

## **Well-balanced approach to the issues on the Korean peninsula and Northeast Asia**

(Kim Ye Jin, Researcher, Institute for Disarmament and Peace, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, DPRK)

Since World War II until now, the power architecture of Northeast Asia has been compressed on the Korean peninsula, where both the north and the south aspire after the reunification. Under these circumstances, all the neighboring countries, which have political, military and economic interests on the peninsula, are deeply concerned about the reunification formula since it is directly connected with security and peace in Northeast Asia.

### ***Danger of Korean reunification through confrontation of systems***

The two sides of Korea have gone along different paths of development maintaining different ideologies and political systems for almost 70 years since the division. Neither of them wants to abandon its respective ideology and system although reunification comes as their common aspiration.

Under this stark reality, if one side tries to force its ideology and system on the other side, it will bring about a war, severely threatening peace and stability in Northeast Asia. The geopolitical position of the Korean peninsula remains unchanged from the past until now. The Korean Peninsula is surrounded by big powers and their interests are intertwined in it. Due to this geographical peculiarity, the Korean Peninsula may prevent or instigate conflicts among big powers. Confrontation and conflict between the two sides of Korea will inevitably invite big powers to the conflict and reconciliation and cooperation between the north and the south will promote stability of the region including big powers and check outbreak of possible conflicts. The north-south fratricidal war, caused by confrontation of systems, may get neighboring countries drawn into that fight, but on the contrary the peacefully reunified peninsula could serve as a buffer zone that ameliorates the strategic confrontation among neighboring countries.

The new U.S. Asia-pacific Strategy is aimed at containment and control of other major powers and the Korean peninsula is considered the main stage of strategy. To cope with the US moves, the neighboring countries strengthen their strategic countermeasures and expand the areas of cooperation. This reality enhances dependence of security of Northeast Asia upon the reunification formula of the Korean Peninsula. In 2012, the U.S. came up with its new defense strategy and since then dispatches annually the aircraft carrier fleet to conduct the U.S.-Japan-South Korea joint naval exercises in waters around the peninsula, accelerates preparation for

## **Biuletyn Ambasady**

**KRL-D**

**3 lutego 2015 r.**

**[www.krld.pl](http://www.krld.pl)**

establishment of trilateral missile defense system. In response to the US moves, Russia and China stage joint naval exercises around the peninsula and join their efforts to counter the U.S. attempts to establish a missile defense system in Asia.

Under these circumstances, the continuation of confrontation of systems will only bring a war to the Korean Peninsula where any mechanism for preventing an armed conflict and war does not exist since the Armistice Agreement had been nullified. This war would not only go on until the winner is decided, but also fan the flames of strategic confrontation among the neighboring countries, so as to cause the complete destruction of security balance in Northeast Asia and in the long run, the region will be in catastrophic Armageddon. If a war broke out on the peninsula, it would be a clash of fires and nukes and its catastrophic aftermaths would be incomparable with the 1950s' Korean War or recent Middle East turmoil or Ukraine case.

In conclusion, reunification through confrontation of systems is an unrealistic attempt against the interests of the two sides of Korea as well as the neighboring countries and might be an act of opening Pandora's Box destroying the long-term interests of the Korean nation and Northeast Asia.

The north and the south should refrain from pursuing confrontation of systems absolutizing their own ideologies and systems, so as to realize national reunification peacefully and play a pivotal role in the efforts to shift unstable peace into a durable one in Northeast Asia.

### ***Korean reunification through system coexistence-the only way***

As it is obvious that confrontation of systems will only induce a war, the peaceful way of Korean reunification is, as a matter of course, a coexistence of systems of the north and the south.

Some are misunderstanding as if differences in systems of the two sides of Korea might be a reason for them unable to coexist. However, it can by no means be a reason for the two systems unable to coexist. The differences in systems are not Achilles heel in the course of promoting reunification but an inevitable reason for coexistence of systems. It is proved by the fact that the Korean nation's aspiration after reunification has never weakened but getting stronger and stronger even though different systems have been formed and consolidated on two sides of Korea.

Two different systems, diverse political activities and various forms of possession can coexist in a state. It has been proved in practice in other countries.

The two sides of Korea recognize that each side has its own system. Therefore, when they respect each other, cooperation between the two sides will be easily realized and achievement of

## **Biuletyn Ambasady**

**KRL-D**

**3 lutego 2015 r.**

**[www.krld.pl](http://www.krld.pl)**

reunification won't be a question.

The north's position to reunify the country with the formula of maintaining two systems is not aimed at forcing its interests and system upon the south, bringing burden and sufferings both the north and the south. The north does not force its socialist system on the south and has never done so. However, this does not mean that the former would tolerate the latter to force its system on the former.

