2021 UNIFICATION WHITE PAPER

WWW.UNIKOREA.GO.KR

Ministry of Unification

2021 UNIFICATION WHITE PAPER

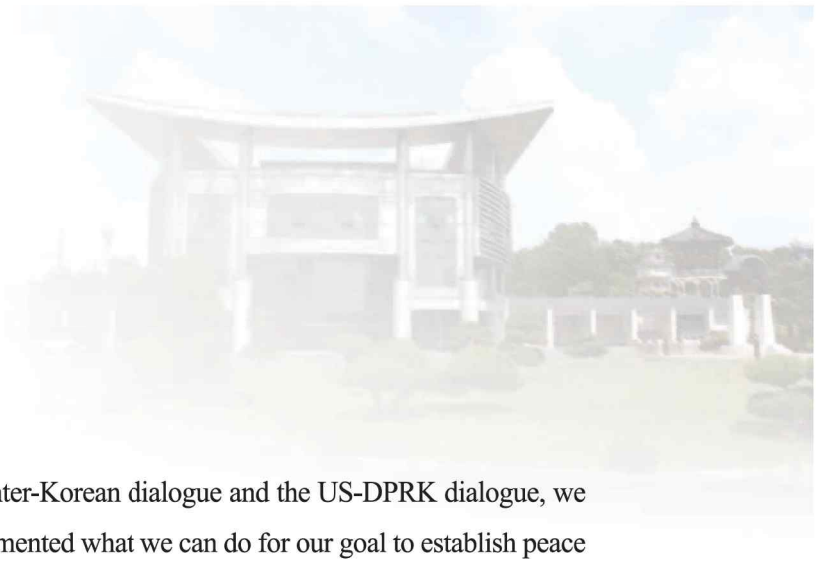
WWW.UNIKOREA.GO.KR

Ministry of Unification

Preface

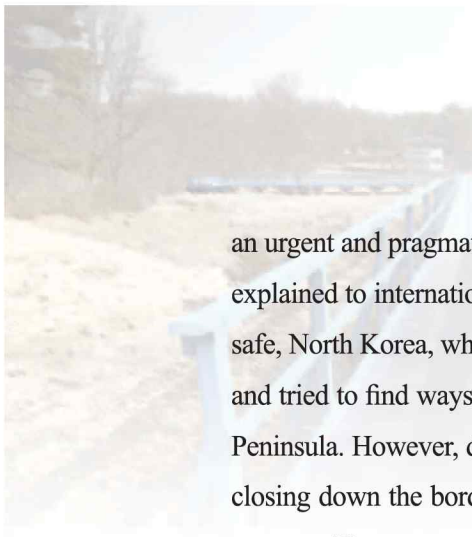
Year 2020 was the year when we walked towards peace by tirelessly knocking the door for dialogue and cooperation to restart the Korean Peninsula Peace Process.

The environment and challenges surrounding the Korean Peninsula are not easy. Since the breakdown of the US-DPRK summit in Hanoi in 2019 and the global COVID-19 pandemic, inter-Korean relations faced repeated stalemate and deadlock. There were several challenges as well. In June, North Korea demolished 'Inter-Korean Joint Liaison Office,' and in September, a Korean citizen was shot dead in the West Sea. Both events gave a shock to Korean people who dreamed of peace and are unacceptable events that should not have happened. However, despite tragic incidents, North Korea soon withdrew its military action plan against South Korea, and to our request for apology and actions to prevent reoccurrence, Chairman Kim Jong Un himself made an apology which is unprecedented. The fact that these situations did not escalate tensions between two Koreans and became a bigger crisis shows Korean governments unyielding efforts and will for the peace of the Korean Peninsula.



Despite stalemates in inter-Korean dialogue and the US-DPRK dialogue, we have searched, and implemented what we can do for our goal to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula. President Moon expressed his will for dialogue and cooperation through the new years address, address for the 75th anniversary of the Korean Liberation Day and in other occasions. While reaffirming our principles for 'Zero torrence for war, mutual security guarantee and mutual prosperity,' President Moon stated that two Koreas should do what we can do based on mutual understanding and cooperation despite many challenges. In line with these efforts, we have expressed our will to recover channel for dialogue, individual tourism, healthcare cooperation and other projects to bring North Korea back to the dialogue. During the 75th United Nations General Assembly Session, President Moon stated the need to direct North Korea for the peace regime and denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula through the End of War declaration and urged support by the United Nations and the international community to accomplish such goal.

First of all, we have adhere to our principle that humanitarian cooperation should be separated for political, military and security situations. The government established institutional foundation to carryout humanitarian cooperation for North Korean people while cooperating with international organizations and civil societies in more systematic and stable manner. Especially in 2020, as the world have faced COVID-19 pandemic, disease control and healthcare became



an urgent and pragmatic agenda for inter-Korean cooperation. The government explained to international community and our people that 'in order for us to be safe, North Korea, which shared sky, ocean and ground should be safe as well,' and tried to find ways to create community for life and security on the Korean Peninsula. However, due to North Koreas strong quarantine measure including closing down the border, pragmatic cooperation for humanitarian sector could not start. However, as there are increasing interest on humanitarian cooperation and North Korean human rights in the UN and international community, the government will create consensus that inter-Korean exchange and cooperation including humanitarian cooperation is the practical path to improve North Korean human right and work to advance inter-Korean relations.

Our efforts to return peace in daily lives for our people continued. To ensure easier and comfortable access to Panmunjom, the very place where peace lives, we have opened Panmunjom Tour Support Center last November to streamline tour process and improved infrastructures. Also, to protect lives and security of people living along the border area, partial amendment for 'Development of Inter-Korean Relations Act' passed the National Assembly to regulate leaflets and other items disseminated to North Korea. The law has been in effect since March this year. Also, we are creating and opening 'DMZ Peace Trail' for more people to join the walk.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, our communication with the people about peace and unification gradually expanded through online video meetings. Our primary focus was to help youth in their 20s and 30s, who will be leading their generation for unification to have better understanding about the unification issues by holding talk show, dialogues and other events. In addition to existing

Unification+ Center in Incheon, we are preparing to open new centers in Honam and Kangwon region so that we can respond to diverse demand for peace and unification.

Despite numerous obstacles and challenges, the Korean government consistently implemented Korean Peninsula peace process in 2020. Now we are at the crossroad of new opportunities and challenges that will determine destiny of the Korean Peninsula. As the virtuous cycle for peace which leads to the development of inter-Korean relations facilitate the US-DPRK relations and the advancement of the US-DPRK relations will also contribute to the inter-Korean relations. We will take leading role to create the virtuous cycle for peace so that we will achieve denuclearization and peace regime on the Korean peninsula as well as to create foundation for mutual prosperity though economic and cultural cooperation in near future.

Those who prepare first will create larger peace. The Korean government will invest its effort for two Koreas to stand on the path for dialogue and cooperation to start our journey toward peace together. I sincerely hope readers of the 2020 White Paper on Korean Unification and the Korean people to bring your hearts and strength together toward peace, prosperity and unification of the Korean Peninsula.

April 2021

Minister of Unification

Lee, In-young

Contents

Preface

Chapter 1 Korean Peninsula Policy

Section 1 | Implementing Korean Peninsula Policy ····· 18
1 The Direction of Inter-Korean Relations
2 Establishing a Community for Life and Security

Section 2 | Denuclearization and Peacebuilding ····· 24
1 Stalemate in Denuclearization Negotiations and Efforts to Restart Dialogue
2 End of War Declaration and other efforts for the Korean Peninsula Peace Process

Section 3 | Expanding the Consensus on Unification ····· 28
1 National Unification Contract
2 Operating and expanding the「Unification+ Center」
3 Expanding the Consensus on Unification with Cooperation from the Private Sector

Section 4 | Cooperation with the International Community ····· 43
1 Government to Government Dialogues
2 Creating a Consensus with the International Community

Chapter 2 Inter-Korean Exchanges and Cooperation

Section 1 | Pursuing the Resumption of Inter-Korean Exchanges and Cooperation ····· 57

Section 2 | Inter-Korean Economic Exchanges ····· 60
1 Implementing the Agreements between the Two Koreas
2 Laying the Foundation for Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation

Section 3 | Inter-Korean Social and Cultural Exchanges ····· 69
1 Exchanges in the Realm of Cultural Heritage
2 Exchanges in the Realm of Religious and Social Groups, Academia, Culture, and the Arts
3 Sports Exchanges

Section 4 | Inter-Korean Development Assistance and Cooperation ··· 76
1 Development Cooperation Between the Authorities of the Two Koreas
2 Reaching out to Cooperate with North Korea Through NGOs and International Bodies
3 Establishing the Public-Private Cooperative System

Section 5 | Peaceful Use of the DMZ ····· 81
1 Transforming the DMZ into an International Peace Zone
2 Opening the 'DMZ Peace Trails'
3 Resuming Tours to Panmunjom

Section 6 | Support for Companies Based in the Gaeseong Industrial Complex (GIC) ····· 88
1 Strengthening Communication with GIC Companies
2 Support for the Normalization of Business Management for GIC Companies
3 Improving the Promotion and Support System for the GIC

Section 7 | Laying the Foundation for Inter-Korean Exchanges and Cooperation ····· 99
1 Improvements in Laws and Institutions
2 Improving Inter-Korean Exchanges and the Cooperation System for Them
3 Support for Exchanges and Cooperation Programs by NGOs and Local Governments
4 Management of the Inter-Korean Cross-border Passage
5 Laying the Foundation for Exchanges and Cooperation Based on Decentralized Governance

Chapter 3 Humanitarian Cooperation

Section 1 | Humanitarian Cooperation ····· 114
1 Humanitarian Cooperation
2 Strengthening the Capacity to Pursue Humanitarian Cooperation

Section 2 | Separated Families ····· 124
1 Status of Separated Families
2 Laying the Foundation for Exchanges Among Separated Families and Expanding the Consensus for Them
3 Support for Exchanges Among Separated Families at the Private Level

Section 3 | Prisoners of War (POWs), Abductees, and Detainees ···· 131
1 Current Status
2 Efforts to Resolve the Issues of POWs, Abductees, and Detainees

Section 4 | North Korean Human Rights ····· 136
1 Formulation and Implementation of the Plan to Improve Human Rights Protections in North Korea
2 Cooperation with the International Community and the Private Sector
3 Managing the Center for North Korean Human Rights Records

2021 UNIFICATION WHITE PAPER

Contents

Chapter 4

Inter-Korean Dialogue

Section 1 | Pursuing Inter-Korean Dialogue ····· 152

Section 2 | Strengthening the Capacity for Inter-Korean Dialogue ···· 156

1 Full Preparation for Inter-Korean Dialogue

2 Strengthening Expertise in Inter-Korean Dialogue and Communication with the Public

Chapter 5

Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors

Section 1 | Arrivals of North Korean Defectors in South Korea ····· 167

Section 2 | Social Orientation Programs for North Korean Defectors ·· 169

1 Social Orientation Programs

2 Opening of a Vocational Training Center and Career Education

3 Operation of Hanadul School

4 Operation of the Hana Clinic

5 Operation of the Mental Health Clinic

6 Operation of the Hwacheon Branch Office and Intensive & In-service Education

7 Improvement and Innovation for the Development of Hanawon

Section 3 | Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors in their Initial Period ····· 184

1 Family Relations Registry and Housing Arrangements

2 Settlement Benefits

Section 4 | Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors in Their Daily Lives ····· 186

1 Support for Financial Independence

2 Educational Support for North Korean Defector Youth

3 Protection of Vulnerable Groups and Support for Their Livelihoods

4 Raising Public Awareness of North Korean Defectors and Strengthening Communication

Section 5 | Establishing a Cooperative System for Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors ····· 203

1 Enhancing the Roles of Local Governments and NGOs

2 Strengthening the Foundation of the Hana Center

Chapter 6 Unification Education

Section 1 | Expanding the Foundation for Unification Education and Its Operation ····· 218
1. The Operation of Unification Education Programs
2. Development and Distribution of Educational Materials
3. Unification Education Week
4. Establishment of the Direction and Cooperative System for the Unification Education

Section 2 | Support for Unification Education School Programs ····· 243
1. Expansion of Participatory and Hands-on Unification Education Programs for Teenagers
2. Sharing the Model Cases of School Unification Education and Enhancing Professionship of the Teachers
3. Support for Unification Education Programs at Colleges and Universities

Section 3 | Support for Social Unification Education ····· 249
1. Social Unification Education at Unification Education Centers
2. Support for Unification Education Activities by Unification Education Officials and NGOs
3. Operation of Unification Halls
4. Unification Education in the Public Sector
5. Promoting Unification Education for 2030 Generations

Section 4 | Operation of the Center for Unified Korean Future ····· 262
1. Current Status
2. Operation of Unification Experience Training Programs and Improvement of the Environment

Chapter 7 Consolidating the Foundation for Policy Implementation

Section 1 | Provision of the North Korea Information Service ····· 272
1. Operation of the North Korea Information Portal
2. Operation of the Information Center on North Korea

Section 2 | Establishment of the Legal and Institutional Framework ···· 277
1. Establishment and Implementation of the 2020 Implementation Plan for the Development of Inter-Korean Relations
2. Establishment of Unification Legislation

Contents

Section 3 | Management and Operation of the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund ····· 282

1 Revenue for the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund
2 Expenditures of the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund
3 Breakdown of 2020 Expenditures

APPENDIX

Ⅰ. Timeline of Two Koreas ····· 290

Ⅱ. Statistics on inter-Korean Relations ····· 310

1 People's visit and exchange of materials between two Koreas ·· 310
① People's visit
② Mt Geumgang / Gaeseong / Pyongyang Tour
③ Entry and Exit of Vehicles
④ Vessel and Aircrafts
⑤ People · vehicles traveling via the land routes on the Seoul-Shinuiju (Gyeongui) Line and the Donghae (East Coast) Line each year

2 Status of inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation ····· 314
① Status of the amount of inter-Korean trade
② Cases of inter-Korean trade
③ Number of items for inter-Korean trade
④ Types of inter-Korean trade and its amount

3 Gaeseong Industrial Complex Projects ····· 317
① The number of Gaeseong Industrial Complex companies
② Production amounts in the Gaeseong Industrial Complex
③ Status of Workers at the Gaeseong Industrial Complex

4 Humanitarian Projects ····· 319
① Humanitarian assistance to North Korea
② Separated Family Reunion

5 Inter-Korean Dialogues ····· 322
① Inter-Korean dialogues by sectors
② Inter-Korean agreements adopted after dialogue

6 Settlement Support for North Korean defectors ····· 323
① North Korean Defectors Entry to South Korea
② Social adaptation training for North Korean Defectors
③ Housing support
④ Settlement Support Subsidy

7 Unification Education ····· 330

8 Center for Unified Korean Future Training Program ····· 330

Ⅲ. Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund ····· 332

1. Preparation of Fund ····· 332
2. Usage of inter-Korean Cooperation Fund ····· 334

Ⅳ. Current Status of the National Tasks of the Ministry of Unification ····· 336

Korean Peninsula Policy

Section 1 Implementing Korean Peninsula policy
Section 2 Denuclearization and Peacebuilding
Section 3 Expanding the Consensus on Unification
Section 4 Cooperation with the International Community

Ministry of Unification

Chapter 1

Korean Peninsula Policy

In 2020, the government of the Republic of Korea (hereinafter referred to as the government) took a variety of steps to develop inter-Korean relations and establish lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. During his New Year's address on January 7, President Moon Jae-in stated that the two Koreas represented a "community of life," and on January 14 during his New Year's press conference, he emphasized that inter-Korean relations could positively influence US-DPRK dialogue and create a virtuous cycle.'

However, the spread of COVID-19 throughout the globe since January 2020 has had a significant impact on inter-Korean relations. The government concentrated its efforts on preventing the spread of COVID-19 in Korea and emphasized the need for inter-Korean cooperation to respond to non-traditional and transnational security threats like the pandemic. Through numerous occasions like the National

New Year's Press Conference (January 14)

"Given that the US-DPRK dialogue is at a stalemate, if the two Koreas can find pragmatic solutions to develop inter-Korean relations as much as possible, not only will the improvement in relations itself be good for both Koreas, it will also contribute to US-DPRK dialogue by creating virtuous cycle."

Address by President Moon Jae-in on Korea's 75th Liberation Day

"Security and peace in this era are about guaranteeing the life and safety of everyone living on the Korean Peninsula. … It is my hope that along with the formation of a community for peace and economic prosperity, there will be a breakthrough of mutual benefit for peace and the attainment of a community for life."

Liberation Day address and others, President Moon highlighted that the health and security of the people living in both Koreas were closely connected, and that ensuring life, as well as the safety of everyone living on the Korean Peninsula, was the best kind of security and peace. In line with this statement, he suggested that the two Koreas cooperate on disease control and healthcare to create a Community of Life and Security on the Korean Peninsula.

Despite President Moon's New Year's address with its suggestions for dialogue and cooperation, North Korea criticized South Korea for the ROK-US combined military exercises and its acquisition of new military assets. In June, North Korea cut the inter-Korean communication hotline (June 9) and demolished the inter-Korean joint liaison office (June 16) following the dissemination of leaflets by ROK civic groups, an act highly criticized by North Korea. North Korea also strengthened its military posture along the border areas, deployed military forces to the Gaeseong Industrial Complex, and announced a military action plan against the South. As these actions escalated tensions on the Korean Peninsula, North Korea announced that it would suspend military action after a decision was reached at the preliminary meeting of the Korean Workers' Party (KWP) Central Military Commission.

When a South Korean citizen was fired upon and killed by a North Korean soldier at the Northern side of the West Sea on September 21 (hereinafter referred to as the West Sea incident), North Korea sent the government an official letter with an apology from Chairman Kim. However, North Korea did not respond to our request to conduct a joint investigation and restore the inter-Korean military communication line.

Although challenges like COVID-19 have hindered inter-Korean relations, the government has made the stable management of the Korean Peninsula its top policy priority. While exhibiting a firm and rigorous response to North Korea's demolition of the Joint Liaison Office, the "West Sea incident" and other occurrences, the government prepared for potential inter-Korean cooperation with respect to the response to COVID-19, healthcare, and other issues. In March, Chairman Kim sent a letter to President Moon expressing words of comfort to South Korean citizens fighting against COVID-19. In September, the leaders of the two Koreas exchanged letters to console people suffering from COVID-19 and floods. Under these circumstances, during the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the Korean Workers' Party, Chairman Kim stated that "I hope the two Koreas will join hands together when the healthcare crisis is over." However, North Korea elevated the national emergency disease control system to its highest level in the second half of the year during which North Korea was passive in improving inter-Korean relations.

For US-DPRK relations, as a country directly involved in the situation, the government continued its efforts for the Korean Peninsula Peace Process. As COVID-19 was spreading all over the globe and with the upcoming US presidential election, there was a great deal of uncertainty as to whether or not US-DPRK dialogue would resume. But both countries did not rule out the possibility for dialogue, so the government actively sought opportunities to engage with the international community including President Moon's remarks

at the 75th General Assembly of the United Nations to propose the End of War Declaration.

In addition, the government did not stop its attempts to increase support for its Korean Peninsula policies. Domestically, the government devoted its efforts to disease control and healthcare while listening to people's voices through social dialogues, many of them virtual. At the same time, the government continuously communicated with the international community via small-scale and virtual meetings in consideration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

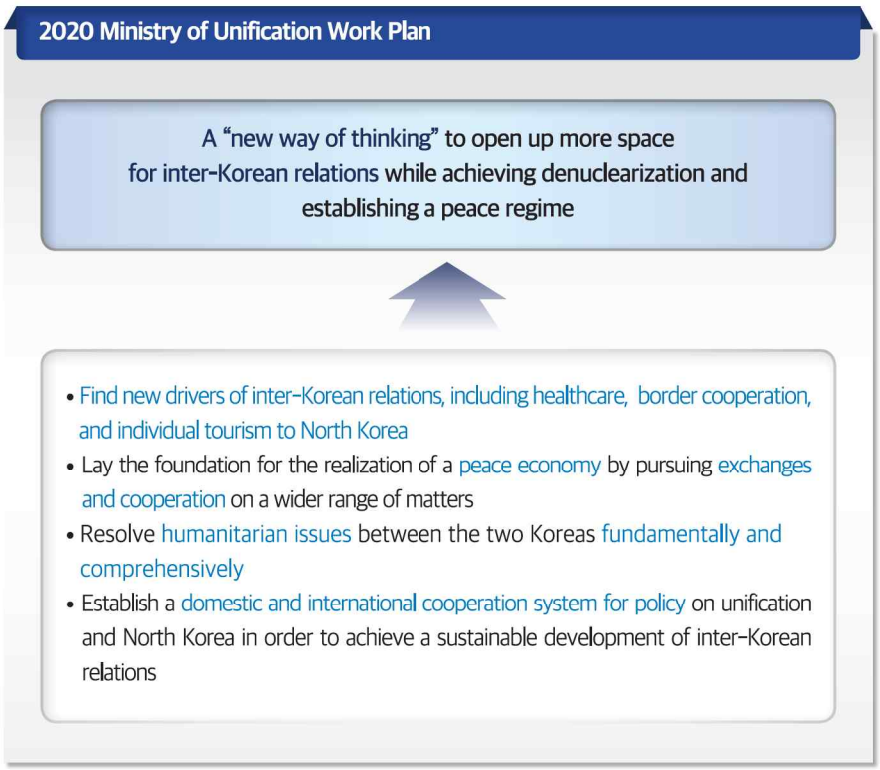
Section 1

Implementing Korean Peninsula policy

1 The Direction of Inter-Korean Relations

Since the 2019 US-North Korea summit in Hanoi that ended without a deal, inter-Korean relations, as well as US-North Korea relations, have been stuck in a stalemate, which continued in 2020. Following the 5th Plenary Meeting of the 7th Party Congress held at the end of December 2019, North Korea announced that it would continue to develop strategic weapons and that the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula would never happen if the US continued its hostile policies toward the North. North Korea's criticisms continued as it denounced South Korea for its acquisition of advanced weapons, its combined military exercises with the US, and its role as a mediator for dialogue. In addition to criticizing South Korea's actions, North Korea fired short-range ballistic missiles and conducted a joint strike drill that led to an escalation in tensions.

With a stalemate in US-North Korea communication throughout 2020, there were concerns that such a stalemate would hinder inter-Korean relations as well. The need to facilitate inter-Korean relations in order to ensure the success of US-North Korea dialogue was urgent. With developments in inter-Korean relations in mind as well the Korean Peninsula Peace Process for denuclearization and a peace regime, the government announced the 2020 Ministry of Unification Work Plan.



The government initiated projects to establish an international peace zone at the Demilitarized Zone (hereinafter referred to as the DMZ) and prepared a survey, research, and pilot program regarding history, culture, the environment, and ecology for the peaceful use of the DMZ. To expand person-to-person exchanges between the two Koreas, the government prepared for separated family reunions and individual tours to North Korea with the aim of promoting the border area's economy and tourism industry. With international conferences and other events, the government wanted to restart social and cultural exchanges with North Korea as well as find ways to foster inter-Korean cooperation in the areas of healthcare, natural disasters, forestry, and the environment. Guidance was provided to local governments and civil society organizations to launch their

own inter-Korean projects. Also, to find a fundamental solution to humanitarian issues, the government prepared for face-to-face and virtual reunions of separated families as well as searched for new ways to cooperate with North Korea.

The government proposed such visions to enhance inter-Korean relations on numerous occasions. In his 2020 New Year's Address, President Moon stated, "Internationally coordinated solutions are needed to adhere to the three principles for peace on the Korean Peninsula: zero tolerance for war, mutual security guarantees, and mutual prosperity. Still, some things can be accomplished through inter-Korean cooperation." He recommended that the two Koreas and the US work together to find a solution for the current situation. To be more specific, the government suggested co-hosting the 2032 summer Olympic with North Korea, making an agreements between the two Koreas for a joint entry

2020 New Year's Address (Jan. 7)

"The two Koreas not only share a border but also represent a "community of life"… A joint hosting of the **2032 Summer Olympics** will serve as a golden opportunity to show to the world that the two Koreas consist of one nation and are making a leap forward together. … If South and North Korea identify realistic ways to implement plans to **reconnect inter-Korean railroads and roads**, their action will not only lead to international cooperation but also provide a big boost to the resumption of inter-Korean travel and the revitalization of North Korea's tourism industry. The idea of **transforming the Demilitarized Zone into an international peace zone** was proposed in a bid to guarantee mutual security for the two Koreas, both institutionally and realistically, and to gain international support. … I hope that the two Koreas will work together so that conditions for **Chairman Kim Jong Un's reciprocal visit to South** can be put into place as soon as possible."

and joint teams in the Tokyo Olympics, connecting roads and railways between the two Koreas, creating an international peace zone in the DMZ, jointly seeking the listing of the DMZ as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, making efforts to restart the Gaeseong Industrial Complex and Geumgang Mountain tour, and preparing for a visit by Chairman Kim to the Republic of Korea.

2 Establishing a Community for Life and Securty

In January 2020, when COVID-19 was spreading throughout the globe, North Korea declared national emergency disease control measures. On January 30, North Korea shut down the entrance to the Gaeseong Industrial Complex and requested the South Korean staff of the inter-Korean joint liaison office to leave North Korea. As the entry and exit of persons and goods were restricted, the government faced difficulties in implementing previously planned initiatives. Despite such challenges, the government prepared ways for the two Koreas to cooperate on non-military security threats with the initiative to create a community of life and safety involving joint responses to disasters, catastrophes, climate change, and diseases that infect people and animals. In line with this effort, on September 23 at the United Nations General Assembly, President Moon suggested creating the Northeast Asia Cooperation Initiative for Infectious Disease Control and Public Health whereby North Korea could participate along with China, Japan, Mongolia, and the Republic of Korea. On December 29, experts and government officials from the ROK, US, Japan, China, Russia, and Mongolia joined together to establish the Northeast Asia Cooperation Initiative for Infectious Disease Control and Public Health.

75th Session of the United Nations General Assembly (Sep. 23)

"At the end of the day, the South and the North are bound by a **single community of life**.…Hoping that the international community views the issues surrounding the Korean Peninsula through the lens of more inclusive international cooperation, I propose today the launch of a **Northeast Asia Cooperation Initiative for Infectious Disease Control and Public Health**, whereby North Korea can participate as a member along with China, Japan, Mongolia, and the Republic of Korea."

Address by the President to Propose the Government Budget for 2021 (Oct. 28)

"It is my earnest wish that the two Koreas will find a way to **coexist as a community of life and safety** to overcome disasters, catastrophes, and diseases that infect people and animals"

In addition, while managing the situation on the Korean Peninsula to prevent a sudden escalation in tensions at a time when inter-Korean communication was suspended, the government searched for opportunities to improve inter-Korean relations. First of all, following North Korea's demolition of the inter-Korean liaison office and the death of a Korean government officer in the West Sea, the government expressed its deepest regrets and issued a strong rebuke while demanding responsible action by the North Korean government. Likewise, when North Korea violated the spirit of inter-Korean agreements and threatened the lives and safety of the Korean people, the government issued a strong and

principled response. Such responses prevented a further escalation in tensions on the Korean peninsula as North Korea withdrew its military action against South Korea and delivered an apology for the West Sea incident.

In addition, as the government recognized that the suspended communication between the two Koreas could lead to an escalation in tensions on the Korean Peninsula, it tried to restart dialogue between the two Koreas. During the 316th consultative meeting on the promotion of inter-Korean exchange and cooperation (August 6), Unification Minister Lee In-young expressed regret for North Korea's decision to release Hwanggang Dam without consultation and stated the importance of resuming inter-Korean dialogue particularly for matters directly related to the safety of people living along the border area. Also, during an emergency meeting of ministers related to national security hosted by the President on September 27, the government requested a joint investigation of the West Sea incident and the reconnection of the military hotline between the two Koreas.

Section 2

Denuclearization and Peacebuilding

1 Stalemate in Denuclearization Negotiations and Efforts to Restart Dialogue

The government's efforts for denuclearization and peace continued in 2020; however, making progress on the Korean Peninsula Peace Process was not easy. During his New Year's address on January 7, President Moon emphasized the need to find realistic ways to ensure the success of US-North Korea dialogue and advance inter-Korean cooperation. However, unexpected variables such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the West Sea incident created challenges for the government's efforts for denuclearization and peacebuilding on the Korean Peninsula.

Inter-Korean relations, the key pillar for the Korean Peninsula Peace Process, have been at a standstill since the 2019 US-North Korea summit in Hanoi. With the demolition of the inter-Korean joint liaison office in June 2020, tensions between the two Koreas escalated.

Although the tensions were lowered following Chairman Kim's announcement to withdraw military action against the South, the West Sea incident created a new challenge for the two Koreas. In addition, North Korea conducted a joint strike drill, fired a series of short-range projectiles February, and on the occasion of the October 10th military parade in celebration of the establishment of the Korean Workers' Party, North Korea revealed its long-range missiles and other

advanced weapons.

With the upcoming presidential election of the United States in November, there was a sustained sense of uncertainly over how the stalemate between the US and North would unfold. Although leader-to-leader communication between President Trump and Chairman Kim through letters continued, the latest US-North Korea meeting, which was held in Stockholm, Sweden in October 2019, did not result in pragmatic negotiations for denuclearization.

The Korean government urged North Korea to return to the negotiation table by sending a message through US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and the National Security Advisor Robert O'Brien, but North Korea did not respond. On July 10, First Deputy Director Kim Yo Jung stated that North Korea was not "unwilling to denuclearize forever," but would not denuclearize at the moment considering the current situation. She also mentioned that the agenda for US-North Korea negotiations should be changed from denuclearization in exchange for sanctions relief to the US withdrawing its hostile policy.

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the international community continued its efforts to resume dialogue with North Korea. To respond to the spread of COVID-19, Secretary Pompeo stated that the US government supported and encouraged international organizations and other agencies that were assisting North Korea with its COVID-19 challenges.

The US Mission to the UN also indicated that the United States was prepared to assist in the process of securing exemptions from sanctions in order to combat COVID-19 in North Korea, as well as swiftly approving other projects by international organizations that were aimed at assisting the North Korean people. The ROK-US Combined Forces Command postponed its Combined Military Exercise scheduled in the first half of the year as the ROK government escalated its COVID-19 risk level to "serious."

On March 22, North Korea confirmed that President Trump had sent a letter to Chairman Kim to explain his plan to revitalize US-North Korea relations and the US government's will to assist in North Korea's COVID-19 prevention measures. Chairman Kim also sent a letter to President Trump and the First Lady to wish the president a speedy recovery from COVID-19.

On March 23, Secretary-General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres sent letters to leaders of G-20 countries to urge them to waive sanctions in order to ensure that vulnerable countries receive medical assistance to combat COVID-19. Also, on March 24, Michelle Bachelet, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed her concern that sanctions could undermine the disease control capabilities of countries including Cuba, North Korea, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe. Then on March 25, North Korea, along with 8 countries including China, Russia and Iran sent a letter to the UN Secretary-General calling for the lifting of sanctions on countries for the sake of a joint response to COVID-19.

On November 30, the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolution 1718 (hereinafter referred to as the 1718 committee) approved an amendment to the guidelines for North Korea sanctions implementation in order to streamline the process of assisting UN member states, international organizations, and non-governmental organizations with providing humanitarian assistance to North Korea and improving the overall humanitarian situation.

Also, the 1718 committee announced guidelines for securing sanctions exemptions when engaged in humanitarian assistance related to the COVID-19 response.

2 End of War Declaration and other efforts for the Korean Peninsula Peace Process

To restart the engine of the Korean Peninsula Peace Process, President Moon Jae-in proposed an End of War Declaration for the Korean Peninsula in his remarks during the 75th UN General Assembly session on September 23. Emphasizing that the End of War Declaration was the way to open the path for denuclearization and lasting peace on the Korean peninsula, he urged support from the United Nations and the international community for peace and prosperity through the End of War Declaration.

On October 22, during the second US presidential debate, President Biden (candidate at the time) mentioned that he was willing to meet Chairman Kim Jung Un if he agrees to reduce North Korea's nuclear capacity, and he also stated that the Korean Peninsula should be a Nuclear Free Zone. After the US presidential election, President Moon had a telephone call with President Biden (president-elect Biden as of Nov 22) and mentioned that he was willing to work closely with the US for the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and lasting peace. During the phone call, President Biden mentioned that the Republic of Korea was the linchpin for peace and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and that the United States would reaffirm its commitment to protect the Republic of Korea and closely cooperate with the ROK government to resolve the North Korean nuclear issue.

75th UN General Assembly (September 23)

Korean Society (October 8)

Section 3

Expanding the Consensus on Unification

1 National Unification Contract

The National Unification Contract project was introduced to ensure continuity for implementing unification policies. The project aims to promote the participation and communication of South Korean people in order to reduce confrontation among them and build consensus for the direction and principles of unification policy. This initiative will help create a sustainable unification policy that the people can trust. Each phase of the project is carried out as part of the National Unification Contract. To ensure the objectivity and credibility of the contract, the government is supporting the private sector to be the main engine of the project.

In 2020, social dialogues were held to draft an outline for the National Unification Contract. From July to October, the dialogues were held in the four major regions (Chungcheong, Yeongnam, Honam, and the Capital) while considering disease control and healthcare measures related to COVID-19. 287 citizens from different age groups, regions, genders, and political backgrounds joined the dialogues and discussed what should be included in the National Unification Contract. From November to December, four virtual collective dialogues were held. During the online dialogue process, opinions raised by citizens from different regions were compiled together for the participants to discuss in the "Future Vision for the Korean Peninsula and its Implementation." After the discussion, participants drafted a document based on the agreement made during the dialogue.

Regional dialogue (Capital)

Regional dialogue (Honam)

Collective dialogue (Seoul)

Social dialogues in 2020

Section	Region	Date	Participants	Method	Agenda
Regional dialogues (4)	Daejeon (Chungcheong)	July 4	27	Offline	Set Agenda for the 「National Unification Contract」
	Daegu · Busan (Yeongnam)	July 25	81	Offline + Online	
	Seoul (Capital)	Aug. 15	146		
	Gwangju (Honam)	Oct .18	33	Offline	
Collective dialogues (4)	Seoul	Nov. 21	108	Online	1. Vision for the Future of the Korean Peninsula 2. Ways to implement future visions
		Nov. 22	108		
		Dec. 5	107		
		Dec. 6	107		
Total: 8			717		

To increase the accessibility and understanding of unification policy, the government held talk concerts, dialogues with youth, and a diverse program to interact with about 460 citizens. The government wanted to draw people's attention to unification and North Korean issues by hosting talk concerts to discuss these issues in relation to their daily lives. Through dialogues involving the creation of small agreements with youth in their twenties, the government has intended to promote the issue of unification among young people.

Programs in 2020 for people to participate in

Sect.	Loct.	Date	Part.	Topic
Talk Concert	Online	May 21	80	The Unknown Stories of Female Defectors
		July 30	60	The Dictionary of Useless Talk(Separation, North Korea, Peace)
		Oct. 8	50	Yalu River Flows Beyond the Parallel
		Dec. 11	58	The North Korean Medical System and Inter-Korean Healthcare Cooperation
Youth Dialogues		Sep. 5	54	International Relations for Peace and Unification
		Sep. 6	54	North Korean Defectors' Settlement in South Korean Society
		Sep. 12	54	Inter-Korean Healthcare Cooperation in Response to COVID-19
		Sep. 13	54	Inter-Korean Relations After the End of War Declaration
Total: 8			464	

2 Operating and expanding the 「Unification+ Center」

To satisfy the diverse demands related to peace and unification in different areas such as unification education, settlement support, and information related to North Korea, the government opened the Incheon Unification+ Center as a pilot project in September 2018.

