concluded Cultural Agreement on 30 March 2005 envisaging to promote and develop the cooperation between the two countries in the fields of culture, art, education, youths, sports and tourism.

Since Nepal is a small peace loving underdeveloped country, Nepal has always side with peace and unification in Korea. This is the firm policy of Nepal. Along with the world, East Asia, peace and unification of Korea is also in the broader interest of Nepal. Although achieving peace is a complicate and lengthy process, there is no option for peace. By maintaining the peace in the border for over 70 Years, Korea has also shown their commitments to unification, peace and stability in the region.



Speaker

Nasir Ahmed Memon AIJAZ

Sindh Courier
Chief Editor
Pakistan

• Curriculum Vitae

Nasir Aijaz is one of the senior most journalists of Pakistan, based in Karachi having worked in print and electronic media. He has served in different positions in the field of journalism from Staff Reporter to Editor in various dailies and news agencies. He was also the anchor person for current affairs programs of television for over a decade. Beside being the author of eight books, he contributed over 500 articles in English and other local languages of Pakistan. Dozens of his articles have been published in South Korea by The AsiaN and Magazine N.

Korea – One Nation, Two States

Korea had been a dreamland for me due to its fascinating beauty blessed by the nature, its richness in cultural heritage, and the unique spiritualism based on the teachings of Buddha and the Confucius besides the history of wars against foreign occupation.

In late 1970s, I often attended social and cultural events held regularly at the residences of Consulate officials of North and South Korea in Karachi, and used to watch the documentaries of two countries, which inspired me to study Korean history. Both the Consulates sometimes provided literature on Korean culture and history - one of those was a book 'Modern History of Korea', written by Prof. Dr. Kim Han Gil, published by Foreign Languages Publishing House, Pyongyang, in 1979, which is still preserved in my personal book collection, and served as the basic source of information about the Korea, which the Great Poet of Bengal Rabindranath Tagore had described as 'The Future Lamp of the Asia'.

I always longed to visit such a country brimming with natural beauty, cultural treasures and the history of valiantly fought freedom wars, and it was after almost three decades when I

| Nasir Ahmed Memon AIJAZ

got the opportunity – although the visit was only to southern part of Korean peninsula – The Republic of Korea.

It was 2007 and 2008 when the Asia Journalists Association had invited me to its annual general meetings for two consecutive years, and again invited by Journalists Association of Korea for three consecutive years – 2016, 17 and 18, during which visits to Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), Korea War Museums at mainland and at Jeju Island, War Cemetery in Busan and certain mountain areas known for war against Japanese occupation-forces, was a regular feature. For me, it was really painful to see such a historic and brave nation divided.

For hundreds of years Korea had been a battleground for rival nations, but the last century - possibly the darkest in the peninsula's history - has seen it divided as never before.

There is a Korean proverb which says “when whales fight, the shrimp's back is broken”. And this happened in the case of Korea.

North and South Korea have been divided for more than 70 years, ever since the Korean Peninsula became an unexpected casualty of the escalating Cold War between two rival superpowers: the Soviet Union and the United States.

For centuries before the division, the peninsula was a single, unified Korea, ruled by generations of dynastic kingdoms. Occupied by Japan after the Russo-Japanese War in 1905 and formally annexed five years later, Korea chafed under Japanese colonial rule for 35 years—until the end of World War II, when its division into two nations began.

The Americans controlled south of the line - the Russians installed a communist regime in the north, later ceding influence to China.

In 1950, the North launched a surprise attack across the 38th parallel and quickly took most of the South. The United Nations then backed the action to repulse the advance and the Korean War, which would last for three years, had begun.

By the time an armistice was signed in July 1953, some 2.5 million people had died. The line of division remained where it had started.

It's unfortunate that the Korea still is divided even after seven decades, though the other divided nations like Vietnam and Germany have unified.

| Nasir Ahmed Memon AIJAZ

Back in 1972, the leaders of the two Koreas had expressed desire to move towards reunification of the two countries. At an International Conference for the Unification of Korea in Kyoto in August 1972, it was agreed that in the first phase, the passive peaceful coexistence would be brought about through a general armistice, also including a stop on mutual defamation. In the second phase, this was to be broadened to active peaceful coexistence by including a general North-South coordinating committee, as well as highly specific and ad hoc commissions for concrete tasks of cooperation - particularly the reunification of divided families. In the third phase, this was to be broadened further to an associative system which would include broad, functionally diffuse and permanent cooperation commissions, some kind of common territory around Panmunjom, and an all-Korean superstructure based on the commissions, on periodical meetings of the leaders, and on Korean assemblies. The last phase, as was desired, included total reunification by merging corresponding institutions.

Moving towards peace and reunification in phases was felt necessary, as since 1953, North and South Korea had evolved from a common cultural and historical base into two very different societies with radically dissimilar political and economic systems. But since the division of Korea into North and South was imposed upon the Korean people by outside forces; many if not most Koreans, desired that the two Koreas must one day be reunited.