When reunification is promoted by the formula of system coexistence, the two sides have no need to dice with death for reunification and to sacrifice their interests. On the contrary, they can butter both sides of their bread.

The reunification formula through coexistence of two systems is not aimed at imitating unification experiences of other countries but achieving reunification in conformity with reality of the Korean peninsula. In other words, it is the formula agreeable to and already agreed by the north and the south. If the north and the south, key parties of reunification, fail to respect the spirit and articles agreed by each other and try to copy others' experiences and apply them to the Korean peninsula, it would be a naive and innocent attempt equivalent to build a cloud-cuckoo-land.

Unification experiences and formulas of other countries may conform to realities and conditions of the relevant countries, but will not definitely suitable to the reality of the Korean peninsula.

On the road to reunification the north and the south have already agreed on charter and great program for reunification such as the 3 principles of national reunification, the historic June 15 Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration, thus demonstrating to the whole world the nation's determination and mettle to reunify the country.

When we refer to the three principles of national reunification, they are namely the principles of independent, peaceful reunification and great national unity.

The three principles of national reunification serve the two sides of Korea as a foundation of all the previous agreements and declarations between the north and the south and a cornerstone of system coexistence reunification. When our nation propels the reunification issue in accordance with the three principles of national reunification, there is no need for our nation to pick others' brains in terms of reunification formula and to beg for approval of outside forces concerned, but to choose the way of coexistence based on the great national unity instead of a war to be resulted from confrontation.

The current south Korean authorities should highly respect and value the three principles of national reunification, although the other inter-Korean agreements be also deserve respect.

## **Biuletyn Ambasady**

**KRL-D**

**3 lutego 2015 r.**

**[www.krld.pl](http://www.krld.pl)**

Nothing is impossible if our nation joins efforts.

When we resolve all the issues in the inter-Korean relations on the basis of reunification charter and great program of the whole nation, the reunification issue can be addressed fairly and smoothly in conformity with the common interests of the nation.

### ***Korean reunification through coexistence of systems and its positive impact on Northeast Asia***

The north and the south agreed on the ways of improved inter-Korean relations and reunification formula in the June 15 Joint Declaration and the October 4 Declaration. They are, in a nutshell, improving the inter-Korean relations and achieving national reunification peacefully while leaving the two different systems intact. When the north and the south resolve the reunification issue according to this formula, it will promote regional peace and stability by turning the Korean peninsula, the hot-spot zone in Northeast Asia, into a buffer zone.

In terms of politico-military aspect, it has been rigidly viewed that only when the armistice were terminated and a peace mechanism were established on the Korean peninsula, could the hostility be ended and reunification be achieved. However, if reunification through coexistence of systems is promoted by the north and the south, armistice and hostility will naturally lose their ground to exist and peaceful environment will follow.

Reunification through coexistence of systems inevitably gives birth to a neutral state. The process of guaranteeing neutral position by neighboring countries will disintegrate the confrontational security structure into a peace-promising one in Northeast Asia.

In terms of economic aspect, this format will create tremendous benefits not only to the Korean peninsula, but also to Northeast Asia as a whole.

Recently, many region-wide initiatives of bilateral and multilateral economic cooperation projects are found. They are aimed at moves to connect railways, roads, gas pipelines, electric power networks and development of energy, natural resources, sea ports, economic special zones and environment cooperation. Of course these initiatives require stable development of the inter-Korean relations on the Korean peninsula. Therefore, promoting peaceful reunification through coexistence of systems agreed by two sides of Korea will satisfy the demands for regional cooperation so that the peninsula and the region will achieve a flying start for the prosperity after all. It will further serve other region's member states including Europe to give an eye to the chances for economic cooperation around the Korean peninsula.

Consequently, smooth resolution of the reunification issue according to the formula agreed by the north and the south is a well-balanced resolution in favor of the peaceful environment on

## **Biuletyn Ambasady**

**KRL-D**

**3 lutego 2015 r.**

**[www.krld.pl](http://www.krld.pl)**

the Korean peninsula and in Northeast Asia, so as to push and enlarge regional economic cooperation.

These points prove the validity of the reunification ideas clarified by the respected 1st Chairman Kim Jong Un of the National Defense Commission of the DPRK in his 2015 new year address. He stated that the north and the south should refrain from seeking system confrontation while absolutizing their ideology and system and satisfactorily resolve the reunification issue in the common interests of the nation transcending the differences in ideology as they had already agreed.

Reunification through system coexistence is the only way to resolve the Korean issue most peacefully and reasonably. When this is realized, the world will give its blessing and credit to the wisdom and dignity of the Korean nation.

February 2. Juche 104(2015)