In 2020, the Incheon Unification+ Center hosted diverse peace and unification-related programs tailored to the needs of local residents and launched new programs. First of all, the government expanded the peace and unification network among the private sector, the central government, and local governments. The Incheon Unification+ Center engaged in weekly coordination with the Incheon Hana Center and the Gyeonggi-Incheon Branch of the Unification Education Center. Also, through coordination meetings for peace and unification between the private, and public sectors, the government identified the demands of local

residents and listened to people's opinions. Moreover, the Incheon Unification+ Center participated in working group meetings for inter-Korean exchange and cooperation hosted by the Peace City Establishment Committee of Incheon City and the Preparation Group for Peace School hosted by the Incheon Metropolitan Office of Education. The center held other meetings as well to strengthen its cooperation with local governments and the education office. The Incheon Unification+ Center worked closely with local government agencies to develop and implement diverse programs. With the Human Resource Development Institute of Incheon, the Center provided unification education to 786 government officials and staff working in public institutions. In addition, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the center provided books related to peace and unification to teenagers to aid in their understanding of the issues. Moreover, two "Unification Leadership Family Camps" and one "Peace and Unification Camp for Teenagers living in Islands" were designed for participants to experience the unified Korean Peninsula. Teenagers interested in peace, unification, and inter-Korean relations were recruited as "Mirae Eum Press Corps" (Press Corps for the Future) so that they could talk about peace and unification issues with their peers.

Unification Leadership Family Camp
National Institute for Unification Education
with Incheon City (Oct. 16~17)

Peace and Unification Camp for Teenagers
(Incheon City with Ongjin-gun Nov. 26)

The Incheon Unification+ Center works closely with the Incheon Hana Center and the Gyeonggi-Incheon Branch of the Unification Education Center to improve its unification education program and employment support program for North Korean defectors.

The Gyeonggi-Incheon Branch of the Unification Education Center organized conferences by inviting renowned speakers to talk about peace and unification with local residents and hosted 10 sessions of talks with 58 North Korean defectors, inviting those who had successfully settled down in the Incheon area to share their stories about their settlement.

The Incheon Unification+ Center also organized programs to communicate with the local people. The center co-hosted the "On and Off Peace Concert," which was broadcasted through KBS's *YouTube* channel, and a "Photo Exhibition for Peace and Unification" on the Incheon Subway with photos of Baekdu Mountain Ridge.

Conference
(At the Gyeonggi-Incheon Branch of the Unification Education Center, Nov. 30)

On and Off Peace Concert
(YouTube, Dec. 5)

To promote unification issues among youth, a "Peace and Unification Content Contest for Teenagers" was held along with online/offline exhibitions. In addition, a special session on North Korean food culture was held for local residents. The Incheon Unification+ Center currently is collecting documents and data related to peace and unification for local residents to enjoy at the "Unification Reception

Center" or *tongil sarangbang*.

Based on the success of the Incheon Unification+ Center, the government has developed policy guidelines. Through coordination with local governments, the government will establish Unification+ Centers in the Honam and Gangwon areas that are scheduled to open in 2022.

3 Expanding the Consenus on Unification with Cooperation from the Private Sector

(1) The 20th Anniversary of the June 15th Inter-Korean Joint Declaration

Up until now, the June 15th Joint Declaration was celebrated by civil society organizations including the ROK-based Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation (KCRC) and the DPRK-based Korea Council for Reconciliation. The two organizations held joint events in both Koreas every year from 2001 to 2008 except for 2003.

In 2003, following the global outbreak of SARS, the event was held separately in South and North Korea, and in 2009, the two Koreas did not hold a joint event, but South Korean NGOs including the KCRC and the Kim Dae-Jung Peace Center held their own events.

In 2020, to commemorate the 75th anniversary of Korean liberation, the 70th year since the start of the Korean War, and the 20th anniversary of the June 15th Joint Declaration, the government planned various events to start at the beginning of the year, but due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the scale of the events was limited or the events were held online.

The Ministry of Unification also planned a large-scale event to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the June 15th Inter-Korean Joint Declaration. However, the

size of the event was downscaled in light of COVID-19, and it was held at the Odusan Unification Tower while being broadcasted live on TV.

Unification Minister Kim Yeon-chul participated in the ceremony along with politicians and officials from related organizations. Also, key persons who participated in the 2000 inter-Korean summit, businessmen working on inter-Korean exchange and cooperation, and separated families participated in the ceremony.

The Ministry of Unification also worked with Seoul City, Gyeonggi Province, the Kim Dae-jung Peace Center, and other organizations to jointly host events that were previously hosted separately by civic groups and local governments.

The 20th Anniversary of the June 15th Joint Declaration and Cultural Event
(June 15 at the Odusan Unification Tower)

The "Peace Challenge," an online event to remember the meaning of the June 15th Joint Declaration, was held from June 1 to June 15, and a special episode of "Immortal Songs: Singing the Legend, Peace is Coming" was broadcasted on June 13 in collaboration with KBS. The "Peace Challenge" was an event for people to create their own videos about peace with songs, dance, instruments, drawings, and other means of expression, and then post them on their own social networking platforms. Some randomly selected participants received gifts, and the creators of 10 videos that outperformed the others were selected as prize winners among the 1,622 participants.

The Peace Challenge to Commemorate the 20th Anniversary of the June 15th Joint Declaration (June 1-15)

Advertisement

Award Ceremony

(2) Communicating with the Korean people

The Ministry of Unification created digital content in various formats and posted the content on websites and social networking platforms to inform the Korean people of the Korean Peninsula Policy process and inter-Korean relations as well as ways to strengthen communication with others about the government's North Korea policies.

262 works of media were created including 87 visual materials about the Ministry of Unification's key policies and press releases, 150 infographics including <Peace Class> and <Ask Anything>, and 25 videos to promote MOU policies such as <Behind the Scenes of the Korean Peninsula> and <Unification On Day> to help people to understand the meaning of peace on the Korean Peninsula and North Korean issues.

Press Release

<Peace Class> Infographic

<Behind the Scenes of the Korean Peninsula>
Policy Promotion

<Unification On Day>
Video Series

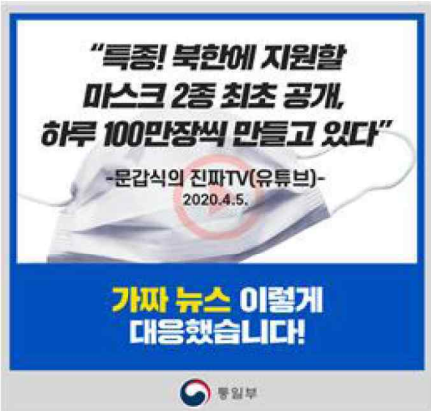
Also, 34 works of media including an infographic about the settlement of North Korean defectors <Hello My Neighbor> and a web series <Unification Wifi> were made to promote positive perceptions of North Korean defectors. A digital comic series <Dalgu's Forest> was released to convey the meaning of peace that the DMZ holds.

<Hello My Neighbor>

<Dalgu's Forest>

The Ministry also created a "fake news" section on its website to prevent some YouTube content creators from spreading fake news about North Korea and thus undermining the government's policies by creating chaos. The Ministry also made eight <Well, Here's the Fact> works of media to deliver facts to the people.

Such efforts by the Ministry to use social networking platforms to communicate with the people were recognized by Korea Business Communicators Associations who awarded the Ministry with the grand prize for its work on social networking platforms at the "2020 Korea Business Communication Awards."



Response to <Fake News>

<Well, Here's the Fact>

(3) Unification Cultural Content Competition

Since 2015, the Ministry has held Unification Culture Content Competitions for the music and movie sectors as well as other sectors. In 2020, the "Unification Music Race," a popular music contest related to unification, was renamed "Let's Move Towards Unification." The Ministry co-hosted the contest with Seoul City to expand the number of participants and prizes.

84 teams applied for the "2020 Let's Move Towards Unification" contest and performed in various genres including ballads, hip-hop, jazz, and Korean traditional fusion music. Among the 84 teams, 16 teams advanced to the final round and competed at the SBS Prism Tower on November 14. The final round was broadcasted live on *YouTube*, and around 500 citizens and artists tuned in to the online event.

8 songs were selected for awards. The Unification Minister Award was given to "Big Picture" for their work titled <Black and White Photo>, and the "NamDalee Trio" won the Seoul Mayor's Award.

The final round of "2020 Let's Move Towards Unification" was recorded and broadcasted on SBS's Music Channel, and the two winners appeared on "The Show," SBS's music program that was broadcasted nationwide.

「2020 Let's Move Towards Unification」

Preliminary Round (Oct. 22)

Final Round (Nov. 14)

The Show (Dec. 8)

(4) Internet Broadcast, UniTV

Since 2011, the Ministry of Unification has run an Internet broadcasting station UniTV to promote unification issues among the youth and help aid in their understanding of unification policies and inter-Korean relations. UniTV has uploaded videos to the website www.unikorea.go.kr and social networking platforms, and has broadcasted contents through Naver TV Cast and Kakao TV.

UniTV's regular program includes "Unification Now," which is organized into the following segments: <Unification Briefing>, <Unification Scene>, and <Unification Chatter>. 143 programs were broadcasted in 2020.

<Unification Briefing> delivered news about inter-Korean relations and unification. <Unification Scene> introduced the government's policies and activities in civil society related to unification. <Unification Chatter> is a talk show hosted by celebrities and guests to talk about unification-related issues.

<Unification Briefing>

<Unification Scene>

<Unification Chatter>

Episodes of <Gwanghawmun Pencil Case>, a talk show to help people understand difficult North Korea policies and North Korean issues, were released once every two weeks. In 2020, 25 segments were produced with guests, and 76% of the content was produced by ordinary citizens.

<Gwanghwanmun Pencil Case>

Special programs for 2020 were produced in consideration of the COVID-19 situation, and 39 segments featured comedians, singers, travel writers, chefs, and other experts. This content included <Come to Unification>, <DMZ Live, On the Road>, <Flavorful Couple>, and others.

<Come to Unification> is a reality quiz show for guests to take a unification-related quiz with the aim of helping viewers have a better understanding of unification. <DMZ Live, On the Road> featured famous singers visiting areas along the DMZ and singing at the locations to present the DMZ as a symbol of peace and separation. <Flavorful Couple> is a web drama about North Korean food culture explained through a story of young lovers from South and North Korea.

Other programs such as <Sketchbook>, <Policy News>, <Peace Rider>, and others were produced as well. <Sketchbook> is a trendy program with a Youtuber delivering information about North Korea in an easy and fun way. 10 episodes of Sketchbook were produced. <Peace Rider> is a program featuring young staff from the Ministry of Unification who ride a bicycle to visit places related to unification and deliver messages of peace. <Policy News> is a program that highlights key issues and news about unification policy to help people understand the government's policies.

<Come to Unification>

<DMZ Live, On the Road>

<Flavorful Couple>

<Sketchbook>

<Peace Rider>

<Policy News>

UniTV also produced and broadcasted programs through public broadcasting stations. <Unification NOW> was broadcasted every week on Korea TV (KTV), Arirang TV, and WBC. Since 2017, UniTV has broadcasted its programs through the National Election Commission TV, the Industrial Broadcasting Channel, SEBIS, the Law TV Network, and other broadcasting stations. Also, these programs were shared with teachers as lesson materials for unification education.

Section 4

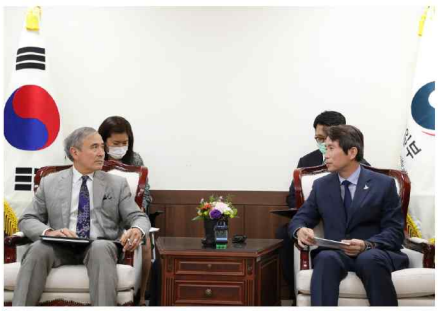
Cooperation with the International Community

1 Government to Government Dialogues

Every year, the government has held strategic dialogues with experts and government officials in countries closely tied to Korean Peninsula issues. These countries include the United States, China, Japan, Russia, and European countries. However, in 2020, due to COVID-19 and other challenges, overseas visits for such strategic dialogues faced obstacles. Thus, such efforts concentrated on embassies in the Republic of Korea and government officials visiting Korea.

On August 18, Minister Lee In-young met with the US ambassador to the Republic of Korea, Harry Harris, and explained the government's vision for inter-Korean relations including restarting inter-Korean dialogue, engaging in humanitarian cooperation with North Korea, and starting small exchanges with North Korea, all with the aim of winning the US government's support for such proposals. Both sides reaffirmed the need to coordinate closely in their efforts to restart the dialogue process between the two Koreas and between the US and the DPRK.

In addition, on December 10, Minister Lee In-young met with Deputy Secretary of State Stephen Biegun during his visit to Korea, and the two officials exchanged their views on issues of denuclearization, peace on the Korean Peninsula, and inter-Korean relations. Both sides agreed that it was a critical period for these issues, and that it was therefore of vital importance to have stronger cooperation in the Korean Peninsula Peace Process.



Minister Lee's meeting with Ambassador Harris (Aug. 18)

Minister Lee's meeting with Deputy Secretary Biegun (Dec. 10)

Through working-level consultations, the government strengthened bilateral coordination with countries involved in issues on the Korean Peninsula and explained its position to revitalize inter-Korean relations and gain support for its North Korea policies.

The ROK-US "working group" established in November 2018 continued to discuss how the government could work with the United States in 2020 to promote US-DPRK negotiations for denuclearization, develop inter-Korean relations, and establish peace on the Korean Peninsula.

Despite COVID-19, the "Director-General Level Meeting" between Korea and the US was held in late September in Washington DC to find a way to stably manage the current situation and strengthen the interests shared between the two countries in their respective North Korea policies.

In 2010, the government signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the German Federal Ministry of the Interior and founded the Korea-Germany Unification Advisory Committee (hereinafter referred to as the Committee) to learn from the German experience of unification and apply the lessons learned to Korean Unification/Integration formulas. As 2020 marks the 30th anniversary of German unification, the Committee's meeting was originally planned to be

hosted in Germany with the German government as the host, but it had to be canceled due to COVID-19. Therefore, the Committee held a separate meeting on November 16 with Korean members, the German Embassy in Korea, and German political foundations. The committee evaluated the 30 years of German unification and discussed changes in people's perspectives in east and west Germany.

Meeting of the Korean Members of the Korea-Germany Unification Advisory Committee, (Nov. 16)

2 Creating a Consensus with the International Community

On numerous occasions, the government has persistently dedicated its efforts to increasing people's awareness of peace on the Korean Peninsula and building a consensus around it. The Korea Global Forum for Peace (hereinafter referred to as the KGFP) invited experts from over 20 countries throughout the world to lead discussions about denuclearization, peace, mutual prosperity, and other issues related to the Korean Peninsula.

In 2020, following the 70th year since the outbreak of the Korean War and the 20th anniversary of the June 15th Joint Declaration, the KGFP was held from September 7 to 9 in Seoul with its theme of "Peace and Prosperity on the Korean Peninsula: Past, Present and the Future." The forum was held online and

offline considering the COVID-19 situation, and 16 organizations and over 190 speakers participated in the forum to discuss diverse issues related to peace on the Korean Peninsula, humanitarianism, changes in North Korea, and the future of the Korean Peninsula.

The first day (Sep. 7) of the forum began with Minister Lee's opening remarks followed by congratulatory remarks by the Prime Minister of the Republic of Korea and the Speaker of the National Assembly. To commemorate the 10th year since its inauguration, United Nations Secretary-General Antonio Guterres delivered a special message about peace on the Korean Peninsula. On the second and third day, Executive Director David Beasley of the World Food Programme (an organization that was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize) delivered the keynote address, and Futurist Thomas Frey of the DaVinci Institute and Sohail Inayatullah of UNESCO Future Studies also gave special lectures about the future of the Korean Peninsula.

KGFP
(Sep. 7-9, Seoul)

Secretary General Antonio Guterres
(Sep. 7, Seoul)

In addition to the KGFP, the government invited Korea Peninsula experts from Japan, Europe, the US, and other countries to an online seminar. On October 15, experts in Korea-Japan relations were invited to a closed session to discuss how Korea and Japan could cooperate in endeavors for the peace of the Northeast Asia region and what Japan's role on the Korean Peninsula could be. From

November 11 to 13, the Ministry of Unification worked with SOAS University of London and King's College London to host a "Korea-Europe Webinar" to discuss North Korea denuclearization and peace on the Korean Peninsula. On December 18, following the completion of the US presidential election, the Ministry invited North Korea experts from Korea and the US to engage in an online discussion of the Biden Administration's direction for North Korea Policy. Former Minister of Unification Kim Yeon-chul, President Frank Jannuzi of the Mansfield Foundation, Joel Wit of the 38 North, and other participants discussed and suggested the appropriate direction for the Biden Administration's North Korea Policy.

In addition to the above-mentioned programs, and despite the challenges of face to face meetings due to COVID-19, the government held over 70 online meetings through Zoom and other methods for public diplomacy purposes, explaining the government's North Korea policies and listening to the opinions of attendees.

Before the inauguration of the Biden Administration, Unification Minister Lee In-young had a series of video meetings with experts who had worked in previous US administrations and listened to their insights and experiences working with North Korea and the Kim Dae-jung administration in South Korea. On November 18, Minster Lee had a meeting with Former Secretary of Defense William Perry and on December 22 had one with Former Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and others.

Also, to promote consensus around peace on the Korean Peninsula and initiate public diplomacy for peace led by civil society, the government appointed "Goodwill Ambassadors for Peace on the Korean Peninsula" for the first time. During the opening ceremony of the 2020 KGFP on September 7, Minister Lee appointed six goodwill ambassadors including Co-President of the International Peace Bureau Lisa Clark, Professor at SungKongHoe University Lee Daehoon,

Director of the Center for Peace and Conflict Resolution Chung Jujin, Professor at Chungbuk National University Yoon Sung-wook, Marie Curie Fellow at Trinity College Kim Dong-jin, and Northeast Asia Regional Liaison Officer of the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC) Meri Joyce. Through their networks of peace with civil society organizations and use of such networks for public diplomacy, the Goodwill Ambassadors will help increase the interest of the international community in the peace of the Korean Peninsula

To increase cooperation with civil society organizations and promote public diplomacy for peace, the "Peace and Public Diplomacy Corps" was founded in April 2020 with 8 civil society organizations and research institutes working on peace. The first group of the Corps was selected among youth in their twenties and thirties to serve as messengers of peace in the international community as well as in Korea. As the official sponsoring organization of the "Peace and Public Diplomacy Corps," the Ministry of Unification assists the Corps so that they can become the center of gravity for the activities of civil society organizations in pursuit of peace on the Korean Peninsula.

In 2020, as the importance of public diplomacy continued to increase, the government took steps to expand opportunities for overseas scholars working on unification and North Korea issues with the "Academic Exchange Program for North Korean and Unification Studies." This project was designed to invite foreign scholars to Korea so that they could be enrolled in master's degree or Ph.D. programs about unification or North Korea studies as well as have opportunities to receive funding for their research. The Institute for Far Eastern Studies of Kyungnam University and the University of North Korea Studies were selected for 2020. 4 students were selected for an academic degree program and 5 were selected for a fellowship program that provided research funding. The program was designed to help foreign scholars understand the Korean Peninsula

and the issue of Unification through the lens of those on the Korean Peninsula and thus create favorable conditions for the Korean Peninsula and Unification in the international community.

Various programs were hosted by the Ministry to help the diplomatic corps and international organizations in Korea understand the governments' policies and inter-Korean relations. In January and December, the Minister of Unification invited the ambassadors of European Countries as well as ASEAN and the Commonwealth countries to explain to them inter-Korean relations and the government's North Korea policies. In 2020, the "Monthly Study Group for Inter-Korean Relations" was founded and served as an opportunity for diplomats, staff of international organizations, and civil society organizations to learn about issues on the Korean Peninsula and inter-Korean relations. Three sessions were held on October 1, October 6, November 19, and December 18 with experts and government officials working on specific issues. On December 18, a special closed session was held to evaluate the year 2020 and discuss the outlook for 2021.

1st Study Group Session (Oct. 16)

2nd Study Group Session (Nov. 19)

Inter-Korean Exchanges and Cooperation

Section 1 Pursuing the Resumption of Inter-Korean Exchanges and Cooperation

Section 2 Inter-Korean Economic Exchanges

Section 3 Inter-Korean Social and Cultural Exchanges

Section 4 Inter-Korean Development Assistance and Cooperation

Section 5 Peaceful Use of the DMZ

Section 6 Support for Companies Based in the Gaeseong Industrial Complex (GIC)

Section 7 Laying the Foundation for Inter-Korean Exchanges and Cooperation

Ministry of Unification

Chapter 2

Inter-Korean Exchanges and Cooperation

The break in inter-Korean relations that has existed since March 2019 delayed the exchange and cooperation projects previously agreed to by the two Koreas including the connection and modernization of roads and railways, discussions on matters of tourism to Mount Geumgang, and the formation of a unified team for the Tokyo Olympics. Matters were further complicated in 2020 as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic: not only were cooperation projects between the authorities of South and North Korea suspended, but also inter-Korean exchanges and contact at the private level were restricted. North Korea imposed heavy restrictions on exchanges in the border areas with China to more effectively fight the epidemic and assumed a passive attitude toward inter-Korean contact at the private level. In response, the ROK government focused on doing what it could do domestically in preparation for inter-Korean cooperation and worked to create the conditions for exchanges and cooperation including system improvements. In the process, 2020, which marked the 10th year since the implementation of the May 24 Measures, became the year that the government expressed its position that the measures had effectively become invalid. It explored alternatives it could pursue in the light of restrictions like the international sanctions on North Korea and put forth creative solutions including "small-scale trading" or bartering and individual visits to North Korea that would allow South Koreans to visit the North as tourists.

In economic exchange, the government continued to work to implement the agreements between the two Koreas including cooperation in the connection of roads and railways and the joint use of the Han River estuary. It did what it could on its own, including restoring the railways between Gangneung and Jejin on the Donghae North Line, and conducting an ecological survey of the wetlands on the south side of the Han River estuary. The government also pressed for the passage of the Act on Special Economic Zones for Peace and Unification to expand areas of economic cooperation and lay the foundation for an inter-Korean economic community.

In social and cultural exchange, the government did what it could domestically since there was no inter-Korean cooperation. With regard to the work on inter-Korean joint excavations at Manwoldae, a Goryeo-era palace site in Gaeseong, it held an exhibition and opened a digital archive based on the cultural heritage that has been unearthed there so far. For the work on the compilation of Gyeoremal-keunsajeon (Grand Dictionary of the Korean People's Language), the government made a draft dictionary, opened a PR hall, and published a brochure.

No joint religious and social exchange events, which had previously continued directly or via a third country, were held. Religious and civic groups proposed to North Korea the holding of a joint event, but the North did not respond. Therefore, the South held an event on its own.

Academic exchange also did not proceed smoothly due to the delays and/or suspensions of international academic conferences. Likewise, as international sports events were postponed, the government continued to forge ahead with preparations for co-hosting the 2032 Seoul-Pyongyang Summer Olympics and the establishment of a cooperation system with the appropriate agencies.

To realize a "community of life and safety on the Korean Peninsula," the government called for the North's understanding and cooperation with respect

to disasters including the prevention of infectious diseases from domestic animals, including African swine fever (hereafter referred to as ASF), and the prevention of floods along the rivers shared by South and North Korea, both of which require a concerted response from the two Koreas. The government did what it could domestically in preparation for resuming cooperation in the agro-livestock and forestry sectors: it conducted a survey and produced seeds and seedlings. The government also received reports from NGOs at home and abroad that they would contact North Koreans to request cooperation in agro-livestock and the prevention of infectious diseases from domestic animals, and approved the sending of goods to the North. With international bodies involved in development cooperation, it sought to discuss ways to respond to ASF, forest diseases, pests, and disasters. Then, through a policy forum on development cooperation and onsite visits, the government assessed the preparations for inter-Korean cooperation in ways that could support people's livelihoods

The government pursued the peaceful use and preservation of the DMZ. As some guard posts were withdrawn from the DMZ on a trial basis, it opened the "DMZ Peace Trails" and began tourism to the demilitarized Joint Security Area (JSA) in Panmunjom, thus offering people an opportunity to see and experience in person the scenes of peace. The government also worked to elaborate on its policies to the international community on such occasions as the 2020 DMZ Global Forum on Peace and Cooperation and asked for the support of the international community.

During the shutdown of the Gaeseong Industrial Complex, the government closely communicated with companies that had facilities there (hereinafter referred to as the "GIC companies") and were attentive to the difficulties they experienced. In cooperation with its ministries, the government continued to render support to the GIC companies: support for management normalization, customized counseling, and performance-based support. To create the conditions

for the resumption of operations at the GIC, the government operated a program for public officials and teachers to share their experiences in inter-Korean integration and furthermore initiated a youth academy.

The government also continued to take steps to decentralize and improve its laws and systems. On the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Act, it drew up a bill for an amendment of the Act to reflect the change in demands for inter-Korean exchange and cooperation and to facilitate it further. The government plans to submit the bill to the 2021 National Assembly. Some amendments proposed by lawmakers have, in fact, already been passed by the National Assembly. The revised law designated local governments as the main agents of inter-Korean exchange and cooperation projects and created a policy council of local governments on inter-Korean exchange and cooperation to serve as a statutory council under the Ministry of Unification.

The government improved the inter-Korean exchange and cooperation system, which electronically handles administrative affairs regarding exchanges and cooperation, including applications for visiting North Korea and the sending of goods to the North by NGOs and local governments. The improved system offers greater user convenience and more effectively protects personal information. With a counseling center for inter-Korean exchange and cooperation, the government is working to provide better overall services regarding all matters, ranging from preparations for doing business to exemptions from sanctions on North Korea, NGOs, companies, and local governments. To actively support travel and contact between the two Koreas in more sectors, the government received reports from NGOs stating that they would contact North Koreans. However, the tensions in inter-Korean relations and the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in a reduction of the number of acceptances of reports of contact with North Koreans from 612 in 2019 to 205 in 2020.

In 2019, then Minister of Unification Kim Yeon Chul signed the Agreement for Peace and Prosperity on the Korean Peninsula with the Governors Association of Korea (GAK), thereby recognizing local governments as main agents of inter-Korean exchange and cooperation projects. As a result, 11 local governments were designated as operators of humanitarian aid programs for North Korea in 2020. The government pursued exchange and cooperation based on a decentralized governance by holding a meeting of the council for inter-Korean exchange and cooperation. The appropriate ministries and NGOs participated in this forum to discuss major issues and pass a proposal to provide funds from the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund.

Section 1

Pursuing the Resumption of Inter-Korean Exchanges and Cooperation

The ROK government announced the "May 24 Measures" in response to the sinking of the Cheonan, a South Korean naval corvette, attacked by North Korea on March 26, 2010. The tough measures against the North included a suspension of all trade between the two Koreas and a prohibition on visits to North Korea. Afterwards, the government was flexible about the measures and permitted exceptions such as allowing, in September 2011, South Koreans to visit Gaeseong and Mount Geumgang to check on the investment environment there, approving a logistics business in Najin and Hasan in November 2013, and actively supporting inter-Korean exchanges at the private level in May 2015 on the occasion of the 70th anniversary of National Liberation. As of May 20, 2020, on the occasion of the 10th year since the implementation of the measures, the government expressed its position that the May 24 Measures had effectively become invalid and were no longer an obstacle to pursuing inter-Korean exchange and cooperation.

Main Points of the May 24 Measures

① Prohibit the operation of North Korean vessels in South Korean waters
② Suspend inter-Korean trade
③ Prohibit South Koreans from visiting North Korea
④ Ban new investment in North Korea
⑤ Suspend all assistance to North Korea apart from humanitarian aid

Press Release by the Ministry of Unification (May 20)

"This year marks the 10th year since the implementation of the May 24 Measures. The government has become flexible and allowed exceptions over the course of successive former governments. The measures have therefore effectively become invalid. As of this date, the government no longer views the May 24 Measures as an obstacle to pursuing inter-Korean exchange and cooperation. It will continue to take steps to broaden the space for inter-Korean relations and establish substantial peace on the Korean Peninsula."

The government explored creative solutions to overcome the restrictions that similarly made the resumption of exchange and cooperation difficult due to the international sanctions on North Korea. By doing so, it sought to actively create space for inter-Korean cooperation. Individuals technically can visit North Korea even with the sanctions on the North since these visits would be just for tourism and not part of previous tourism cooperation projects. Thus individual tourism was devised as a way to expand person-to-person exchange and cooperation between the two Koreas as well as to promote the tourism industry in the border districts. In his 2020 New Year's press conference, President Moon Jae-in made it clear that the government would encourage tourism by individuals to North Korea, saying, "I believe that individual tourism to North Korea is not subject to international sanctions and that it can be explored." The government subdivided the types of individual tourism, established a master plan to prepare for such tourism, and encouraged the submission of applications for tourism to the North. Unfortunately, this effort was sidelined by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The government intended to overcome the suspension in inter-Korean economic cooperation and trade due to the May 24 Measures and international sanctions on North Korea as the suspension was causing damage to South Korean companies and the loss of the domain in which it could independently

handle inter-Korean relations. To this end, it devised methods of inter-Korean cooperation including "small-scale trading" or bartering, which are not subject to the international community's multi-layered sanctions on North Korea and which could restart inter-Korean exchange.

Section 2

Inter-Korean Economic Exchanges

1 Implementing the Agreements between the Two Koreas

(1) Continued cooperation in roads and railways

In the Panmunjom Declaration of 2018, South and North Korea agreed on the connection and modernization of roads and railways, and as part of follow-up measures to that declaration, conducted a joint onsite survey of the roads and railways of the North's section and held a groundbreaking ceremony in 2018. In February 2019, both sides exchanged relevant materials and data on roads and railways.

In June 2018, South Korea joined the Organisation for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD) unanimously, including North Korea's approval. This paved the way for the operation of 280,000 kilometers of international railway lines, including the Trans-China Railway (TCR) and the Trans-Shibia Railway (TSR).

* South Korea has officially submitted its agenda to theOrganisation for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD) since 2015, but has failed to secure full membership due to opposition from North Korea under the unanimous decision-making system of the Organisation for Coopcration of Railways (OSJD).

Due to the ongoing freeze in inter-Korean relations after North Korea and the US failed to reach an agreement at the Hanoi summit in February 2019, however, the government began preparations for inter-Korean road and railway

cooperation that it could pursue independently including the reconnection of the Donghae North Line.

The government, in close cooperation with the appropriate agencies, gave form to the plan to connect and modernize the roads and railways between the two Koreas so that it could promptly carry out the cooperation projects through consultation with the North as soon as inter-Korean relations improved. As part of the plan, the government pursued the restoration of the Gangneung-Jejin section, the only severed section on the South's side of the Donghae North Line. To this end, it recognized the restoration of the Gangneung-Jejin section as a project for inter-Korean exchange and cooperation and exempted it from a preliminary feasibility survey at the 313th session of the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Council. To mark the second anniversary of the Panmunjom Declaration and the beginning of the project to connect the Gangneung-Jejin section on the Donghae North Line, the government, local governments, and civic groups jointly held a ceremony at Jejin Station in Goseong, Gangwon Province on April 27.

As part of the preparations for road technology exchange, the government conducted site inspections at the major road facilities in the South including bridges and tunnels and gave form to a technology cooperation program. By doing so, it has been preparing for road cooperation that is contingent on a change in inter-Korean relations.

In light of this preparation, the participants of the Conference of General Directors (Authorized Representatives) of the Organization for Cooperation of Railways (OSJD) held in December 2020 decided that the 49th annual ministers' meeting of OSJD would take place in Seoul on June 15-18, 2021.

(2) Joint use of the Han River estuary

From November 5 to December 9, 2018, South and North Korea conducted a joint survey of the Han River estuary waterways shared by both sides, in accordance with the Agreement on the Implementation of the Historic Panmunjom Declaration in the Military Domain (hereinafter referred to as the "Comprehensive Military Agreement"). It was the first time in 65 years after the signing of the armistice agreement in 1953 that the two Koreas carried out such a joint survey. The two Koreas have only rarely accessed the Han River estuary due to military tensions, but they have laid the foundation for restoring it as a space of joint use for peaceful purposes.

In working-level military talks on January 30, 2019, the ROK government presented a nautical chart of the Han River estuary it had produced based on the findings of the joint waterways survey and agreed to allow free passage of private vessels starting on April 1 on a trial basis and expand the free passage incrementally afterwards. However, because inter-Korean reached a standstill after March, there were no follow-up working-level meetings related to this matter, and freedom of navigation has yet to be realized.

The government plans to continue consulting with the North to realize a free passage of private vessels in the Han River estuary and to conduct another extensive survey of the waterways, fishery resources, ecology, and the environment in the parts of the Han River estuary shared by both sides. In November 2020, as part of the efforts to collect basic data for such an extensive survey, the government began an ecological survey of the wetlands on the southern side of the Han River estuary with the Ministry of Environment and the National Institute of Ecology. It intends to cover about 80km^2 of the wetlands in the areas from Boju Cape in Gimpo to Manwoori in Paju and investigate the inhabitation of wild animals and the geographical characteristics of the plants

over a one year period until the second half of 2021. The government will establish a joint in-depth survey plan based on the findings of this survey and consult with the North about the plan. Meanwhile, it will explore effective ways for the two Koreas to jointly preserve ecological resources.

Commencement of an ecological survey of the wetlands on the southern side of the Han River estuary (November 2)

(3) Tourism to Mount Geumgang

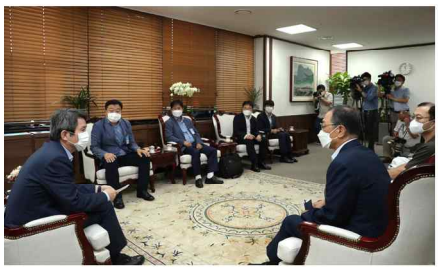
The government worked to create conditions conducive to the resumption of tourism to Mount Geumgang as agreed to in the Pyongyang Joint Declaration of September 2018 even under a difficult situation due to sanctions on North Korea and the COVID-19 pandemic. It tried to resolve the matter of the demolition of the facilities built by the South on Mount Geumgang. In 2019, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un had ordered the demolition of the facilities built by the South in the tourist district of Mount Geumgang. The ROK government afterwards proposed working-level talks, visits to the North by a joint inspection team, and a discussion between companies from the two Koreas. It has been discussing such matters through an exchange of documents while prioritizing the property rights protection of the South Korean companies and the agreements made between the two Koreas. As a result, South and North Korea shared the view that some temporary buildings within the tourist district on Mount Geumgang

needed to be torn down as soon as possible before tourism to Mount Geumgang could resume. However, North Korea gave a notice on January 30, 2020 that the schedule for its demolition was delayed due to the COVID-19 situation. No further consultations have occurred since then.

Meanwhile, the government strived to resolve the difficulties South Korean companies were facing due to the suspension of tourism while gathering opinions from businesspeople working on Mount Geumgang projects. It expressed its willingness to resume tourism to Mount Geumgang on certain occasions. Unification Minister Lee In-young visited Jejin Station in Goseong, Gangwon Province on July 31 and said that he would actively find ways to resume tourism to Mount Geumgang. Minister Lee met businesspeople based in Mount Geumgang on August 28 and said that he would work to resume tourism as soon as possible.

North Korean Premier Kim Tok Hun visited Mount Geumgang on December 20 and emphasized that the North would develop the Mount Geumgang area into a modern and all-inclusive international tourist and cultural area. Since the ROK government believes that tourism to Mount Geumgang and the development of the tourist district launched by the agreement between business operators from the two Koreas should be done through inter-Korean cooperation, the government plans to continue to consulting with the North on this matter.

