



Inter-Korean Red Cross talks, August 2009

04

Inter-Korean Dialogue

- I . North Korea's Funeral Delegation
- II . Economics and Society
- III . Humanitarian Issues
- IV . Inter-Korean Liaison Channel at Panmunjeom

Chapter 4. Inter-Korean Dialogue

The ROK government has maintained its position to resolve all issues between the two Koreas through sincere dialogue based on mutual respect. From this position, the South has proposed sincere inter-Korean dialogue on every occasion.

As of late June 2010, nine rounds of inter-Korean talks had been held since 2009. In addition, other contacts and unofficial meetings were held outside of official inter-Korean talks. On the occasion of a North Korean delegation’s visit to the state funeral of former President Kim Dae-jung, the Lee administration held its first senior-level inter-Korean contact, which led to another contact on April 21, 2010 regarding the Gaeseong Industrial Complex and a meeting to assess a proposal for a joint study tour of overseas industrial complexes.

However, inter-Korean dialogue was suspended after the North’s attack against the *Cheonan* on March 26, 2010, and then the Panmunjeom hotline was cut off. North Korea’s attack on the *Cheonan* clearly showed North Korea’s belligerence and duplicity as the North engaged in dialogue with the ROK on the one hand, but conducted an armed provocation against the ROK on the other.

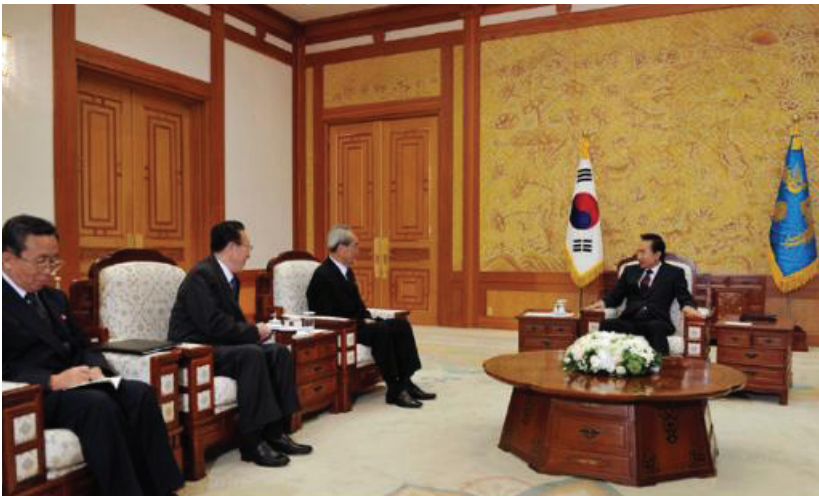
The incident raises doubts about the North’s sincerity for dialogue and shows that inter-Korean dialogue has had limited effects on inducing fundamental changes in inter-Korean relations. In fact, despite the ROK government’s efforts on diverse fronts, the North Korean nuclear issue has come to a deadlock and not enough progress has been made on issues such as regular reunions of separated families and the repatriation of South Korean POWs and abductees due to the North’s passive attitude. At the same time, North Korea’s detention of a South Korean worker raised the need to introduce stricter institutional means to ensure the personal safety of ROK citizens visiting or staying in North Korea.

I . North Korea’s Funeral Delegation

North Korea’s special funeral delegation visited Seoul from August 21 to 23, 2009 to express condolences and attend the funeral of former President Kim Dae-jung. Headed by Kim Ki Nam, Secretary of the Korea Workers’ Party (KWP) Central Committee, the North’s delegation consisted of six delegates including Kim Yang Gon, Director of the KWP United Front Department.

List of the North Korean Delegation Members

| Name | Title | Note |
|----------------|--|------|
| Kim Ki Nam | Secretary of the Korea Workers Party Central Committee | Head |
| Kim Yang Gon | Director of the United Front Department, KWP Central Committee | |
| Won Tong Yon | Director of the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee | |
| Maeng Kyong Il | Councilor of the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee | |
| Ri Hyon | Councilor of the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee | |
| Kim Un Ju | Technical staff of the National Defense Commission | |



President Lee Myung-bak receiving the North Korean funeral delegation



Unification Minister Hyun In-Taek and Director Kim Yang Gon of North Korea’s United Front Department shaking hands, August 2009

The North Korean delegation arrived in Seoul on August 21 and visited the memorial altar for former President Kim Dae-jung set up at the National Assembly. Then, it met with the National Assembly Speaker in his office, in which the National Assembly leader expressed his gratitude for their mourning, emphasized the need for mutual benefits and common prosperity between the two Koreas, and urged an early release of the South Korean sailors and ship that was detained by North Korea on July 30. Secretary Kim expressed his condolences on the death of former President Kim Dae-jung. The delegation also visited the Kim Dae Jung Peace Center and delivered a letter written by Chairman Kim Jong Il to Madam Lee Hee-ho, widow of the late President Kim.