It is their desire for reunification that in the early 1970s, mid-1980s, early 1990s, in 2000 and even a couple of years back, the two Koreas appeared to be reaching breakthroughs in inter-Korean relations, but each movement toward reconciliation and reunification ended in frustration. Whenever the two Koreas start working to reduce cross-border tensions and enhance ties through socio-economic exchanges, the prospect of reunification is being debated anew in the South.

But some experts have raised question of economic disparity between the two Koreas. According to them, the South Korean economy would be over-burdened with North's less developed economy in case of reunification. In such case, Jeong Hyung-gon, a senior research fellow at the Korea Institute for International Economic Policy, has suggested some ways. He says, "We have to allow for economic independence in North Korea until it narrows gaps with South Korea. ... Without such efforts, sudden political integration is a dangerous and reckless idea."

"We have to change how we think about reunification. If the people of the two Koreas can engage with each other freely, similar to what the Chinese do (with Hong Kong and Macau), I think we can call it reunification," Jeong says referring to the principle of "one-country, two-

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systems" under which Hong Kong and Macau retain their own economic and administrative systems, while mainland China uses socialism for its governing ideology.

According to Jeong, the North Korea is in the initial stage of transition into a market economy, and although the North Korean government did not officially endorse a free price system, most goods are traded at prices set by markets.

In my view, Mr. Jeong's arguments have enough weight, but the main factor hindering the move towards normalization of situation, which could lead to reunification of two Koreas, though in phases, is the involvement of foreign powers, who always had created obstacles whenever Korean nation took steps towards reunification.

I firmly believe that reunification of two Koreas is inevitable, as only The One Nation – One Korea can guaranty the stable peace in the world in general and in the Asia in particular.



Speaker

Santiago CASTILLO RODRIGUEZ

ASIA northeast.com
Director
Spain

• Curriculum Vitae

- Graduated in Journalism from the Complutense University of Madrid and editor for International for 25 years at the EFE News Agency (<https://www.efe.com/efe/espana/1>).
- I am author of two books about the Korean Peninsula, I have lived for several years in South Korea, where I was a correspondent in the area, working for the Korea Broadcasting System International (KBS).
- In November 2014 I participated as the only Spanish speaker at the United Nations headquarters in Geneva in a seminar on the Unification of the Korean Peninsula, where I presented the theme "Prospects for a great unified Korea".
- I am currently the director and founder of digital online www.asianortheast.com dedicated to Northeast Asian affairs and where the Korean Peninsula occupies an important space.

The 70th anniversary of the Korean War, the peace policy on the Korean Peninsula:

1. The signing of a peace treaty that replaces the 1953 Armistice Agreement is vital to build trust and start a new stage in the Korean Peninsula.
2. The new political situation in North Korea should serve to channel the new social, economic and political reality to bury the past, and with a new peace treaty it would be possible.
3. Since 1945 until 2020, political events on the Korean Peninsula have been multiple, as well as the numerous and serious incidents between the two Koreas, which has reflected not only the existence of the 'Cold War', but also moments of enormous tension on the brink of a military conflict with serious consequences. But the most hopeful has been, despite the

| Santiago CASTILLO RODRIGUEZ

blockage in the advance of stability, the North Korea's political change from January 2018 during the Pyeongchang Olympic Winter Games that contributed to a rapprochement with the South and to two historic encounters between Kim Jong-Un and Donald Trump.

4. The 70th anniversary that faced the two Koreas should be the last to be held under current political circumstances.
5. This 70th anniversary of the start of the Korean War has meant that not even in Seoul, where the South Korean President Moon Jae-In remained silent, or Pyongyang, where no act was highlighted about that conflict. Therefore both countries did not hold important events to commemorate the anniversary. Nonetheless, Moon once again urged North Korea to sign peace, which will favour both parties, especially in the economic field in the North and the reduction of defense budgets for the two countries.
6. A war that served to annihilate both Koreas with the destruction of all their structures.
7. A war that contributed to fuel the bipolar confrontation of the so-called 'Cold War' until today.
8. A war that involved China and the United States directly and the former Soviet Union in a subsidiary way.
9. However the war deepened the division between the two parties and thousands of separated families, this being one of the most dramatic chapters of the war between the two Koreas (1950-1953), and thus technically they are still at war.
10. The 1953 Armistice Agreement was necessary due to the fear that a Third World War will break out and with a Soviet Union armed with nuclear bombs.
11. After this tragic episode of what was the Korean War, once the coronavirus pandemic is overcome, it is key, and with a new president in the United States, that both North and South Korea understand each other, leaving the past into oblivion, and dismantling the North Korean nuclear program, its only weapon of protection, analyzing the lifting of sanctions, and above all, create a climate of trust that Pyongyang needs to achieve with Seoul the signing of a peace that ends what was the 'Korean War' and the almost 70 years of turbulences and tensions that have not solved the problem. The world has changed and more that will change. Although China cannot be left out obviously.