Unification Minister Lee In-young visits Jejin Station in Goseong, Gangwon Province (July 31)



Unification Minister Lee meets with businesspeople working on Mount Geumgang projects (August 28)

2 Laying the Foundation for Inter-Korean Economic Cooperation

(1) Pursuing individual tourism to North Korea

On January 20, the government announced "individual visits to North Korea" as a creative solution to the matter of Mount Geumgang and made full preparations for such visits. Individual visits to North Korea are those that are not in the form of group tours through a partner company as in the previous tourism to Mount Geumgang. Instead, South Koreans who want to visit the North individually would submit applications for individual visits to the North, and the government would approve their visits. Then, a non-for-profit organization or a travel agency in a third country could discuss it with the North. Their invitations would then be verified by the Ministry of Unification.

Individual visits to North Korea were proposed to create the space for inter-Korean cooperation and to offer separated families and displaced people opportunities to visit the North. Furthermore, the government expects the visits to help revitalize the economy in the border districts and attract more foreign tourists to the South. It examined various possibilities for tourism that were realistic at the given moment, including visits to Mount Geumgang and Gaeseong by members of separated families and displaced people, visits to the North via a third country, and South and North Korea-linked tours for foreigners. In February, the government formed a task force within the South-North Korea Exchanges and Cooperation Support Association to provide administrative support and manage the situation regarding individual tourism. It plans to expand the organization into a Support Center for Visits to North Korea in preparation for when individual tourism begins in earnest. While emphasizing its willingness to pursue individual tourism to North Korea on various occasions, the government strived to build public consensus on such an initiative.

The National Assembly rendered its support by holding a forum to build the public consensus around individual visits to North Korea and sponsoring a resolution. On February 19, a forum was held to address the legal and institutional challenges to realize individual tourism to North Korea. It looked into the meaning of individual tourism to North Korea and explored legal ways to put it into practice. On August 13, 123 lawmakers jointly proposed a resolution urging the permission of individual tourism to North Korea for peace on the Korean Peninsula, and called on the two Koreas to discuss it as soon as possible. On August 14, a forum was held to address the resumption of inter-Korean exchanges including the permission of individual tourism to North Korea. The participants examined the need for individual tourism to North Korea and analyzed developments in tourism sector.

COVID-19 has of course made the two Koreas' discussion of individual tourism to North Korea difficult. The government plans to comprehensively discuss issues, including individual visits to the North, tourism to Mount Geumgang, and the demolition of the South-built facilities in the Mount Geumgang area with the North taking all circumstances into consideration.

(2) Pursuing 'small-scale trading' or bartering

The May 24 Measures and the international sanctions on North Korea have made resumption of trade between the two Koreas difficult. The government announced the cancellation of the May 24 Measures and decided to allow "small-scale trading" or the bartering of goods that are not subject to sanctions on North Korea as a novel approach to create space for reciprocal cooperation between the two Koreas. For example, a South Korean trading company would bring in goods from North Korea, including liquor and bottled water that are not subject to the sanctions on North Korea, and in return, the company would pay

with medicine and necessities that the North needs. The government plans to resume general trade if conditions permit for such exchange in the future.

Despite the difficulties in pursuing "small-scale trading" due to COVID-19, many trading companies have continued to have working-level meetings for trade with the North.

(3) Pursuing the Enactment of the Act on the Special Economic Zone for Peace and Unification

The special economic zone for peace and unification is slated for establishment in the border districts to expand inter-Korean economic exchange and cooperation and to lay the foundation for an inter-Korean economic community. The government selected the "designation and operation of the special economic zone for unification" as a key task in the Moon Jae-in government's "five-year plan for state affairs" outlined in July 2017. In his commemorative speech on National Liberation Day in 2018, President Moon, ordered the "establishment of a special economic zone for unification in the border districts of Gyeonggi and Gangwon provinces."

With regard to the special economic zone for peace and unification, six bills were proposed in the 20th National Assembly that took place from May 30, 2016 to May 29, 2020. The government actively supported the National Assembly's legislative review process for the Act on the Special Economic Zone for Peace and Unification, but the bills were scrapped because the 20th National Assembly expired.

At the 21st National Assembly taking place from May 30, 2020 to May 29, 2024, three bills regarding the special economic zone for peace and unification have been pending. The Subcommittee on Legislative Deliberation of the Foreign Affairs and Unification Committee had extensive discussions regarding the Act

on the Special Economic Zone for Peace and Unification on September 10 and December 1, and in the process, the government rendered support in many ways for the National Assembly's legislative activities by submitting a plan to integrate and coordinate its policies with the appropriate ministries. It also continued to work to expand the public consensus on such legislation by holding a public hearing on the Act on July 24 in cooperation with the National Assembly and the local governments it would impact.

Section 3

Inter-Korean Social and Cultural Exchanges

1 Exchanges in the Realm of Cultural Heritage

(1) Joint excavation of Manwoldae in Gaeseong

Since 2007, the two Koreas have worked together in the excavation of Manwoldae, a Goryeo-era palace site in Gaeseong, to preserve national cultural heritage and restore the unity of the South and North Koreans. In 2018, when inter-Korean relations were making progress, the excavation resumed (October 22-December 10) but was suspended again in 2019.

Although the excavation was suspended, the government launched a traveling exhibition titled "Manwoldae-12 Years of Excavation in Gaeseong" in Seonwonjeon Hall of Deoksugung Palace in 2019 in order to present the findings of the joint excavation to the public. In 2020, the COVID-19 situation led to either the delay or cancellation of the exhibition at the planned venues, and it ended up only being shown at two places: Gwangmyeong Cave and Odusan Unification Observatory. The traveling exhibition offered people an opportunity to experience Manwoldae, a Goryeo-era palace site.

The government also established a digital archive to showcase to the public the materials of the cultural exchange including the relics and artifacts excavated at Manwoldae. In the four years of hard work since its creation in 2017, the digital archive has come to include data on 120,000 of the 600,000 materials

excavated so far. The government visualized the data in webtoons, holograms, and 3D diagrams so that people could easily see and understand them. The digital archive of the joint of the Manwoldae excavation (www.manwoldae.org) opened in December 2020.

"Manwoldae-12 Years of Excavation in Gaeseong"
(Gwangmyeong Cave, October 13-December 31)

(2) Joint compilation of the Gyeoremal-keunsajeon (Korean People's Dictionary)

The Joint South and North Korea Board for the Compilation of *Gyeoremal-keunsajeon* was established in 2005 in order to collect the "*gyeoremal*" (the Korean people's language) used in South and North Korea and among overseas Koreans with the aim of compiling it into a single dictionary. The board has held 25 meetings so far and selected 307,000 entry words to be included in the dictionary. It has also agreed to an orthographic system to satisfy the two sides and has continued to bridge linguistic differences.

Despite the suspension of its meetings since 2016, the board has continued with work that it can handle on its own. It has corrected and proofread the entry words that the two Koreas have agreed on, has built a corpus, and has created illustrations. It has also been working to make a draft dictionary in preparation for a joint meeting.

The board has carried out various PR projects to help people see and appreciate the results of the *Gyeoremal-keunsajeon* compilation. It opened a PR Hall for the dictionary on November 26, 2019 and has exhibited the findings for more than a year since. The board also launched *Gyeoremal* TV on YouTube on May 6 and has engaged in online promotions for it. It published two volumes about the dictionary: *Malmoi Series of South and North Korea* (which includes *Malmoi for South and North Korean Children and Malmoi for South and North Korean Youth*) and *Meeting Gyeoremal-keunsajeon in Advance*. The board also produced and distributed various news segments including *Sign Language and Sports Terms in South and North Korea* and established a smartphone application service called "South Korean Language and North Korean Language" in which the people can compare basic everyday terms in South and North Korea.

A PR Hall for the *Gyeoremal-keunsajeon* in Seoul Citizens' Hall

Signing an MOU between the Gyeonggido Office of Education and the Joint Board of South and North Korea for the Compilation of the *Gyeoremal-keunsajeon* (July 15)

2 Exchanges in the Realm of Religious and Social Groups, Academia, Culture, and the Arts

The Korean Conference of Religions for Peace (KCRP) and the (North) Korean Council of Religionists have worked to sustain the dialogue between South and North Korean religious groups including Protestants, Catholics, and Buddhists. Even when it was difficult to have face-to-face communication due to COVID-19, each religious group tried to communicate with the North through written correspondence. The Minister of Unification visited with various religious leaders, asked them to play a key role in improving inter-Korean relations, and gathered opinions from them about specific religious cooperation projects.

At a meeting with representatives of religious, civic, and social groups, the government collected opinions from NGOs and established a public-private cooperative system to plan inter-Korean joint events. Due to COVID-19, however, North Korea closed the border and took tough measures to fight the epidemic, making it difficult to have person-to-person exchanges through social and cultural events. NGOs, including the South Side Committee for Implementing June 15th Joint Declaration (hereinafter referred to as the "South Side Committee") and the Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation (KCRC) proposed holding a joint event to mark the 20th anniversary of June 15th South-North Joint Declaration several times starting at the beginning of the year, but the North did not respond and no joint event was held. On June 13, the South held a peace and unification event marking the 20th anniversary of the June 15th South-North Joint Declaration, which was attended by representatives and members of religious, civic, and social groups including the South Side Committee and the KCRC. In the second half of the year, the committee tried to hold a conference for national independence marking the 75th anniversary of National Liberation and an event marking the 12th anniversary of the October 4th South-North Joint Declaration

along with the North, but the North did not respond, and therefore the South held the events on its own. Social groups, for their part, tried to contact the North through written correspondence multiple times, but nothing came of their efforts due to COVID-19 and the lack of response from the North.

Most of the international academic conferences slated for 2020 were delayed or cancelled. Yet, a North Korean academic gave a presentation at an international academic conference among the two Koreas and China (November 14) held by teleconferencing at the private level.

A peace and unification event marking the 20th anniversary of the June 15th South-North Joint Declaration (June 13)

The high demand for exchange with the North in culture and the arts at the private level remained unchanged despite the difficulties posed by COVID-19. Private groups that had experience in inter-Korean exchange before tried to contact the North to stage performances together in Pyongyang, invite a Pyongyang art troupe to the South, and resume the publication of *Unification Literature*. Some of them managed to make contact with the North.

Furthermore, many NGOs tried to contact the North to produce collaborative videos and animations, invite North Korean artists to the South, and work together in theatre and children's literature. All of these efforts did not materialize due to the North's closure of the border in response to COVID-19.

3 Sports Exchanges

In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic and the continued freeze in inter-Korean relations meant that sports exchanges between the two Koreas were likewise suspended. The international competitions in which South and North Korea were slated to participate in together were either cancelled or delayed, and as a result, the two Koreas were not able to implement the sports agreements they had made.

The 2020 East Asian Weightlifting Championships slated to take place from February 26-March 3 in Seoul were delayed, and the match between South and North Korea in the second round of the Asian Qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 (slated for June in Seoul) was postponed to 2021.

The announcement by the IOC and the Japanese government on March 24 that the 2020 Tokyo Summer Olympics would be postponed for a year set the stage for a discussion with the North, but follow-up discussions made no progress. In the meantime, the South Korean women's basketball team made it into the finals of the qualifying tournament alone, and the women's field hockey team failed to qualify. As of the end of December, the two Koreas could still form a unified team in only two sports: judo and rowing.

Since there was no follow-up discussion regarding the co-hosting of the 2032 Summer Olympics agreed between the two leaders of South and North Korea in the Pyongyang Joint Declaration of September 2018, the government began to handle whatever tasks it could on its own. A plan to host the Olympics was tabled at a Cabinet meeting and was resolved on January 21. In February, the government completed the examination procedures for the international event, including the selection of a city to host the Olympics.

The government has continued to discuss matters with the appropriate ministries and agencies including the Ministry of Culture, Sports, and Tourism,

the Seoul Metropolitan Government, and the Korean Olympic Committee. Each ministry and agency is preparing for the co-hosting of the 2032 Olympics while outsourcing studies on it.

In 2020 as in 2019, sports exchanges were pursued at the private level, including the International Youth Football Tournament and an international friendly table tennis competition in Northeast Asia. Working-level discussions continued in the first half of the year but made no progress because of the worsening COVID-19 situation.

Section 4

Inter-Korean Development Assistance and Cooperation

1 Development Cooperation Between the Authorities of the Two Koreas

Even amid the difficulties in inter-Korean relations including North Korea's lockdown in response to COVID-19, the government strived to realize a "community of life and safety on the Korean Peninsula" and further inter-Korean development assistance and cooperation. In particular, it called for the North's understanding and cooperation in the prevention of various disasters that require joint response from South and North Korea, including outbreaks of infectious diseases and floods along the rivers shared by both sides.

After North Korea reported the outbreak of African swine fever (ASF) to the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) on May 30, 2019, there was an ASF outbreak in the South (first confirmed on September 17). In 2019, the ROK government sent the North two notices (May 31 and September 18) proposing cooperation in the prevention of infectious diseases. However, the North did not respond to the South's proposal and maintained such an attitude in 2020.

Apart from cooperation in the prevention of epidemics, the ministries concerned with infectious diseases of domestic animals (the Ministry of Agriculture, Food, and Rural Affairs and the Ministry of Environment) as well as local governments searched for the carcasses of wild boars, installed fences, and carried out environment inspections and disinfection measures in the areas

of the DMZ and the Civilian Control Line to prevent the further spread of ASF. The government seeks to carry out cooperative work for the prevention of epidemics as soon as possible while closely monitoring and assessing the ASF situation in the North in cooperation with international organizations and NGOs.

During the period of heavy rains in August 2020, North Korea opened the floodgates of Hwanggang Dam without giving the South any advance notice. The ROK government expressed regret about the North's unilateral discharge of waters from Hwanggang Dam and called on the North to cooperate in matters that directly affect the life and safety of the people of South and North Korea.

Even amid the freeze in inter-Korean relations, the government explored ways to cooperate in improving people's livelihoods in preparation for a resumption of inter-Korean cooperation. In the areas of the environment and agro-livestock, it identified various possibilities for cooperation including new and renewable energy, drinking water, hygiene, seeds, and fertilizers and worked to give form to them. In forestry, the government conducted a survey on forest damage in the DMZ, excavation sites for war remains in the border districts, and spots where guard posts were withdrawn. It also produced and reserved seeds and seedlings of species of trees suitable for North Korea in preparation for a resumption in forestry cooperation. The government also completed the construction of the (western) Center for Inter-Korean Forestry Cooperation in Paju, Gyeonggi Province adjacent to North Korea and finalized the design of the (central) Center for Inter-Korean Forestry Cooperation, slated to be constructed in 2021 in Goseong, Gangwon Province. Along with the Peace Tree Nursery in Goseong, the government is establishing a hub for forestry cooperation in each region (central, western, and eastern) and is maintaining maximum readiness to render support if inter-Korean forestry cooperation resumes.

2 Reaching out to Cooperate with North Korea Through NGOs and International Bodies

The government not only handled some tasks on its own but also actively explored ways to cooperate with the North through NGOs (at home and abroad) as well as through international bodies, rendering support to the maximum possible extent in consideration of the circumstances. It established an "organic cooperative system" with organizations concerned with development and cooperation to incorporate into policy their experiences in discussions with the North and their demands for projects regarding the North.

Even amid the COVID-19 situation in 2020, the government actively supported inter-Korean exchanges at the private level. It accepted 19 applications to contact North Koreans for development and cooperation and approved eight deliveries of goods to the North for the prevention of epidemics and for agriculture.

The government also discussed projects to increase agricultural productivity by supporting greenhouses and pens through NGOs (at home and abroad) and approved the sending of vinyl film and seeds to the North. It also approved the sending of diagnostic equipment and disinfectant to prevent the spread of ASF among domestic animals in the North. Meanwhile, the government worked hard to continue forestry cooperation with the North by approving the sending of goods to the North by NGOs and examining the funding from the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund.

To induce the North to respond through international cooperation, the government, in cooperation with international bodies concerned with development cooperation, sought to discuss various projects including support for the delivery of ASF diagnostic kits and prevention supplies, cooperation in the prevention of forest diseases and pests, and the strengthening of capabilities to minimize the impact of disasters. Yet, North Korea continued to refuse outside help (at the meeting of the

Political Bureau of the Workers' Party of Korea on August 13), which resulted in no developmental assistance or cooperation through international bodies.

3 Establishing a Public-Private Cooperative System

As COVID-19 spread far and wide in 2020, the government established a public-private cooperative system in face-to-face and non-face-to-face formats including the holding of a forum on development and cooperation and onsite visits.

In response to the growing interest in and demand for developmental assistance and cooperation after the inter-Korean summits, the government starting holding policy forums on development cooperation on a regular basis which the central and local governments as well as public institutions participated in. As part of this initiative, the government established a cooperative system to serve as a window of communication to discuss ways to work together to improve people's livelihoods.

On three separate occasions in 2020, the government held a policy forum on development cooperation and discussed ways to cooperate in new and renewable energy, the delivery of ASF diagnostic kits and prevention equipment, and the resumption of agricultural cooperation with due consideration of the demands for developmental assistance and cooperation at home and abroad.

First meeting of the 2020 Policy Forum on Development Cooperation (May 22)

Third meeting of the 2020 Policy Forum on Development Cooperation (October 29-30)

The government strengthened its communication with those responsible for executing policy in the field and actively made "onsite visits" to establish a more effective plan and implementation system for inter-Korean cooperation. On August 6, Unification Minister Lee In-young visited Gunnam Dam, which had been built along the Imjin River to control flooding in South and North Korea, inspected damage in the field, and emphasized the importance of cooperation in the joint use of the rivers shared by the two Koreas. The government also checked the preparations for the resumption of forestry cooperation. The Unification Minister participated in the ceremony for the completion of the Center for Inter-Korean Forestry Cooperation in Paju, Gyeonggi Province on June 3 and visited the forest restoration site in the DMZ area of Cheorwon, Gangwon Province on June 8. In the area of agriculture, the Unification Minister visited the Gyeongbuk branch office of the Korea Seed and Variety Service in Andong, North Gyeongsang Province on June 17 and Chungcheongnam-do Agricultural Research and Extension Services in Yesan, South Chungcheong Province on October 29. In these places, he discussed possibilities for cooperation including joint research on agricultural technology and the development of new varieties of crops to lay the foundation for food security in both of the two Koreas.

Unification Minister Kim Yeon Chul visits the Center for Inter-Korean Forestry Cooperation in Paju (June 3)

Unification Minister Lee In-young visits Gunnam Dam (August 6)

Section 5

Peaceful Use of the DMZ

1 Transforming the DMZ into an International Peace Zone

In the 2018 Panmunjom Declaration, South and North Korea agreed to cease all hostile acts in the DMZ and transform the DMZ into a peace zone. The two Koreas signed the Comprehensive Military Agreement and agreed to withdraw guard posts (GPs) located within one kilometer from each other on a trial basis before removing all GPs in the DMZ, to demilitarize the Joint Security Area (JSA) in Panmunjom, and jointly excavate war remains within the DMZ. Accordingly, in 2018, the two sides withdrew all arms, equipment, and troops of 11 GPs from the DMZ; removed landmines; withdrew ammunition, arms, and guard posts from the JSA; and reduced the number of guards from 77 to 35. The two Koreas also began excavating war remains on Arrowhead Hill in Cheorwon, Gangwon Province.

President Moon Jae-in continued to emphasize the importance of the peaceful use of the DMZ and inter-Korean cooperation in border districts on important occasions. In his keynote speech at the 74th session of the United Nations General Assembly on September 24, 2019, President Moon presented three principles to resolve the matters on the Korean Peninsula: zero tolerance for war, a mutual security guarantee, and co-prosperity. He also proposed turning the DMZ into an international peace zone through cooperation between the two Koreas and the international community, and presented a concrete means of realizing that

vision: inscribing the DMZ as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, designating the area connecting Panmunjom to Gaeseong in North Korea as a Peace and Cooperation District, and removing anti-personnel mines in the DMZ.

For peaceful use of the DMZ and for inter-Korean cooperation in border districts, the Ministry of Unification is giving form to and carrying out the idea of turning the DMZ into an international peace zone while working with the appropriate ministries including the ministries of Foreign Affairs; National Defense; Public Administration and Security; Culture, Sports, and Tourism; Environment; and Land, Infrastructure, and Transport.

The ministries agreed that South and North Korea should jointly inscribe various cultural and natural resources within the DMZ on the UNESCO World Heritage List and work to protect and preserve them as common heritage sites while showcasing them to the world. In 2020, to gather basic materials and data for the UNESCO initiative, the Ministry of Unification, the Cultural Heritage Administration, and the Korea Forest Service conducted a factual survey on the southern side of the DMZ. The government is pursuing the designation of the area connecting Panmunjom to Gaeseong as the Peace and Cooperation District, thereby turning the area into a space where the two Koreas and the international community can realize prosperity on the Korean Peninsula and attract international bodies concerned with peace, ecology, and culture. The government plans to guarantee safety by removing all landmines from the DMZ through inter-Korean and international cooperation. To this end, in 2020, the Ministry of National Defense removed 158 landmines and 2,410 unexploded shells on Arrowhead Hill where a war remains excavation project was taking place. In the process, the government emphasized the importance of cooperation among the ministries while at the same time closely working with civil society organizations and experts.

To foster the peaceful use of the DMZ and transform it into an international peace zone, the government has held the DMZ Global Forum on Peace and

Cooperation annually since 2018 where it seeks to build international consensus and discuss sustainable development of the DMZ through various examples of border districts around the world.

Due to COVID-19 in 2020, officials from the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD), and the International Peace Bureau (IPB) participated in the forum in a non-face-to-face manner. Domestic experts and activists visited the border districts and discussed various topics including: "Peace, Women, and Youth"; "History, Culture, and Tourism"; and "Environment, Ecology, and the Han River Estuary" all under the theme of "Peace Blooming in the DMZ" from October 29-30.

2020 DMZ Global Forum on Peace and Cooperation (October 29-30)

The 2020 DMZ Global Forum on Peace and Cooperation was held in Cheorwon, Gangwon Province, a border district. The "Unification Walk" took place as part of the pre-event planning to offer participants an opportunity to feel in person the importance of peace in the border districts including the DMZ. The government plans to hold the "DMZ Unification Walk" at another forum to be held later. It will invite officials from major countries and international bodies so that they can feel the importance of peace in the border districts. Through these efforts, the government will continue to strive to build an international consensus

and support for peaceful use of the DMZ to turn it into an international peace zone. It plans to firmly establish a cooperative network with the international community by doing so.

2 Opening the "DMZ Peace Trails"

The government decided to open to the public some sections of the DMZ including the sites where GPs were withdrawn and remains were excavated on the basis of the Comprehensive Military Agreement so that members of the public could feel the importance of peace in person. To this end, five ministries including the ministries of Unification; National Defense; Public Administration and Security; Culture, Sports and Tourism; and Environment established a cooperative system with local governments in the border districts and the appropriate agencies. Through cooperation and division of roles among the agencies concerned, it created the "DMZ Peace Trails" by connecting walking trails between the sites where GPs were withdrawn and opened the trails to the public for the first time. The DMZ Peace Trails gradually opened to the public starting with the Goseong section on April 27, 2019 followed by the Cheorwon section on June 1 and the Paju section on August 10 of the same year. In the Paju section, sites where GPs were withdrawn in accordance with the Comprehensive Military Agreement were opened to the public.

Since the DMZ Peace Trails were closed in 2019 to prevent the spread of ASF (the Paju and Cheorwon sections were closed on September 19, and the Goseong section was closed on October 1), the government has focused on establishing Phase-2 routes to increase the number of visitors. After taking ASF prevention measures, it reopened the Paju section on November 28, 2020 but closed it again on December 15 as a result of a tightening of the social distancing

restrictions in response to COVID-19. A total of 15,236 people had visited the DMZ Peace Trails by 2020, and the trails helped create new jobs including commentators and guides, thus revitalizing the regional economy with the rise in tourism.

Phase-1 Routes of the DMZ Peace Trails

① Goseong: **(Route A) 2.7 ㎞ of Walking + 5.2 ㎞ of Driving / (Route B) 7.2 ㎞ of Driving**

☞ (Route A) Unification Observatory→ Geumgang Gate (2.7 ㎞ of walking) → Mount Geumgang Observatory → Unification Observatory (5.2 ㎞ of driving)

☞ (Route B) Unification Observatory → Mount Geumgang Observatory → DMZ Museum → Unification Observatory (7.2㎞ of driving in round trip)

② Cheorwon: **3.5 ㎞ of Walking + 11.5 ㎞ of Driving**

☞ Monument for the Battle of White Horse → Tongmun Gate A (1.5 ㎞ of driving) → Tongmun Gate B (3.5 ㎞ of walking) → Tongmun Gate C (1.5 ㎞ of driving) → non-resident GP (1.5 ㎞ of driving) → Tongmun Gate C (1.5 ㎞ of driving) → Monument for the Battle of Baekmagoji (5.5 ㎞ of driving)

③ Paju: **1.4㎞ of Walking + 19.6㎞ of Driving**

☞ Imjingak→ Eco Trails along the Imjin River (1.4 km of walking) → Dora Observatory (6.5 ㎞ of driving) → Tongmun Gate (2.5 ㎞ of driving) → GP-withdrawn Site (3.6 ㎞ of driving on a round trip) → Tongmun Gate → Imjingak (7 ㎞ of driving)

Number of Visitors to the DMZ Peace Trails (cumulative)

Category	Goseong	Cheorwon	Paju
Opening Day	April 27, 2019	June 1, 2019	August 10, 2019
Number of Visitors	11,969	2,387	880

* Number of visitors to the three DMZ Peace Trails: 15,236

3 Resuming Tours to Panmunjom

The government resumed field trips to Panmunjom and streamlined the procedures for reserving spots for them. Panmunjom has been reborn as a space of peace through demilitarization and the holding of inter-Korean summits, and tours resumed on November 6 after a pilot tour on November 4. Considering the African swine fever (ASF) and the COVID-19 situation, the government began with small-scale tours while completing joint inspections with the appropriate disease prevention and control authorities, fully complying with COVID-19 guidelines including social distancing.

To offer people opportunities to visit Panmunjom and increase their convenience, the government handled relevant matters through a single window for a one-stop application processing instead of requiring people to visit multiple windows at several different agencies. The government established the Panmunjom Tour Support Center and an Information Center under the Ministry of Unification and established the infrastructure for tours to Panmunjom including hiring support staff such as guides and commentators as well as administering tour buses. The government launched a website for the Panmunjom Tour Support Center (www.panmuntour.go.kr) where any South Korean national can apply for individual or family tours. The age limit for tours to Panmunjom was lowered from 10 to 8, and the application deadline was adjusted for greater convenience. The deadline for application submissions used to be two months beforehand, but it was changed to only two weeks before the intended tour date.

Improvements for Tours to Panmunjom

Category	Before	After
Application windows	Separate windows at the Ministry of Unification, the Ministry of National Defense, and the National Intelligence Service	One window for a one-stop service at the Ministry of Unification
Application unit	Group (30-40 persons)	Individuals and families (up to five persons)
Application deadline	60 days before the tour date	14 days before the tour date
Age limit	10 years old and above	8 years old and above

As the social distancing restrictions were tightened in early December, the government decided to suspend the tours. In the meantime, from November 4 to December 14, 44 tours were given, and a total of 1,483 people visited Panmunjom through the Panmunjom Tour Support Center.

If the COVID-19 situation gets better, the government will resume tours to Panmunjom after consultations with the appropriate ministries and agencies, expanding them in number and in scale.

Opening Ceremony of the Panmunjom Tour Support Center (November 4)

Tours by the General Public to Panmunjom

Section 6

Support for Companies Based in the Gaeseong Industrial Complex (GIC)

1 Strengthening Communication with GIC Companies

With the ongoing shutdown of the Gaeseong Industrial Complex (GIC), the government strived to manage the situation effectively and maintain momentum for reopening the GIC while remaining in close contact with GIC companies.

After taking office, Unification Minister Lee In-young met with members of the emergency planning committee for the Gaeseong Industrial Complex (GIC) and gathered suggestions from GIC companies while expressing his determination to push persistently for the reopening of the GIC.

The Gaeseong Industrial District Foundation hosted a conference called "Four Years Since the Complete Shutdown of the Gaeseong Industrial Complex- Now, Let's Open!" on February 11 on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the shutdown of the GIC. Stakeholders of the GIC including people from GIC companies as well as people from the political community and civil society organizations participated in the conference and redoubled the resolve to reopen the GIC.

In addition, the government hosted various events including a workshop for the Ministry of Unification, the Corporate Association of the Gaeseong Industrial Complex, and the Gaeseong Industrial District Foundation to discuss matters. It heard from GIC companies about their difficulties, and the parties involved confirmed their mutual commitment to cooperate with each other to reopen the GIC.

"Four Years Since the Complete Shutdown of the Gaeseong Industrial Complex -Now Let's Open!" (February 11)

Unification Minister Lee In-young meets with members of the emergency planning committee for the Gaeseong Industrial Complex (August 21)

2 Support for the Normalization of Business Management for GIC Companies

(1) Government support measures for GIC companies

In 2020, the government continued to render support for GIC companies to resolve their difficulties resulting from the shutdown of the GIC. It provided financial and taxation assistance as well as an employment retention subsidy so that they could return to normal operations as quickly as possible. Each ministry's support measures are shown in the table below.

Government Support Measures for GIC Companies

Competent Ministries and Agencies	Main Support Measures
Ministry of Unification	• Defer the repayment of loans from the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund.
Financial Services Commission	• Defer the repayment of loans from policy financial institutions and commercial banks. • Extend the expiration of guaranteed funds from the Korea Credit Guarantee Fund and the Korea Technology Finance Corporation and give preferential treatment to GIC companies for a guarantee fee (0.5%). • Interest rate reduction (refrain from increasing interest rates without giving any consideration to credit ratings).
Ministry of Economy and Finance	• Exempt GIC companies from income taxes and corporate taxes when they establish alternative factories in areas other than overpopulated districts of metropolitan areas that are subject to restrictions.
Ministry of Justice	• Render support for contracts on consignment workshops within correctional institutions.
Ministry of Public Administration and Security	• Defer tax payments including those of local taxes (up to one year). • Defer the collection of local taxes billed and taxes in arrears (up to one year). • Postpone tax investigations into local taxes.
Ministry of Trade, Industry and Energy	• Extend the deadline for the payment of electric power charges (starting with the bills for January 2016). • Extend the deadline for the payment of gas charges. • Support alternative factories (rental factories) (Knowledge Industrial Center at the Korea Industrial Complex Corporation). • Support the use of warehouses (preferential allocation of a warehouse at the distribution center of the Korea Industrial Complex Corporation).
Ministry of Employment and Labor	• Support those who did not have employment insurance (offer insurance benefits if they prove that they are working). • Grant exceptions from the Employment Permit System (add up to 40% more than the usual standard).
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport	• Include GIC company products in the SME Myeongpum Maru, a showroom dedicated to SME products opened at railway stations (specify that GIC companies can apply when announcing the opening of stores).
Ministry of SMEs and Startups	• Defer the repayment of loans from SME policy funds.
National Tax Service	• Extend the deadline for the payment of corporate taxes and value-added taxes (VAT) (nine months). • Postpone dispositions for failure to pay corporate taxes and VAT (one year). • Delay tax audits (in principle, suspend the commencement of audits).
Public Procurement Service	• Support new market opening including the supply of uniforms to public offices.

(2) Customized support for GIC companies

Since the complete shutdown of the GIC, the government has been working to gather opinions from GIC companies through counseling and incorporate them into policy decisions while operating the general support center in the Gaeseong Industrial District Foundation as a communication channel. In 2020, it rendered counselling to the companies on various matters including policy funds and corporate support.

General Support Center's Counselling for GIC Companies (2018-2020)

(Unit: cases)

Cate gory	Compensation for damage	Support for new markets	Legal bond	Tenancy and investment	Employment support	Policy funds	Tax support	Corporate support	Others	Total
2018	27	1	8	163	1	13	-	22	43	278
2019	2	-	8	58	-	-	5	231	4	308
2020	-	35	-	20	22	73	27	181	-	358
Total	29	36	16	241	23	86	32	434	47	944

Public officials made onsite visits to GIC companies, ascertained their condition, handled administrative affairs, and informed them of the various forms of support available to them. By the end of 2020, the officials dedicated to GIC companies visited 113 companies (out of the total 123 companies at the onset of the GIC shutdown), checked their business conditions, and listened to their difficulties.

Public officials visit a GIC company in Seoul (May 7)

Public officials visit a GIC company in southern Gyeonggi Province (May 20)

In 2020, as in 2019, the government supported the normalized business management of GIC companies in consideration of their demands for greater assistance. Under the plans to equitably provide support funds to companies and help diversity their businesses, the government provided funds to cover the business expenses that were most needed, and thereby, established a user-centered support system.

Support for the Normalized Business Management of GIC Companies (2019-2020)

(Unit: companies)

Category	R&D	Marketing	Support for certification	Others	Total
2019	8	39	2	1	50
2020	7	28	5	11	51
Total	15	67	7	12	101

The government supported the companies that showed the most potential to grow, develop, test, and certify trial products in cooperation with specialized institutions (universities and institutes) through the performance-based support program, helping maximize their competitiveness and promote their growth.

Performance-based Support Program (2019-2020)

(Unit: companies)

Category	Number of companies	Note
2019	3	Product development (2), Product development and certification (1)
2020	5	Technology development (1), Product development (2), Clinical test (1), Product certification (1)
Total	8	

To expand the markets for the GIC companies that have established alternative production bases (at home and abroad) during the shutdown of the GIC, the government worked to open up new markets in the country with companies and collaborative agencies. It promoted high-quality products produced by GIC companies and publicized the value of the GIC at special sales events in cooperation with the appropriate agencies. Twenty-five GIC companies participated in the mega shows held at SETEC in Seoul and KINTEX in Gyeonggi Province three times. The companies attained sales revenues totaling KRW 98 million and signed supply contracts of KRW 280 million.

2020 Special Sales Events for GIC Companies

Category	Mega show	Companion sale	Mega show	Sales event by Gyeonggido Assembly	Mega show
Period	June 18-21	July 1-6	October 22-25	November 3-4	November 12-15
Location	KINTEX	Sinchon in Seoul	SETEC	Gyeonggi Provincial Office	KINTEX
Collaborative agencies	Small & Medium Business Distribution Center			Gyeonggido Assembly	Small & Medium Business Distribution Center
Number of participant companies	10	1	9	8	6

Special Sales Events for GIC Companies

2020 Mega show for consumer goods (June 18-21; October 22-25; and November 12-15)

2020 special sales event administered by the Gyeonggido Assembly (November 3-4)

3 Improving the Promotion and Support System for the GIC

While promoting the value of the GIC for peace as well as its economic value and sharing experiences in managing the GIC through various channels, the government continued to hold discussions with experts, businesspeople, and officials from the National Assembly and the appropriate ministries and agencies. The conversations centered around ways to rectify the institutional deficiencies present in the management of the GIC when it was open and during its shutdown.

(1) Education and promotion of the GIC

The government made efforts to build public consensus on the need for the reopening of the GIC by increasing people's understanding of the value of the GIC for peace as well as its economic value and sharing experiences of inter-Korean unity at the GIC at the time of its operation.

The government and the Gaeseong Industrial District Foundation shared experiences they had at the GIC with public officials, teachers, and students in cooperation with offices of education and local governments. Considering the COVID-19 situation, they not only carried out face-to-face education but also online education in order to maximize the effect of the program and ensure the safety of the people involved. The government also produced and distributed three videos of lectures about the GIC.