On August 22, Director Kim Yang Gon met with Unification Minister Hyun In-Taek, who briefed the delegation on the ROK’s policy toward North Korea. The two sides discussed a wide range of issues of common interest regarding inter-Korean relations. Before the meeting, the delegation had a breakfast meeting with Kim Deog-ryong, Special Presidential Advisor for Public Reconciliation and Standing Chairman of the Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation, and personnel from the Kim Dae Jung Peace Center as well as a meeting with Democratic Party lawmakers including the party leader Chung Sye-kyun.

President Lee Myung-bak received the North Korean delegation at Cheong Wa Dae on August 23. Secretary Kim Ki Nam, Director Kim Yang Gon, and Councilor Won Tong Yon from the North side and Unification Minister Hyun In-Taek and Senior Secretary for Foreign Affairs and National Security Kim Sung-hwan from the South side were present at the meeting. The North Korean delegation delivered to President Lee an oral message from Chairman Kim Jong Il on the progress in inter-Korean cooperation. After explaining the ROK government’s firm and consistent principles for its North Korea policy, President Lee asked the delegation to deliver those principles to Chairman Kim. He also emphasized that, if the two Koreas engage in sincere dialogue, there would be no inter-Korean issue that cannot be resolved. The North Korean delegation responded by expressing their hope for the two Koreas to resolve all pending issues through cooperation.

Following its courtesy call on President Lee, the delegation returned to the North in the afternoon of August 23.

II . Economics and Society

1. Inter-Korean Working-level Meeting on the Gaeseong Industrial Complex

A. The April 21 Contact

An inter-Korean contact on the Gaeseong Industrial Complex took place in Gaeseong on April 21, 2009.

List of Delegates from the North and the South

| | The South | The North |
|---------------|--|--|
| Head Delegate | Kim Young-tak (Director General for the Gaeseong Industrial Complex Project, Ministry of Unification) | Pak Chol Su (Vice Chief, Special Zone General Bureau) |
| Delegates | Kim Nam-sik (Director General for Inter-Korean Dialogue Planning, Ministry of Unification) Moon Moo-hong (Chairman, the Kaesong Industrial District Management Committee) | Ri Yong Ho (Director, National Economic Cooperation Federation) Kim In Jun (Councilor, Special Zone General Bureau) |

On March 30, 2009, North Korea sent a message to the South that it had been probing into a South Korean worker of the complex according to its relevant rules. The ROK government demanded several times that the North provide a detailed explanation on the procedures for the probe and guarantee visitation rights of the workers. But the North ignored the demands.

While the worker was still held in custody, the North’s General Bureau for Central Guidance to the Development of the Special Zone (Special Zone General Bureau) sent a notice on April 16 to the chairman of the South’s Kaesong Industrial District Management Committee, demanding a government-level contact. The notice said that the North would notify the South of grave matters regarding the GIC project. Although there were some procedural problems in the North’s proposal for contacts, the ROK government accepted it in the belief that resolving the detention issue was the top priority. However, the contact on April 21 is not regarded as part of official inter-Korean talks because

the contact did not conform to issues surrounding formalities and procedures.

The ROK government pointed out that the North’s detention of the South Korean worker on March 30 was a violation of inter-Korean agreements and demanded his immediate release. The government also emphasized that the North’s behavior to create tension since January 2009 such as announcing the nullification of inter-Korean agreements did not contribute to the development of inter-Korean relations, and urged the North to immediately stop such actions. The ROK strongly demanded the North to swiftly rescind the restrictions on entry and sojourn unilaterally imposed on December 1, 2008 and to stop its slander and libel against the ROK head of state.

North Korea conveyed that it would re-write the land lease contract from the scratch and shorten the grace period of royalty payments, saying it would “conduct an overall review of all institutional favors” granted to the South regarding the GIC project. The North also argued that it would renegotiate existing contracts and that the South should fully cooperate with the North in the renegotiation process. The contact was concluded without having made substantial consultation on the agenda items.

B. The First Inter-Korean Working-level Meeting on the GIC

The first round of inter-Korean working-level meetings on the GIC was held at the Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation Consultation Office (ECO) in Gaeseong on June 11, 2009.