Speaker

Leo Nirosha Darshan SATHASIVAM

Express Newspapers (cey) LTD
Asst. News Editor
Sri Lanka

• Curriculum Vitae

I have almost 15 Years of experience in Journalism field. I have been employed as Asst. News Editor@the ENCL News Room, which is the leading Tamil Dailies in Srilanka and also Trilingual in Digital News. I started my Careers as a Trainee Journalist on September 01,2004. Parliament, Defense, Foreign Affairs and Diplomat these are my Areas in News.

The 70th anniversary of the Korean War: pain and loss must be remembered

Today marks the 70th anniversary of the Korean War. In that sense, the South Korean pain and loss must be remembered. Only then can the international community realize the lessons learned in war and the truth of reconciliation.

Fears of war clouds over the Korean Peninsula and another massive global catastrophe are rife among peace-loving nations. It is the prayer of the Korean people that lasting peace should prevail in the region.

If selfish nations use Korean soil again to pour oil on the burning fire, it will have an impact not only on the people who live there but also on people living in other parts of the world. However, I in Sri Lanka also have experience of war. We have lost thousands of relationships that have claimed millions of lives in three decades of civil war.

The Korean War is to be the strongest and deadliest war in world history. Korea is the only

| Leo Nirosha Darshan SATHASIVAM

divided country in the world... The same ethnic group is fighting north-south over the vast land of Korea. The activities of some countries are seen as preparing both sides for war in the guise of aid.

There are fears of a renewed war between North and South Korea. Although bilateral talks have created many healthy conditions, the activities of certain countries are set to cause war fears on the Korean Peninsula.

It is common for the rest of the world to have different opinions about a country launching a satellite into space. It can even be critical. In this situation, on December 12, 2012, North Korea launched a new satellite into space. Many countries condemned it. Countries such as the United States, Japan, and South Korea advertised the satellite as a rehearsal for war.

China has also condemned North Korea's satellite deal, despite an agreement to send troops to protect North Korea if it is invaded by any colonies. The issue of North Korea also began to heat up at the United Nations. North Korea has stated its commitment to satellite technology to test nuclear weapons and missile technology.

The United Nations sent troops for the first time to maintain peace in the Korean War, which clashed in the north and south. It was a turning point in the Korean War, which wreaked havoc. The United Nations has sent a message to North Korea to remain calm so as not to tarnish world peace. But North Korea continued its attacks on the south in defiance of the UN message.

As the army prepared for war, China deployed its troops in support of North Korea. On the other hand, the then Soviet Union, now known as Russia, moved large quantities of munitions into North Korea.

In September 1949, Russia successfully tested its first atomic bomb. Russia acted eagerly to prove its strength in the war. Russia stockpiled war furniture in North Korea in 1949 and 1950 to express its interest. The Korean War began on June 25, 1950.

The South Korean military suffered heavy casualties in the war. UN Security Council calls for immediate end to hostilities the army suffered heavy casualties and retreated. South Korea's only natural harbor was Bussan. The Chinese military has come to the aid of North Korea via the Yale River as Russia's warplanes carry out heavy attacks on South Korean territory.

Sixteen million communists are to have died or disappeared in this war. The death toll in the

| Leo Nirosha Darshan SATHASIVAM

South Korean military is to be in the millions. It is said that tens of millions of innocent South Koreans were killed in the war.

War should never take place on Korean soil again. Let us pray for lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula...



Speaker

Mehmet Fatih OZTARSU

Former Asia N / Hankuk University of Foreign Studies
Freelance Journalist
Turkey

• Curriculum Vitae

Mehmet Fatih Oztarsu completed his PhD education at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, South Korea. His research areas include peace and conflict studies, Post-Soviet politics and the Caucasus affairs. He is a member of the International Center for Journalists (ICFJ) and Young Turkey Young America fellowship program at the Atlantic Council. He writes articles on Caucasus-Central Asian-East Asian affairs for various newspapers in the Caucasus countries and South Korea.

The Peace Policy of South Korea to End the Korean Conflict

The Korean Peninsula suffered a long history of colonization, occupation, and division. The absence of peace makes this peninsula as one of the dangerous places in the world. The potential risk of military conflict and the recurrence possibility of war under the armistice regime can be counted as the first reason to define the current unclear situation. However, this conflict case shows a significant negotiation process in that North Korea and South Korea actively engaged and exchanged ideas on a peaceful regime as well as the reunification issue. The peace policy of South Korea might be an important example of other conflict cases in the world.

The Korean War became the first military confrontation of the Cold War term. After a long period of Japanese colonization, the struggle for independence on the Korean peninsula shaped the regional geopolitics and entailed the occurrence of war.

The Japanese surrender in 1945 was a meaningful page of history regarding the struggle

| Mehmet Fatih OZTARU

against tyranny by the Korean people that resulted in independence. However, the process of gaining independence was heavily affected by the big powers of that period, and it caused political disputes.

From the late 1910s, the Korean people sought ways to end the Japanese occupation, and established various political organizations by obtaining support from other countries. It was almost impossible to practice organizational behavior on the peninsula due to the high volume of Japanese repression, hence the people created their ways of combat and political representation. Therefore, a long period of the endeavor of the Korean Provisional Government in Shanghai and militant structuring of the communist forces against the Japanese occupation resulted in victory in August 1945 when the Japanese Empire surrendered.