The program managed to reach over 42,000 people in 2020 through a total of 218 sessions. In a satisfaction survey of the educational program, the respondents generally gave positive reviews with respect to the experience-based education they received, their elevated understanding of the value of the GIC, and their enhanced interest in unification.

Results of the Sharing Experiences of Inter-Korean Unity at the GIC Program (2020)

(Unit: sessions, persons)

Category	Teachers	Public officials	Students (elementary, middle, and high school)	College students	Employees at public institutions	Total
Number of sessions	30	32	131	21	4	218
Number of people in the program	1,202	14,344	23,391	3,370	156	42,463

Findings from the Education Satisfaction Survey (2020)

(Unit: persons, %)

Category	Highest	High	Medium	Low	Lowest	Total	Satisfaction rate (Highest+High)	Five-point scale
Satisfaction of the educational experience	804	368	64	1	0	1,237	94.8	4.60
Understanding of the educational experience	815	353	67	2	0	1,237	94.4	4.60
Application of the educational experience to real world issues	781	385	65	6	0	1,237	94.3	4.57
Content of the educational experience	860	319	57	1	0	1,237	95.3	4.65
Average							94.7	4.60

* A total of 1,237 people at 182 institutions and schools answered the survey.

Furthermore, the government operated the Gaeseong Industrial Complex Youth Academy to spread the word about the value of the GIC and elevate interest in and understanding of inter-Korean economic cooperation projects among young people, who will lead inter-Korean economic cooperation in the future. It also held a GIC talk Concert for college students and from July 17 to August 16, held an online debate competition to build consensus around peace on the Korean Peninsula among middle and high school students and the general

public. These public forums were an opportunity for members of the public to share various opinions on inter-Korean relations and peace on the Korean Peninsula, as well as on the GIC.

The government also introduced a training course to cultivate experts in inter-Korean economic cooperation. The course was offered to employees at public institutions and businesspeople who were considering making investments in economic cooperation if inter-Korean relations improved.

Education Program for the Youth

Program	Period	Main content
Sharing experiences of inter-Korean unity at the GIC	Year-round	• Shared 12 years of experience of inter-Korean unity at the GIC with public officials, teachers, and students (from primary school to college). * Educated 42,643 people through 218 sessions.
Online debate competition to build consensus around peace on the Korean Peninsula	July 17-August 16	• Held an online debate competition for middle and high school students and the general public nationwide. * Eight teams of middle school students, ten teams of high school students, and 36 teams with members of the general public participated.
Training course to cultivate experts in inter-Korean economic cooperation	September 1-November 26	• Operated a training course to nurture experts in inter-Korean economic cooperation. - In five regions (Seoul and Incheon city, and Chungcheong, Gyeongsang, and Jeolla provinces); a six-week program. * A total of 208 people participated.
The GIC Youth Academy	September 2-November 20	• Offered an 8-week training course for college students. * 143 people participated in collaboration with Wonkwang University and Konkuk University;.
GIC Talk Concert	October 30	• Elevated young people's interest in inter-Korean cooperation projects * 41 people participated in collaboration with college unification clubs;

(2) Improving the implementation system for GIC projects

Even after the shutdown of the GIC, the government has, through a consultative body, continued to work closely with the Gaeseong Industrial District Foundation and the appropriate agencies including public institutions tasked with managing major infrastructure facilities at the GIC such as electric power, communications, water, and wastewater.

Since 2004, the government has managed a legal advisory council for the Gaeseong Industrial Complex to improve laws and institutions dealing with the GIC. To this effect, it has been collecting opinions from non-governmental experts including lawyers, accountants, and researchers. In 2020, the council held four meetings in the form of written correspondence, discussing improvements in laws and institutions in preparation for the reopening of the GIC.

Through these efforts, the government is fully preparing for the reopening of the GIC by creating the conditions and maintaining the momentum necessary.

Section 7

Laying the Foundation for Inter-Korean Exchanges and Cooperation

1 Improvements in Laws and Institutions

(1) A bill proposed by the government to amend the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Act

On December 13, 2018, the government proposed a bill for an amendment of the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Act to increase the stability and predictability of inter-Korean exchange and cooperation. However, nothing came of it because the term of the 20th National Assembly expired before the bill could move forward. In 2020, on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the enactment of the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Act, the government prepared a new bill for an amendment in consideration of the demands for legislative improvement and after gathering diverse opinions in a public hearing. It particularly focused on strengthening reliability and autonomy in exchange and cooperation at the private level. The bill will be submitted to the National Assembly in 2021 after undergoing internal procedures. Major amended provisions include establishing a legal basis for procedures and government support when exchange and cooperation projects are suspended; setting forth the reasons for rejection of proposed visits to North Korea; clarifying matters regarding the establishment of offices in North Korea by corporations and organizations (it had been regulated by the Notification of the Ministry of

Unification but is now subject to higher law); preparing procedural exceptions for an inter-Korean cooperation district; and introducing a certification system for the trading business operators who have had the best performance.

(2) A bill proposed by lawmakers to amend the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Act

Of the fifteen bills for amendment proposed by lawmakers in 2020, three bills introduced by lawmakers Kim Hong-gul (two bills) and Kim Seung-won (one bill) passed the National Assembly and will take effect on March 9, 2021. The main content of the legislation includes setting forth the basis for local governments to carry out cooperation projects and establishing under the Ministry of Unification a "policy council of local governments to address issues of inter-Korean exchange and cooperation." The policy council, as it has been proposed, is a means for the Ministry of Unification and local governments to closely coordinate with each other.

The government is preparing to enact the amendment through an enforcement decree so it can settle the matters necessary for the composition and operation of a policy council of local governments tasked with addressing inter-Korean exchange and cooperation and chaired by the Vice Minister of Unification.

2 Improving Inter-Korean Exchanges and the Cooperation System for Them

To better facilitate inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation, the government improved the inter-Korean exchange and cooperation system in 2019. More specifically, it established a one-stop civil service system; introduced a mo-

bile civil service system; created separate accounts for local governments and NGOs; and began issuing confirmations of approvals to visit North Korea for the purpose of carrying out public duties. These improvements have expanded the opportunities for the public to participate in inter-Korean exchange and cooperation while increasing their convenience.

In 2020, the government subdivided the access privileges of users to increase the security of personal information in the inter-Korean exchange and cooperation system and strengthened the institutional safeguards for personal information protection by drafting a manual for handling matters regarding personal information protection

3 Support for Exchanges and Cooperation Programs by NGOs and Local Governments

In the 2018 Panmunjom Declaration, the leaders of the two Koreas agreed to invigorate a set of multi-faceted exchanges and cooperation measures, particularly visits and contacts among people from all levels of society. Accordingly, the government planned to resume and promote inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation through visits and contacts between the two Koreas in diverse areas. As a result, in 2019, 9,835 South Koreans visited the North and 612 reports of contacts with North Koreans were accepted.

In 2020, the number of people who visited the North plummeted to 613 because the North closed its borders due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and South Korean working staff withdrew from the inter-Korean joint liaison office in Gaeseong. Even amid the COVID-19 situation, however, there were 215 reports of contacts with North Koreans, and the government has been doing its best to maintain the system for contacts between the two Koreas.

Number of People Who Visited or Contacted North Korea

Category	2019	2020
Number of people who visited North Korea	9,835	613
Acceptance of reports of contacts with North Koreans	612	205

On September 10, 2019, in order to provide a one-stop service for inter-Korean exchange and cooperation projects, the government established a general counseling center for inter-Korean exchange and cooperation within the South-North Korea Exchanges and Cooperation Support Association. The center systematically assists those undergoing the application process from the preparation stage to counseling on administrative procedures regarding visits to North Korea, contacts with North Koreans, and exemptions from sanctions on North Korea.

In 2020, the government offered consulting services (12 times) through experts in inter-Korean exchange and cooperation regarding trade; economic cooperation; and humanitarian assistance to organizations, companies, and local governments which pursue inter-Korean exchange and cooperation projects. It also sent officials to each region for briefing sessions on procedures, information, and experiences regarding inter-Korean exchange and cooperation and thereby induced greater understanding and participation in such endeavors.

After the UN Security Council 1718 sanctions committee (DPRK) announced on November 30, 2020 that it had amended its guidelines on obtaining exemptions from UN sanctions for humanitarian aid to North Korea, the government provided non-face-to-face educational programs with the concerned parties in local governments and NGOs. In doing so, it aimed to quickly share the latest developments with the international community.

Consulting services for local governments (Hapcheon County)

A briefing session on procedures of inter-Korean exchange and cooperation (Busan)

4 Management of Inter-Korean Cross-border Passage

Due to COVID-19, North Korea suspended inter-Korean cross-border passage on January 30, 2020. Afterwards, the North cut off the military communication lines on June 9 and demolished the inter-Korean joint liaison office in Gaeseong on June 16. Even amid the continued suspension of cross-border passage, the Inter-Korean Transit Office conducted 35 simulations of cross-border passage with the appropriate agencies along with simulations of international train passage to ensure smooth operation and maintenance of the inter-Korean transit system in preparation for the resumption of cross-border passage. The government held meetings of the Inter-Korean Transit Office management council (four times) and working-level meetings (five times) to report the situation to the appropriate agencies and has been maintaining an organic collaboration system. The Ministry of Unification signed an MOU with Korea Railroad Corp. and Gangwon-do Office of Education to improve the surroundings of Jejin Station including establishing an exhibition of locomotives and passenger cars.

2020 Status of Cross-border Passage at the Inter-Korean Transit Office

(Unit: persons, vehicles)

Category		Total			Gyeongui			Donghae		
		Total	Departure	Arrival	Total	Departure	Arrival	Total	Departure	Arrival
Total	Persons	613	297	316	613	297	316	-	-	-
	Vehicles	312	148	164	312	148	164	-	-	-
Roads	Persons	613	297	316	613	297	316	-	-	-
	Vehicles	312	148	164	312	148	164	-	-	-
Railways	Persons	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Vehicles	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

To build public consensus on turning the DMZ into an international peace zone, the government established a master plan to create space for peace, unification, and culture in the DMZ. The plan involves connecting and using the DMZ Peace Trails that were opened to the public in 2019, the eastern and western transit offices, the sites where guard posts were dismantled, and Dorasan Station. The government took preparations to carry out the project in earnest in 2021 by securing a budget for it.

In addition, the government outsourced research on the master plan for developing an inter-Korean logistics base in preparation for a revitalization of the two Koreas' economies and a new era of streamlined logistics toward the continent.

5 Laying the Foundation for Exchanges and Cooperation Based on Decentralized Governance

The government is rendering support to local governments and NGOs in many ways so that they may play an important role in inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation. While respecting their autonomy, the government has devised support plans for each entity to promote exchange and cooperation projects while remaining in close communication with them through forums, debates, and other such events.

Since local governments were not specified in the regulations as the main agents of exchange and cooperation, they previously had to carry out exchanges and cooperation projects on an indirect basis. The government finally stepped in and formalized his situation. In July 2019, Minister of Unification Kim Yeon Chul signed the Agreement for Peace and Prosperity on the Korean Peninsula with the Governors Association of Korea (GAK) that represents 17 governors. Based on the agreement, the government carried out follow-up measures that specified local governments as the main agents of exchange and cooperation. Furthermore, by amending the Regulations on the Handling of Humanitarian Aid and Cooperation Programs for North Korea, the government was able to designate local governments as the operators of humanitarian aid programs for North Korea. Eleven local governments have been approved and are now preparing to render aid to North Korea. Finally, the bill for an amendment of the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Act passed by the National Assembly in 2020 recognizes local governments as main agents of exchange and cooperation.

The Eleven Local Governments Designated as Providers of Aid to North Korea

Seoul Metropolitan Government, Gyeonggi-do, Incheon Metropolitan City, Gwangju Metropolitan City, Gyeongsangnam-do, Gangwon-do, Chungcheongnam-do, Gimpo City, Goyang City, Paju City, Seongnam City

Yet, the COVID-19 situation prevented the government from holding meetings of the policy council of local governments formed to report the latest progress in exchange and cooperation projects and to coordinate the projects. The working-level meetings of the policy council also could not take place.

Instead, the government continued to pursue cooperative relations with local governments at exchange and cooperation events held by Gangwon-do and Jeollabuk-do. It also sent officials to Seoul Metropolitan Government, Gangwon-do, Incheon Metropolitan City, and Jeollabuk-do for further discussions to give form to exchange and cooperation projects as deemed necessary by each local government.

Unification Minister Lee In-young meets the Governor of Gangwon Province (September 4)

Unification Minister Lee In-young gives a special lecture at Jeollabukdo Business Agency (November 10)

In 2020, the government held seven meetings of the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Council chaired by the Minister of Unification. The meetings were attended by vice minister-level officials from the relevant ministries and non-governmental council members in accordance with the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Act. They examined and resolved major issues regarding inter-Korean exchange and cooperation and devised a plan for support funds from the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund. The government also held a policy advisory meeting of the Exchange and Cooperation Division to discuss matters with non-governmental experts from every appropriate field.

Main Resolutions by the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Council

Session	Date	Means	Main resolutions
311th	January 15-21	In writing	Comprehensive management of tours to Panmunjom
312th	March 23-27		Establishment of a digital archive for the materials jointly excavated at Manwoldae in Gaeseong
313th	April 23	Face-to-face	Construction of the railways between Gangneung and Jejin on the Donghae North Line
314th	May 20-26	In writing	UNESCAP's program to support sustainable development capability
315th	May 29-June 1		Changes to the 2020 plan to manage the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund
316th	August 6	Face-to-face	WFP's program to support infants and women in North Korea
317th	November 16		Construction of the memorial hall on Arrowhead Hill

Humanitarian Cooperation

Section 1 Humanitarian Cooperation
Section 2 Separated Families
Section 3 Prisoners of War (POWs), Abductees, and Detainees
Section 4 North Korean Human Rights

Ministry of Unification

Chapter 3

Humanitarian Cooperation

The government holds firm to the position that it will persistently render humanitarian aid regardless of the political and military situation on the Korean peninsula. Especially amid the COVID-19 pandemic, this stance prioritizes humanitarian matters over all other areas of concern.

In light of this principle, the government has taken steps in a variety of ways to improve the humanitarian situation in North Korea and people's quality of life. In 2019, the government authorized the provision of USD 3.5 million to UNICEF's Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health programme and delivered the last round of funds in May 2020. In 2020, it signed MOUs with WFP and UNICEF for another five years, and on August 12, it provided USD 10 million to WFP's humanitarian cooperation program for infants and women in North Korea. The government is working hard to implement the agreements made in the Pyongyang Joint Declaration of September 2018 and the inter-Korean talks on healthcare held on November 7, 2018. Sensing the necessity for inter-Korean cooperation in the prevention of infectious diseases as well as the non-traditional, cross-border security threat amid the COVID-19 situation, the government started to prepare for the establishment of a "community of life and security on the Korean Peninsula" through cooperation in matters of healthcare and the prevention of infectious diseases. The government also stepped up its cooperation efforts with NGOs including instituting a public-private policy council for humanitarian cooperation. Furthermore, in the process of amending the

Regulations on the Handling of Humanitarian Aid and Cooperation Programs for North Korea, it increased the support funds of the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund for NGOs, thus facilitating humanitarian cooperation at the private level. In addition, the government established and operated a comprehensive management system for humanitarian cooperation programs so that NGOs could effectively carry out humanitarian cooperation. Finally the government rendered systematic support by revamping the information system for assistance to North Korea.

On the issue of separated families, after 11 years since the seven rounds of reunions between 2005 and 2007, the government agreed to resume video reunions and exchanges of video messages agreed to in the Pyongyang Joint Declaration of September 2018. It renovated 13 reunion centers across the nation in 2019 and maintained them with regular test operations so that video reunions could be held immediately if the two Koreas agreed to them. The government also continued to work to achieve international consensus on the restoration of a permanent reunion center for separated families. By conducting 11,000 genetic tests, the government provided separated families with the means to confirm their kinship to relatives even if they were deceased. To preserve the records of separated family members of advanced age and to prepare for inter-Korean exchanges in the future, the government facilitated the production of 1,000 video messages. Striving to strengthen the foundation for exchanges among separated family members, the government has increased the convenience of the integrated information system for separated families.

As the COVID-19 situation precluded the possibility of holding face-to-face events, the government continued to render support in other ways such as delivering letters of comfort and gifts to members of separated families and the families of abductees. On the occasion of the 20th anniversary of in-person reunions of separated families, the government has sought to expand the

public consensus on the issue of separated families by broadcasting a special program called the "KBS Open Concert" and producing videos through which separated families can experience their hometowns through virtual reality (VR) technology.

The government has continued its efforts to resolve the issues of POWs, abductees, and detainees. In the three years since the opening of the National Memorial Hall for Korean War Abductees, the number of cumulative visitors has exceeded 114,000. With the aim of restoring the honor and upholding the rights of those abducted during the Korean War. the government held a special exhibition marking the 70th anniversary of the Korean War, purchasing relics, publishing art brochures, creating a rest area for abductees, and supporting the appropriate organizations. As the COVID-19 situation prevented the memorial hall from holding events, the government carried out various non-face-to-face programs, opened an online VR exhibition hall, and produced and distributed educational videos online. In accordance with the Act on Compensation and Assistance to Persons Kidnapped by North Korea After the Conclusion of the Military Armistice Agreement (amended in 2018), the government located the members of families of abductees who had not applied for compensation funds and provided them with such funds. To resolve the issues of detainees, the government worked hard to solidify a cooperative system with international bodies and appropriate institutions while visiting their families.

The government has sought to establish a virtuous cycle with respect to the promotion of human rights protections for North Koreans, the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula, and the overall development of inter-Korean relations. It established the Second Master Plan to Improve Human Rights Protections in North Korea (2020-2022) after gathering opinions from a policy council for North Korean human rights among the appropriate ministries and obtaining advice from a North Korean Human Rights Advisory Committee that

consists of non-governmental experts. Based on the master plan, it established and carried out the 2020 Implementation Plan to Improve Human Rights Protections in North Korea. Due to COVID-19, it took advantage of non-face-to-face means: distributing explanatory materials on North Korean human rights to diplomatic missions and Korean cultural centers abroad, having a video meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the DPRK, and participating in a video conference with countries that have similar positions on North Korean human rights. Through such efforts, the government worked to secure international support for and increase international understanding of its policies on North Korean human rights. In addition, the government is aiming to expand public consensus on the promotion of North Korean human rights protections and strengthen public-private communication by supporting the activities of NGOs focused on North Korean human rights. In consideration of the difficulties experienced by these NGOs, it held a workshop in 2020 on how to build their capabilities. The government also plans to expand and implement more focused ways of communication with NGOs.

Section 1

Humanitarian Cooperation

1 Humanitarian Cooperation

The government has consistently strived to improve the humanitarian situation and quality of life of North Koreans regardless of the political situation on the Korean peninsula. In response to the spread of COVID-19 which began in early 2020, North Korea took tough measures including closing its border with China. This action has greatly complicated the prospects for humanitarian cooperation. The government therefore instead focused on establishing an institutional basis for systematic and reliable cooperation in humanitarian assistance to infants and women in North Korea in close cooperation with international bodies and NGOs. It also continued to build a foundation for establishing a community of life and safety on the Korean Peninsula through cooperation in healthcare.

Signing of an MOU between the Ministry of Unification and WFP (June 3)

Signing of an MOU between the Ministry of Unification and UNICEF (December 16)

In 2020, the government strengthened its collaboration with the international community while focusing on expanding and systematizing cooperative relationships with major international bodies including the WFP, UNICEF, and the WHO. It signed an MOU with the WFP on June 3 and renewed one with UNICEF on December 16 for another five years. The new MOUs specified more substantial cooperative relations than before: expanding the areas of cooperation with international bodies in addressing issues of public health, nutrition, drinking water, and sanitation; having regular consultations on raising and managing funds; and stipulating procedures for resolving disputes, in accordance with international law.

On August 12, the government provided USD 10 million to the WFP's aid program for infants and women in North Korea, declaring its determination that it would continue humanitarian cooperation with these vulnerable groups regardless of the political situation on the Korean peninsula. The WFP has worked with the South Korean government since 1996 and was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize on October 9, 2020. In a letter to the Ministry of Unification, the WFP said "Thank you for all the years of strong support." While exchanging letters of gratitude and congratulations, the two sides reaffirmed that they would work even more closely with each other for humanitarian purposes with respect to North Korea in the future.

In 2019, the government authorized the provision of USD 3.5 million to UNICEF's Maternal, Newborn, and Child Health programme and delivered the last round of the funds in May 2020. In the area of public health, it provided diarrhea treatments to children under the age of five, basic medicine to 50 counties, therapeutic foods to children with acute malnutrition, and micronutrient supplements to children and pregnant women.

Since 1995, when the ROK government and an international body first collaborated in providing humanitarian assistance to North Korea, the ROK

government provided USD 266.76 million to North Korea through international bodies until 2020. Its continued its provision and support for vulnerable groups in North Korea has reduced the infant mortality rate as well as improved the health and nutrition of the North Koreans in general. The government will continue to work closely with international bodies for humanitarian purposes and expand its relations with them so that it can deliver funds and support as necessary at the appropriate time moving forward.

The government is working hard to implement the agreements made in the Pyongyang Joint Declaration of September 2018 and the inter-Korean talks on healthcare held on November 7, 2018. While feeling the necessity for inter-Korean cooperation in the prevention of infectious diseases and a non-traditional cross-border security threat amid the COVID-19 situation, the government began preparations to establish a "community of life and safety on the Korean Peninsula" through cooperation in the areas of healthcare and prevention of infectious diseases. It continued to work closely with health experts, NGOs, and international bodies through a council of healthcare cooperation, discussed possible means of healthcare cooperation, and systematically examined plans for the resumption of healthcare cooperation after outsourcing a policy study on the "establishment of an inter-Korean life and healthcare district."

The government plans to work closely with international bodies and NGOs to ensure that humanitarian cooperation for North Korea can be carried out as necessary at the appropriate time. It will establish a sustainable cooperation framework based on predictable annual plans and employ a comprehensive cooperation package to effectively address exemptions from sanctions on North Korea. It will begin with the response to COVID-19, the most pressing issue to collaborate on; expand to other areas of cooperation like healthcare, the prevention of infectious diseases, and the environment; and then move on to address people's livelihoods.

For NGOs facing difficulties due to the closure of the border between North Korea and China, the government took action to ensure that they would not have any difficulty in preparing and submitting applications for sending goods to the North and reporting contact with North Koreans. As of the end of December 2020, NGOs' humanitarian cooperation programs amounted to KRW 2.3 billion, and the government recieved 51 reports of contact with North Koreans and approved 31 deliveries of goods to the North.

Especially with regard to procedures for sanctions exemptions, the government managed to secure the revision of Implementation Assistance Notice No. 7 on November 30, 2020 after two years and five months since its enactment. It engaged in this effort through policy coordination with the countries involved and close communication with the UN Security Council Sanctions Committee on North Korea. The revised provisions include an extension of the exemption period for North Korea-focused humanitarian cooperation programs, an increase in the number of shipments, and the allowing of NGOs to apply directly for exemptions. To this end, Seoul and Washington have worked together through high-level and working-level channels on a number of occasions. The government has maintained close coordination between the public and private sectors with regards to the need for improving the exemption procedures while assisting NGOs in preparing application forms for sanctions exemptions.

The government held a video conference seminar twice to inform NGOs of the revised provisions. The NGOs and international bodies welcomed the fact that the revision laid the foundation for them to pursue humanitarian cooperation much more effectively. While focusing on the actions taken by the international community in the future, the government plans to actively explore the roles it can play so that international bodies and NGOs can continue to effectively carry out humanitarian cooperation.

2 Strengthening the Capacity to Pursue Humanitarian Cooperation

(1) Establishing a public-private cooperative system

In 2020, the government strived to increase its close communication with NGOs and local governments and institutionally support NGOs with the aim of enabling them to assume greater roles and build their capabilities.

To this end, the government instituted an amendment to the Regulations on the Handling of Humanitarian Aid and Cooperation Programs for North Korea (announced by the Ministry of Unification and enforced on January 4, 2021) by the end of the year, thus expanding the funding support for NGOs and facilitating humanitarian cooperation at the private level. Deeply concerned about financial difficulties due to COVID-19 and the strains in inter-Korean relations, domestic NGOs have continued to request revisions to the government's funding support system. In response, the government gathered opinions from NGOs on various occasions, including a policy council meeting for humanitarian cooperation, and pursued the revision to the regulation. More specifically, the government increased the frequency of funding support for NGOs from one to three times a year. Previously, an NGO could not receive the funds it needed if it had received funds in the past year even when it carried out two or three humanitarian and development programs a year. Now, NGOs can receive funding up to three times a year, and the required ratio of funding from the NGO side for projects was reduced from 50% to 30%.

Even amid the difficulties experienced in 2020, the government continued to render funds to vulnerable groups in North Korea. It administered KRW 1.328 billion to NGOs involved in humanitarian and development cooperation for North Korea including endeavors in healthcare, general relief, and agriculture,

and it worked hard to complete all the required procedures swiftly and efficiently to ensure that inter-Korean cooperation could continue at the private level.

The government expanded its support for the humanitarian cooperation of OSLs through its reorganization. In March 2020, it established the Department of Humanitarian and Development Cooperation to exclusively pursue humanitarian cooperation in the South-North Korea Exchanges and Cooperation Support Association, a public institution under the Ministry of Unification. In the process of business consultation regarding funding support for NGOs and handling applications for sending goods to North Korea, the Department of Humanitarian and Development Cooperation expanded the role of the South-North Korea Exchanges and Cooperation Support Association, provided administrative support, accumulated data, and improved its research capabilities.

At the same time, the government institutionalized policy consultation channels with NGOs and formed close relations with them for policy coordination on major issues. On August 13, 2020, the government permitted the establishment of the Korea NGO Council for Cooperation with North Korea as a non-profit corporation under the Ministry of Unification, formalizing its status as a representative NGO. The Unification Minister had three meetings with the senior leadership of the Korea NGO Council for Cooperation with North Korea (on May 1, July 31, and December 4), thus working to regularize consultations with NGOs and establish an institutional public-private policy cooperative relationship.

Inaugural meeting of the
Korea NGO Council for Cooperation
with North Korea
(May 22)

Unification Minister Lee In-young meets
with the senior leadership of the
Korea NGO Council for Cooperation
with North Korea (July 31)

For humanitarian cooperation, the government managed a public-private policy council co-chaired by the Vice Minister of Unification and the chair of the Korea NGO Council for Cooperation with North Korea. NGOs and the appropriate ministries including the Ministry of Health and Welfare, the Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Food and Rural Affairs, and the Korea Forest Service. The council holds meetings semiannually. First established in 2004, the council was suspended in March 2012 and then reinstated in 2019 as a permanent body.

By amending the Regulations on the Handling of Humanitarian Aid and Cooperation Programs for North Korea on October 22, 2019, the government allowed local governments to be designated as operators of humanitarian aid programs for North Korea. As a result, in 2020, seven local governments including the provincial governments of South Gyeongsang Province and Gangwon Province became operators, bringing the total number of local governments designated as operators of humanitarian aid programs for North Korea to 11 by the end of 2020. The central and local governments are planning to pursue humanitarian cooperation in a decentralized fashion and sustainable manner in the future. The government has expanded the total number of designated operators

of humanitarian aid for North Korea since 2017. Twenty-four NGOs were newly designated in 2020, bringing the total number to 153 by the end of 2020.

(2) Striving to build NGOs' capabilities and networks

The government strived to improve the capabilities of NGOs in humanitarian cooperation with North Korea and took steps to establish an NGO network. It has continued its consultations with non-governmental experts on the direction of cooperation with respect to healthcare. It held two rounds of meetings of the Council for Inter-Korean Healthcare Cooperation (on July 1 and November 20). At the meeting on November 20, it heard opinions from those working in the field and explored the possibilities for policy while focusing on cooperation to prevent COVID-19.

The government outsourced its research on exploring the possibilities for humanitarian cooperation to realize sustainable development goals (SDGs) and based on the findings, it held an open seminar on the topic of "Comprehensive Approaches to Humanitarian Cooperation and North Korean Human Rights" on November 27 hosted by the Korea Association of International Development and Cooperation.

To strengthen the capabilities of NGO, the South-North Korea Exchanges and Cooperation Support Association and the Korea Foundation for International Healthcare co-hosted the Academy of Healthcare and Development Cooperation for North Korea from May 8-29. On November 3-5, the government carried out a training program for the working staff of NGOs involved in aid to North Korea. This program included the sharing of results of humanitarian cooperation by the NGOs and briefings on matters of necessity for humanitarian cooperation programs on behalf of North Korea including sanctions exemptions, the selection of the most critical supplies, and the shipment of goods to the North.

Holding a meeting of the Council for Inter-Korean Healthcare Cooperation and making onsite visits (November 20)

Academy of Healthcare and Development Cooperation for North Korea (May 8-29)

(3) Establishing and operating the integration and management system

The integration and management system for humanitarian cooperation programs enables the government to comprehensively and systematically manage humanitarian cooperation programs carried out by NGOs. It has three primary functions: analyzing and assessing humanitarian cooperation programs and support for their capacity building; collecting and managing data in the implementation of cooperation programs; and managing the information system on aid to North Korea.

The government laid the foundation for comprehensive humanitarian cooperation by gathering relevant data on a) trends in humanitarian cooperation organizations at home and abroad, b) the status of the programs, and c) the analysis and assessment of issues of humanitarian cooperation. It has done its part to ensure efficient program management.

Based on such oversight, the government has established an information system on aid to North Korea that comprehensively offers all information regarding humanitarian cooperation programs. It provides the public with all the necessary information and services on humanitarian cooperation including business procedures, trends and statistics at home and abroad, application

processing procedures for operators of humanitarian aid programs, the process of seeking exemptions from UN sanctions on North Korea, and the process of getting financial support from the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund. For procedures of seeking exemptions from UN sanctions on North Korea, the government has implemented a series of guidelines, and applications for such sanctions exemptions can be processed through the information system on aid to North Korea.

The information system contains information on the status of domestic aid to North Korea and related statistics, and has organized such data into subcategories including finance, main agent, region, purpose, and government. The status of international aid to North Korea and statistics by main agent and purpose are also posted on the system based on the data from the OECD and the Development Assistance Committee (DAC). Additional components of the information system include index data on the status of North Korea based on the SDGs, weekly reports of humanitarian cooperation, reports on humanitarian cooperation on behalf of North Korea from domestic research institutes and international bodies, and a monthly newsletter.

The system offers easy access to the information about humanitarian cooperation and development cooperation programs for North Korea. With it, members of the public can apply to become operators of aid programs and managers of funding support from the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund. Previously, applications for such matters were made in person, by mail, or by email.

Section 2

Separated Families

1 Status of Separated Families

As of December 31, 2020, 133,406 persons have been registered in the government-run Integrated Information System for Separated Families as members of separated families, 83,954 of whom have passed away, leaving 49,452 survivors.

Statistics on Separated Families

① By age (Unit: persons, %)

Category	Aged 90 or over	Aged 80-89	Aged 70-79	Aged 60-69	Aged 59 or under	Total
Number of survivors	12,189	19,621	10,421	4,168	3,053	49,452
Percentage (%)	24.6	39.7	21.1	8.4	6.2	100

② By Region of origin (Unit: persons, %)

Category	Hwanghae	South Pyeongan	North Pyeongan	South Hamgyeong	North Hamgyeong	Gyeonggi	Gangwon	Others	Total
Number of survivors	10,240	5,518	3,231	4,802	1,464	2,085	783	21,329	49,452
Percentage (%)	20.7	11.2	6.5	9.7	3.0	4.2	1.6	43.1	100

③ By Gender (Unit: persons, %)

Category	Male	Female	Total
Number of survivors	30,507	18,945	49,452
Percentage (%)	61.7	38.3	100

④ By Residential area (Unit: persons, %)

Category	Seoul	Busan	Daegu	Incheon	Gwangju	Daejeon	Ulsan	Gyeonggi	Gangwon	North Chung cheong
Number of survivors	12,980	2,232	1,117	4,023	469	1,100	387	14,923	2,979	1,622
Percentage (%)	26.2	4.5	2.3	8.1	0.9	2.2	0.8	30.2	6.0	3.3

Category	South Chung cheong	North Jeolla	South Jeolla	North Gyeong sang	South Gyeong sang	Jeju	Sejong	Overseas	Total
Number of survivors	1,518	854	715	1,514	1,181	484	181	1,173	49,452
Percentage (%)	3.1	1.7	1.4	3.1	2.4	1.0	0.4	2.4	100

2 Laying the Foundation for Exchanges Among Separated Families and Expanding the Consensus for Them

(1) Preparing for the implementation of agreements on humanitarian cooperation in the Pyongyang Joint Declaration of September 2018

In 2018, the two Koreas held reunions of separated families on Mount Geumgang on August 20-26 in accordance with the Panmunjom Declaration. Afterwards, South and North Korea agreed in the Pyongyang Joint Declaration of September 2018 to restore and open a permanent reunion center as soon as possible, giving priority to the matters of video reunions and exchange of video messages.

Accordingly, the government pursued exemptions from sanctions on North Korea for the purchase of goods for video reunions and exchange of video messages and renovated 13 reunion centers across the nation in since April

2019. In 2020, it maintained the system with the appropriate agencies including the Korean Red Cross with regular trial operations of reunion centers so that video reunions could be held immediately if the two Koreas agreed to them.

The permanent reunion center for separated families completed on Mount Geumgang in July 2008 has largely remained unused. Its opening was postponed indefinitely in response to the fatal shooting of a South Korean tourist. When reunions of separated families were held, some parts of the center, including the banquet hall, were used, but because it has been 12 years since it was established, it already requires extensive renovation. Since the Pyongyang Joint Declaration of September 2018, the government has continued to work to build international consensus on the restoration and opening of the permanent reunion center for separated families.

Video reunion center for separated families

Inside of a video reunion center

(2) Laying the foundation for exchange between separated families

The government is conducting genetic testing and preserving genetic information so that separated families can confirm their relatives even if have passed away. To this end, it amended the Act on the Confirmation of Life or Death and Promotion of Exchange of Inter-Korean Separated Families in 2013 to lay the legal basis for genetic testing. The government took DNA samples

from 22,693 persons from 2014 to 2017 and conducted genetic testing on them. In 2018, it added two tests (Y chromosome and mitochondria) for the test takers and conducted testing on 39,632 people throughout 2020. Since 2015, the government has administered a database for the genetic information of separated families in order to preserve such data including the test results.

In 2017, the government transferred the genetic samples (blood, saliva, and hair) stored at private testing agencies to the Korea Center for Disease Control and Prevention (elevated to the Korea Disease Control and Prevention Agency on September 12, 2020) for more reliable storage of genetic samples.

As part of the effort to build a database, the government produced 4,013 video messages of separated families in 2005. In 2008, the two Koreas exchanged 20 video messages from each side on a trial basis as agreed to. Afterwards, to preserve the records of separated families of advanced age and to prepare for the exchange of written letters and video messages between the two Koreas, the government produced 19,040 more video messages from 2012 to 2020. A total of 23,073 video messages were produced and stored in the Integrated Information System for Separated Families. Approved messages have been made public on the separate families reunion website (reunion.unikorea.go.kr) and Naver TV. Meanwhile, the government has been seeking new ways of delivering messages to relatives in the North.