List of Delegates from the North and the South

| | The South | The North |
|---------------|--|---|
| Head Delegate | Kim Young-tak (Senior Representative for Inter-Korean Dialogue, Ministry of Unification) | Pak Chol Su (Deputy Chief, Special Zone General Bureau) |
| Delegates | Kim Ki-ung (Director of Planning and Coordination, Ministry of Unification) Kim Hyun-chol (Director, Ministry of Unification) | Ri Yong Ho (Director, National Economic Cooperation Federation) Won Yong Hui (Senior Staff, Special Zone General Bureau) Hwang Chung Song (Counselor, National Economic Cooperation Federation) Kim In Jun (Senior Staff, Special Zone General Bureau) |

The South’s delegation detailed its position on the detention of the worker, the lifting of the North’s restrictions on entry and sojourn, and other pending issues for the development of the complex. In particular, the South demanded confirmation of the detained worker’s location and his health condition, as well as a personal meeting. The South strongly urged an early release of the detainee with the view that the issue was an essential matter for the project’s sustainability. Regarding the North’s demand for a review of GIC-related laws, regulations and contracts, the ROK reiterated that the matter should be handled rationally through sufficient consultations among the contract parties, the developers, and tenant companies that would be affected by the review.

The North Korean delegation avoided discussions on the detainee issue and persisted that the issues of land rents and wages must first be discussed. The North demanded US\$500 million in rent fees for the GIC first-phase development site (3.3 million square meters) and an increase in the monthly wage to US\$300 for North Korean workers. It also insisted that a dormitory, a day care center, and commuter roads for GIC had to be built quickly and argued that the two sides must discuss ways to improve the labor environment as well as ways to manage and operate stable water supply facilities in the complex.

The South repeatedly demanded a meeting with the detained worker and confirmation of his personal safety. The North refused and only responded, “He is fine.” As for the South’s demand for the removal of the restrictions on entry and sojourn, the North said it would make every effort for the development of the GIC project and expressed its willingness to “provide additional guarantees” regarding the number of people who enter and stay in the complex. The delegation said the North would guarantee new tenants the same number of people allowed to enter and stay in the GIC as permitted for current tenants.

The two Koreas failed to narrow the gap in their views of the agenda items, and the meeting ended with an agreement to continue discussions in another meeting on June 19.

C. The Second Inter-Korean Working-level Meeting on the GIC

The second round of inter-Korean working-level meetings on the GIC took place at the ECO on June 19, 2009.

List of Delegates from the North and the South

| | The South | The North |
|---------------|--|---|
| Head Delegate | Kim Young-tak (Senior Delegate to the Inter-Korean Dialogue, Ministry of Unification) | Pak Chol Su (Deputy Chief, Special Zone General Bureau) |
| Delegates | Kim Ki-ung (Director of Planning and Coordination, Ministry of Unification) Kim Hyun-chol (Director, Ministry of Unification) | Ri Yong Ho (Director, National Economic Cooperation Federation) Won Yong Hui (Senior Staff, Special Zone General Bureau) Hwang Chung Song (Councilor, National Economic Cooperation Federation) Kim In Jun (Senior Staff, Special Zone General Bureau) |

The South’s delegation believed it was taking a “practical approach” by focusing on the ROK employee’s long detention in the North and proposed that the detainee issue be resolved first before addressing other issues related to the operation and development of the GIC. The ROK’s top priority was a meeting with the detainee and obtaining his immediate release. In addition, the South tried to deliver two letters from the detainee’s family, one addressed to the detainee and the other to the North Korean authorities demanding a meeting with him.

The South delegation proposed three principles for the development of the GIC with the aim of identifying the causes that have hampered the stable development of the complex. The South suggested that the principles should be followed to find fundamental solutions to the problems facing the GIC.

Three Principles for the Development of the Gaeseong Industrial Complex

1. Establishment of rules: Strictly abide by inter-Korean agreements, contracts, regulations and orders.
2. Pursuit of economic principles: Pursue the development of the complex according to economic principles, regardless of the political or military situations.
3. Future-oriented development: Seek a future-oriented view and a willingness to develop the GIC into an internationally competitive industrial complex.

According to the first principle that inter-Korean agreements, contracts, rules, and orders must be strictly observed, the South made it clear that it cannot accept the North’s demand for a renegotiation of land lease fees and other payments or fees. Regarding other issues, the South asked the North to lift its restrictions on entry and sojourn, and proposed a resolution of the problems related to “border crossing, communications, and customs clearance” or the “3Cs.” The South also proposed the establishment of a Joint Committee for Entry and Sojourn in both Korea.

The ROK said that other pending issues, including the construction of a day care center, could be negotiated in tandem with the issue of restrictions on entry and sojourn. It also proposed a joint study tour to industrial complexes in China and Vietnam. The proposal was intended to bridge the gap in opinions between the two Korea over GIC matters, and build a common ground through a joint inspection of successful industrial complexes overseas.

North Korea maintained that the issue of land use fees must be discussed first. As for the detainee problem, the North kept repeating that an investigation was under way, in accordance with the Agreement on Entry into, Exit from, and Stay in the GIC and Mt. Geumgang Tourist District, and that he would be treated accordingly. The North refused to take the letters from the detainee’s family, and only asked the ROK delegation to tell his family that “He is fine.”