Since the political preferences of the Koreans differed in decades, the post-1945 period was affected by this reality, and both sides held elections with the support of the United Nations (UN) after the formation of the UN Temporary Commission on Korea (UNTCOK). As a result, two different political entities were formed under the leadership of Kim Il-sung and Syngman Rhee in the north and south, respectively. The two sides were supported until 1950 by the Free World, led by the US, and the Communist Bloc, led by the Soviet Union and China. However, the situation on the peninsula was still unclear because of the two separate and different regimes. Additionally, their allied states withdrew their forces from the peninsula gradually until 1950. As a parameter of the early Cold War period, only two political powers could shape world politics, and it was a potential conflict that needed to be resolved with the initiative of one of the sides. As a result, South Korea was invaded by North Korea on 25 June 1950 with the claims of unification under the leadership of Pyongyang.

The Korean War began with a surprise attack of North Korea that gained territories until Pusan, the most southeastern port city, in the short term. The explicit support of the Soviet Union urged the UN to prevent the aggression of the communist bloc on the peninsula. A military intervention came into the agenda after the announcement of the resolution that claimed North Korea should withdraw its forces and put an end to the invasion. Finally, the United Nations Command (UNC) formed with the participation of sixteen countries. The bloody war lasted until 1953 and left millions of deaths and injured people. As a result, North Korea backed into its borders, and South Korea got rid of the big-scale invasion.

The war ended with an armistice agreement, signed by the UNC, North Korea, and China representatives on 27 July 1953. The armistice regulated the establishment of the Demilitarized Zone near to the 38th parallel that divided the North and South Korea. Additionally, the

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armistice recommended parties held a conference for a final peace settlement. Although the parties agreed on proceeding in that time, the final peace settlement didn't occur, and the Korean Conflict remained one of the dangerous conflict cases in the world. Therefore, the war technically continues, and this situation becomes a concerning point for regional and global peace.

The Negotiation Process of the two Koreas

The Korean Conflict includes various negotiation attempts of the North and South governments starting from the 1960s because both sides always focused on the peace settlement issue to realize the reunification on the peninsula. At this point, it is very important to see and analyze the negotiation process of the parties in decades along with their changeable bargaining dilemma. Here, four pillars of the negotiation attempts of South Korea played an effective role to stabilize the peninsula in regard to political and military tensions. These are the 1972 Declaration, the Nordpolitik Doctrine, the Sunshine Policy, and the Panmunjom Process.

As the first remarkable development appeared with the occurrence of the North-South Joint Declaration in 1972 that both sides emphasized the importance of achieving reunification by decreasing the volume of the military threats and increasing mutual trust. At the same time, a direct telephone line was installed between Seoul and Pyongyang. This step remained as a remarkable one in the negotiation history of the two Koreas. After a short period of the war, the parties were still seeking ways of establishing a mutual understanding with the aim of the Korean reunification.

The second step came with the announcement of the Nordpolitik during the presidency of Roh Tae-woo between 1988-1992, who aimed to improve relations with the communist countries in the north and indirectly to create influence over North Korea for a peace settlement. This political doctrine emerged when South Korea was becoming a financial and technological hub. This initiative brought together the Inter-Korean Trade Measures, Special Declaration for National Self-Esteem, Unification, and Prosperity, and the South-North Joint Declaration on the Denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. The last one was signed in 1992 and became a significant page of the negotiation history of the Korean Conflict. Moreover, high-level visits exchange happened as a part of this process.

The third step was identified as The Sunshine Policy by Kim Dae-jung in 1998. The policy came into the agenda while North Korea was suffering from international pressure because of its nuclear posture. Furthermore, the economic and political dimensions of this policy enabled

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both parties to talk, and this initiative resulted in the North-South Joint Declaration in July 2000 when Kim Dae-jung and Kim Jong-il met in Pyongyang. The declaration included confidence-building measures, economic cooperation, and humanitarian issues for solving the main problems between the parties. On the other side, the reunification issue was discussed in a positive atmosphere by accepting various ideas. The policy gave a lead to ministerial-level talks, the realization of common economic projects such as Kaesong Industrial Complex and Mouth Kumgang tourism facilities, and resolving humanitarian necessities.

For the first time, Seoul achieved to implement a wide range of cooperation opportunities by evaluating the reunification case with its style because that issue would be concluded step-by-step with the help of economic and political instruments. Furthermore, the policy continued even after the term of Kim Dae-jung when Roh Moo-hyun became president between 2003 and 2008. The two states held a presidential-level meeting in 2007 and signed the Declaration on the Advancement of South-North Korean Relations, Peace, and Prosperity. These achievements made positive contributions to the confidence-building even though both sides had disagreements on some political and military issues due to their foreign policy postures.