By reorganizing the Integrated Information System for Separated Families, the government streamlined the application procedures for separated families and improved the menu, design, and mobile screen of the website. The general public now has much easier access to the information than it ever had before. The government has continued to work to raise public interest in the issues of separated families through diverse media content including a photo story and a webtoon conveying stories about separated families.

(3) Building consensus on the issues of separated families

The government has continued to work to build consensus on issues surrounding separated families. Since 2008, it has held an annual briefing session on government policies regarding separated families for separated family members of advanced age and provided consolation to them in their pain of separation.

Since the holding of the 36th *Gyeongmo* ceremony (ritual to pay respects to ancestors in the North) on the occasion of Lunar New Year's Day in 2020, the COVID-19 situation has gotten worse and the government was compelled to host the event virtually in consideration of the health and safety of the most senior members. It provided masks, hand sanitizer, and healthy foods to 3,000 separated family members who lived alone or were of advanced age and thus vulnerable to infectious diseases. In 2020, which marked the 20th anniversary of the first reunions of separated families, the government broadcasted a special program on separated families with the "KBS Open Concert" on October 4. To expand the consensus on issues surrounding separated families, the concert was held online and with the participation of 48 families including the first generation of separated families and people in their 20s and 30s ("2030 generation").

The government also produced, on a trial basis, videos through which separated family members could visit their hometowns virtually by means of VR technology. These videos were intended to give separated family members comfort and hope while soothing their longing for their hometowns by allowing them to experience the hometowns recreated by VR technology. With the aim of allowing anyone to experience their virtual hometown at any time, the government planned to establish indoor screening facilities at agencies under the Ministry of Unification including the Hanawon and the Cultural Center for Inter-Korean Integration as well as the other appropriate agencies like the Committee for the Five Northern Korean Provinces. Meanwhile, the government has

annually provided KRW 100 million in subsidies to the Korean Assembly for the Reunion of Ten Million Separated Families to aid in its efforts of promotion, culture, and academics.

"KBS Open Concert" to mark the 20th anniversary of reunions of separated families

Virtual hometown experience video

3 Support for Exchanges Among Separated Families at the Private Level

The government is working to facilitate exchanges among separated families at the private level as well as at the government level. It established guidelines on subsidizing expenses for such exchanges in 1998, laying the foundation to cover some of the expenses of the exchanges among separated families at the private level. The government later revised the guidelines four times until 2017 and raised funds for the subsidies. At present, the government provides KRW 3 million for confirming the life or death of relatives, KRW 6 million for reunions, and KRW 800,000 for ongoing exchanges including exchanges of letters. In 2019, a total of 19 private exchanges were carried out, but in 2020, the exchanges were interrupted by new border controls imposed by North Korea in the border areas with China due to COVID-19.

Subsidized Expenses for Exchange Among Separated Families at the Private Level

(Unit: cases/KRW million)

Category	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09
Cases	96	231	314	279	287	466	303	289	201	151	103	54
Subsidies	67	163	279	349	440	692	364	252	235	172	114	76
Category	**'10**	**'11**	**'12**	**'13**	**'14**	**'15**	**'16**	**'17**	**'18**	**'19**	**'20**	**Total**
Cases	23	12	16	28	12	10	10	14	12	7	0	2,918
Subsidies	22	12	16	51	23	16	18	34	21	15	0	3,431

Section 3

Prisoners of War (POWs), Abductees, and Detainees

1 Current Status

From April 1953, when the Korean War was still in progress, to January 1954, the United Nations forces exchanged prisoners of war (POWs) with the communist forces three times. The UN forces estimated the number of missing South Korean soldiers at around 82,000, but only 8,343 were ultimately repatriated by the communist forces. It is thus presumed that a considerable number of missing South Korean soldiers were detained in the North against their will. Since the 1994 escape of prisoner of war Second Lieutenant Cho Chang-ho, a total of 80 POWs have fled to the South as of December 31, 2020.

Abductees are those who were kidnapped by the North and who are either held captive or live in the North. They are classified as wartime abductees if they were abducted during the Korean War (June 25, 1950-July 27, 1953) or as post-war abductees if they were abducted after the war. Although the statistics on war-time abductees have varied depending on who conducts the surveys and when they are conducted, the total number of them is estimated at 100,000. The Committee on Fact-finding of Korean War Abductions was established in 2010 under the Prime Minister at the time and remained in operation until 2016. The committee examined 5,505 abductions over the span of five years from 2011 to 2015 and designated 4,777 persons as wartime abductees. There have been 3,835 post-war abductees, 3,319 of whom were repatriated to the South. Among

those repatriated, 3,310 were repatriated by the North and nine escaped on their own after a long period of detainment. As of December 31, 2020, it is estimated that 516 post-war abductees are still being held by the North.

Post-war Abductees (estimates)

(Unit: persons)

Category		Fishermen and sailors	Korean Air passengers	Military and police	Other		Total
					Korea	Abroad	
Abducted		3,729	50	30	6	20	3,835
Returned	Repatriated by the North	3,263	39	-	-	8	3,310
	Escaped the North	9	-	-	-	-	9
Still captive		457	11	30	6	12	516

In 2013, North Korea detained Baptist missionary Kim Jung-wook and in 2014, detained missionaries Kim Kuk-gi and Choe Chun-gil. By the end of 2020, six South Koreans including three North Korean defectors were believed to be detained in the North.

2 Efforts to Resolve the Issues of POWs, Abductees, and Detainees

While recognizing the resolution of humanitarian issues resulting from national division as a state responsibility, the government has continued to do all it can to address the issues of POWs, abductees, and detainees. It has strived to find the truth of wartime abductions and restore the reputation of wartime abductees in accordance with the Act on Fact-finding of Korean War Abduction

Victims and the Restoration of the Reputations of the Victims enacted in 2010. As part of the effort to restore the honor of wartime abductees, the government opened the National Memorial Hall for Korean War Abductees in 2017. The memorial hall is a first-class, specialized museum that displays 3,000 artifacts including photos, documents, costumes, and props. The memorial hall serves as a space to share with the public the pain of abductions during the Korean War and remind future generations of the importance of peace and unification. In 2020, the number of visitors to the memorial hall exceeded 114,000. The government held a special exhibition at the memorial hall to mark the 70th anniversary of the Korean War and inform the public of the abductions during the war while offering an opportunity for all to contemplate the importance of peace and unification. It produced an art brochure that introduces the donated relics and opened an English website for foreigners. To expanded non-face-to-face services, the government established an online VR exhibition hall and produced online educational videos so that during the COVID-19 pandemic, the public could easily access the media contents about wartime.

The government annually provides KRW 100 million in subsidies to the Korean War Abductees' Family Union to restore their honor and improve protections of the rights of wartime abductees.

Special exhibition marking the 70th anniversary of the Korean War

Online educational videos about wartime abductees

Meanwhile, the Deliberation Committee on Compensation and Assistance to Abduction Victims, established on April 27, 2007 in accordance with the Act on Compensation and Assistance to Persons Kidnapped to North Korea After the Singing of the Military Armistice Agreement, provided KRW 15.2 billion in compensation to abduction victims by the end of December 2020.

Financial and Other Compensation for Abduction Victims

(Unit: cases/KRW million)

Category	Applications	Number of approved cases of payment	Amount paid
Monetary compensation	437	425	13,210
Settlement allowance and housing subsidy	9	9	1,773
Other compensation	14	2	181
Total	460	436	15,164

By means of a December 2018 amendment to the Act on Compensation and Assistance to Persons Kidnapped to North Korea After the Signing of the Military Armistice Agreement in, the government offered the families of post-war abduction victims who had failed to apply for compensation during the statutory period (October 2007-October 2010) a year-long extension (March 2019-March 2020) to do so. In 2019, the government called for applications to provide financial assistances.On May 8 and November 17, 2020, held the 52nd and 53rd meetings of the Deliberation Committee on Compensation and Assistance to Abduction Victims, during which it decided to pay KRW 158 million for seven cases.

The government has continued to support efforts to restore the honor and improve the protection of the rights of post-war abduction victims. It provided KRW 185 million in subsidies to the Korean War Abductees' Family Union, a statutory organization that covers part of the medical and living expenses of senior abduction victims. To provide comfort the families of abduction victims, the government offered daily necessities to 300 people and met the families of detainees through home visits or meetings. It also provided housing subsidies to homeless abduction victims and is continuing to manage cases of early settlement into society for the abductees repatriated by the North and render support for their security.

While strengthening cooperation among the appropriate ministries to address the issue of detainees, the government continued to seek international cooperation. In February 2020, it met people from Japan's Headquarters for the Abduction Issue and discussed relevant issues with them. The government met the families of detainees through home visits or meetings three times in 2020 and consoled the family members who were experiencing pain.

Section 4

North Korean Human Rights

1 Formulation and Implementation of the Plan to Improve Human Rights Protections in North Korea

Since it considers human rights very important as a universal value, the government seeks to create through policy a virtuous cycle with regards to the improvement of human rights protections in North Korea, the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula, and the development of inter-Korean relations. It is striving to develop inter-Korean relations and establish peace on the Korean Peninsula as well as improve human rights protection in North Korea in accordance with the North Korean Human Rights Act. The government therefore established and is implementing a policy to improve human rights protection in North Korea.

Article 6 of the North Korean Human Rights Act specifies that each year, the Minister of Unification shall formulate an implementation plan to improve human rights protection in North Korea based on the relevant master plan, after obtaining advice from the North Korean Human Rights Advisory Committee. The government established the Second Master Plan to Improve Human Rights Protection in North Korea (2020-2022) on April 22 after gathering opinions from the policy council for North Korean human rights that represents the appropriate ministries and is gaining advice from the North Korean Human Rights Advisory Committee composed of nongovernmental experts. Based on the master plan, it formulated an implementation plan on May 27.

The second master plan includes a vision, goals, basic directions, and tasks to improve human rights protections in North Korea. It sets out its vision of guaranteeing basic human rights of North Koreans on a peaceful Korean Peninsula. To realize the vision, the master plan has two goals, three basic directions, and eight tasks. The details are presented in the table below"

Structure of the Second Master Plan to Improve Human Rights Protection in North Korea (2020-2022)>

Vision	Guaranteeing basic human rights of North Koreans on a peaceful Korean Peninsula
Goals	① Creating a virtuous cycle with respect to the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula, the development of inter-Korean relations, and the improvement of human rights protections in North Korea ② Substantially improving human rights protections and the humanitarian situation in North Korea
Basic Directions	• Comprehensive protection of human rights including civil and social rights • Upholding human rights through dialogue, exchange, and cooperation • Linking the upholding of human rights in North Korea to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
Tasks	1 Expanding investigation and research of the human rights situation in North Korea 2 Resolving humanitarian matters including reunions of separated families 3 Improving human rights protection and the humanitarian situation in North Korea 4 Enhancing the quality of life of North Koreans through the implementation of SDGs 5 Promoting inter-Korean dialogue and technical cooperation for the sake of human rights 6 Building the public consensus on upholding human rights in North Korea 7 Increasing international cooperation to improve human rights protections in North Korea 8 Strengthening the system to implement North Korean human rights policies

The 2020 Implementation Plan for the Second Master Plan to Improve Human Rights Protections in North Korea sets three basic directions and six tasks under the goals of a) creating a virtuous cycle with respect to the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula, the development of inter-Korean relations, and the improvement of human rights protections in North Korea; and b) substantially improving human rights protections and the humanitarian situation in North Korea. The details of the implementation plan are presented in the table below:

Basic Directions and Tasks of the Second Master Plan's 2020 Implementation Plan to Improve Human Rights Protections in North Korea

■ Policy Goals

- Creating a virtuous cycle with respect to the establishment of peace on the Korean Peninsula, the development of inter-Korean relations, and the improvement of human rights protection in North Korea.
- Substantially improving human rights protections and the humanitarian situation in North Korea.

■ Basic Directions

- Comprehensive protection of human rights including civil and social rights.
- Upholding human rights through dialogue and exchange.
- Linking the upholding of human rights in North Korea to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

■ Tasks

Tasks	Contents
① Expanding investigation and research of the human rights situation in North Korea and strengthening policy cooperation	• Increase the reliability of the investigation and solidify a cooperative system. • Systematically accumulate the results of the investigation and increase their availability. • Strengthen cooperation for the policy for the sake of laying the foundation for good governance.
② Resolving humanitarian matters including the issues of separated families, POWs, and abductees	• Promote exchanges among separated families by implementing the agreements made between the two Koreas. • Solidify the foundation for carrying out policy in preparation for exchanges among separated families. • Continue efforts to resolve the issues of POWs, abductees, and detainees.

Tasks	Contents
③ Improving human rights protections and the humanitarian situation in North Korea	• Pursue cooperation on the most pressing healthcare needs to promote health rights. • Increase funding to international bodies and strengthen international networks. • Support activities by local governments and NGOs and encourage public-private cooperation.
④ Promoting an inter-Korean human rights dialogue and exploring ways of cooperation	• Prioritize humanitarian issues when resuming inter-Korean dialogue and cooperation. • Explore ways of dialogue and cooperation on human rights by linking them with the human rights mechanism. • Support cooperation at the private and international levels to create the conditions for dialogue and cooperation on human rights.
⑤ Enhancing the quality of life of North Koreans through the implementation of SDGs	• Conduct an investigation and research the promotion of human rights protections in North Korea through the SDGs • Strengthen North Korea's capacity to implement SDGs and create a cooperative network. • Link developmental assistance and cooperation with the SDGs.
⑥ Increasing domestic and international cooperation and building the public consensus on upholding human rights in North Korea	• Continue international cooperation including implementing the UN human rights mechanism. • Expand the consensus and support on the domestic level to enhance the capabilities of the NGOs.

The government also dedicated its efforts to launching the North Korean Human Rights Foundation in accordance with Article 10 of the North Korean Human Rights Act. It prepared meticulously for the launch of the foundation with the intention of creating a virtuous cycle with respect to the development of inter-Korean relations and the improvement of human rights protections in North Korea, and it made an additional request to the National Assembly to recommend a director for the foundation.

The government listened to advice from experts and had meetings to establish policies that would effectively promote human rights protections in North Korea. It duly considered opinions from various respects in establishing and implementing policy. In November, the government held an international seminar on "COVID-19 and North Korean Human Rights," where it discussed ways to respond to the coronavirus.

The government sought to expand the public consensus on policies to improve human rights protections in North Korea. It published and distributed a book titled *Learning About North Korean Human Rights 2020* to help the public understand North Korean human rights and develop a balanced perspective on the issue. It developed references and Q&A materials and posted a wide range of information pertaining to the improvement of human rights in North Korea on the website for North Korean human rights so that the general public could have easy access to it.

2 Cooperation with the International Community and the Private Sector

The government is stepping up its organic cooperation with the international community and the private sector to substantially improve human rights protections in North Korea. Even amid the COVID-19 situation, it actively made good use of non-face-to-face means to increase the understanding of and secure support from the international community for its policies on North Korean human rights. The government produced explanatory materials on North Korean human rights and distributed them to diplomatic missions and Korean cultural centers abroad. In July, it held a video meeting with the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights in North Korea and continued cooperative efforts

with the UN. In October, the government participated in a video conference among countries with similar positions on human rights in North Korea and expounded on its position.

The government is now actively cooperating in the execution of various efforts by the UN, which is set to play an important role in improving human rights protections in North Korea. In the process of adopting resolutions pertaining to North Korean human rights at the 43rd UN Human Rights Council (June 22) and the plenary meeting of the 75th UN General Assembly (December 16), the government supported the adoption of the resolutions by consensus with the basic stance that it should work with the international community to substantially improve human rights protections in North Korea. The resolutions maintained the existing framework and understanding of the North Korean human rights situation but also addressed concerns over the negative effects of COVID-19 on human rights and the humanitarian situation in North Korea as well as support for the establishment of permanent peace and security on the Korean Peninsula.

The government is also working with civil society organizations involved in North Korean human rights. As of December 31, 2020, 34 North Korean human rights organizations have been registered with the Ministry of Unification. They are expanding the purview of their activities related to social rights, human rights for vulnerable groups, and the SDGs as well as civil liberties. The government has continued to work closely with the private sector by meeting people from organizations involved in North Korean human rights and gathering opinions from experts on the matter. By doing so, it has made diverse efforts to raise awareness of its policies to improve human rights protections in North Korea, build consensus on them, and explore effective ways to substantially improve human rights protections. In 2020, the government learned about difficulties human rights organizations were experiencing. received requests from these organizations through meetings and inspections, duly considered

their opinions, and held a workshop on capacity building for 10 NGOs on November 26. It will continue to hold more of these kinds of workshops in the future.

International seminar on
"COVID-19 and North Korean Human Rights"
(November 18-20)

Workshop on capacity building for NGOs
(November 26)

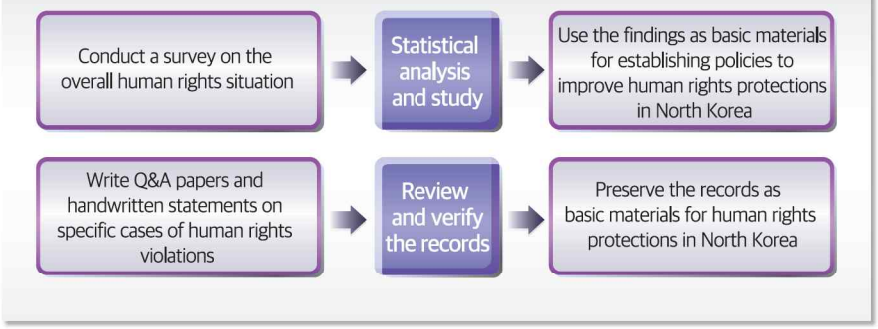
3 Managing the Center for North Korean Human Rights Records

(1) Overview

The Center for North Korean Human Rights Records was launched on September 28, 2016 to collect and record information with the overall aim of ascertaining and improving the human rights situation of the North Korean people in accordance with the North Korean Human Rights Act. In 2020, the fourth year since the government began its official fact-finding investigation into North Korean human rights, the government focused on grasping the overall human rights situation more concretely and began accumulating records systematically.

The center conducted an investigation into human rights in North Korea in accordance with the international standards on such investigations. From this investigation, the government produced basic data to aid in its policies on North Korean human rights. It conducted a survey on the overall human rights situation in North Korea through questionnaire surveys and in-depth interviews with North Korean defectors at the Settlement Support Center for North Korean Refugees (hereinafter referred to as the "Hanawon"). The defectors also wrote Q&A papers and handwritten statements on specific cases of human rights violations in North Korea. The Q&A papers are supposed to be written according to the principle of 5W1H, and the survey findings are managed according to the regulations on security and personal information protection after undergoing review and verification.

Flow Chart for the Investigation into North Korean Human Rights



The investigation into North Korean human rights sheds light on the overall human rights situation in North Korea regarding civil and political rights (civil liberties) as well as economic, social, and cultural rights (social rights). Civil liberties include the right to life, right to liberty and security, freedom of movement, privacy, freedom of thought, freedom of conscience, freedom of

religion, and freedom of expression. Social rights include the right to food, right to health, right to work, and right to education. The investigation also looks into the human rights situation of vulnerable groups in the North including women, children, the disabled, POWs, abductees, and separated family members.

Based on the investigation's findings, the Ministry of Unification formulates the annual *Status of the Improvement of Human Rights Protections in North Korea* report and presents it to the National Assembly.

(2) Research and records of North Korean human rights

In 2020, the center conducted a survey of 380 North Korean defectors on the human rights situation. The people surveyed were 374 North Korean defectors (267 female defectors and 107 male defectors) admitted to the Hanawon in 2020 and six North Korean defectors who had settled in society before 2020. In terms of gender, females accounted for 82.5% of the total sample, and for region of origin, Yanggang Province and North Hamgyeong Province accounted for 83.7%. The number of specific cases of human rights violations addressed in the investigation totaled 309. In accordance with the North Korean Human Rights Act, the original documents of the investigation have been transferred to the North Korean Human Rights Documentation Office of the Ministry of Justice after every quarter ends.

Quarterly Status of Survey Subjects and Records

Category	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Total	Note
Subjects (persons)	197	129	12	42	380	
Records (cases)	151	105	12	41	309	Transferred to the Ministry of Justice on a quarterly basis

The center issues an annual report on North Korean human rights that consolidates the survey findings. In December 2020, it published the 2019 Report on the North Korean Human Rights Situation (classified as Level III) based on the 2019 survey results and distributed it to the appropriate ministries. It shared the survey findings with domestic human rights experts working with the UN including the United Nations Human Rights Office (Seoul) so that the international community could grasp and understand the human rights situation in North Korea from an objective perspective.

The center also outsourced in-depth research on the rights of children; economic, social, and cultural rights in North Korea; and the North Korean healthcare system with a focus on the right to health in light of the COVID-19 situation.

(3) Systemizing the investigation and record of North Korean human rights

In 2020, the center worked to develop the investigation system on North Korean human rights including its investigation methods and record management.

Meanwhile, the COVID-19 situation caused the number of North Korean defectors entering the South to plummet. Against this backdrop, the center explored new, effective ways to investigate North Korean human rights. It identified new subjects among defectors who had already settled into society and diversified the information collection and record system by expanding the collection of North Korean literature, videos, and space information.

Based on the survey findings of the past three years, the center continued to supplement the investigation procedures and survey questions for each right after gaining advice from experts. It made the survey records more reliable and more widely available by actively reflecting the international community's discussions on human rights of vulnerable groups including children and the

disabled. The center manages the information collected about North Korean human rights through a comprehensive information system on North Korean human rights. It improved the system for efficient comparison and analysis of the accumulated data.

Furthermore, the center seeks advice on the improvement of its business operations and its development plans from experts specializing in a wide range of areas. It manages an advisory group for its investigations into North Korean human rights. The group consists of 12 experts including academics, legal professionals, human rights activists for North Korea, research design experts, and psychotherapists. The center also communicates with human rights experts at home and abroad. To be more faithful to the task of investigating and recording matters of North Korean human rights, it established an "organic cooperative system" with the appropriate agencies including the Ministry of Justice and the National Police Agency. It strengthened its cooperation with the North Korean Human Rights Documentation Office of the Ministry of Justice and the United Nations Human Rights Office (Seoul) through ongoing interactions and by holding a joint workshop.

A joint workshop with the North Korean Human Rights Record Center and the Ministry of Justice (November 18)

A briefing session for the United Nations Human Rights Office (Seoul) (December 15)

Chapter 04

Inter-Korean Dialogue

Section 1 Pursuing Inter-Korean Dialogue

Section 2 Strengthening the Capacity for Inter-Korean Dialogue

Ministry of Unification

Chapter 4

Inter-Korean Dialogue

In 2020, diverse factors restricted inter-Korean dialogue. COVID-19 rendered face-to-face contact impossible, and North Korea's opposition to the ROK-US joint military exercises greatly complicated the government's pursuit of dialogue with the North. Other complicating factors were North Korea's demolition of the inter-Korean joint liaison office in Gaeseong in June and the fatal shooting of a South Korean citizen by the North Korean military in the West Sea in September.

While holding fast to the principle of resolving these situations through dialogue, the government set forth a new agenda to resume inter-Korean talks and sent messages to North Korea to restore liaison channels. It also set forth a new agenda regarding the formation of a community of life and safety with the goal of increasing cooperation in the prevention of infectious diseases such as COVID-19. At the same time, it took a clear stand on the North's provocative acts and actively managed inter-Korean relations so as to prevent the situation from further deteriorating or heightening tensions. The government strived to create conditions conducive to the resumption of inter-Korean dialogue, remaining in communication by various means, including the exchange of handwritten letters between the leaders of the two Koreas.

In preparation for the resumption of inter-Korean talks, the government worked hard to improve its capabilities and identify new agendas. It also improved the inter-Korean dialogue management system to make it more suitable for the

current situation by, for example, establishing of a video conference room. It also made efforts to improve its expertise by holding a forum on inter-Korean negotiations as well as seeking advice from experts. It stepped up its communication with the public by publishing various books on inter-Korean dialogue and resuming tours to Panmunjom.

Section 1 Pursuing Inter-Korean Dialogue

Even amid the difficulties stemming from the prolonged strain in inter-Korean relations and COVID-19, the government consistently expressed its determination to restore and create conditions conducive to inter-Korean dialogue.

In reporting the outcome of the fifth plenary meeting of the 7th Central Committee of the Workers' Party of Korea (WPK) on January 1, 2020, North Korea called on the US to change its position on the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and assumed a passive attitude toward inter-Korean dialogue. Nonetheless, the government, in a statement by a spokesperson for the Ministry of Unification, emphasized that it would continue to work toward progress in inter-Korean relations. President Moon Jae-in, in his New Year's press conference on January 14, stated that he would work hard to create a virtuous cycle with respect to the development of inter-Korean relations and dialogue between North Korea and the US while also emphasizing inter-Korean cooperation through dialogue.

However, the worsening COVID-19 situation interrupted work at the inter-Korean joint liaison office in Gaeseong on January 30. North Korea condemned ROK-US joint military exercises and launched short-range projectiles beginning in March. Despite such difficulties, the government continued to do what it could to clear the way for dialogue. In his speech marking the 101st March First Independence Movement Day on March 1 and in his remarks at a meeting with senior secretaries on April 27 marking the second anniversary

of the Panmunjom Declaration, President Moon stated that the South would cooperate on public health with the North and implement the agreements in the Panmunjom Declaration. In addition, the President worked to create a better atmosphere for inter-Korean dialogue by exchanging handwritten letters with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un regarding the situations surrounding COVID-19 and the Korean Peninsula.

Even amid the heightened tension between the two Koreas, the government continued to work to resolve issues through dialogue. While sternly responding to the North Korean military's shooting at a guard post in the South on May 3, it also sent a message from the South's chief delegate for inter-Korean general-level military talks that called for the resolution of the incident through dialogue.

In a statement on June 4, Kim Yo Jong, first vice department director of the Central Committee of the WPK, announced the closure of the inter-Korean joint liaison office and the cancellation of the inter-Korean military agreements. On June 9, the North disconnected the liaison channels between the two Koreas. Ultimately, the North demolished the liaison office in Gaeseong on June 16. The government sternly responded to the cancellation of the inter-Korean agreements. Yet, it continued to hold fast to the policy of resolving issues through dialogue and emphasized that the liaison channels, as the basic means of communication between the two Koreas, should be maintained as they were established through an agreement between the two Koreas.

The government continued to work to open the door for dialogue between the two Koreas while proposing a variety of agendas. In his speech at the opening of the 21st National Assembly on July 16 and his congratulatory speech on National Liberation Day on August 15, President Moon Jae-in set forth an inter-Korean cooperation agenda for the formation of a "community of peace, security, and life." At the Korea Global Forum for Peace (KGFP) 2020 on September

7, Unification Minister Lee In-young said, “I plan to promote ‘small-scale approaches’ to resume humanitarian assistance and exchange and cooperation, restart dialogue between the two Koreas, and implement the agreements made by the two Koreas.” Minister Lee visited Panmunjom on September 16 and emphasized the government’s determination to carry out those agreements. Such messages were meant to bring the North to the dialogue table.

Korea Global Forum for Peace 2020 (September 7)

Unification Minister Lee In-young visits Panmunjom (September 16)

In September, however, tensions between the two Koreas escalated again. On September 24, the ROK military confirmed that there was an incident in which a South Korean citizen was fatally shot by the North Korean military in the northern waters of the West Sea. The ROK military strongly condemned North Korea and urged the North to provide an explanation as well as punish those responsible. The Standing Committee of the National Security Council and the Ministry of Unification issued statements denouncing the North’s act and demanded that the North investigate the incident, punish those responsible, and take measures to prevent a recurrence. North Korea sent a message from the United Front Department to the Blue House containing an apology from Chairman Kim Jong Un and a promise to prevent a recurrence. Although the North didn’t respond to the South’s requests for an investigation, restoration of

military communication lines, and other actions, the South was careful to not further exacerbate tensions.

On this occasion, the government continued to emphasize the necessity of restoring inter-Korean liaison channels to prevent accidental military conflicts or incidents between the two Koreas. After the emergency meeting of security ministers presided over by President Moon on September 27, the South requested that the North restore military communication lines. Unification Minister Lee In-young, in his speech at the opening ceremony of the Panmunjom Tour Support Center on November 4, suggested to the North that the two sides restore the liaison channels including the communication lines at Panmunjom.

Nonetheless, North Korea did not respond to the South's entreaties to restore the liaison channels and resume dialogue. As part of the efforts to create conditions conducive to inter-Korean dialogue, Unification Minister Lee, in a press conference on November 9, said that the US presidential election and the 8th Congress of the WPK of North Korea slated for 2021 would serve as a turning point in the situation on the Korean Peninsula and made it clear that the government would continue to work to resume the "time of the two Koreas," restore the liaison channels, and resume inter-Korean dialogue.

Section 2

Strengthening Capacity for Inter-Korean Dialogue

1 Full Preparation for Inter-Korean Dialogue

The government continuously strived to strengthen preparation capabilities in anticipation of a resumption of inter-Korean dialogue.

It held a workshop with appropriate ministries to strengthen capabilities for dialogue in the areas on which the two Koreas had carried out discussions, including military matters, and to check the preparations and agenda for said dialogue. The government also held a joint workshop with appropriate ministries and agencies regarding new areas for which inter-Korean cooperation is needed,

A joint workshop for inter-Korean cooperation on comprehensive disaster management
(June 16 at the Inter-Korean Dialogue Office)

including comprehensive disaster management. By doing so, the government fleshed out its strategy for dialogue.

The government prepared to hold inter-Korean talks by reviewing the plan for inter-Korean dialogue with consideration of the COVID-19 situation and by checking standard procedures. It secured the budget to establish a video conference room in 2021 and is preparing to hold a conference between the two Koreas through video, which is especially critical during the COVID-19 pandemic.

2 Strengthening Expertise in Inter-Korean Dialogue and Communication with the Public

The government organized an advisory system of experts from a wide range of fields to bring greater expertise into inter-Korean talks. It held meetings with a policy advisory council and a non-permanent advisory committee composed of veterans from various fields related to inter-Korean dialogue, a roundtable meeting of those with experience in inter-Korean talks, and forums with experts from a variety of fields as often as necessary. Through such meetings, the government was able to gather various opinions, establish a strategy for dialogue, and strengthen the plans to implement various inter-Korean agreements. It also held a total of 18 forums to improve working-level staff members' competence in inter-Korean negotiations as well as their creativity. It increased expertise in inter-Korean dialogue through special lectures and debates by experts in inter-Korean negotiations and those with experience in inter-Korean talks. It also did so through the presentations of research findings by working-level staff members who were in charge of each round of talks.

It also continued to inform the public of the results of inter-Korean talks while building consensus on its policy on North Korea. It held a briefing session on inter-Korean dialogue for policy customers and improved communication with appropriate agencies, policy stack holders at home and abroad, and the public on unification matters through the publication of the 78th edition of *Inter-Korean Dialogue and A Comprehensive Bibliography of Inter-Korean Agreements.*

Briefing session on inter-Korean dialogue (November 17)

Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors

Section 1 Arrivals of North Korean Defectors in South Korea

Section 2 Social Orientation Programs for North Korean Defectors

Section 3 Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors in their Initial Period

Section 4 Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors in Their Daily Lives

Section 5 Establishing a Cooperative System for Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors

Ministry of Unification

Chapter 5

Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors

With the mid and long-term goal of improving the quality of life of North Korean defectors and making society truly inclusive, the government strived to establish policy to support defectors and identify policies that could help improve their daily lives. It established the Second Master Plan for Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors (2018-2020) and proposed 23 tasks in seven areas. In 2020, it formulated and carried out an implementation plan for the master plan, and it continued to work to make policy more effective by improving the settlement support system.

The government held fast to the principle that if North Korean defectors want the protection and support of the Republic of Korea, they should be embraced. After entering the country, North Korean defectors undergo questioning to determine whether or not protection is warranted, and if it is, they are given a social orientation at Hanawon. They then receive settlement support. Once they integrate into South Korean society, the central and local governments, the Korea Hana Foundation, regional adaptation centers (Hana Centers), and NGOs provide coordinated support for employment, asset-building, and education.

In 2020, 229 North Korean defectors entered South Korea, 78% fewer than the 1,047 who entered in 2019. This huge decline was largely a result of the COVID-19 pandemic: North Korea tightened its border with China and restrictions were put in place on movement between the countries that defectors usually transit before entering the South. Some of the educational courses at

Hanawon and Hana Center and some programs at the Cultural Center for Inter-Korean Integration and the Korea Hana Foundation were conducted via non-face-to-face means depending on the COVID-19 situation. The government provided emergency funds for living expenses and COVID-19 prevention items to particularly vulnerable groups, including the elderly living alone, single-parent families, medical patients, children, and young people.

The government also took measures to better protect the human rights of defectors. It amended the North Korean Refugees Protection and Settlement Support Act to provide North Korean defectors who enter South Korea after living overseas for more than 10 years with various types of support such as protection. At Hanawon, it introduced a curriculum organized with gender equality in mind, and it provided startup education for defector entrepreneurs, field training, startup funds, and relocation of place of residence for personal protection. These support measures were implemented in June and July 2020. In addition, reflecting the raise in the 2021 budget, the government increased the benefits for the elderly, protection of children of single-parent families, funds for the rearing of children born in a third country, and the incentives for employment.

In the first and second half of 2020, the government and the Korea Hana Foundation continued conducting two surveys, which had begun in 2019, of vulnerable North Korean defector populations. It provided emergency funds for living expenses and medical assistance to those North Korean defectors suffering from financial difficulties or illness and to those who had pressing needs that were not addressed by the welfare system.

It expanded education to prevent sexual violence and to provide treatment and counseling in order to better protect the human rights of female defectors. The government established a hotline for 24/7 counseling at the Korea Hana Foundation to provide counseling on settlement support. The hotline is also

connected to counseling for victims of sexual assault at the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family and counseling on suicide prevention at the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

The government, in cooperation with the Ministry of Employment and Labor, allowed defectors to receive vocational training freely by using the "Learning for Tomorrow Card." The Korea Hana Foundation conducted its own employment support projects including short-term training and online vocational training and also distributed employment vouchers. The government continued to help defectors find jobs through 25 Hana Centers nationwide and continued to assist startups by defectors. It held an exhibition of products made by North Korean defectors and established a permanent promotion hall managed by the government for products made by defectors at the Cultural Center for Inter-Korean Integration.

In 2020, Hanawon improved customized education. It helped defectors more smoothly settle in South Korean society by providing them with 400 hours of regular programs in four areas over 12 weeks and 343 hours of optional programs. It opened the Vocational Training Center on June 24, 2020 and expanded vocational training and support for employment. It worked to expand education and protection of young defectors as well as medical assistance, psychological counseling, and treatment for all defectors in general. It also conducted some vocational training at the Hwacheon branch office. In response to the decline in the number of trainees at Hanawon, the government selected five tasks for the Improvement and Innovation for Development of Hanawon, and it reviewed and carried out plans to improve the overall training at Hanawon. It conducted both face-to-face and non-face-to-face training while complying with COVID-19 prevention guidelines, and it developed and implemented various educational programs as alternatives to field trips. It improved the support system for psychological well-being and opened an IT Experience Center to ensure that

the defectors could still have access to online information during the pandemic.

Hanawon gathered opinions from parents and students to improve education for children and teenagers. It organized an educational support council for North Korean defector students and offered supplementary classes for them. Hanawon provides further educational support even after they are integrated into society through teachers dedicated to unification education, budget support for educational institutions, nurturing of global talent, and support for teenagers without families. These means of assistance help defector children and teenagers more easily adapt to society.