The two sides agreed to hold the next round of talks on July 2, 2009 at the ECO and wrapped up the meeting without progress.

D. The Third Inter-Korean Working-level Meeting on the GIC

The third round of inter-Korean working-level meetings on the GIC took place at the ECO on July 2, 2009.

List of Delegates from the North and the South

| | The South | The North |
|---------------|---|--|
| Head Delegate | Kim Young-tak (Senior Delegate to Inter-Korean Dialogue) | Pak Chol Su (Deputy Chief, Special Zone General Bureau) |
| Delegates | Kim Ki-ung (Director of Planning and Coordination, Ministry of Unification) Han Ki-soo (Director of Inter-Korean Dialogue Division, Ministry of Unification) Kim Hyun-chol (Director, Ministry of Unification) Kwon Dong-hyuk (Deputy Director, Ministry of Unification) | Ri Yong Ho (Director, National Economic Cooperation Federation) Won Yong Hui (Senior Staff, Special Zone General Bureau) Hwang Chung Song (Councilor, National Economic Cooperation Federation) Kim Sang Ho (Senior Staff, Special Zone General Bureau) |

The ROK delegation once again demanded to be informed of the detainee’s location and health condition, and urged his immediate release. The South’s delegation reemphasized the three principles it had proposed for the development of GIC, and recommended that pending issues should be negotiated according to those principles. The South repeated its proposals made in previous meetings: rescind the North’s restrictions on entry and sojourn, make progress on the “3C” issues, and establish a Joint Committee for Entry and Sojourn in North and South Korea. It proposed a detailed schedule for the joint inspection tour of overseas industrial complexes with a starting date of July 20, 2009. It also expressed its willingness to discuss the construction of a day care center, and urged the North to stop slandering the South in order to build trust between the two Koreas.

The South delegation came up with a plan to discuss and resolve GIC issues in a more efficient way. The plan was to divide the meeting into a working-level plenary meeting for overall GIC affairs, and working-level subgroup-meetings where each pending issue would be negotiated separately.

The North Korean delegation showed no particular response to the

detainee issue. As for other GIC issues, it repeated its position that a payment of US\$500 million for land use fees should be discussed first. The ROK delegation maintained that such a demand was groundless and irrational, and that it should be withdrawn immediately. The South urged the North to cooperate on negotiations regarding other GIC issues.

In the end, the two sides failed to find a common ground and left the talks with no agreement or plan for follow-up talks.

E. Meeting to Assess the Joint Study Tour to Overseas Industrial Complexes

From January 19 to 21, 2010, a meeting was held at the ECO to assess the joint tour to overseas industrial complexes in China and Vietnam which took place from December 12 to 22, 2009. The two sides also discussed the common tasks ahead for the future development of GIC. The talks were frank and the delegations focused on the future challenges.

List of Participants from the North and the South

| | The South | The North |
|--------------------|--|---|
| Head of Delegation | Kim Young-tak (Senior Delegate to Inter-Korean Dialogue) | Pak Chol Su (Deputy Chief, Special District General Bureau) |
| Participants | Lee Kang-woo (Director of General Management, Ministry of Unification) Kim Hyun-chol (Director, Ministry of Unification) Kim Shin-chol (Deputy Director of General Management, Ministry of Unification) Kwon Joon-ho (Chief of Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Strategy and Finance) Kim Jin-sun (Chief of Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation, Ministry of Knowledge Economy) Ahn Young-wook (Chief, Korea Land & Housing Corporation) Lee Seung-wook (Deputy Manager, Korea Land & Housing Corporation) | O Kwang Ok (Senior Staff, Special Zone General Bureau) Won Yong Hee (Senior Staff, Special Zone General Bureau) Man Ji Song (Provost, Special Zone General Bureau) Ri Yong Ju (Staff, Special Zone General Bureau) Ri Ung Sik (Staff, Special Zone General Bureau) Kim Sun Nam (Staff, Special Zone General Bureau) Yun Sung Hyon (Director of Cooperation, KIDMAC) Han Myong Chol (Provost, National Economic Cooperation Federation) Hong Si Kwon (Councilor, National Economic Cooperation Federation) |



A meeting to assess the joint study tour to overseas industrial complexes

Given the wide gap in views on pending GIC issues, the South proposed to continue discussing issues of common interest step by step. Furthermore, the South suggested holding the next round of working-level GIC talks on February 1, 2010 with the “3C” and dormitory issues on the agenda. However, the North insisted that wage increases should also be included in the agenda during the subsequent round of talks.

It appeared to be nearly impossible for the two Koreas to agree on the next round of meetings since they failed to bridge their opinion gap. However, an agreement was finally reached when the North expressed its willingness to accept the South’s proposal to hold another round of talks on February 1.