The fourth step came after a long period of escalation between the North and South during Lee Myung-bak and Park Geun-hye's presidencies from 2008 to 2016. Therefore, the fourth step, the Panmunjom Process began in late 2017 with the initiatives of president Moon Jae-in who accepted himself as a successor of the Sunshine Diplomacy. Declaring Seoul's positive intentions to revive the bilateral meetings with Pyongyang, Moon facilitated the diplomacy channels before the Pyeongchang Winter Olympic Games in 2018. As a result, both sides signed the Panmunjom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity, and Reunification of the Korean Peninsula that contained reunification desires with the implementation of necessary steps under comprehensive cooperation. The Panmunjom Process made parties to realize ministerial-level meetings as well as direct communication between the presidents. Additionally, this step played an enormous role in the US-North Korea dialogue process.

In the current situation, the parties still seek to terminate the armistice regime by replacing it with a final peace settlement and realize the reunification even though there are dozens of disagreements issues that should be resolved with the determination of the Korean people. The above mentioned initiatives occurred by a long-term political will and mutual agreements of both parties after a series of persuasion endeavors. The leadership in South Korea took risks of failed efforts and rejection from the Northern side. If stabilization still remains on the peninsula, it is the result of that policy. The only thing is the necessity to

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adopt more instruments for the conflict management process and contributions of the conflict resolution tools. Consequently, the Korean Conflict shows a unique example of a dramatic division and consistent negotiation history. Everything done so far enables the two sides to proceed for a peaceful ending in the future with their extraordinary peace process.



Speaker

Daniel John DAMON

BBC World Service
Presenter
United Kingdom

• Curriculum Vitae

I am a presenter of the BBC World Service radio news programme Newshour. For 17 years, I was the presenter of the daily news programme World Update. I was part of the team that developed the BBC Korean service which launched in 2018. Before that, in the period from 1989 to 1995, I worked as a TV reporter in Eastern Europe, the Middle East and the former Soviet Union covering the collapse of Communism and the wars in the Balkans.

The 70th Anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in the Korean Peninsula

My talk to the WJC on “The 70th Anniversary of the Korean War and Peace Policy in the Korean Peninsula” will have three main sections.

1. Introduction: the threats facing the freedom of expression in South Korea and the safety of South Korean journalists today are rooted in the conflict of 70 years ago. Since 2017, the South Korean government has made great efforts to improve diplomatic and economic links with North Korea. Those efforts have largely failed. Even though much of the blame can be leveled at the naivete of the US administration and some shameless manipulation by the North Koreans, the failure has led to large scale street demonstrations against President Moon Jae-in. Conservative demonstrators have accused the president and government of showing weakness and pandering to the Communists. At the same time, the economic and social effects of the Covid-19 pandemic have created an atmosphere of uncertainty - not just in South Korea, of course. This combination of circumstances has added energy to anti-government protests and increased the attractiveness of populist slogans. This in turn plays into the false belief that there is no such thing as truth and what

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is reported in news media is based either on corruption or journalists’ self-interest. This part of my talk will provide some detail on the challenges that South Korean journalism now faces in this very dangerous phase in the development of South Korea’s democracy.

2. The past: South Korean media including newspapers and broadcast news were developed under the influence of the United States Army from 1945 and especially during the war years 1950-1953. Many of the regulations that governed journalists until the 1980s and which still have their effect today were shaped with reference to the threat from the North. In the period following the first relatively free elections in 1987, American style journalistic standards were respected and many journalists from South Korea studied in the United States. South Korea has its own news culture, of course, but the US was a continuing influence on most South Korean journalists, encouraging them to maintain their objectivity and to hold to account those with political and economic power. But the positive influence of the United States on press freedom around the world has diminished in recent years, because of some worrying developments. Foremost of these is the growth of partisan news media in the United States and the campaign by US president Donald Trump to denigrate the established news outlets, especially those which have been most active in investigating his business dealings and his relationship with Russia. This part of my talk will outline the history of the United States as a positive influence on freedom of expression and press freedom in South Korea and what the recent changes in the US media landscape might mean for South Korean journalists.
3. The future: the last part of my talk is potentially the most controversial but I believe I can justify its thesis. The influence of China on South Korean politics has always been of concern. Since diplomatic relations with Communist China were established in 1992, South Korean governments have used political skill plus cultural and technological success to maintain a carefully balanced relationship with the much larger neighbour. While China’s influence on North Korea has never been satisfactorily applied to the question of a settled peace on the Korean Peninsula, from a South Korean viewpoint, at least China has since the 1990s not sought to destabilise South Korea. But South Korea’s weakening ties to America come at a time that Xi Jinping has taken a firm grip on China’s growing regional and global military and economic ambitions. I am not going to predict disaster for South Korean freedoms. But the threat must be recognised and journalists protected from it.



Speaker

J. Alex TARQUINIO

Society of Professional Journalists
Immediate Past National President
United States of America

• Curriculum Vitae

J. Alex Tarquinio is the Past National President of the Society of Professional Journalists in the United States and a press freedom advocate, as well as an independent journalist. Her work has been published in Foreign Policy Magazine, Politico Magazine, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, The New York Post, The San Francisco Chronicle and Forbes Magazine. She has often spoken about press freedom issues at conferences and forums across the United States. Ms. Tarquinio received a German Marshall Fund journalism fellowship to cover the divided Mediterranean island of Cyprus. She is honored to participate in the World Journalists Conference for the third consecutive year.