The government continued to carry out programs to raise awareness of North Korean defectors and enhance understanding and communication between South Koreans and defectors. It opened the Cultural Center for Inter-Korean Integration on May 13, 2020 to provide a place for cultural communication and exchange between defectors and South Koreans. The cultural center reinforces the cultural unity of South and North Korea across the Korean Peninsula. In 2020, the first year of its opening, the center conducted programs such as "Life Sharing Dialogue Between South and North Koreans," "Small Gathering for Crafts," and "Cuisine Talk Talk of South and North Korea" even amid the COVID-19 situation.

Settlement Support Process for North Korean Defectors

Request for protection and transfer to South Korea

- Upon the request for protection, a report and notification of the situation is sent to the appropriate ministries, including the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.
- Defectors are provided with accommodation in foreign diplomatic offices or temporary shelters in the host country.
- Negotiate with the host country and facilitate the immigration of defectors after verifying their identity.

Entering South Korea

Investigation and temporary protection

- Upon arrival in South Korea, the National Intelligence Service conducts questioning to decide whether to grant protection and temporary protection including treatment.
- After questioning, defectors are transferred to the custody of Hanawon, the education center for social adaptation.

Decision on protection

- Decide whether to grant the defectors protection via deliberation by the Consultative Council on Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors.
- Decisions are made for each household.

Preparation for settlement at Hanawon

- Conduct training for social adaptation (12 weeks, 400 hours).
  - Psychological well-being, better understanding of South Korean society, career guidance, and basic vocational training, etc.
- Settlement support: family relations registry, arrangement of housing, and support for settlement benefits and incentives.

Transfer to place of residence

Residence support (five years)

- Social safety net: livelihood and medical benefits.
- Vocational support: employment subsidy, vocational training free of charge, recognition of certifications, etc.
- Educational support: special admission and transfer to schools and support for payment of tuition.
- Support workers system: community services (local governments), employment (employment centers), and personal protection (police stations).

Non-governmental participation

- Provide comprehensive services to North Korean defectors through the Korea Hana Foundation.
- Designate and manage 25 regional adaptation centers.
- Manage volunteers who assist with settlement.
- Professional counselors for North Korean defectors (86 persons)
  - Provide general counseling services and make visits to solve problems.

Section 1

Arrivals of North Korean Defectors in South Korea

In 2020, 229 North Korean defectors entered South Korea, a 78% reduction from the 1,047 that arrived in 2019. By the end of 2020, the total cumulative number of North Korean defectors that entered the country reached 33,752. Of these, 24,317 were female, accounting for 72% of all defectors. By age, those in their 30s represented 28.8% (9,715), the highest percentage of any age group. Those in their 20s and 30s accounted for 56.8% (19,135). By occupation, unemployed/caregivers accounted for 45.0% (15,156) and workers for 39.5% (13,325). These two groups alone represented 84.5% (28,481) of the total. By educational attainment, middle and high school graduates accounted for 69.5% (23,410), followed by community college graduates at 10.4% (3,505), and university graduates or postgraduates at 6.9% (2,322).

By region of origin, North Hamgyeong Province accounted for 58.8% (19,820), followed by Yanggang Province at 17.8% (5,985), and South Hamgyeong Province at 8.5% (2,873). (refer to Appendix II-6 Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors).

North Korean Defectors Entering South Korea (2011-2020)

(Unit: persons)

Category	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Male	795	404	369	305	251	302	188	168	202	72
Female	1,911	1,098	1,145	1,092	1,024	1,116	939	969	845	157
Total	2,706	1,502	1,514	1,397	1,275	1,418	1,127	1,137	1,047	229
Percentage of female defectors	71%	73%	76%	78%	80%	79%	83%	85%	81%	69%

Section 2

Social Orientation Program for North Korean Defectors

1 Social Orientation Program

In 2020, 538 North Korean defectors completed social orientation programs at Hanawon. After entering South Korea, defectors undergo basic social orientation at Hanawon in order to become South Korean citizens. The orientation is composed of regular programs such as those for emotional stability and health care, better understanding of South Korean society, career guidance and job search, and guidance for early settlement support; and optional programs such as language support and driving.

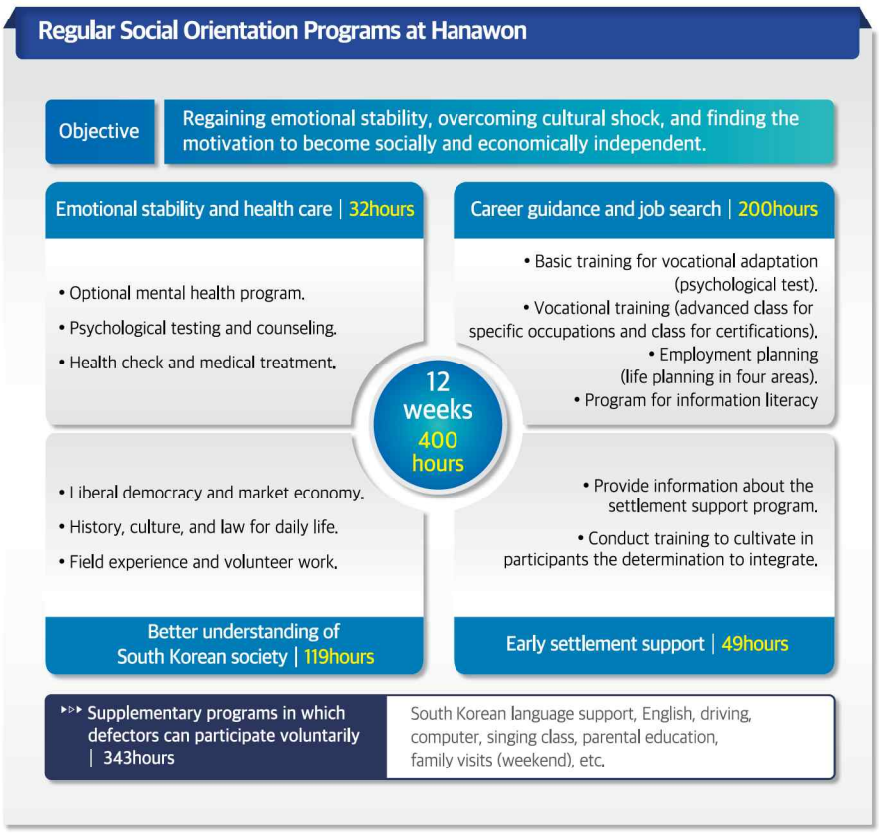
Number of Defectors Who Completed Social Orientation Programs in 2020

(Unit: persons)

Category	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apr.	May	Jun.	Jul.	Aug.	Sep.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Total
Completed	54	63	46	102	83	43	88	15	3	3	3	35	538
Male	21	12	12	23	21	11	31	1	1	0	2	13	148
Female	33	51	34	79	62	32	57	14	2	3	1	22	390

In 2020, the government gathered opinions from North Korean defectors who had already settled into South Korean society and from experts and incorporated them in educational programs at Hanawon. It offered regular social orientation programs for 12 weeks (400 hours) in four areas including

emotional stability and psychological support to heal the trauma caused by the process of escaping from the North; in-depth vocational training at the new Vocational Training Center; and improved elementary education for better understanding of and communication with the wider South Korean society.



2 Opening of Vocational Training Center and Career Education

The government opened the Vocational Training Center at Hanawon on June 24, 2020 to help North Korean defectors develop their vocational abilities and become financially independent. The four-story building on the premises of Hanawon includes a room for computer-based testing for national technical certifications, classrooms and labs for each type of occupation, and a job café to self-study and search for job information. With the opening of the Vocational Training Center, Hanawon is improving career education with consideration for the personal characteristics and preferences of each defector. After reviewing the findings of a survey on the occupational preferences of defectors and advice from career counselors, Hanawon selected 22 types of occupations and provided job descriptions for them. Then, it began providing systematic assistance for defectors in choosing jobs by organizing various courses including one for basic vocational adaptation training, career counseling, and a life-planning program.

Sign hanging ceremony for the Vocational Training Center (June 24)

Classroom at the Vocational Training Center

In the initial period after defectors enter Hanawon, it conducts an occupational psychological test to grasp the occupational interests and aptitudes of each defector. It provides regular career counseling based on the results of this test, and after defectors choose their preferred occupations, they are provided with

intensive training: trainees are divided into one class to gain the certifications they need and another advanced class for their specific occupation. To increase the vocational skills of defectors, it works with the Human Resources Development Service of Korea to ensure that trainees can acquire national technical certifications in ten fields (Korean cuisine, Western cuisine, Chinese cuisine, Japanese cuisine, hairdressing, nail art, makeup, confectionary, baking, and skin care) during their training courses at Hanawon.

Hanawon also provides career education to defectors to minimize their process of trial and error when adapting to a new workplace. It does this in a way that reflects the defectors' choices of careers, instilling in them the determination to become independent and self-supporting. It also invites defectors who have already settled into society to share their experience with trainees and offer counseling. The records from the life-planning program are shared with support agencies for North Korean defectors, including Hana Centers, so that even after the completion of programs at Hanawon, the records can be used for ongoing settlement support.

Meanwhile, the government works closely with employment support agencies, including employment centers, the Korea Hana Foundation, Hana Centers, and job foundations in order to smoothly connect trainees to jobs after the completion of programs at Hanawon. It also organizes courses to give detailed information on each agency's specific programs and the job placement process. In cooperation with the Anseong employment center, it improved the worknet (www.work.go.kr) so that trainees can register as job seekers before completing programs at Hanawon. The government is thus helping trainees systematically design specific career paths at Hanawon and facilitate support from appropriate agencies so that trainees can find employment as soon as possible.

Korean Cuisine Course at the Vocational Training Center

Hanawon trainees' volunteer work (January 20, Korean Red Cross Seoul Chapter)

3 Operation of Hanadul School

The Hanadul School at Hanawon provides customized education for children and young people under the age of 24. The Ministry of Education has sent qualified teachers to the IIanadul School to conduct customized education with consideration for students' age and educational level. It manages a kindergarten class, an elementary school class, and a class for young people. It also offers a special Korean language class to improve communication in Korean for those students born in a third country.

In 2020, the government collected the opinions of North Korean defector students and parents with regard to how the Hanadul school operates and then created new systems and programs designed to meet the specific needs of graduates and help them assimilate into local schools. To this end, it formed an education support council for North Korean defector students composed of representatives from the Ministry of Education, the city and provincial offices of education, and private support agencies. The government appointed 14 teachers who had returned to working at regular schools after working at Hanawon as "Hana teachers" on September 17, and it offered counseling and career guidance to a

total of 29 Hanadul School graduates through a one-on-one support program. During the summer vacation, the government offered a supplementary class for five students from August 18 to 28 as well as educational information and a customized program to improve their scholastic abilities.

The government carried out various programs to help defector youth assimilate into society via the organization of a deliberation committee for North Korean defector youth without families, which convened six times. Before defector students without families complete programs at Hanawon, the Korea Hana Foundation, which is in charge of follow-up management, offers them a briefing to ensure prompt support for them in local communities.

4 Operation of the Hana Clinic

The government operates the Hana Clinic within Hanawon to ensure the health of newly-arrived North Korean defectors. The primary care institution is staffed by 23 medical specialists to ensure the health of defectors in the initial period after arrival in South Korea. The Hana Clinic in Anseong has five departments: internal medicine, dentistry, oriental medicine, Ob/gyn, and psychiatry. The Hana Clinic in Hwacheon has four departments: internal medicine, dentistry, oriental medicine, and psychiatry.

The government is working hard to ensure that North Korean defectors can continue to receive medical services from local medical institutions even after completing their programs at Hanawon. In 2020, it signed MOUs on medical assistance for North Korean defectors with Life House and the National Cancer Center through which it established a cooperative system with 65 hospitals nationwide.

For tuberculosis patients who must take medicine regularly, the government operates a mobile DOT (directly observed treatment) program to check via mobile phone whether the patients are taking their doses after completing programs at Hanawon. In 2020, 22 patients who participated in the program were completely cured. On May 13, the government signed an MOU on providing a care service for female defectors with Life House to support them during pregnancy and with delivery and child-rearing. It also published a casebook for South and North Korean disease terminology on December 10 in cooperation with the National Cancer Center, allowing defectors and South Korean medical professionals to better understand each other in diagnosing the defectors' medical issues. The casebook includes a comparative list of South and North Korean disease terminology that will greatly facilitate healthcare cooperation between South and North Korea in the future.

An MOU on providing a care service for female defectors between Hanawon, Life House, and the Korea Hana Foundation (May 13)

An MOU on medical assistance for North Korean defectors between Hanawon, the National Cancer Center, and the Korea Hana Foundation (May 14)

The Casebook for South and North Korean Disease Terminology (December 10)

5 Operation of the Mental Health Clinic

Hanawon operates the Mental Health Clinic in Anseong, staffed by six medical professionals, including one psychiatrist, four psychologists (two clinical and two counseling), and one nurse to take care of the mental health of North Korean defectors. The Mental Health Clinic in the branch office in Hwacheon is staffed by one psychiatrist and one counseling psychologist to provide mental health services to the defectors during their initial period after arriving in South Korea.

For mental health support, Hanawon offers psychiatric services, individual counseling, group counseling, and other mental health services, as well as educational programs for psychological and emotional stability to help defectors with emotional issues. After entering Hanawon, all trainees undergo a psychological assessment (BPSI-NKR) and individual counseling. These processes help defectors determine psychological stability in their initial period after arriving in South Korea. Hanawon periodically offers psychological treatment so that trainees can focus on educational courses while resolving any emotional issues they may have. The educational program for psychological stability introduces selfcare management techniques so that trainees can manage their mental health by themselves in their everyday lives.

For defectors who need more mental health support after completing programs at Hanawon, the government ensures that they receive necessary treatment at local medical institutions or psychological counseling centers through a network of professional psychologists at 25 Hana Centers nationwide. To this end, it is also working with the Korea Hana Foundation.

In 2020, the government signed an MOU on mental health support with the National Center for Mental Health, the Korea Suicide Prevention Center, and the Youth Counseling Center in Anseong, thus strengthening the social safety network with regards to mental health and psychological support for North

Korean defectors in local communities. It developed through outsourcing a suicide prevention educational program called “Seeing, Hearing, and Speaking for North Korean Defectors.” In December, it held an online seminar regarding the mental health of North Korean defectors in the non-face-to-face era. At the seminar, experts and working staff members explored ways to cooperate with local communities to better support defectors in terms of their mental health.

Report on the signing of the MOU between Hanawon, the Korea Hana Foundation, and the National Center for Mental Health (November 19)

Online seminar (December 11)

6 Operation of the Hwacheon Branch Office and Intensive & In-service Education

The Hwacheon branch office of Hanawon offers social orientation classes for male North Korean defectors who have entered South Korea. The education is composed of the same 12-week programs (400 hours) as Hanawon in Anseong. It also offers driving education through a simulator and driving practice for heavy equipment, including an excavator and a forklift. In addition, it offers specialized programs, including a new “peace-planting program” to prevent violence.

Driving practice in a simulator

Forklift driving practice

It also conducts on-the-job training for working staff members in charge of settlement support in order to increase their understanding of North Korean defectors and their job expertise. In 2020, it offered a course for guidance teachers of North Korean defector students and a program to raise awareness of North Korean defectors for 46 trainees in the leadership program for unification policy organized by the National Institute for Unification Education (NIU).

In cooperation with the Korea Hana Foundation, the Hwacheon branch office offered intensive courses to maximize the employability of the defectors who completed programs at Hanawon. In 2020, 58 people completed three courses: a course to acquire a Level 1 driver's license for large vehicles, a course to acquire a driver's license for small construction machines, and a course for farming settlement (not for a particular license or certificate), and out of the 58, 36 of them acquired the certificates of qualification.

7 Improvement and Innovation for the Development of Hanawon

When it became clear that the COVID-19 pandemic was going to be prolonged, countries closed their borders and imposed heavy restrictions on internal movement, leading to a sharp decline in the number of trainees at Hanawon in the second half of the year. The government preemptively responded to the decline through innovation with regard to the work and functions of Hanawon (Improvement and Innovation for the Development of Hanawon). More specifically, it carried out five tasks: ① offering employment support, ② offering educational support, ③ moving to prevent violence, ④ rendering health support, and ⑤ improving staff members' capabilities based on data with consideration to safety and fairness.

For employment support, it actively took advantage of the Vocational Training Center, which opened on June 24. Even amid the COVID-19 situation, Hanawon recruited students for a class to assist with the acquisition of national technical certifications from among those who completed its programs. After gathering the opinions of trainees and graduates, it opened three more classes for Korean cuisine, skincare, and IT certifications. All 18 graduates passed the written and practical tests and acquired national technical certifications. It also expanded the business connection system with the Ministry of Employment and Labor to ensure that defectors can register as job seekers and get employment counseling during the initial stage of their education at Hanawon.

For educational support, it operates the Hanadul School, a preliminary school to help North Korean defector students assimilate into local schools. Because many agencies and organizations including the Ministry of Education, offices of education, the Korea Hana Foundation, scholarship foundations, and NGOs

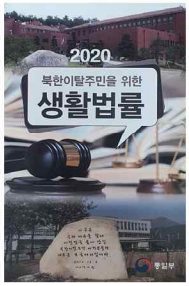
are involved in improving education for defector students, Hanawon is focusing on expanding the systems of connection and cooperation with these groups. On July 31, an education support council for North Korean defector students held a meeting presided over by the President of Hanawon wherein the participants checked the project cooperation system among ministries and agencies and discussed ways to improve the system. It introduced the concept of "Hana teachers" to direct more interest and support for defector students. Hanawon appointed teachers who had worked at the Hanadul School and sympathize with the aim of supporting North Korean defector students as "Hana teachers" so as to offer counseling and support for the students through one-on-one connections.

With regard to the prevention of violence, the government consulted with appropriate ministries and agencies including the Ministry of Justice and the National Police Agency and developed a violence prevention program for male trainees. It also published *Law in Everyday Life for North Korean Defectors*, a guide to help defectors better understand South Korean law through the comparison of the criminal standards and cultures of South and North Korea.

In terms of health support, it developed a suicide prevention program for defectors and published an *Educational Workbook for Suicide Prevention* for mental health support. In addition, it published a *Casebook for Better Understanding in Healthcare between South and North Korea* as well as provided assistance for pregnancy, delivery, and child-rearing through a survey of pregnant women who completed programs at Hanawon.

To improve staff members' capabilities in a way that was data-driven and in consideration of safety and fairness, the government went to great lengths to improve its educational programs. As part of these efforts, the government worked to prevent infectious diseases including COVID-19, repair the damage from heavy rainfall, carry out comprehensive maintenance checks, and renovate facilities in need of upgrades. It furthermore conducted a settlement survey of

Hanawon graduates and gathered opinions from 121 experts, both of which it took into account as it modified its social orientation programs.



Law in Everyday Life for North Korean Defectors

Developing a suicide prevention program for North Korean defectors

Educational Workbook for Suicide Prevention

2020 Settlement Survey of Hanawon Graduates

Category	Period	Subjects	Content
Survey	July 16–September 30	215 defectors within one year after finishing programs at Hanawon	Place of residence settlement process; awareness of North Korean defectors; employment; and life and education at Hanawon
Infants and mothers (Education and Training Division)	January 1–December 31	Six infants and six mothers	Five senses activity program connected with the standard child care curriculum; safety education; physical play; parent-child program; and parental education
Pregnant women (Hana Clinic)	July 6–August 7	Fifty-six pregnant women from the 201st to 270th classes at Hanawon	Basic data; delivery and child care service for female defectors; social and emotional support

Since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, Hanawon has been fully prepared to strengthen prevention measures and the protection of trainees in response to the rise in confirmed cases of COVID-19. It provided all trainees with masks and placed hand sanitizer and non-contact thermometers in classrooms and offices and thoroughly complied with social distancing rules.

It suspended field trips and visits to other facilities as part of social orientation programs and instead had trainees partake in self-education. It also carried out hygiene education for trainees more than once a week. All visitors are required to fill out questionnaires, pass through a whole-body sterilizer, and check their body temperature to ensure prevention of COVID-19. It also established a plan to respond to COVID-19 through measures such as the purchase of rapid self-test kits and the formulation of a manual on countermeasures in the event of a confirmed case of a trainee or staff member.

Thermal imager

Whole-body sterilizer

COVID-19 test kit

For the health and safety of trainees, Hanawon removed asbestos that had been used for the construction of several buildings including the headquarters in 1998, obtained better fire-fighting equipment for comprehensive fire watch and prevention, and quickly repaired damage from the heavy rain in August from November 16 to December 29.

It also remodeled the IT Experience Hall, where trainees can experience IT technologies, from November 13 to December 22; a classroom for infants and toddlers from July 7 to 24; and other facilities including a meeting room near the main gate.

Repairing damage from the heavy rain during the summer

Remodeling the IT Experience Hall

Remodeling the classroom for infants and toddlers

Section 3

Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors in the Initial Period

1 Family Relations Registry and Housing Arrangement

The government helps North Korean defectors get onto the family relations registry and register as residents of South Korea so that they can enjoy full rights and duties as South Korean citizens. In 2020, regarding the payment of emergency COVID-19 relief funds, the government established a clause for exceptions with appropriate agencies to make 178 defectors who entered the South but were not yet registered as residents eligible for the payments, and a total of about KRW 70 million was given to them. Upon completing programs at Hanawon, the defectors were placed in housing with consideration to their preferences. The government works with public agencies including the Korea Land & Housing Corporation and the Seoul Housing Corporation to help defectors get housing. In 2020, Hanawon opened Oeullim Teo on July 9 to help trainees choose their place of residence.

Entrance and interior of Oeullim Teo

2 Settlement Benefits

The government provides North Korean defectors with various settlement benefits including basic settlement benefits to help them during their initial period of settlement. Settlement benefits include a certain amount of money necessary for their settlement in South Korean society for a certain period of time after completing programs at Hanawon. Settlement benefits consist of basic settlement benefits, housing subsidies, additional benefits depending on certain conditions, incentives for stable employment, and employment subsidies for businesses to hire North Korean defectors.

The amount of the basic settlement benefit depends on the size of the household. An initial payment is granted immediately upon completion of the Hanawon program, and the remaining amount is granted quarterly for one year after the recipient moves into his or her residence. In terms of housing subsidies, North Korean defectors' rental deposits, which are required to rent housing, are also subsidized. Additionally, to encourage the defectors to live outside the Seoul metropolitan area, the government offers incentives to live or work in provincial areas. The government grants additional benefits to especially vulnerable groups such as senior citizens, the mentally or physically challenged, people receiving long-term medical treatment, children of single-parent families, and children born in a third country. To help North Korean defectors become financially independent, the government grants various financial incentives to those who receive vocational training, obtain a certificate of qualification, or stay at the same job.

Section 4

Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors in Their Daily Lives

1 Support for Financial Independence

(1) Vocational training

North Korean defectors can receive vocational training support funds from the Ministry of Employment and Labor through a vocational training support system called "Tomorrow Learning Card System." This systems provides subsidies of up to KRW 3 million to defectors, and they can use the money to enroll in any vocational training institute. If they take part in the Successful Employment Package Program for North Korean Defectors, they can receive individual counseling to determine their employability and be advised on the most appropriate vocational training programs.

The Korea Hana Foundation provides vocational training for North Korean defectors through short-term training for entrepreneurs, employment vouchers, and online vocational training. The short-term training for entrepreneurs provides funds to trainees and enterprises which want to hire North Korean defectors for up to three months with the goal of increasing the employment rate of defectors and expanding their job search and work experience.

An employment voucher is a card that defectors can use to pay for training courses authorized by the foundation. Each individual receives a subsidy of up to KRW 1 million. The defectors can use the funds to take courses necessary

to make themselves more employable, gain vocational skills, obtain national technical certifications or professional and private certificates, learn foreign languages, gain computer skills, or undergo vocational training online or at educational institutions.

(2) Employment support

Recognizing that the key to successful settlement lies in employment, the government has worked to help defectors develop their capabilities, improve their employment prospects, and remain at the same job for the long term.

The Korea Hana Foundation works with 25 Hana Centers to provide employment support to help North Korean defectors become more self-reliant and self-supporting. The foundation also offers decent jobs to defectors through its own employment support system, and it systematically manages a database of job vacancies and registered job seekers to offer job matching.

Employment Support by the Korea Hana Foundation and Hana Center in 2020

(Unit: cases)

Category	Job-seeker registration	Employer registration	Job matching	Employment	Telephone counseling	Face-to-face counseling
Aggregate	2,076	2,557	2,319	1,520	18,783	7,264

In order to encourage the hiring of defectors, the government extends support to companies that hire them; it provided support to 14 companies including five companies newly designated in 2020.

(3) Settlement support for self-reliant startups and farming

The government is helping businesspeople establish and grow startups to offer jobs that help North Korean defectors become financially independent. It supports businesses in various areas including technology, ventures, and medicine, and it is expanding funding and administrative support to such fields of work as clothing repair and sewing and nail art. It also provided support to food trucks at the Let's Run Park Seoul and the Let's Run Park Busan. In addition, the government provides funds to improve business management and offers consultancy services to entrepreneurs during their initial stage.

It managed four self-supporting project groups in order to provide vulnerable populations with opportunities to work. The self-supporting project groups which have operated since 2014 offer opportunities to work to those defectors who have the ability to work but difficulty finding jobs. Defectors can learn skills necessary to find jobs or establish businesses. The government runs these project groups for appropriate types of businesses in connection with self-support centers in regions where North Korean defectors are the most densely populated. As women and the elderly have difficulty finding opportunities to work, the government is especially invested in exploring appropriate fields of business for them such as coffee houses, side-dish stores, home fashion, clothing repair, baking and confectionary businesses, Eomuk stores, and ceramic painting.

To nurture young entrepreneurs, the government worked with the private Asan Nanum Foundation to organize a startup program called Asan Sanghoe. The Asan Sanghoe program supports startups that are run by three people including one foreigner during their initial stages to ensure a smooth launch of their business operations.

In 2020, the government held a special exhibition of products made by North Korean defectors at the National Assembly in order to promote them and help

them find markets. It also established Eum Sanghoe, a permanent promotion hall for products made by North Korean defectors, within the Cultural Center for Inter-Korean Integration to display and promote 70 products made by 20 companies established by North Korean defectors.

Special exhibition of products made by North Korean defectors (November 2-3, 2020)

"Eum Sanghoe," a permanent promotion hall for products made by North Korean defectors

In December 2020, the government amended the North Korean Refugees Protection and Settlement Support Act (put into effect on July 6, 2021) to provide additional administrative support and funding with the goal of increasing the employment rate of North Korean defectors.

The government's Successful Farming Settlement Package Program supports those who establish farming startups so that defectors can settle in agricultural areas. The program consists of three weeks of theoretical education, one week of basic practical education, and then up to nine months of practical farming in connection with selected farms for each crop. To maximize the possibility of success for the startups, it helps them rent farmland and subsidizes the purchases of fertilizers and agricultural chemicals once they begin farming in earnest. In addition, an advisory group composed of farming experts, in cooperation with the Rural Development Administration, offered consulting on crops to help ensure the success of North Korean defectors' farms and their smooth settlement in agricultural areas.

(4) Future Happiness Bankbook

The Future Happiness Bankbook is a system designed to help defectors build their assets. It applies to those who live at least six months in their first residence, are within the protection period (five years), and remain employed for at least three months. If defectors save KRW 100,000-500,000 of up to 30% of their earnings every month for specific purposes, such as buying or renting a home or starting a business, the government will match their savings and pay out the accumulated amount when the defector's half of the savings goal has been met.

The asset-building system marked its 6th year in 2020. Even despite COVID-19, North Korean defectors actively participated in the system. As the number of subscribers to the system has been rising and early termination has been decreasing, the system has become increasingly stable.

The government improved the system by changing the payment scheme to increase the benefits to subscribers to the Future Happiness Bankbook and by extending the period of finance education.

Subscription to Future Happiness Bankbook

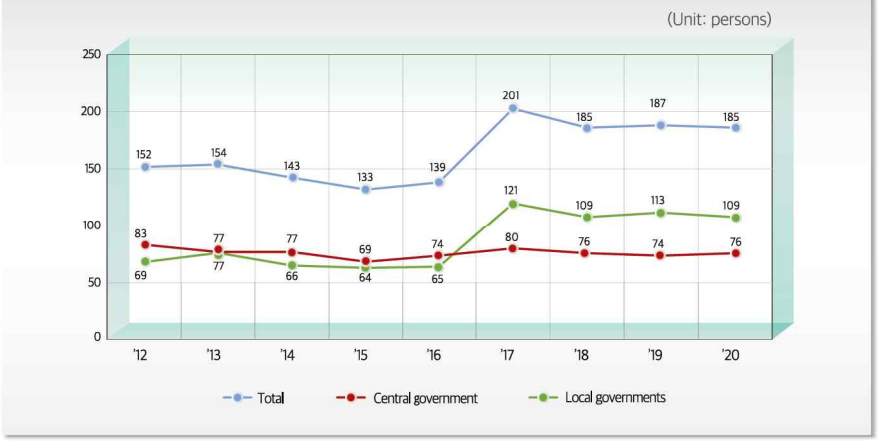
(Unit: persons/KRW million)

Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Subscribers	10	182	380	458	510	559	2,099
Early terminations	-	6	47	87	109	72	321
Cases of payment at maturity	-	-	-	17	49	169	235
Early terminations (%)	-	3.3	12.4	19.0	21.4	12.9	15.3
Subsidies	-	373	1,849	3,762	5,479	7,083	18,546

(5) Hiring North Korean defectors as public officials

The government has continuously supported the employment of defectors by the central and local governments since the establishment of the "Plan to Employ North Korean Defectors within the Government" in January 2013. It included the employment of North Korean defectors as an assessment index in the "Personnel Management Innovation Diagnosis" of central administrative institutions conducted by the Ministry of Personnel Management, the "Comprehensive Assessment of Local Governments" conducted by the Ministry of Public Administration and Security, and the "Management Assessment of Public Institutions" conducted by the Ministry of Economy and Finance, in order to encourage government ministries to hire defectors. As of the end of December 2020, 185 defectors were employed by the central and local governments.

Number of North Korean Defectors Employed by the Government



2 Educational Support for North Korean Youth

(1) Unification teachers and learning support

In 2020, the government placed 22 unification teachers in 27 schools with large numbers of North Korean defectors to provide customized education for them. The unification teachers provide coordinated support through counseling and basic learning at home, at school, and in the community to help young defectors ease into their new schools.

In addition to supporting the students at school, the government also helps them study at home to make up for their lack of basic academic skills through one-on-one online video English education, workbooks for tutoring at home, and mentoring. It also offers scholarships to students to develop talented individuals for the future of a unified Korea.

(2) Education support

The government provides funding for a specialized school for North Korean defector students that offers specialized education and vocational training for them, and it also funds three accredited alternative schools and seven unaccredited alternative educational facilities for North Korean defector students.

To expand opportunities for children born in the South to defector parents and to support their families further, the government has allowed children born in South Korea to be admitted to Hangyeore Middle and High School, specialized schools for North Korean defector students, beginning in 2021.

As part of the efforts to give defector youths practical educational opportunities, the government support 14 after-school learning centers to help them make up for their lack of academic experience.

(3) Support for educational guidance and nurturing of global talents

North Korean defector youths who want to go to university are granted special admissions in accordance with the North Korean Refugees Protection and Settlement Support Act and their tuition is subsidized by the Korea Hana Foundation. They are exempted from all tuition fees at national and public universities and 50% of tuition at private university. Children born in a third country can go to university through special admissions within a university quota, and if they go to university the Korea Hana Foundation subsidizes tuition for their first semester through private donations.

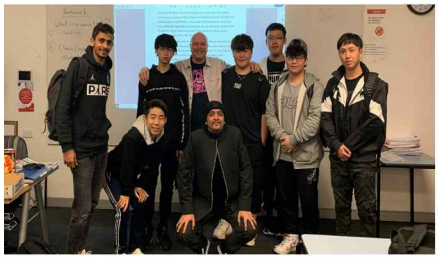
The government has made various efforts to support defector youths and their parents having difficulties in choosing a career path due to lack of information and understanding of the university entrance system and academic subjects. In 2020, the Korea Hana Foundation formed a support group of academic and career counseling experts from other institutions, including former and current teachers with experience in academic and career counseling, for defector youths and also provided customized counseling online.

To enhance the academic aptitude and adaptability to university life of these youths, the government designated universities with large numbers of North Korean defector students as Didimdol (preliminary) universities (eight universities in 2020) and supported various educational and adaptation programs including those for language and computer skills.

It offers overseas training to increase the global awareness and capabilities of North Korean defector university students, and in 2020, five students underwent language study in Australia; three in the US through WEST (Korea-US university student study and work program); and three in the US through the Fulbright Program.

Career and Academic Counseling and Language Study Program for North Korean Youth Defectors

Online meeting of the support group for career and academic counseling (November 26)



Language study program in Australia

(4) Support for youths without families

Youths without families are young people under the age of 24 without lineal ascendants at the time when the decision was made to grant them protection at Hanawon after entering South Korea. To provide a stable, protective environment for them, the government designates them as in need of protection in cooperation with appropriate agencies and NGOs. It also supports 13 group-home facilities so that they can live together with a family, receive emotional support, and ease into school and society. It also provides support in other ways such as academic support, psychological counseling, educational support, arranging rental homes, and the establishment of other programs.

3 Protection of Vulnerable Groups and Support for Livelihoods

(1) Improving human rights protection

The government took various measures to expand the human rights protection of North Korean defectors. It amended the North Korean Refugees Protection and Settlement Support Act to grant protection to those North Korean defectors who entered South Korea after staying abroad for more than 10 years, and it clarified that not only the central but also local governments should assume the responsibilities for protecting and supporting North Korean defectors. The North Korean Refugees Protection and Settlement Support Act specifies inclusive education with consideration for gender equality in accordance with the Framework Act on Gender Equality and also defines support for business startups and support for residential relocation for the personal protection of North Korean defectors. The amendments will take effect in June and July 2021.

The government is also doing what it can to improve human rights protection for female defectors. Hanawon expanded education to prevent harm from sexual assault and offers treatment and counseling services. The Korea Hana Foundation set up a hotline (1577-6635) for 24/7 counseling on settlement support. The hotline is also connected to counseling for victims of sexual assault at the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family and counseling on suicide prevention at the Ministry of Health and Welfare.

To help North Korean defectors smoothly settle into South Korean society, the government increased the payments for particularly vulnerable groups including the elderly, children of single-parent families, and children born in a third country; increased employment incentives; and included this increase in the 2021 budgets.

(2) Assistance for vulnerable groups and a complete enumeration survey

As the COVID-19 situation became prolonged, the government provided various forms of assistance, such as emergency necessities, through the Korea Hana Foundation to particularly vulnerable groups including the elderly, senior citizens living alone, children of single-parent families, prison inmates, and released prisoners. In 2020, as in 2019, the government conducted a complete enumeration survey of vulnerable groups within the North Korean defector population twice in the first and second half, and it offered emergency livelihood assistance and medical assistance to those defectors whose needs were not met by the welfare system and who were suffering from financial difficulties, disease, and social isolation.

The government conducted a survey of 8,317 defectors and rendered services 1,285 times for 829 people who were suspected to be in crisis situations. The Korea Hana Foundation subdivided cases of assistance into cases requiring direct assistance and cases requiring assistance from local governments and NGOs in order to provide it in the most appropriate way possible. The government will continue to make efforts to ensure that North Korean defectors will not be neglected by the welfare system in the future.