F. The Fourth Inter-Korean Working-level Meeting on the GIC

The fourth round of inter-Korean working-level meetings on the GIC was held at the ECO on February 2, 2010.

List of Participants from the North and the South

| | The South | The North |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Head of Delegation | Kim Young-tak (Senior Delegate to Inter-Korean Dialogue) | Pak Chol Su (Deputy Chief, Special Zone General Bureau) |
| Delegates | Lee Kang-woo (Director of General Management, Ministry of Unification) Jung So-woon (Director of Inter-Korean Dialogue Division II, Ministry of Unification) | Won Yong Hee (Senior Staff, Special Zone General Bureau) O Kwang Ok (Senior Staff, Special Zone General Bureau) Ri Ung Sik (Staff, Special Zone General Bureau) Hong Si Kwon (Counselor, National Economic Cooperation Federation) |

The South delegation explained its position on the “3C” issues and the construction of a dormitory, and asked for the North’s cooperation in accordance with the agreement for a meeting to assess the joint study tour as well as the results of the joint inspection of overseas industrial complexes.

Regarding the issue of border crossings, the ROK emphasized the need to simplify the transit procedure and make it more convenient by introducing a radio frequency identification (RFID) system to replace the system limiting crossings to certain time periods on a daily basis. It proposed random or selective inspections to replace the “total inspection system” for customs clearance, and the establishment of optical cable Internet network for communications as soon as possible. Also, the South delegation proposed building a small dormitory and then conducting a survey of the North Korean workers to determine if more would be needed.

In principle, North Korea agreed that progress should be made on the “3C” issues. However, the North argued that they should be handled at the working-level military talks because these issues basically are related to the military, and that other pending issues such as wages and dormitories should be discussed at the working-level GIC talks.

In the keynote speech, the South expressed that the North’s firing of artillery into the West Sea (Yellow Sea) and other behavior that causes tension do not contribute to the advancement of inter-Korean relations or the stable development of the Gaeseong Industrial Complex. The North



Working-level talks on GIC issues, February 1, 2010

refused to discuss issues that it believes are not related to the GIC and argued that the North Korean military actions were legitimate military exercises.

The two Koreas agreed to hold working-level military talks on the “3C” issues at a later date and to continue discussions on wages and dormitories at the next working-level meeting. The two sides agreed that the South would notify the North regarding the venue and date of the future working-level military talks.

G. Inter-Korean Working-level Contact on the “3C” Issues

The two Koreas had a working-level contact on the “3C” issues at the ECO on March 2, 2010.

List of Participants from the North and the South

| | The South | The North |
|--------------------|--|--|
| Head of Delegation | Lee Kang-woo (Director of General Management, Ministry of Unification) | Ri Son Kwon (Senior Colonel, Korean People’s Army) |
| Delegates | Kim Jung-bae (Lieutenant Colonel, Ministry of National Defense) Kim Do-kyoon (Lieutenant Colonel, Ministry of National Defense) Kim Hyun-chol (Director, Ministry of Unification) Ma Kyung-jo (Senior Deputy Director, Ministry of Unification) | Jon Chang Je (Colonel, Korean People’s Army) Jo Chol Ho (Colonel, Korean People’s Army) Kang Il (Customs Clearance Chief, GIC) Ri Song Su (Passage Inspection Chief, GIC) |

The North and the South consulted on the venue and date for working-level military talks on the “3C” issues through inter-Korean military hotlines as the two sides agreed at the fourth working-level meeting on the GIC. The South proposed to hold the talks in Panmunjeom according to the custom of military talks, while the North insisted that they be held at the ECO in Gaeseong because of the agenda.

In the end, the South accepted the North’s proposed venue in order to facilitate discussion on the “3C” issues. It decided to select delegation members who are directly responsible for agenda items in order to facilitate practical and concrete discussions. However, the North sent working-level military representatives to the talks.

The two Koreas held a plenary meeting and working-level discussions according to issue area (passage and customs clearance, military communications, and non-military communications) and exchanged their basic positions on specific solutions to the “3C” issues.

The South explained the basic steps needed to resolve the “3C” issues and its position on how the meetings should proceed. Regarding the format of the talks, it suggested dividing the delegations into two groups to discuss two issue areas: passage and customs clearance, and communications.



Working-level contact on the “3C” issues, March 2, 2010

Regarding the passage issue, the South proposed the establishment of an RFID system with the North ensuring regular passages starting in March, and the implementation of a daily-basis travel system from May. To speed up customs clearance, the South suggested adopting a selective inspection system, proposing an initial inspection rate of 50 % and gradually reducing it over the long term. Moreover, it emphasized that Internet and mobile communication services should be available within the complex as early as possible to ensure convenient communication.