Seventy Years of Stalemate on the Korean Peninsula

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. I say good evening, but of course, it may be morning where you are tuning in from. Here in my home, in New York City, it is the middle of the night.

Let me start by introducing myself. I am the Past National President of the Society of Professional Journalists in the United States and a press freedom advocate, as well as an independent journalist. I should state up front that although the facts and opinions that I express tonight about the peace process are my own, based on previous reporting and experience, only the comments about journalism ethics and impartiality express the views of the organization that I represent, SPJ.

It is an honor to participate, for the third consecutive year, in the World Journalists Conference and to virtually meet such an esteemed group of colleagues. Wherever you are joining us from, thank you for participating in this important discussion on the 70th anniversary of the Korean War, and above all, I wish to thank our hosts, the Journalists Association of Korea, for

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their thoughtfulness in organizing such an event in these extraordinary times.

Public anniversaries typically mark the successful conclusions of conflicts with a peace treaty or armistice, or at the very least, an important turning point on the pathway toward peace. Today, we are marking the anniversary of the commencement of a conflict that has never officially ended.

Our hosts have asked us to consider the 70-year peace process on the Korean peninsula. After three generations of stalemate, it can feel like a recurring nightmare. It is echoed in the perpetual torment in the Academy Award-winning film Parasite, when one man locked away in a bunker desperately flashing signals to the outside world using Morse Code dies upon escaping, only to be replaced by another man condemned to the same fate.

This is a fitting metaphor for a conflict that began on June 25, 1950, when North Korean soldiers surged below the 38th parallel, conquering Seoul within a matter of days. After millions of lost lives over the next three years, during which Seoul changed hands four times, the final dividing line was drawn more or less where it had been on June 24, 1950. The South refused to sign the armistice in 1953 because it did not want to grant de facto legitimacy to the Kim Il-sung regime in the North, which had seized power by refusing to participate in the United Nations organized election in 1948. Ever since, the South and its allies have been struggling with how to define peace. Does it mean trying to influence the North to become a freer and more humane neighbor? Or is the ultimate goal reunification?

In recent years, the peace process has been defined by high-level summits aimed at reigning in the North's nuclear and missile programs after a nerve-wracking period of North Korean missile and bomb tests that began in 2017. The talks in 2018 and 2019 put the key questions of human rights abuses in the North and reunification on the back burner. Then came the disappointment in the summer of 2019, when just days after an unprecedented three-way meeting between the leaders of North and South Korea and the United States, satellite images showed rebuilding of missile test facilities in the North that they had previously appeared to be dismantling.

Since then the current round of denuclearization talks has stalled. Of course, so much has been put on hold this year because of the global COVID-19 pandemic. Even without these tragic circumstances, the Korean negotiations would necessarily be delayed while we await the outcome of the U.S. presidential election.

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There is often a sense of déjà vu in long-running conflicts. When I first visited South Korea to attend this conference two years ago, I was struck by the similarity with another divided land that I had closely observed. I reported from Cyprus on a German Marshall Fund journalism fellowship just as residents of the divided island were grappling with the failure of a 2004 referendum for a United Nations reunification plan. Many of the most contentious issues were similar, such as the question of repatriating the remains of those who had died on the “wrong side” in the conflict decades earlier, reuniting families and liberalizing travel across the Green Line, the Mediterranean island’s version of the Demilitarized Zone. Despite the failure of the reunification plan, Cyprus has made progress on some of these issues, and in 2005, residents were regularly crossing from the Turkish-controlled zone of the island.

Of course, we have to be careful about making too much of historical comparisons. The division of Cyprus is, and always has been, quite different from that of the Korean peninsula. North Korea is in the third generation of a hereditary regime based on a personality cult that has emphasized its million man standing army and nuclear aspirations over the health, education and welfare of its people. The current Supreme Leader, Kim Jong-un, has executed his own uncle and is widely believed to be behind the assassination of his half-brother. And above all this hangs the cloud of uncertainty about the regime’s nuclear program.

My remarks are simply intended to underline the fact that despite the relative freedoms in Cyprus over the last 15 years, there seems little impetus for a political reunification along the lines of that between East and West Germany after the fall of the Berlin Wall. Sudden surprises like this, when viewed from a different angle, are often the result of many consecutive smaller changes.

Two years ago, I interviewed the current UN Special Rapporteur for North Korea, Tomás Ojea Quintana, a human rights attorney in Argentina who is in charge of tracking the human rights abuses in the North. At that time, he was concerned that the negotiations between the two Koreas and Washington were putting aside the issue of human rights violations in the North, where the UN estimates there are currently up to 120,000 prisoners held in internment camps, and that hundreds of thousands of North Koreans have perished in them over the last five decades.