(3) Medical assistance

The government provides medical assistance to economically vulnerable groups (those who earn less than 120% of the median income). The Korea Hana Foundation covers some of the medical costs up to KRW 2 million a year for general illnesses and up to KRW 7 million a year for organ transplants or severe illnesses. Patients with chronic, severe, and rare diseases; legal communicable diseases; and psychological illnesses are receiving more effective, timely

assistance through the public healthcare system support project designed to facilitate the making of claims for medical costs. As of the end of December 2020, the government was providing assistance to North Korean defectors through MOUs with 65 hospitals nationwide including St. Mary's Hospital in Seoul and Chungnam National University Hospital.

The Korea Hana Foundation, in cooperation with the Korean Association of Medical Social Workers, ensured that North Korean defectors not only receive funds from the foundation but also receive counseling via a wide range of public and private medical resources through medical social workers placed at 480 hospitals nationwide. Before receiving treatment, they can request medical assistance from the foundation through basic counseling from medical social workers at a hospital. The foundation should directly pay the hospitals involved for some of the medical expenses incurred to reduce the burden of medical costs on vulnerable groups.

(4) Support for livelihoods

Since 2011, the government has provided funds for emergency living expenses to North Korean defectors (families) who have become more vulnerable as a result of the weakening of the social support system and financial foundation. The Korea Hana foundation expanded assistance for everyday life by identifying those eligible for emergency assistance and connecting them to follow-up management through 25 Hana centers nationwide. They are the vulnerable groups who are overlooked by the welfare system including patients with severe illnesses, members of broken families, heads of household without work (including heads of single-parent families, multi-child families, and aging families), and released prisoners who need to find their place in society again.

The Korea Hana Foundation provides basic necessities and gift certificates for home appliances to North Korean defectors during the early period of their settlement immediately after completing programs at Hanawon, when the need to attend adaptation training or hunt for jobs makes it difficult for them to work. It also offered them places at seven shelters nationwide in preparation for any delays in the provision of rental housing.

The Korea Hana Foundation provided emergency necessities in early 2020 to 1,056 people such as the elderly, including the elderly who live alone, when the COVID-19 pandemic started. Through a complete enumeration survey of households to identify those in crisis, it offered emergency living funds to 756 people including long-term vulnerable people and people in temporary financial difficulties due to COVID-19.

4 Raising Public Awareness of North Korean Defectors and Strengthening Communication

(1) Production and propagation of content

The Korea Hana Foundation produced 11 episodes of the video series "User's Guide for the Korea Hana Foundation" to help North Korean defectors better understand settlement support projects and promoted the series through online PR media and on its website. To raise public awareness and achieve the social integration of South and North Koreans, it ran various ads including screen door ads with lighting in subway stations in Seoul, ads on subway cars, and ads on radio programs (KBS, SBS, and CBS). It has co-produced "Difference of Handspan" to raise public awareness and understanding of South and North Korean culture with YTN Radio since 2018. Through MBC's "Unification

Observatory," it broadcast the interviews and the videos of the award winners of the "30-Seconds Video Contest" on the theme of social integration of South and North Koreans.

Public advertisement on subway cars and a TV program

It continues online communication by means of four major social media platforms (blogs, Facebook, YouTube, and Plus Friend on Kakao Talk). The foundation's blog attracts 230,000 visitors a year. Plus Friend on Kakao Talk has helped the beneficiaries and the officials involved more easily access relevant information. To increase the convenience of both the staff involved in settlement support and the public, it developed the "Mutual Understanding between the Two Koreas: Manual for Social Integration Education Program" and publishes and distributes various promotional materials including Love for Compatriots, a bimonthly newsletter.

(2) Expanding exchange between North Korean defectors and local residents

The Korea Hana Foundation held the Peace and Unification Concert marking the 75th National Liberation Day in Imjingak Pyeonghwa Nuri Park in Paju. The Imjin River Art Troupe composed of North Korean defector artists gave a performance, and the event was a great opportunity for North Korean defectors

and local residents to meet each other. The event raised public awareness that defectors are also members of society and helped all of the participants better understand the cultural differences between South and North Korea.

Peace and Unification Concert marking the 75th National Liberation Day (August 15)

Volunteer work by North Korean defectors who have settled in South Korea (The Good-Natured) (December 11-31)

A volunteer group called "The Good-Natured" composed of North Korean defectors is doing much to raise awareness that defectors are not just beneficiaries of support but also productive members of society. The group is doing this through volunteer work for disadvantaged communities, thereby facilitating communication and harmony between South and North Koreans. At the end of 2020, the fourth cohort of the volunteer group, consisting of 10 organizations, identified the needs of vulnerable defector families in nine cities and provinces across the nation and held a non-face-to-face event to share "Rice of Love."

(3) Opening the Cultural Center for Inter-Korean Integration

The government built the Cultural Center for Inter-Korean Integration in November, 2019 to help North Korean defectors and local residents better understand each other, and on May 13, 2020 it opened a virtual center online. The center is a place of cultural communication and exchange between defectors and

residents and facilitates the nationwide cultural integration of South and North Koreans

In 2020, the center offered various opportunities for defectors and residents to meet each other. It also provided support to "Life Sharing Dialogue Between South and North Koreans" in which South and North Korean residents met each other in person, shared life stories, and engaged in small group activities including volunteer work, a cultural art experience, and hobby activities. Additionally, the government offered various hobby classes including calligraphy and crafts.

"Life Sharing Dialogue Between South and North Koreans" (October 28)

A small crafts group for South and North Koreans (November 18)

The center also produced and distributed various types of cultural content regarding the integration of South and North Korea such as the "Forum on the Cultural Integration of the Two Koreas" in which participants talk about the cultures of South and North Korea from diverse perspectives; "South and North Korean Cuisine Talk Talk," which introduces foods from the two Koreas; "South and North Korean Children's Play Culture," which introduces traditional games on the Korean Peninsula; and "Basic Course for Integration of South and North Koreans," a class that helps citizens better understand each other. North Korean defectors participated in the production, and the content was shared via YouTube.

'Forum on the Cultural Integration of the Two Koreas' (June 10)

'South and North Korean Cuisine Talk Talk' (May 13)

The center operated the Special Exhibition Hall and the Cultural Experience Hall as display spaces to give the public easy access to information about North Korea and North Korean defectors. The exhibition hall addresses such themes as the "pain of national division," "efforts to heal the pain," "North Korean defectors," and "future of a unified Korea," and the experience hall offers a chance for citizens to experience interesting aspects of the two Koreas' cultures.

Special Exhibition Hall ("Efforts to Heal the Pain")

Cultural Experience Hall ("The Daily Lives of North Koreans")

Section 5

Establishing the Cooperative System for Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors

1 Enhancing the Roles of Local Governments and NGOs

The government is carrying out policy for settlement support for North Korean defectors in cooperation with local governments and NGOs. The central government established and directs the pan-government settlement support system through the Consultative Council on Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors. In consultation with local governments, it designates Hana Centers to conduct education, provide psychological counseling, and handle job placement for North Korean defectors. In cooperation with local governments and appropriate agencies, the government also designates and manages support workers charged with assisting North Korean defectors with community services (local governments), personal protection (police stations), and employment (employment centers). It operates a regional council composed of public officials, support workers, and people from NGOs to provide settlement support services as appropriate for each region. Local medical institutions and religious groups work together with the Korea Hana Foundation and Hana Centers to help North Korean defectors become financially independent and assimilate into society.

(1) Consultative Council on Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors

The Consultative Council on Settlement Support for North Korean Defectors was established to discuss and coordinate policy on North Korean defectors. It is chaired by the Vice Minister of Unification and composed of senior officials from 23 ministries and agencies. In 2020, it held a plenary meeting presided over by the Vice Minister of Unification and established the 2020 implementation plan for settlement support for North Korean defectors. It also held meetings of subcommittees and working councils to discuss issues regarding settlement of North Korean defectors.

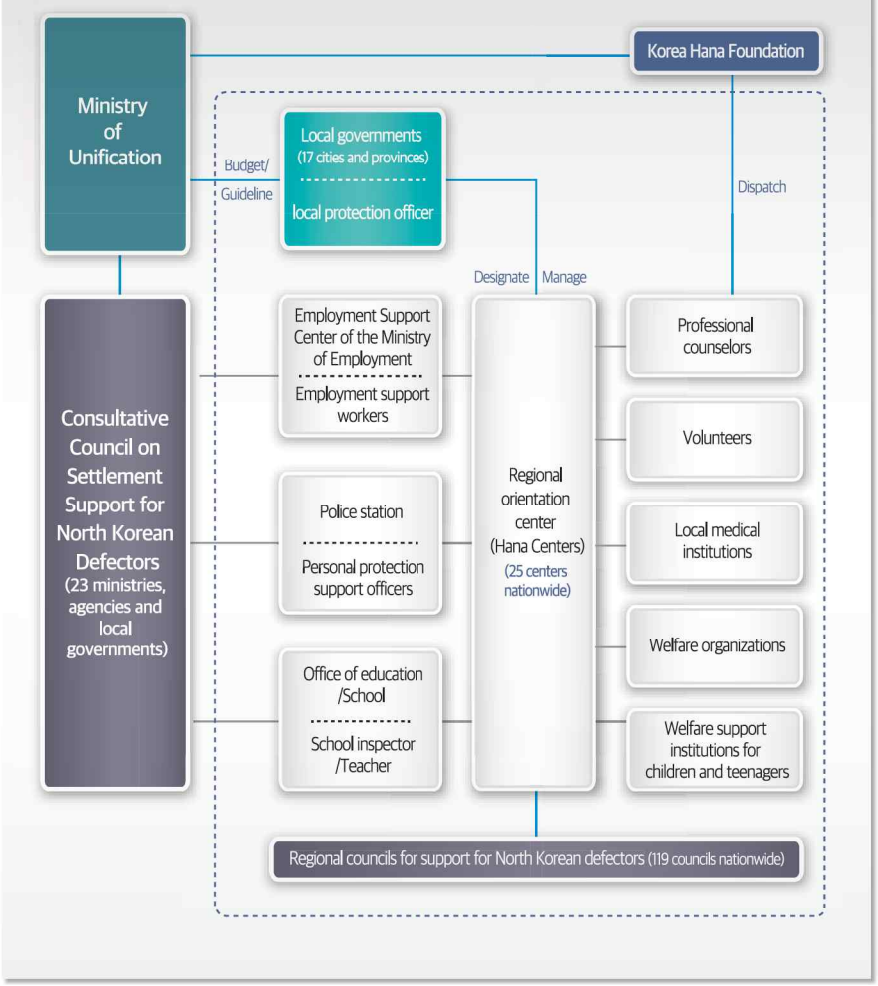
(2) Regional councils for support for North Korean defectors

As of December 2020, there are 119 regional councils for support for North Korean defectors. These councils are cooperative networks comprised of community service, personal protection, and employment support workers; welfare organizations; religious groups; and NGOs. Their role is to ascertain the settlement situation of North Korean defectors and resolve various difficulties for them.

The regional councils are in place at the local government level, and local governments have established ordinances regarding matters such as settlement support for North Korean defectors and the operation of regional councils.

To make the support system for North Korean defectors more effective, the central government included the “level of efforts to support the smooth settlement of North Korean defectors” in the assessment criteria for local governments.

Settlement Support System for North Korean Defectors



The government also designates and manages officials in appropriate local agencies as staff members dedicated to facilitating the settlement of North Korean defectors. Community service support workers within local governments (244 persons) help North Korean defectors report when they move into their place of residence and apply for cost-of-living benefits, medical care, and other social program benefits. Personal protection support workers at police stations (900 persons) protect North Korean defectors from all kinds of crime. Support workers for employment at the Employment Support Center of the Ministry of Employment and Labor (65 persons) facilitate vocational training and job placement.

(3) Enhancing the role of NGOs in settlement support for North Korean defectors

The government invited the private sector to join a project to enhance the role of NGOs in settlement support for North Korean defectors and strived to ensure communication between NGOs.

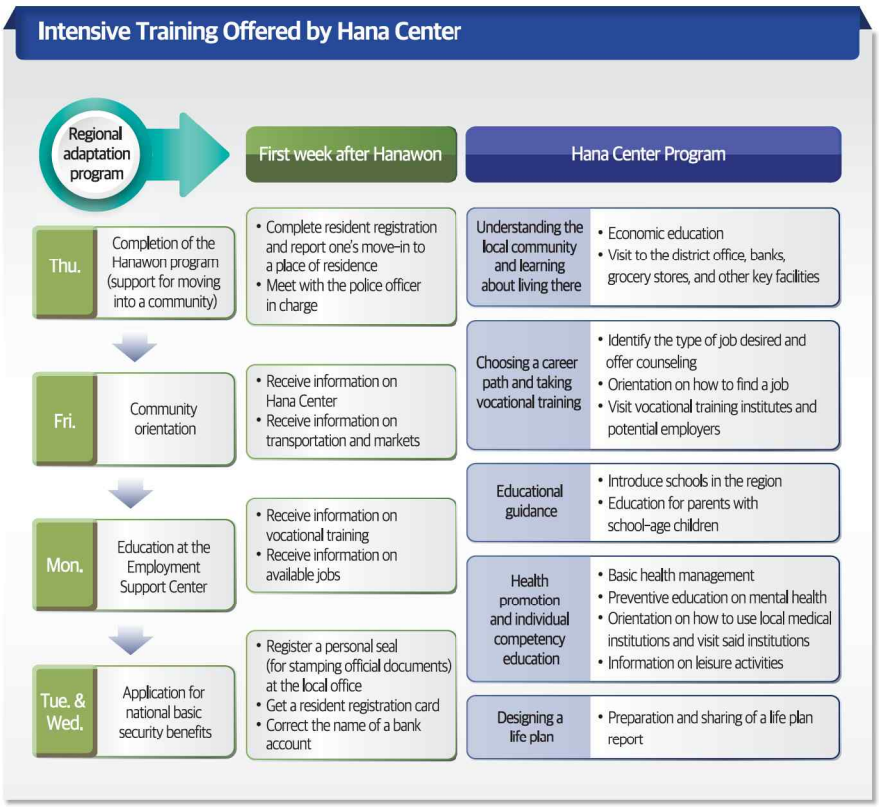
The Korea Hana Foundation selected 25 projects through contests among NGOs and granted KRW 385 million in funding for them. It operated support programs for social unity such as medical and psychological counseling for North Korean defectors, cultural exchange between defectors and residents of local communities, employment mentoring, and assistance for vulnerable groups.

Even amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, it offered consulting and education in the field to improve NGOs' capabilities and project capabilities and worked to maintain mutual communication while complying with COVID-19 guidelines.

2 Strengthening the Foundation for Hana Center

(1) Expanding Hana Centers and improving personal information protection

Hana Centers provide North Korean defectors with intensive training immediately after settling into their new homes upon their completion of the Hanawon program in order to help them quickly adapt to their new environment. The intensive education during the initial period of settlement runs for 8-9 days (50 hours) and offers career and vocational training, help understanding real life and the communities where they have settled, and programs for psychological and emotional stability. With a focus on field experience, the intensive education differentiates itself from the education provided at Hanawon. Through regional adaptation projects, Hana Centers operate various programs needed by North Korean defectors related to educational guidance, career and employment, livelihood, medical care, psychological and emotional counseling, and assimilation into the community during the protection period, etc. Hana Centers provide services in a very personalized way with consideration to individual situations and needs.



Hana Center is on the front line of providing services to North Korean defectors in the settlement support system. Hana Center is very important as it is the first agency that North Korean defectors contact directly after completing the Hanawon program. The fourth group of agencies operating the Hana Centers was designated in 2019.

Currently, there are 25 Hana Centers in 16 cities and provinces nationwide (four in Seoul, six in Gyeonggi Province, two in Gangwon Province, and one each in other metropolitan cities and provinces).

The Hana Centers that are responsible for wide areas but are less accessible to North Korean defectors operate branch offices in areas populated by large numbers of defectors.

As part of the efforts to improve the capabilities of Hana Center, the 2021 Management Guidelines for Social Welfare Facilities specified that 80% of the career work of social workers without certifications at Hana Centers should be officially recognized as professional career experience.

Also, because Hana Centers handle the unique identification information of North Korean defectors, there is a strong need for an information protection system that can withstand cyber threats and other security incidents.

The government improved the personal information management system for North Korean defectors and ensured more reliable support for them by conducting joint security checks on Hana Centers with agencies concerned and by producing and distributing leaflets on personal information protection to agencies and organizations involved with North Korean defectors as well as Hana Centers.

(2) Professional counselors for North Korean defectors and settlement support workers

Professional counselors for North Korean defectors from the Korea Hana Foundation are placed in Hana Centers and work together with the employees at the Hana Centers (social workers). The counselors have certificates of qualification in psychology or employment support and offer counseling based on their understanding of North Korean defectors. They help resolve difficulties experienced by defectors in the process of settling into South Korean society. As of the end of December, 2020, 84 counselors (49 in psychology and 35 in employment support) offered counseling in all areas of the settlement process including employment, health, psychology, and law.

Counselors by Region

(Unit: persons)

Korea Hana Foundation	Seoul	Busan	Daegu	Incheon	Gwangju	Daejeon	Ulsan	Gyeonggi
8	15	3	3	4	2	3	2	21
Gangwon	North Chung cheong Province	South Chung cheong Province	North Jeolla Province	South Jeolla Province	North Gyeong sang Province	South Gyeong sang Province	Jeju	Total
3	3	2	3	3	4	3	2	84

Settlement assistants are volunteers who offer support in close contact with North Korean defectors after they move into residences upon completing the Hanawon program. They work in connection with the Hana Centers, helping North Korean defectors report when they move into their place of residence, collect their personal items, and move into a rental house. They play an important role in the initial period of settlement by visiting the defectors twice a month and helping them navigate through everyday life in their community. As of the end of December, 2020, there were 900 settlement assistants at 25 Hana Centers nationwide.

Unification Education

Section 1 Expanding the Foundation for Unification Education and Its Operation

Section 2 Support for Unification Education School Programs

Section 3 Support for Social Unification Education

Section 4 Operation of the Center for Unified Korean Future

Ministry of Unification

Chapter 6

Unification Education

The government shifted the focus of unification education onto inter-Korean peace and coexistence and introduced various concepts of peace into its educational programs, such as peace as a means to develop democratic and civic consciousness, the cultivation of peace sensitivity, and the resolution of conflicts through dialogue. The concept of peace was introduced in accordance with the ROK's constitutional duty to pursue peaceful unification and the demand for it by the educational establishment. The government published *Peace and Unification Education: Direction and Perspectives* (the previous version was *Guidelines on Unification Education*) in 2018, reflecting the importance of peace consciousness and the universal values of mankind. Since then, it has begun offering various courses on peace and developed other relevant content.

It updated the curriculum at the National Institute for Unification Education (NIU) to reflect the move toward peace and unification education and also expanded humanities education and participatory and communicative teaching methods. It conducted various types of field education at locations such as Panmunjom, Odusan Unification Observatory, Ganghwa Island, and Hanawon. The government also provided customized education for officials in charge of inter-Korean exchange and cooperation and for "DMZ Peace Trails" commentators, reflecting domestic and international demands. It also organized global education courses for Emerging Leadership Fellowship (ELF).

In 2019, it reorganized its online educational course into six different courses.

In 2020, COVID-19 greatly complicated face-to-face education, and as a result, the number of people who partook in online education more than doubled from 219,000 in 2019 to 442,000 in 2020.

The government developed various educational materials on peace and unification. It offered special lectures by renowned people and library resources such as reference books and a series on the humanities. It also developed new types of content and products including workbooks, a photo essay, "Peace and Unification Coffee," and a peace diary. It produced and broadcast a number of videos including a documentary, educational entertainment, an animation, and a web-based talk show in cooperation with several broadcasters. The content developed was used as materials for unification education and was customized depending on those being taught, such as students from kindergarten to high school, public officials, foreigners, and overseas Koreans.

The 8th Unification Education Week (May 18-24) was held as an online festival due to the COVID-19 situation. People from various schools, local communities, government ministries, and other related agencies in addition to various experts participated in a wide array of online programs. The website created especially for the Unification Education Week featured a commemorative ceremony, special lectures by renowned guests, a syllabus, hands-on programs, and other online events in which citizens could participate. It also conducted various unification education activities, such as a poster contest, thus building a public consensus on peaceful unification.

To increase teenagers' interest in unification and facilitate school unification education, the government conducted various programs for talented individuals who will lead a future unified Korea. Some examples include "Visiting School Unification Education," "Unification Leadership Camp for College Students," "Kid Press Corps," "Creative Unification Children's Song and Unification Lyrics Contest," and "Selection and Operation of Peace Creators."

Meanwhile, institutional supports have been provided for unification education by designating "unification education research schools," holding a school unification education research competition, and sponsoring a workshop for the development of school unification education.

To expand unification education at universities, the government designated six "Leading Universities in Unification Education" in 2020. The government also signed MOUs for cooperation in unification education with seven universities and designated them as "Unification Education Partner University" with the goal of expanding unification education for university students. It also carried out various projects for university students including special unification lectures and courses, the "Mock State Council Meeting of a Unified Korea Competition," and a competition for research papers and promotional videos related to unification for undergraduate and graduate school students.

To facilitate unification education in local communities, it designated regional Unification Education Centers in seven regions and conducted unification education both face-to-face and online during the COVID-19 pandemic. It appointed 710 people who have expertise in unification issues as members of the 22nd Council of Unification Education Officials to lead unification education in local communities for a two-year term.

The Odusan Unification Observatory and eleven regional unification halls nationwide, which serve as spaces for unification culture, held special exhibitions and organized diverse hands-on and educational programs. They also held the 2030 Generation P-UZY Academy (which means "let peace and unification bloom") to expand consensus on unification among people in their 20s and 30s, a generation that considers communication, participation, and fun to be especially important.

The government began unification education in earnest for public officials and employees in the central government, local governments, and public institutions in 2019 in accordance with Article 6-7 of the Unification Education Support Act,

which took effect on September 14, 2018. About 670,000 of these officials and employees received unification education in 2019 and another 880,000 did so in 2020. This facilitated an expansion of the consensus on unification in the public sector. The government then established the Research Center for Peace and Unification Education at the end of December 2020 to increase the effectiveness of unification education in the mid-and long-term.

The Center for a Unified Korean Future ran various programs amid the COVID-19 pandemic, serving as a training institution for unification-related experiences. Despite the suspension of all hands-on programs planned for 2020, the center ran small-scale, specialized hands-on programs and online programs for teenagers. It also expanded its capabilities to offer hands-on training through the development of an online video program and the improvement of the Center for Unified Future of Korea.

Section 1

Expanding the Foundation for Unification Education and Its Operation

1 The Operation of Unification Education Programs

The government has continued to carry out unification education to increase the public's determination to realize peace and unification and expand consensus on the peace process on the Korean Peninsula. The National Institute for Unification Education (NIU) conducted six different online and offline programs including a professional education program, a unification education program for public officials, a school unification education program, a social unification education program, a global unification education program, and a special education program a total of 79 times for 2,678 people. The government also organizes online unification education programs for public officials, teachers, the general public, and those in their 20s and 30s. A total of 442,377 people participated in the online programs. The government operates an education platform connecting online and offline in-house programs as a response to the unprecedented COVID-19 situation. It also distributed the "Manual to Facilitate Non-Face-to-Face Unification Education."

256 people took part in the specialized education program which includes the Top Executive Program for Unification Policy, the Leadership Program for Unification Policy, the Program for Planning the Future of a Unified Korea, and the Program for Unification Education Instructors.

2020 Unification Education Programs

(Unit: persons)

Program / Category	Specialized education program	Unification education program for public officials	School unification education program	Social unification education program	Global unification education program	Special education program	Online unification education program	Total
Number of participants	256	1,410	341	367	394	257	442,377	445,402

As a course for the leaders of Korean society, the Top Executive Program for Unification Policy increased their determination and capabilities to achieve peace and unification, thus expanding the consensus on unification across all levels of society. The Leadership Program for Unification Policy is a program designed for central and local government officials at the director-level and executives of public corporations at the team leader-level or higher. The Program for Planning the Future of a Unified Korea targets working-level officials of secretary-level or lower in the government.

Top Executive Program for Unification Policy
(May 21-December 3)

Leadership Program for Unification Policy
(February 18-December 11)

The Program for Unification Education Instructors aims to nurture instructors who will conduct education on North Korea and unification in public institutions, schools, civil society, and local communities. It provides knowledge and information necessary to conduct unification education lectures as well as teaching methods and techniques for creating lecture materials. In 2020, 129 people completed the program.

The Unification Education Program for Public Officials focuses on helping central and local government officials better understand unification policy and actively participate in laying the foundation for peace and unification. A total of 1,410 officials have participated in the program. It strengthened cooperation with the Local Government Officials Development Institute and the educational institutions of high ranking local government officials and helped to ensure multi-faceted unification education by linking online and offline classes.

The School Unification Education Program aims to strengthen professionships of the teachers on unification issues. A total of 341 teachers have participated in the program. The program not only offers objective information and knowledge regarding the unification of the Korean Peninsula, inter-Korean relations, and the situation in North Korea, but also focuses on providing substantial unification education programs that can be used directly by teachers in the field. The content of the program varies depending on the recipients such as directors of kindergartens; principals, vice principals and teachers of elementary, middle, and high schools; school commissioners, vice commissioners, and senior educational researchers; and college students who want to become teachers.

Program for Planning the Future of a Unified Korea (February 17-August 16/ June 15-December 14)

Program for Public Officials in Charge of Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation (July 22-24)

The Social Unification Education Program is for unification education advisory council and members of the National Unification Advisory Council, as well as social and religious groups involved in unification activities. It consists of various sub-programs to broaden the scope of understanding of issues related to inter-Korean relations and to establish the values necessary to achieve peace and unification. A total of 367 people have participated in the program. The Next Generation Program for Unification Policy, opened as a special program, is for undergraduate and graduate school students and those in their 20s and 30s. A total of 37 people have taken the program.

Next Generation Program for Unification Policy (October 15-December 10)

The Global Unification Education Program was opened in 2013 to strengthen domestic and international unification capabilities and to promote international support and a consensus on unification. It seeks to do this through education on peace and unification in cooperation with the international community. In 2020, it broadened its scope by signing an MOU with the National Institute for International Education and developing a course connected to Korean government scholarship programs.

The government invited prominent scholars from abroad to provide opportunity for publics to enhance their understandings on unification issues from an international perspective. It invited one expert from China and one from Sweden and held 19 rounds of special lectures and debates with domestic experts, students, and the general public. 347 people participated over the course of one year.

Signing ceremony of an MOU between NIU and the National Institute for International Education (October 29)

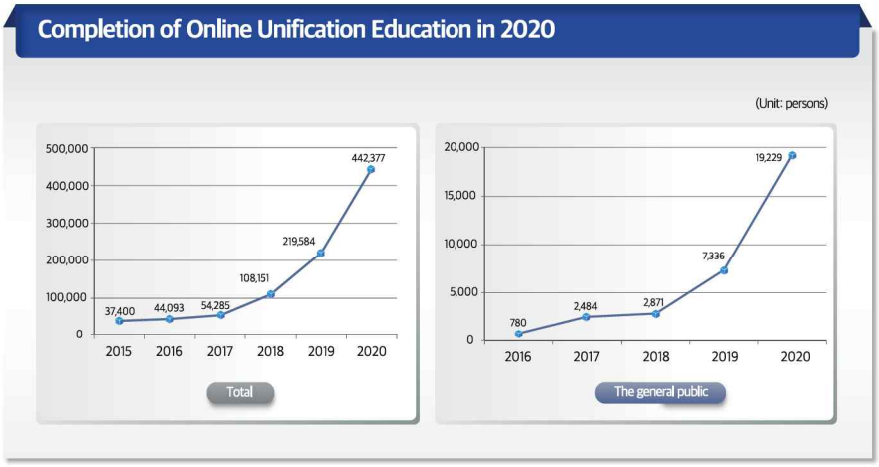
Special lecture at Kyungnam University by a visiting professor from abroad (October 12)

It also strived to ensure that the next generation of experts from key foreign countries better understand the situation on the Korean Peninsula and support the ROK government's efforts for unification through the Emerging Leaders Fellowship. In responding to the COVID-19 situation, this year's seminar was held online. 47 junior scholars, journalists, public officials, and NGO activits

from 28 countries in the Americas, Europe, Oceania, the Middle East, and Asia have participated.

Unification Academy, an online seminar of overseas rising scholars (November 26-27)

The Unification Education Support Act that went into effect on September 14, 2018 requires public officials and employees at public institutions to take at least one hour of unification education a year. In response to this, the government changed its online educational program in 2019. Originally consisting of courses for public officials, the general public, and teachers; courses for academic credit; courses on unification affairs; and visits to North Korea, it now includes courses for public officials, teachers, those in their 20s and 30s, and the general public; courses by the Gyeongsangnamdo Office of Education; and visits to North Korea. In 2020, the number of those enrolled in online education sharply increased to 442,377, a 12-fold increase from 37,400 in 2015 and double from the 219,584 in 2019. A total of 389,478 were enrolled in the course for public officials in 2020, up 90 percent from 200,095 in 2019. In 2020, 19,229 members of the general public received online education, up 160 percent from 7,336 in 2019. The program also provided online content to 115 agencies including the Ministry of Employment and Labor, Seoul Metropolitan City, Seoul Women's University, and the National Pension Service with the goal of expanding the foundation for unification education.



In 2019, the government began providing unification education in earnest by taking advantage of new types of media to increase the public's access to unification education and increase public interest in peace and unification online. It mainly used YouTube, Facebook, and Instagram, and it opened a Kakao Talk channel in 2020. To more actively use these new types of media as educational platforms, it produced a web-based entertainment talk show called Good Peace Season 2 (three episodes, May 21-June 4), a *Series of Short Videos* (five episodes), and *Listening to Reviews*, which reviews published books.

In 2020, these efforts increased the number of views on the National Institute for Unification Education's YouTube channel to 2,714,955, a four-fold increase from 675,932 in 2019.

2 Development and Distribution of Educational Materials

The government has continued to develop and distribute various styles of books and videos on various subjects that live up to the public's standards so that more people will take interest in unification issues.

Since the 1980s, the government has published *Understanding Unification Issues* and *Understanding North Korea*, which are basic educational materials to help the public better understand unification issues and the situation in North Korea. In 2020, it printed 50,000 copies of each book and distributed them to schools and educational institutions.

Since 2019, the government has extended its efforts to promote unification education books to the publics by developing books with sophisticated designs on various subjects in cooperation with a specialized publishing company. In 2020, it published *Unification in Hands* (five volumes), a humanities series about various subjects involving peace including history, news, the DMZ, and drawings; *Special Lectures on Peace and Unification* by renowned experts; a workbook on peace education for teenagers called *Doing Peace*: *One Step Towards Peace Day by Day*; a photo essay called A *Photo Trip to Peace*; and *Seven Perspectives to Read Change in the World Order*, a book that asks about the path toward peace on the Korean Peninsula. 1,000-3,000 copies of each book were distributed by the government.

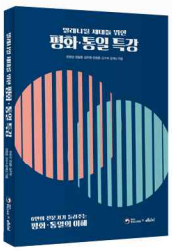
It also published and distributed *Missing Magic Beads*, a fairy tale picture book on unification for kindergarten and lower grade students, and *Let's Go! Travel Expedition to the Korean Peninsula*, an activity play book on unification. *Day of a Camping Trip*, a fairy tale picture book on unification, was published in 2019 as an audio book for visually impaired people and also produced as an animation. *Introducing Panmunjom* was translated and published in English for foreigners and overseas Koreans in 2019.

Good Peace Season 2, a popular web talk show; *Guides to Use Video Clips*, which is connected to school curricula; and *North Korean Society Seen Through Fashion & Makeup*, an online class, were reproduced as books. To expand the foundation for unification education and increase the use of its content, the government approved the use of publication rights (including printing and distribution rights) to eight institutions including the Daegu, Ulsan, Gyeonggi, Jeonbuk and Sejong offices of education as well as some schools for a total of 11 publications.

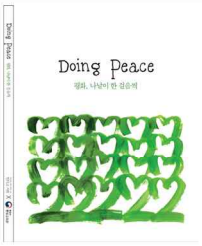
2020 New Unification Educational materials

Books

Unification in Hands (five volumes), a humanities series

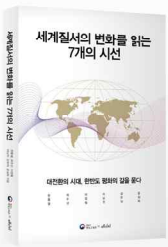


Special lectures on peace and unification by renowned experts



A workbook on peace education for teenagers

A photo essay



A book on world politics and economy

A fairy tale picture book on unification

An activity play book on unification

The government developed high-quality videos with diverse styles in cooperation with TV broadcasters in order to expand the scope of unification education and make content more useful. It produced and broadcast "Architecture Exploration-House: Space to Dream of Unification" on EBS (May 19); a special episode of "Those Who Cross the Line-Returns" about the 70th anniversary of the Korean War on MBC (June 14-21); a special episode of "My Room, Row 1" about the 70th anniversary of the Korean War on JTBC (June 21); and "It-a documentary that connects the world: one day we" on EBS (December 31).

It also produced a special Christmas episode of "Shinbi House," a popular Korean animation, together with the show's production company and broadcast the special episode via the children's channel Tooniverse on December 24. The video was uploaded on YouTube, and it hit 920,000 views in just three weeks as well as receive 9,000 likes and 1,800 comments.

It also produced 16 video clips of 3-10 minutes in length connected to subjects learned in elementary, middle, and high schools that students and teachers will easily be able to use. The government uploaded the video clips to the National Institute for Unification Education's website and also to six websites that support teaching and learning. These video clips have been used extensively by teachers.

To support mandatory public sector unification education, the government produced the educational videos "Unification in History" and "UNESCO World Heritage of South and North Korea."

2020 New Unification Educational materials

Video Materials

"Those Who Cross the Line -Returns (two episodes)" on MBC

"Architecture Exploration - House" on EBS

"My Room, Row 1" on JTBC

"It - a documentary that connects the world" on EBS

"Shinbi House," an cartoon

Video for the public sector

"How are North Korean friends doing?"

"Walk into North Korea"

"What is peace?"

Video clips

"Good Peace Season 2" (three episodes), a talk show

"Series of Short Videos" (five episodes)

"BookTuber's Review" (three episodes)

New Books on Unification Education 2020

Category	Title	Key content	Users
Basic textbook	Understanding Unification Issues	Introduces views on unification issues, unification in history, developments in inter-Korean relations, neighboring countries and the unification of the Korean Peninsula, the ROK's unification efforts, visions for unification, and preparations for unification.	University students and the general public
	Understanding North Korea	Introduces views on North Korea, the North's political regime and ruling ideology, foreign policy and relations, military strategy and military power, the state of the economy and its prospects, education and culture, social structure, and daily life of the people.	
Fairy tale picture book	Missing Magic Beads	A fairy tale book about South and North Korean children becoming friends. It has a heart-warming drawing style and contains subjects such as "beads," "a train trip," and "Suncheon" (both South and North Korea have a place with this name).	Preschoolers
Audiobook	Day of a Camping Trip	A fairy tale audiobook about South and North Korean children with different appearances and personalities sharing friendship (video and audio).	Disabled persons
School education	Let's Go! Travel Expedition to the Korean Peninsula (an activity play book on unification)	Provides children an opportunity to learn about North Korea, peace, and unification through creative activities and games.	Elementary school students
	Doing Peace: One Step Towards Peace Day by Day (a workbook on peace education for teenagers)	A workbook that instills peace sensitivity in teenagers. It was produced by the humanities bookstore Indigo Seowon and the National Institute for Unification Education.	Elementary school students
Guidebook for teachers	Guides to Use Video Clips	A guidebook for teachers on how to use 20 video clips in connection with school curricula.	College students and the general public
Special lecture by renowned experts	Special Lectures on Peace and Unification for the Millennials	Special lectures to diversify and broaden millennials' perspectives on peace and unification from the perspectives of scholars, diplomats, and business people.	