The North agreed to host working-level meetings by issue area, but emphasized some conditions that the South should meet before resolving the “3C” issues. It maintained that the South would have to implement the inter-Korean summit declarations of June 15, 2000 and October 4, 2007, and refrain from acts that antagonize the North. The North also said the two sides must implement the existing inter-Korean agreements regarding the “3C” issues. It also asked the South to first provide equipment and materials to address the “3C” issues in the east coast corridor and submitted a list of such equipment and materials. At the close of the talks, the two sides agreed to continue working-level contacts according to issue area in order to discuss practical matters. They also agreed to confirm the venue for further talks at a later date.

2. Inter-Korean Working-level Meeting Regarding Imjin River Flood Control

The North and the South held an inter-Korean working-level meeting on flood control for the Imjin River basin at the Office of Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation in Gaeseong on October 14, 2009.

List of Participants from the North and the South

| | The South | The North |
|--------------------|---|--|
| Head of Delegation | Kim Nam-sik (Director General for Inter-Korean Exchanges and Cooperation, Ministry of Unification) | Ri Yong Ho (Director, National Economic Cooperation Federation) |
| Delegates | Kim Suk-hyun (Director of Water Resources Policy, Ministry of Land, Transport and Maritime Affairs) Kim Choong-hwan (Director of Inter-Korean Dialogue Division II, Ministry of Unification) | Kim Chol Man (Director, Ministry of Land and Environment Protection) Kim Sang Ho (Director, National Economic Cooperation Federation) |

In the morning of September 6, 2009, North Korea suddenly discharged a significant amount of water from an Imjin River dam without giving prior notice to the South, taking the lives of six South Korean citizens. The ROK government immediately delivered a message to the North expressing regret and demanding an explanation. The message also urged Pyongyang to give prior notice whenever planning to release water from any dams in order to prevent similar events from occurring in the future.

North Korea responded with a message on September 7 that said it “discharged water from the dam in the upper part of the Imjin River because it was an emergency due to the high water level.” The message also stated that the North “would give prior notification in the future.” However, the explanation was unsatisfactory to the South, and, furthermore, the message made no mention of the victims killed in the incident.

On September 7, the Unification Ministry spokesperson released a commentary demanding a proper explanation and an apology from the North’s relevant authorities for the loss of lives. The commentary also stated

that to prevent a recurrence of similar incidents the ROK would consider building an institutional framework for the common use of shared rivers and suggested holding inter-Korean consultations to prevent flood damage from shared rivers.

The North failed to respond, so on October 12 the ROK proposed a working-level meeting to be held on October 14 to discuss flood control for the Imjin River. The North accepted the proposal, and both sides participated in the meeting.

The South Korean delegation demanded that the North officially apologize for the Imjin River incident and express condolences to the bereaved families. Also, the South urged Pyongyang to give a full explanation for the incident that would be acceptable to the South Korean people. The South set forth three principles to establish institutional instruments for damage prevention and the joint use of shared rivers between the two Koreas.

Three Principles for Damage Prevention and the Institutionalization of the Joint Use of Shared Korean Rivers

- 1. Reasonable and Fair Use: Use shared Korean rivers for mutual or common benefits.
- 2. Mutual Cooperation: Consult and cooperate in the use of shared rivers.
- 3. Trust: Implement inter-Korean agreements for the use of shared rivers.

Furthermore, the ROK proposed a system for prior notification based on the three principles to prevent a recurrence of similar incidents. It delivered a notification to the North and requested it to provide the name of dam, the amount of discharged water, the reasons for discharge, and factors the North considers before releasing water from dams on shared rivers. The North answered that it “would notify the South before discharging water in the future.”

In its keynote speech, the North said, “It is regrettable that the South suffered an unanticipated loss of lives due to the Imjin River incident” and

expressed its deep condolences to the bereaved families. As for the reason behind the unexpected release of water, the North answered that “the relevant authorities had no choice but to discharge water immediately to prevent even greater damage.”

The North and South delegations agreed to have further working-level meetings to discuss the establishment of a flood forecasting system and an institutional framework for the joint use of shared rivers. They also decided to set a specific schedule for talks through their liaison offices at Panmunjeom.

3. Inter-Korean Working-level Meeting regarding the Mt. Geumgang and Gaeseong Tourism Projects

An inter-Korean working-level meeting on the Mt. Geumgang and Gaeseong tours was held at the ECO in Gaeseong on February 8, 2010.

List of Participants from the North and the South

| | The South | The North |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Head of Delegation | Kim Nam-sik (Director General for Inter-Korean Exchanges and Cooperation, Ministry of Unification) | Kang Yong Chol (Councilor, Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee) |
| Delegates | Lee Cheon-se (Director of Unification Legal Affairs, Ministry of Justice) Park Tae-young (Director of Tourism Policy, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism) | Ju Kwang Il (Senior Staff, Secretariat of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland) Ri Kyong Jin (Director, Guidance Bureau for Comprehensive Development of Scenic Spots) |

The South made it clear that to resume the Mt. Geumgang and Gaeseong tourism project, three preconditions should be met: 1) a fact-finding investigation into the shooting death of a South Korean tourist at Mt. Geumgang in July 2008, 2) the establishment of preventive measures, and 3) an institutional framework for personal safety.