By contrast, the economic, social and political improvements in the South over the past generation have been breathtaking. Satellite images of the peninsula at night show South Korea lit up like a candle, while everything north of the DMZ is plunged into darkness.

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A technology-fuelled economic boom in the South, driven by global brands like Samsung and Hyundai, has enhanced the material conditions for the population. Equally importantly, the country is now freer and fairer than at any time in its history.

As journalists, freedom of speech and of the press is dear to our hearts. These freedoms have been greatly enhanced in recent years, with the South ranking in the top third of the Reporters Without Borders Press Freedom Index. By contrast, the North ranks dead last in this index. The so-called Hermit Kingdom has near total control over communications shared by mobile phone, and residents can still be sent to an internment camp for viewing information produced in a foreign country.

This contrast presents great challenges for reporters covering the Korean peninsula, and the on-again, off-again denuclearization and peace process.

That is why it is so critical for us to report the facts to the best of our abilities, without fear or favor. Journalists are widely perceived to be the eyes and ears of the public. We are not diplomats. We do not represent our governments, nor do we speak for special interests, such as political parties or social groups with which we may privately identify.

Naturally, there is more than simply first hand reporting; there is a legitimate role for opinion journalism, and this goal of the peace process and denuclearization talks on the Korean peninsula warrants plenty of opinion pieces. The Society of Professional Journalists’ Code of Ethics states that opinion journalism – whether expressed by writing or recorded audio or video – must be clearly indicated as such. That permits readers and viewers to understand that the selection of facts has been guided by the desire to validate an opinion.

But reporters writing the first draft of history – especially those of us covering subjects that profoundly influence world peace, such as setbacks in nuclear disarmament talks – should render a full and impartial account of events.

As journalists, we cannot flinch from these facts. Just as one of our hardy predecessors, Marguerite Higgins, bravely confronted the challenges of reporting on the Korean War. She was the first woman to win a Pulitzer Prize for foreign correspondence, making her an inspiration to many future women journalists, such as myself. She won for her coverage of the landing at Incheon in 1950. Better known as Maggie Higgins, she said at the time, “I wouldn’t be here if there were no trouble. Trouble is news, and gathering it is my job.”

Thank you all very much for your attention. I look forward to hearing your questions.



2020 세계기자대회

**WORLD JOURNALISTS
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2020 세계기자대회



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참가자 리스트



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1	Bahrain	Habib TOUMI	Ministry of Information	Media Consultant
2	Nigeria	Austine JONATHAN ODO	Daily Trust Newspaper	Deputy Editor
3	Georgia	Khatuna CHAPICHADZE	Georgian Technical University; San Diego State University	Professor
4	India	Ranjit KUMAR	Rakshak news	Chief Editor
5	Costa Rica	Dennis Jose MORA GUZMAN	HorizontesTV	Director
6	Egypt	Ashraf DALY	Asia Journalist Association/ The silk road literature series	President /Editor in chief
7	Nigeria	Abubakar ADAM IBRAHIM	Daily Trust Newspaper Abuja	Features Editor
8	Colombia	Angel Fernando GALINDOO ORTEGA	El Tiempo	Freelance Journalist
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10	India	Sabina INDERJIT	IFJ	Vice President
11	Russia	Timur SHAFIR	Russian Union of Journalists	Vice president
12	Russia	Vladimr SOLOVYEV	Russian Union of Journalists	President
13	Pakistan	Salim BOKHARI	City News Network	Chief Editor/Director
14	Turkey	Sinem VURAL	Hurriet	Journalist
15	Turkey	Mehmet Fatih OZTARSU	Former Asia N/ Hankuk University of Foreign Studies	Freelance Journalist
16	Cyprus	Petros SOUTZIS	Phileleftheros newspaper	Editor in Chief
17	India	Ambica GULATI	Independent Journalist	Independent Journalist
18	Nepal	Arun RANJIT	The Rising Nepal	Managing Editor
19	Pakistan	Rahul AIJAZ	Freelance journalist	Freelance writer/journalist and filmmaker
20	Bangladesh	Mashiul ALAM	The Daily Prothom Alo	Senior Assistant Editor

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23	Saudi Arabia	Yasir ALGHAMDI	Riyadh newspaper	Executive Editorial secretary
24	Bangladesh	Mahbub MORSHED	The Daily Star	Assistant News Editor
25	Cambodia	Rethea PANN	The Post Media.Co.ltd	Sub-editor/Reporter
26	Kyrgyzstan	Nurzhan KASMALIEVA	Kabar News Agency	Chief of international affairs department
27	Pakistan	Nasir Ahmed Memon AJJAZ	Sindh Courier	Chief Editor
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37	Nepal	Gokarna AWASTHI	Freelance	Freelance
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39	Uzbekistan	Dilmurod DJUMABAEV	Asian Journalist Association	Correspondent
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43	Lebanon	Bilal BASSAL	Asia Journalist Association	Journalist & Art Critic
44	Panama	Alma Misilet Solis RODRIQUEZ	Panamá	SNIP Noticias de Panamá
45	Nepal	Keshab Prasad POUDEL	New Spotlight News Magazine	Editor
46	Philippines	Rosalin GARGANERA	Asian Journalist Association	Chief of Staff/ Broadcaster
47	Germany	Hassan HUMEIDA	University of Kiel	Doctor
48	Kazakhstan	Zhanat MOMYNKULOV	Academy of Public Administration under the President of Kazakhstan	Director of regional branch
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50	New Zealand	Tim McCREADY	NZ Inc	Business Journalist
51	India	Neha BANKA	The Indian Express	Senior Sub-Editor
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53	Sri Lanka	Leo Nirosha Darshan SATHASIVAM	Express Newspapers (cey) LTD	Asst. News Editor
54	Bangladesh	Md. Tawfique ALI	The Daily Star	Sr. reporter
55	United Arab Emirates	Ashwaq Mohsen Naji AL-ATOLI	Alarabiya News Channel	Writer Reporter
56	Myanmar	SAN Yamin Aung	The Irrawaddy	Senior Reporter
57	Paraguay	Benjamin FERNANDEZ	Radio Libre	Director
58	United Kingdom	Daniel John DAMON	BBC World Service	Presenter
59	Kuwait	Reaven Gerrad D' SOUZA	The Times, Kuwait	Managing Editor
60	Somalia	Khadar Awi ISMAIL	National Union of Somali Journalists (NUSOJ)	Information Secretary and Human Rights Officer

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61	Italy	Moscattello ANTONIO	Askanews News Agency	Journalist
62	Nepal	Purna Bahadur BASNET	Nepal Khabar	Editor-in-chief
63	United States of America	J. Alex TARQUINIO	Society of Professional Journalists	Immediate Past National President
64	Saudi Arabia	Hani HAZAIMEH	Arab News Daily	Assistant Editor In Chief
65	Yemen	Mohammed AL-MUHAIMID	Salam(peace) Initiative	Communication Engineer
66	Colombia	Margaret OJALVO	Oja Noticias, El Mundo al intante, Free Lance	Director and Journalist
67	India	Neelima MATHUR	Spotflim TV News Features Agency	Executive Producer
68	Kyrgyzstan	Kubanychbek TAABALDIEV	Kabar News agency / WS BBC radio	Director General / producer
69	Singapore	Ivan LIM	Environment Communcators of Singapore(Ecos)/Asia Journalist Association	Chairman/Senior Correspondent
70	Sri Lanka	Nisthar CASSIM	Daily FT	Editor
71	Lebanon	Ghena HALIK	Iaha magazine & asia N	Journalist
72	Honduras	Rosa Maria PINEDA	Newspaper the tribune	Journalist
73	Latvia	Aivars OZOLINS	Weekly Magazine IR	Commentator
74	Indonesia	Bob ISKANDAR	Persatuan Wartawan Indonesia(PWI)/ Indonesian Journalists Association	Senior Director of Confederation of Asean Journalists(CAJ)
75	Indonesia	Mohammad NASIR	Indonesian Journalists Association (PWI)	Director of Public Services of PWI
76	Cambodia	Rinith TAING	Khmer Times	Lead Journalist & Feature Writer
77	United States of America	Lynn WALSH	Trusting News, Society of Professional Journalists	Assistant Director of Trusting News, Ethics Chair for Society of Professional Journalists
78	Ireland	Frank MCNALLY	The Irish Times	Columnist
79	Vietnam	Lan Cu Thi	Dan Tri Online Newspaper under the Ministry of Labour, Invalids and Social Affairs	Editor- Deputy Head of the World News Desk
80	Indonesia	Eddy SUPRATO	Masagar News / RCTI	Managing director /Former Chief Editor/ Former Alliance Journalists independence Indonesia President

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82	Cambodia	Sophal CHHAY	Club of Cambodian Journalists	Executive Director
83	Australia	Brett MASON	Special Broadcasting Service (SBS)	Chief Political Correspondent and Parliament House Bureau Chief
84	India	Gunjeet Kaur SRA	Sbcltr Media (subculture)	Editor
85	Ghana	Malik SULLEMANA	New Times Corporation	Journalist
86	China	ZHU Jing	All China Journalists Association	Journalist
87	Brazil	Angela PEREZ	O Estado de S. Paulo newspaper	Editor of International Affairs
88	Germany	Tobias KAISER	Die Welt	EU Correspondent
89	Argentina	Fernando KRAKOWIAK	Pagina 12	Journalist / Economy section editor
90	China	CHEN Yingqun	China Daily	Senior reporter
91	Vietnam	NGUYEN Do Hoa Mi	The Journalists and Public Opinion Newspaper, Vietnam Journalists Association	Reporter / Deputy Head of International Affairs Division
92	Mongolia	Bolortulga ERDENEBILEG	Confederation of Mongolian Journalists	General Secretary
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94	Indonesia	Atal S Depari	PWI Pusat	Chairman
95	United Kingdom	Jim BOUMELHA	International Federation of Journalists	Honorary Treasurer, Former President