Before making a keynote speech, the ROK delegation took a moment of silence for the deceased tourist, Park Wang-ja, and expressed condolences to the bereaved family.

While expressing “regret over the death of the Mt. Geumgang tourist,” the North repeated its argument that the shooting death was an accident caused by the individual’s own carelessness. As for the three preconditions, it strongly insisted that an investigation immediately after the incident had discovered the “facts,” and, since “preventive measures” were firmly in place and “personal safety” was guaranteed, all three preconditions had already been met.

The North provided a draft agreement to the South for the working-level contacts and insisted that the Gaeseong and Mt. Geumgang tours resume on March 1, 2010 and April 1, 2010, respectively.

In response, the South explained to the North that the three principles are the most basic conditions under which ROK citizens can enjoy the tours, and that it would be impossible to resume the tours unless the personal safety issue was addressed. The North failed to respond to the South’s position. The two Koreas ended the meeting by agreeing to discuss the schedule for the next meeting through the Panmunjeom liaison offices.



Working-level talks on Mt. Gemgang and Gaeseong tour February 8, 2010

III. Humanitarian Issues

1. Inter-Korean Red Cross Talks

Inter-Korean Red Cross talks were held from August 26 to 28, 2009 at Mt. Geumgang.

List of Participants from the North and the South

| | The South | The North |
|---------------|---|---|
| Head Delegate | Kim Young-cheol (Secretary General, ROK National Red Cross) | Choe Song Ik (Vice-chairman, Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society) |
| Delegates | Kim Ui-do (Member, KRC Executive Committee) Kim Dong-sik (Member, KRC Executive Committee) | Pak Yong Il (Member, Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society) Ro Hak Chol (Deputy Director, Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society) |

The ROK government has strived to resolve humanitarian issues such as separated families, South Korean POWs, and abductees as a top-priority. From a humanitarian perspective, the government decided to take an active approach to the agreement reached between the South’s Hyundai Group and the North’s Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee on hosting reunions of separated families during the Chuseok holidays. On August 20, 2009, the South Korean Red Cross president proposed to hold inter-Korean Red Cross talks on separated families, and, a few days later, the talks were held, breaking the one year and nine months silence in inter-Korean Red Cross talks.

The South suggested three principles to resolve the issue of separated families and emphasized the need to discuss a variety of solutions to the issues of separated families, POWs, and abductees based on these three principles.

Three Principles for the Resolution of Separated Families

- 1. Respect for humanitarian spirit: Maintain unconditional exchanges between separated families regardless of the political situation between the two Koreas.
- 2. Fundamental solution: Confirm the fates of all separated families and realize regular reunions, visits to hometowns and gradually liberalize travel
- 3. Mutual cooperation: Engage in mutual cooperation in addressing pending humanitarian issues between the two Koreas such as POWs and abductees.

The South prepared a list of separated family members and a schedule of the reunion event for the Chuseok holidays, and proposed additional reunions in 2009 and another event during the Lunar New Year holidays in 2010. In the meantime, to make the separated family reunions regular events, the South urged the North to start normal operations of the family reunion center at Mt. Geumgang. However, the North only wanted to discuss the details for the Chuseok reunion event in the Red Cross talks.

Although the two Koreas agreed on the Chuseok reunions without revealing significant differences in opinion, they failed to narrow the gap in their positions concerning other matters. They only agreed to continue talking about those issues and adopted an agreement with two provisions as a result.



Inter-Korean Red Cross talks, August 26-8, 2009

Main Points of the Agreement

- 1. The North and the South will hold a reunion of separated families at Mt. Geumgang from September 26 to October 1.
 - 100 people from each side will take part in the event.
 - Request confirmation on September 1 (for 200 people) exchange documents on September 15, and exchange the final lists on September 17 (for 100 people)
 - Existing facilities to be used: Mt. Geumgang reunion center for group reunions, and the Geumgangsán Hotel for individual family reunions.
 - Preparation team to begin preparations five days prior to the reunion event.
- 2. The North and the South will continue discussing the humanitarian issues of the Red Cross societies such as separated families with the aim of improving inter-Korean relations.

According to the agreement reached during the inter-Korean Red Cross talks, the two Koreas held a family reunion event at Mt. Geumgang from September 26 to October 1, 2009. The reunions were the first in almost two years.

2. Working-level Red Cross Contact

A working-level Red Cross contact took place at the Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation Promotion Office in Gaeseong on October 16, 2009.

List of Participants from the North and the South

| | The South | The North |
|---------------|---|---|
| Head Delegate | Kim Ui-do (Member, Korea Red Cross Executive Committee) | Pak Yong Il (Member, Central Committee of the DPRK Red Cross Society) |
| Delegates | Kim Seong-geun (Director, ROK National Red Cross) | Pak Hyong Chol (Senior Member, Secretariat of Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland) Ri Tong Hyok (Councilor, National Reunification Council) |

The South delegation reiterated the three principles for resolving the issue of separate families, and delivered its position on separated families. It also proposed additional reunions of separated families in 2009, as well as during the 2010 Lunar New Year holidays. Furthermore, the South urged normal operations of the reunion center and raised the need to discuss stationing representatives from both Koreas at the reunion center and allowing separated families to meet through the center at anytime.

Before discussing the issue of separated families, the North Korean delegation asked for humanitarian assistance from the South. Due to their differences in opinions over solutions to Korean humanitarian issues, the two sides failed to reach a specific agreement, but agreed to continue talks on the issues.

IV . Inter-Korean Liaison Channel at Panmunjeom

On November 12, 2008, North Korea unilaterally severed the inter-Korean liaison channel, including the hotlines between liaison offices at Panmunjeom. The action was taken in response to the ROK’s co-sponsorship of the resolution on North Korean human rights adopted in the 63rd session of the UN General Assembly. The liaison channel was resumed on August 25, 2009 on the occasions of the North Korean funeral delegation’s visit to the South (August 21-23, 2009) and the inter-Korean Red Cross talks (August 26-28, 2009).

In 2009, the inter-Korean hotline was operated 226 times, including 14 times for liaison officers’ contacts, 24 times for sending and receiving telephone messages, and 5 times for emergency rescue operations such as those for North Korean boats in distress. From January 1 to May 31, 2010, the hotline was operated 218 times, including 6 times for liaison officers’ contacts, 22 times for sending and receiving telephone messages, and once for an emergency operation to rescue a North Korean ship.



A meeting between South and North Korean liaison officers

However, North Korea unilaterally severed the Panmunjeom liaison channel once again on May 26, 2010 in opposition to the announcement by the multinational investigation team on its findings regarding the attack on the *Cheonan* (May 20, 2010) and the ROK government’s announcement of its measures against the North for the *Cheonan* sinking (May 24, 2010). Therefore, the inter-Korean liaison channel and Panmunjeom hotlines were severed once again nine months after their resumption on August 25, 2009.

Major Liaison Contacts between the Two Koreas
After Resuming the Panmunjeom Hotline on August 25, 2009

| Year | Month | Key Points |
|------|-----------|--|
| 2009 | August | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notification of the status of departure and arrival for the North's funeral delegation, and delivery of flight schedule• Receipt of a telephone message regarding the inter-Korean Red Cross talks (Mt. Geumgang, August 26-28) and notification of consultation items• Notification regarding the return of the South Korean vessel <i>Yeonan 800</i> |
| | September | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exchange of documents on the reunions of separated families during the Chuseok holidays (Mt. Geumgang, September 21-October 1), and consultation on practical procedures• Delivery of a letter signed by the National Assembly Speaker to North Korea regarding the unannounced discharge of water from an Imjin River dam in the North |
| | October | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exchange of telephone messages regarding the working-level talks on the Imjin River (Gaeseong, October 14) and the working-level Red Cross contact (Gaeseong, October 16) |
| | November | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notification of messages on the provision of shelter for the North Korean ship <i>Jujakbong 5</i> |
| | December | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exchange of telephone messages and other messages regarding the provision of H1N1 flu medication (Gaeseong, December 18)• Delivery of a telephone message regarding the repatriation of seven North Korean sailors |
| 2010 | January | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notification on the return of North Korean sailors rescued in the waters around Dokdo (January 5) |
| | February | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Exchange of delegate lists for inter-Korean working-level meeting on the Mt. Geumgang and Gaeseong tourism projects (February 5)• Notification regarding the provision of hand sanitizer to the North (February 19)• Notification of messages regarding the provision of medical and pharmaceutical products and dry milk to the North (February 26) |
| | March | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notification regarding the provision of 100,000 tons of corn, and the Mt. Geumgang and Gaeseong tourism projects (March 15) |
| | April | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Notification regarding the resumption of the Mt. Geumgang and Gaeseong tourism projects (April 1)• Notification regarding the North's freeze of the Mt. Geumgang reunion center and demand for the withdrawal of the South's staff (April 4) |
| | May | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Receipt of a telephone message demanding the repatriation of North Koreans who fled to the South via the waters around Baengnyeong Island (May 12)• Receipt of a telephone message regarding the closure of the Panmunjeom Liaison Office and severance of communication lines (May 26) |