Category	Title	Key content	Users
Unification in hands	North Korean News from the Right Perspectives	Analyzes fake news about North Korea from a critical perspective and introduces ways to counter such fake news.	College students and the general public
	Father and Daughter Walk the DMZ	An essay in the form of a conversation about trips to cultural heritage sites near the DMZ and the Civilian Control Line by a college student daughter and her father.	
	What Do You Think about Unification?	Analyzes public sentiments on unification issues based on the conclusion reached at the event "Social Dialogue on a Vision for Peace and Unification."	
	Ask about Unification in the History of 100 Years Ago	Seeks historical lessons from a century ago that will help with the establishment of genuine peace on the Korean Peninsula Examines peace through a virtual debate among prominent figures from past eras.	
	Traveling to Mount Geumgang through Drawings	A travel essay about a dream journey to Mount Geumgang as seen through the drawings of historical and modern North Korean artists.	
Reference materials	Seven Perspectives to Read Change in World Order	Traces changes in the strategies of the major powers that have a great impact on the Korean Peninsula from various points of view and seeks a desirable strategy for peace.	
	Introducing Panmunjom	An English version of the guide that includes an overview, the history, and the significance of Panmunjom as well as a description of the Panmunjom tour course, including the Freedom House and the footbridge.	
	Good Peace Season 2	A web-talk of experts who examine the meaning of peace.	
	North Korean Society Seen Through Fashion & Makeup	A handbook that looks into North Korean society through fashion and makeup.	
	A Photo Trip to Peace	A photographic story of peace told by the author to his daughter about daily life in North Korea.	

2020 New Video Materials on Unification Education

Category	Title	Key contents	Users
Animation	Day of a Camping Trip	A fairy tale of friendship between South and North Korean children with different appearances and personalities.	Preschoolers
Video clips	What are North Korean Friends Doing?	Introduces the daily lives of North Korean friends with a focus on their school life, what they do for fun, and the snacks they eat.	Elementary school students
	Walk into North Korea	Introduces North Korea's administrative districts, major cities, and the characteristics of each region.	
	Yes! No! Story of North Korean School	Looks into the school life of North Korean chilren.	
	I Wonder about North Korean Textbooks	Students who came from the North, met in the South, and became close friends discuss North Korean textbooks.	
	Do you Wonder about Animation in the North?	Students who came from the North, met in the South, and became close friends discuss North Korean animation.	
	Chuseok and Lunar New Year's Day in North Korea	Students who came from the North, met in the South, and became close friends discuss North Korean holidays.	
	What is Peace?	Touches on the meaning and importance of peace and shares the stories of the people who strive for peace.	Middle and high school students and teachers
	DMZ, the Scene of History	A video with the message that the DMZ, far from only being the site where the Korean War occurred, has been witnessing history since prehistoric times and that it will be where the future of a unified Korea will unfold.	
	Promising Jobs after Unification that Students Choose	A video in which students talk about what kinds of promising careers there will be and what kinds of businesses they will want to go into after unification is achieved.	

Category	Title	Key contents	Users
Video clips	Process of Conclusion of the Armistice Agreement	Introduces the process leading up to the conclusion of the Korean Armistice Agreement signed on July 27, 1953.	Middle and high school students and teachers
	Six Major Tourist Attractions in North Korea	Introduces six major tourist attractions recommended by North Korea itself.	
	Story about Geoje POW Camp	A story about the Geoje POW Camp, which is considered a microcosm of the Korean War.	
	Why do North Korean Defectors Hide the Fact that They Came from North Korea?	Students from the North who now live in the South speak frankly about how they came to appear on South Korean TV despite being reluctant to do so at first.	
	Changing North Korean Society and North Koreans' Daily Lives	Introduces the changes occurring in North Korean society and the daily lives of North Koreans.	
	Lives and Literature of Park Wan-suh and Baek Seok	Introduces the lives and literary works of two writers, Park Wan-suh and Baek Seok, who endured Japanese colonial rule and the pain of national division.	
	What Do We Need to Do When Seeing North Korea?	A video that talks about what we need to do and what attitude we should assume when we think about North Korea.	
Video for the general public	Unification in History	Examines the meaning of social integration as an element of unification through examples of unification both in Korea and abroad including Unified Shilla and Germany.	College students and the general public
	UNESCO World Heritage of South and North Korea.	Highlights the efforts to create unification culture with a focus on the current UNESCO Cultural Heritage Sites of South and North Korea and efforts for joint registration.	
Web-based entertainment show	"Good Peace Season 2," an online talk show	A web-talk of experts who examine the meaning of peace.	College students

Category	Title	Key contents	Users
Broadcast on TV	A special Christmas episode of "Shinbi House" via Tooniverse (Grandmother's Wish, A Ghost from North Korea)	Conveys the importance of peace and the need for unification by introducing subject matters such as national division, the pain of war, and separated families.	Elementary school students
	"Architecture Exploration - House: Space to Dream of Unification" on EBS	Introduces the National Institute for Unification Education headquarters, which was awarded the Korean Architecture Awards Grand Prize, and explains the meaning that the building itself holds.	College students and the general public
	A special episode of "Those Who Cross the Line - Returns" on the 70th anniversary of the Korean War on MBC	Conveys a message wishing for peace on the Korean Peninsula by highlighting the pain of national division and war.	
	A special episode of "My Room, Row 1" on the 70th anniversary of the Korean War on JTBC	Talks about the importance of peace through the films 1917 and *Swing Kids*.	
	"It - a documentary that connects the world: one day we" on EBS	A story about displaced people in Gyodong Island and ordinary people who strive for peace.	

3 Unification Education Week

Since 2013, the government has designated the fourth week of May as Unification Education Week with the goal of collecting diverse opinions from people at all levels of society and building a consensus on peace and unification among the next generation.

In 2020, the government altered its original plan due to COVID-19 and celebrated the week as an online festival from May 18 to 24.

Held online for the first time since it became a statutory celebration, government, schools, local communities, and other organizations and experts involved in unification education have actively participated in the 8th Unification Education Week.

The opening ceremony began with congratulatory remarks by Unification Minister Kim Yeon Chul and Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education Yoo Eun-hae. The seven "People of the Year in Unification Education" were also announced at the opening ceremony. The week featured various daily events including lectures with renowned guests called "Today's Lecture"; an event where various educational materials were introduced called "Today's Educational Materials"; "Today's Game," which featured games that develop peace and unification sensitivity; and "Today's Experience," in which participants virtually visited regional Unification Halls, the Center for Unified Korean Future, and the UN Memorial Cemetery in Busan. Online syllabi for students ranging from elementary to college students were also distributed so that peace and unification education could continue smoothly even amid the COVID-19 situation.

The government organized an online music hall and gallery with the theme "Unification Education Week with Culture and Art," and it held various online events including a seating event, an attendance check event, and an event where people could vote for a "unification poster" to encourage more people to

participate in unification education.

The 2020 Academic Conference on Peace and Unification Education, originally planned as the opening event of the Unification Education Week, was held in December due to the COVID-19 situation, and some school and community programs were delayed until the second half of the year.

"Visiting School Unification Education," one of the Unification Education Week program, was held online due to the COVID-19 pandemic. 2,200 students participated in the program in 27 schools, ranging from elementary to high schools, nationwide. In addition, the launching ceremony for the Kid Press Corps under the Ministry of Unification was held online.

Leading Universities in Unification Education and Unification Education Research Schools were actively involved in the Unification Education Week, and they conducted various programs. The six Leading Universities in Unification Education produced video lectures on unification and contest entries in video form and uploaded them to their websites during the week. Four Leading Universities in Unification Education staged their own online events such as the Unification Startup Contest by Jeonbuk National University. Unification Education Research Schools celebrated their own unification education weeks before and after the government's Unification Education Week. These schools held a wide range of face-to-face and non-face-to-face programs, and students and teachers all participated in online festivals.

Fifteen Unification Education Centers and nine Unification Halls nationwide also prepared for various hands-on events. The "Marronnier Festival to Build Consensus on Unification," which was hosted every year by the Seoul Unification Education Center and the Association of Unification Education Organizations at Marronnier Park in Daehangno, was renamed to the "Peace and Unification Festival to Build Consensus on Unification" and held online from November 11 to 22. At Unification Halls, there were events where people could enjoy folk

games from South and North Korea and partake in virtual reality experiences related to unification.

During the week, "Architecture Exploration – House," a special program on the National Institute for Unification Education headquarters which sought to encourage people to think about peace and unification, was broadcast on EBS, and tvN's "Good Peace Season 2," an entertainment talk show in which broadcasters, scientists, journalists, and YouTubers talk about issues related to peace that are relatable to the younger generation, was released on YouTube.

Reporting on the "Online Festival" during the Unification Education Week (May 19)

"Today's Lecture" during the Unification Education Week (May 18-24)

Online Festival Programs during the 8th Unification Education Week

Program	Detailed program	Content
Opening ceremony and special lecture	Opening remarks	Opening and congratulatory remarks.
	Person of the Year in Unification Education	Selected seven people to receive the "Person of the Year in Unification Education" award and showed videos of their acceptance speeches.
	Voices of Those in the Field	Showed videos of key figures giving messages of support and videos of events hosted by local governments, Leading Universities in Unification Education, and Unification Education Centers.
Unification Education Bundle	Today's Lecture	TED-style lectures by Professor Kim Kyung-il, announcer Choi Won-jung, table tennis director Hyun Jung-hwa, Professor Choi Soon-mi, author Kwon Ki-bong, and several professors at the National Institute for Unification Education (NIU).
	Today's Educational Materials	Content published by the NIUE including fairy tale books, special TV programs, and web videos.
	Today's Game	A video on how to use teaching aids and educational materials for unification education.
	Today's Experience	A video showing important locations in the field of unification education such as Unification Halls.
	Syllabi for each grade level	Teaching materials (in PPT format) for each grade level, exhibition materials (in PDF format), and video clips.
Peace and Unification Galleries	Suyu Gallery	Works on national division, peace, and unification by South Korean artists and children of separated families.
	Pyongyang Gallery	North Korean works of art and photographic posters

Program	Detailed program	Content
Echo of Peace and Unification	Music hall	Award-winning songs from the Youth Unification Culture Contest and the Uni Music Race as well as songs on peace and unification by famous singers.
Story of Peace and Unification	AGAIN 2018	A video on inter-Korean cultural and sporting events beginning from the 2018 PyeongChang Olympics until the event marking the first anniversary of the Panmunjom Declaration.
Voices of Peace and Unification	Online education forum	A forum at which those in unification education freely share their thoughts about action plans and issue awareness.
Public Participation Event	Quiz event (April 20-May 3)	A promotional quiz event by NIU.
	Comment event (May 4-24)	An event where people share comments about why unification education is boring.
	Voting event (May 18-24)	Public voting on unification posters. (Voting for the winner out of 8 finalists)

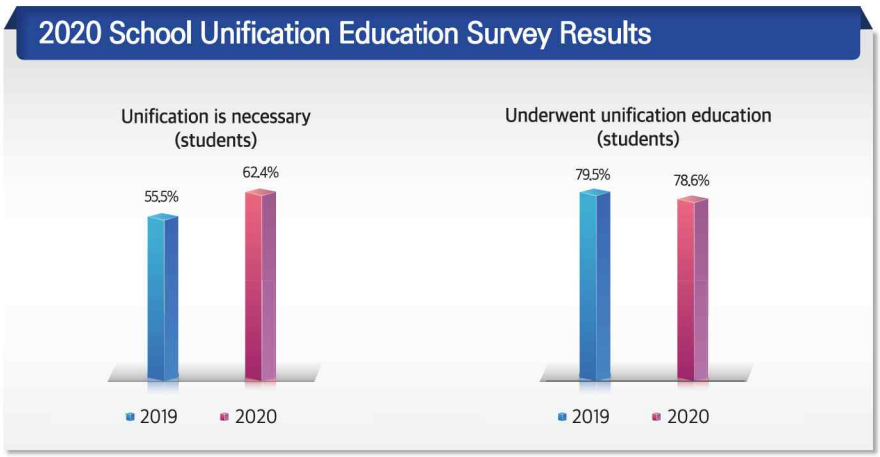
4 Establishment of the Direction and Cooperative System for the Unification Education

In March 2019, the government formulated the Master Plan for Unification Education (2019-2021) and the 2019 Implementation Plan. Master plans that sets forth the direction of unification education are formulated every three years, and detailed plans for each task are formulated in implementation plans each year. As of 2019, the education schedules of central administrative agencies, local governments, and offices of education are no longer listed. Now each agency's plans for unification education are organized according to each policy task.

The 2020 Implementation Plan for Unification Education sets forth government-wide projects on peace and unification education and comprehensively organizes the plans of 42 agencies including the Ministry of Unification, the Ministry of Education, the Office of Education of each city and province, and education and training institutions. In addition, it is primarily composed of projects for each task (seven policy tasks and 32 detailed tasks), projects by the NIUE, projects for each agency, results of the peace and unification education projects from 2019, and the 2020 implementation plan.

In 2020, it called for the expansion of major projects to cultivate experts across the generations and in each field, the expansion of teacher training programs at the Office of Education of each city and province, the diversification of peace and unification education at each Office of Education, and the expansion of projects to cultivate experts at local governments.

The government has strived to conduct unification education in cooperation with various agencies responsible for education. For school unification education, it signed an MOU with the Ministry of Education in 2014 and the two have worked together to host Unification Education Week (May) and to conduct a survey of school unification education (December).



After signing an MOU with the Local Government Officials Development Institute in 2017, the government expanded unification education for provincial public officials and the two worked together to develop and share content for unification education. In 2019, it signed an MOU with the Gyeongsangnam-do Office of Education and strengthened cooperation by offering online training courses for teachers in South Gyeongsang Province (Gyeongsangnam-do). In 2020, in response to the difficulties caused by COVID-19, it established a governance framework with 22 agencies including various education institutions, religious groups, women's communities, and major social groups to seek ways to facilitate peace and unification education. It held three rounds of policy advisory meetings with the Unification Education Division to hear the opinions of experts from various fields with regard to policy-making and the formulation and implementation of plans. By doing so, it is striving to build a social consensus on the basic direction and major principles of unification education.

2020 Implementation Plan for Unification Education

Signing an MOU between NIUE and the Gyeonggi Provincial Institute for Lifelong Learning (September 28)

Section 2

Support for Unification Education School Programs

1 Expansion of Participatory and Hands-on Unification Education Programs for Teenagers

In 2020, the National Institute for Unification Education (NIUE) conducted 1,038 "Visiting School Unification Education" lessons for 80,262 students, both face-to-face and online, at elementary, middle, and high schools. The program helps students better understand unification and North Korean issues through fun games using teaching aids and educational materials. The Unification Leadership Camp, a participatory and hands-on education program, was conducted both face-to-face and online in response to the COVID-19 situation. Sixty online camps and twelve face-to-face camps were held for 1,194 students in elementary, middle, and high schools and colleges nationwide. Special online camps were conducted for Korean schools in Argentina and Qingdao, China, winning positive responses from overseas Korean communities.

Visiting School Unification Education (Choseong Elementary School, June 25)

Unification Leadership Camp (elementary school students, online, October 13)

The "Hands-On School Unification Education" project has been conducted by the government to ensure that customized unification education be carried out to meet the demands of each school. In 2020, it offered consulting services and funding for hands-on school unification education to 255 elementary, middle, and high schools nationwide.

To increase children's interest in unification and to cultivate future leaders of a unified Korea, the Ministry of Unification organized the 9th Kid Press Corps (203 students) for fifth and sixth grade students. The Kid Press Corps began its activities with an online launching ceremony and participated in various activities and events, including writing articles about unification every month, holding an online debate, organizing a choir and a broadcasting group, and holding an essay contest on unification in order to instill in them greater awareness of unification.

The government also held the 7th Youth Peace and Unification Culture Contest, which offered an opportunity for teenagers to expand their dream and talent to the peace and unification. In 2020, the contest consisted of two sections: the "Creative Unification Children's Song and Unification Lyrics Contest" and the "Selection and Management of Peace Creators." At the children's unification song contest, nine songs were awarded out of 84 entries, and at the unification lyrics contest, 10 lyrics were awarded out of 88 entries. For the peace creators section, three out of 32 teams were recognized as "excellent teams."

The Kid Press Corps Choir Group

Award winning lyrics at the Creative Unification Lyrics Contest (grand prize)

2 Sharing the Model Cases of School Unification Education and Enhancing Professionship of the Teachers

In 2020, with the goal of developing and disseminating the best practices of school unification education, the government designated 23 elementary, middle, and high schools as Unification Education Research Schools and provided each of them with funds and educational materials to carry out a variety of unification education programs. It also offered advice on programs.

The government co-hosted the 8th School Unification Education Research Contest with the Ministry of Education to identify and disseminate the best practices of school unification education. Across the country, 72 teachers in elementary, middle, and high schools submitted research papers, and thirteen of them were granted awards. In 2020, a variety of papers were submitted, including one on "Blended Learning," a teaching method that blends face-to-face to non-face-to-face styles.

In order to find an appropriate direction for the development of school unification education, the government held four workshops with school inspectors at the municipal and provincial Offices of Education and teachers in charge of unification education. The workshops were held beginning in October both face-to-face and online.

2020 Unification Education Research School (Dongdo Elementary School in Daegu)

School Unification Education Research Contest (November 20)

3 Support for Unification Education Programs at Colleges and Universities

In order to stimulate unification education at colleges and universities, the government is carrying out projects such as the designation and operation of "Leading Universities in Unification Education" and "Special Lectures and Courses on Unification for College Students."

It designated and cultivated the Leading Universities in Unification Education in each region in order to develop and disseminate the best models of college unification education. It first designated six universities (Seoul National University, Soongsil University, Ajou University, Chungnam National University, Kyungnam National University, and Gwangju National University of Education) in 2016 and three more universities (Kangwon National University, Inje University, and Handong University) in 2019. The project for the six universities designated in 2016 came to an end in 2020, upon which the government designated five new universities (Kyonggi University, Seoul National University of Education, Daejin University, Chungbuk National University, and Jeonbuk National University) and redesignated Soongsil University. As of the end of December 2020, the government is providing funding for nine leading universities in unification education.

The former Leading Universities in Unification Education worked hard to distribute and expand the models they developed to other universities, and the six universities that were selected in 2020 smoothly carried out their work over the past year. The government provided project consulting for each Leading University from October 20 to November 5, 2020.

Meanwhile, in order to expand opportunities for college students to receive unification education, the government signed an MOU with seven universities including the universities whose projects as Leading Universities had already

ended. The government also designated and is currently managing "Unification Education Collaboration Universities." Nine Leading Universities and seven Collaboration Universities held a joint academic conference on December 17, 2020 in which they shared the experiences and accomplishments of each university.

The "Special Unification Lectures and Courses for College Students" project supports universities nationwide in offering special lectures and courses regarding unification and North Korea in order to expand college students' opportunities for unification education. In 2020, 21 special unification lectures and 32 unification courses were opened at 36 universities, and 10,000 college students were given the opportunity to receive unification education. The government also strived to share more information about unification education at colleges through joint seminars between universities that participated in projects like the "Leading Universities in Unification Education," "Unification Education Collaboration Universities," and "Special Unification Lectures and Courses for College Students."

The government also hoted contests on "Simulation of Unified Korea Council Meeting" for college students in cooperation with the Korean Association of University Institutes for Unification Studies to discover creative policy ideas for the future of a unified Korea formulated by college students. The "6th Mock State Council Meeting of a Unified Korea Competition" was held online in September 2020. Students from 33 universities participated and set forth policy plans for peace and unification.

To increase academic interest in unification and North Korea issues and to create an atmosphere conducive to research on such issues, the government continues to host the "Unification Research Paper Contest for Undergraduate and Graduate Students." For the "39th Unification Research Paper and Promotional Video Contest for Undergraduate and Graduate Students," held in 2020, 26 research papers and 16 promotional videos were submitted. It published a

collection of the award-winning research papers and distributed them to colleges and public libraries, and the award-winning promotional videos were uploaded to the NIUE website and used as promotional materials.

Signing an MOU with collaboration universities in unification education (June 3)

Joint academic conference to facilitate college unification education (November 6)

Section 3

Support for Social Unification Education

1 Social Unification Education by Unification Education Centers

Since 2004, the government has designated organizations whose main objective is unification education, and which are able to conduct unification education as "Regional Unification Education Centers" in accordance with Article 6 (3) of the Unification Education Support Act. The goal of designating these organizations as such is to effectively carry out unification education in local communities. The Regional Unification Education Centers are planning and organizing various unification education programs designed for specific communities.

The government reorganized the operations system of the Regional Unification Education Centers, originally divided among 17 local governments, into one now divided into seven regions (Seoul, Gyeongin (Gyeonggi-Incheon), Yeongnam (Gyeongsang), Honam (Jeolla), Chungcheong, Gangwon, and Jeju) so that Regional Unification Education Centers can establish themselves as regional unification education hubs. By improving the system, the government increased the project funding for each center and expanded the scope of institutions to be designated as centers, from colleges to NGOs. It also diversified the types of programs to include basic, specialized, and joint programs.

Regional Unification Education Centers

Center	Director	Location
Central Unification Education Center	Lee Hyun-sook (Chair of the Central Council of Unification Education Officials)	Golden Tower Building in Seodaemun-gu, Seoul
Seoul Unification Education Center	Yim Hong-jae (President of Kookmin University)	Kookmin University in Seongbuk-gu, Seoul
Gyeongin Unification Education Center	Park Hyung-ju (President of Ajou University)	Ajou University in Suwon-si, Gyeonggi-do
Yeongnam Unification Education Center	Park Jae-kyu (President of Kyungnam National University	Kyungnam National University in Changwon-si, Gyeongsangnam-do
Honam Unification Education Center	Kim Young-rok (Chairman of Uri Minjok Corporation)	Uri Minjok Corporation in Dong-gu, Gwangju
Chungcheong Unification Education Center	Sohn Seok-min (President of Seowon University)	Seowon University in Cheongju-si, Chungcheongbuk-do
Gangwon Unification Education Center	Kim Eung-gweon (President of Halla University)	Kangwon National University in Wonju-si, Gangwon-do
Jeju Unification Education Center	Kang Kun-hyung (Emeritus professor of Jeju National University)	Jeju National University in Jeju-si, Jeju-do

The seven Regional Unification Education Centers designated in 2020 conducted "basic," "specialized," and "joint" peace and unification education programs for local communities. The "basic programs" they organized include unification lectures, a unification field study, and a workshop for unification education officials. "Specialized programs" refer to unification education programs designed for specific regions, and "joint programs" refer to projects that connect districts within each region including contests, events, and festivals.

Education using the game Minecraft (Seoul Unification Education Center)

Peace and unification education through a musical (Seoul Unification Education Center)

Peace and unification education through sand art (Chungcheong Unification Education Center)

Education through experiencing North Korean food (Gangwon Unification Education Center)

The Regional Unification Education Centers preemptively responded to COVID-19 and conducted various face-to-face and online peace and unification education programs. In addition to face-to-face education programs, they developed smart and online education programs with consideration for the particular characteristics of each region, user, and agency. In 2020, a total of 230,000 local residents participated in peace and unification education programs.

Peace and unification education via podcasts
(Gyeongin Unification Education Center)

Education via the Unification Golden Bell app
(Honam Unification Education Center)

Peace and unification education using VR
(virtual reality)
(Yeongnam Unification Education Center)

Hanmadang online festival wishing
for unification
(Jeju Unification Education Center)

The government provided assistance to Regional Unification Education Centers so that they can offer peace and unification education in cooperation with local governments, offices of education, schools, and NGOs. To improve the centers' capabilities to offer these programs, the government distributed center operations manuals, held briefing sessions, conducted operations inspections, and held a seminar to discuss the development of the centers.

2 Support for Unification Education Activities by Unification Education Officials and NGOs

Since 1987, the government has appointed people from local communities to serve as unification education officials. The individuals selected are those who have knowledge and experience in unification issues and inter-Korean relations as well as an interest in delivering unification education. The government has provided support to these officials so that they can effectively carry out their unification education activities in local communities. In 2020, the government appointed 710 people as members of the 22nd Council of Unification Education Officials for a two-year term, and it formed Councils of Unification Education Officials in 17 regions nationwide, as well as Councils of Unification Education Officials in four countries abroad.

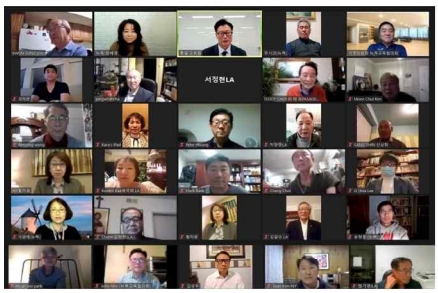
22nd Council of Unification Education Officials

(Unit: persons)

Korea	Overseas				Total
	U.S.	China	Japan	Germany	
593	81	13	16	7	710

In 2020, the government provided support to unification education officials with the goal of increasing their expertise and improving their capabilities. The government also held a meeting with the senior leadership of the councils, online and offline meetings with officials in South Korea, an online meeting with officials abroad, and an online debate on peace and unification with officials. It also conducted a border area experience program for the officials and continued to provide materials regarding inter-Korean relations and unification policy.

Meeting of the senior leadership of unification education officials (November 6)



Online meeting of overseas unification education officials (December 15)

In addition, the government is providing support for the activities of the Association of Unification Education Organizations in order to promote social unification education in civil society. The association was established in 2000 as a consultative body of private unification education organizations. Seventy-four NGOs engaged in unification education have been members of the association. In 2020, the government provided funding of KRW 264 million for unification education programs conducted by 28 member organizations. The association held the "2nd National College Student Press Corps Contest," a video seminar to improve unification education capabilities, and programs for various groups such as women, youth, and citizens. It also conducted joint projects with member organizations such as the hosting of the "5th Peace and Unification Festival (November 11-22)."

2nd National Contest for College Student Press Corps (November 8-22)

5th Peace and Unification Festival (November 11-22)

The NIU signed an MOU with religious groups, four major social organizations, and eight institutions for lifelong education with the goal of expanding consensus on unification in society. The government will continue to build consensus on unification in local communities while expanding the foundation for unification education together with the agencies with which it signed MOUs.

Signing an MOU between the NIU and the Korea Freedom Federation (November 4)

Signing an MOU between the NIU and the Association of Institutes for Lifelong Education (December 7)

3 Operation of Unification Halls

Unification Halls are vanues for unification education and exhibitions. They help local residents and teenagers objectively understand unification policy, inter-Korean relations, and the situation in North Korea, and they also help establish proper awareness of peace and unification. Twelve Unification Halls are in operation nationwide. Odusan Unification Observatory was established by the Ministry of Unification and is now being managed via consignment. The other Unification Halls are managed by local governments or private organizations.

Unification Halls

Name	Location	Managed by
Odusan Unification Observatory	Paju, Gyeonggi-do	Ministry of Unification
Scoul Unification Hall	Guro-gu, Scoul	Seo Seoul Life Science High School
Busan Unification Hall	Jin-gu, Busan	Korea Freedom Federation, Busan branch
Incheon Unification Hall	Michuhol-gu, Incheon	Korea Freedom Federation, Incheon branch
Gwangju Unification Hall	Seo-gu, Gwangju	Uri Minjok Corporation
Daejeon Unification Hall	Yuseong-gu, Daejeon	Daejeon International Marketing Enterprise
Goseong Unification Hall	Goseong-gun, Gangwon-do	Goseong Unification Observatory Inc.
Yanggu Unification Hall	Yanggu-gun, Gangwon-do	Yanggu County Office
Cheongju Unification Hall	Cheongju, Chungcheongbuk-do	Cheongju Land Management Office
Chungnam Unification Hall	Gongju, Chungcheongnam-do	Korea Freedom Federation, Chungnam branch
Gyeongnam Unification Hall	Changwon, Gyeongsangnam-do	Korea Freedom Federation, Gyeongnam branch
Jeju Unification Hall	Jeju, Jeju-do	Korea Freedom Federation, Jeju branch

In 2020, each Unification Hall carried out various hands-on programs, including VR experiences, events where people can play traditional games from South and North Korea, produce user-created content related to unification, and participate in an online rap contest in the first and second half of the year (May-June and November-December). Due to the COVID-19 situation, the Unification Halls staged online experience programs for the first time, and a total of 25,370 people participated.

In addition to a face-to-face special exhibition, Odusan Unification Observatory held an online special exhibition so that people can enjoy the works of art on the Internet from wherever they are. It also organized various experience programs including a peace and unification exhibition and an online viewing event. As a renowned unification culture experience space in the Seoul metropolitan area, Odusan Unification Observatory has continued to strive to increase the satisfaction of visitors by improving its exhibitions as well as to build a consensus on peace and unification.

Unification experience program at a regional Unification Hall

Remodeling of the Incheon Unification Hall

"Special Exhibition on South and North Korea" (August 14)

"Manwoldae in Gaeseong" (December 5)

The government is funding efforts to produce and obtain various exhibition materials and experience program equipment related to unification and inter-Korean relations for twelve Unification Halls nationwide. It remodeled the exhibition hall at the Incheon Unification Hall in a way that permits residents and teenagers to experience unification and communicate with each other more easily. Despite the government's efforts to support Unification Halls in 2020, COVID-19 forced them to close for an extended period of time, and the number of visitors to Unification Halls for the year fell sharply to 380,000.

4 Unification Education in the Public Sector

The amendment to the Unification Education Support Act that required public officials and employees at central administrative agencies, local governments, and public institutions to receive unification education went into effect on September 14, 2018, though Unification education in the public sector began in earnest in 2019. According to the Act, public institutions are required to provide their public officials and employees with unification education for at least one hour, once a year.

The government actively supported unification education by offering 46 online courses, a pool of recommended instructors, and content including educational books and videos. It also improved its website for unification education in the public sector. It pursued a "Visiting Unification Education Program for the Public Sector" on a trial basis in the early stages after the Act went into effect in order to help institutions that did not have adequate education budgets and small institutions which had difficulties in inviting instructors due to their remote location. In total, the government dispatched instructors to 23 institutions.

In 2019, the first year of unification education, 2,057 institutions submitted education performance reports, and about 670,000 people had completed educational programs. In 2020, despite the COVID-19 situation, 2,280 institutions submitted education performance reports, and about 880,000 people had completed programs. The government indeed achieved results in unification education in the public sector to some extent.

The types of unification education conducted included group education, online education, audiovisual education, and on-the-spot studies. Due to the COVID-19 situation, group education sharply decreased and online education accounted for over 80% of all of the education.

The public sector unification education website

Visiting Unification Education Program for the Public Sector

5 Promoting Unification Education for 2030 Generation

Since 2019, the government has sought to promote unification education for people in their 20s and 30s (2030 generation) in order to increase their interest in peace and unification.

In 2020, the government gathered opinions from the 2030 generation, experts, and NGOs to set the direction of unification education for people in their 20s and 30s. Unification education for the 2030 generation largely involves participatory education based on interesting subject matters and education using digital media. In line with this basic direction, the government held the 2030 Generation Peace and Unification Idea Contest and the 2030 Generation P-UZY Academy (which means "let peace and unification bloom").

The 2030 Generation Peace and Unification Idea Contest was held to discover creative and innovative ideas regarding peace and unification thought of the 2030 generation and to explore what interests them in terms of peace and unification. The contest consisted of two areas, with the first being "creative ideas" and the second being "practical design." Preliminary screenings were conducted at six Regional Unification Education Centers (Seoul, Gyeongin, Yeongnam, Honam, Chungcheong, and Gangwon). Each center selected one team for the most creative idea and one team for the most practical design; a total of twelve teams advanced to the finals. In the final round, all twelve teams received awards after going through a mentoring process with experts on peace and unification. The contest served as an opportunity to discover the creative and innovative ideas that the 2030 generation has and to build a consensus on peace and unification on the Korean Peninsula among them.

The goal of the 2030 Generation P-UZY Academy was to cultivate the 2030 generation to become the future leaders of a unified Korea and to enhance their understanding of peace and unification. The name P-UZY refers to the hope that

generation Y and generation Z will make peace and unification bloom on the Korean Peninsula. In other words, the 2030 generation will be the ones to take the lead in peace and unification. Amid the COVID-19 situation, the P-UZY Academy was hosted in four different regions (the Seoul metropolitan area, the central region, Yeongnam, and Honam), and it consisted of lectures by guests popular among the 2030 generation and participatory forums which were held both online and offline. The academy served as an opportunity to increase the 2030 generation's understanding of peace and unification and to shift their perceptions on these issues.

2030 Generation Peace and Unification Idea Contest (December 10)

2030 Generation P-UZY Academy (November 28-December 12)

2030 Generation P-UZY Academy in the Seoul metropolitan area (December 1)

2030 Generation P-UZY Academy in Honam (December 5)

Section 4 Operation of the Center for Unified Korean Future

1 Current Status

The government operates the Center for Unified Korean Future in Yeoncheon and Gyenggi Province to conduct specialized unification programs for all walks of life and to support unification experience training for young people, ultimately to nurture the future generation of leaders of a unified Korea and to promote inter-Korean events.

Since its opening in November 2014 until 2020, the Center for Unified Korean Future has offered training programs for 801 groups and 188,536 people a year, thus doing much to build consensus on and raise awareness of unification. However, in 2020, youth training programs were suspended due to COVID-19. The center instead operated various programs including small-scale, specialized programs, and online programs.

2 Operation of Unification Experience Training Programs and Improvement of the Environment

(1) Operation of unification experience programs for elementary, middle, and high school students

As the only government-run unification education institution, the Center for Unified Korean Future conducts unification experience training programs for elementary, middle, and high school students. It designs programs for specific groups including one-day trainings, two-days-one-night trainings, and three-days-two-night trainings.

Due to the COVID-19 situation, previously planned hands-on training programs in 43 schools were unable to be carried out. Yet, it managed to continue functioning as a unification experience institution by actively carrying out whatever meaningful projects that it possibly could. In anticipation of the prolonged complications posed by COVID-19, it produced unification experience training videos including "Path toward Unification," "Talk Talk Talk Unification Generation," and the "Unification Golden Bell Challenge."

As a joint project with the Yeoncheon Education Support Agency, the center conducted non-face-to-face unification experience training for 500 people, including students and teachers in Yeoncheon, at the 2020 Yeoncheon Sureul e-Education Conference hosted by the Yeoncheon Education Support Agency.

The "Unification Golden Bell Challenge," an online program

Yeoncheon Sureul e-Education Conference "Path toward Unification" (October 20)

As part of the "Visiting Experience Training," the center visited the Hanadul School at Hanawon and conducted programs such as "I am a Character Designer," "Uni-Village," and "Perfect Dream Team."

It also participated in the "16th Korea Youth Expo," which was hosted online by the Ministry of Gender Equality and Family from December 10 to 12 in Busan, providing an opportunity for young people, the future generation of a unified Korea, to experience the vision of peaceful unification. Some examples of the online programs that the center held include "Path toward Unification," "Talk Talk Talk Unification Generation," and "Unification Golden Bell Challenge."

"Uni-Village," a visiting experience training program (March 11)

"Unification Golden Bell Challenge" at the 16th Korea Youth Expo (December 10-12)

(2) Operation of specialized programs for all walks of life

Specialized programs are offered for separated families, North Korean defectors, organizations involved in inter-Korean exchange and cooperation, private unification organizations, and overseas Koreans to expand consensus on unification and support the restoration of a Korean national community.

In 2020, it was difficult to conduct training normally due to COVID-19. The center, therefore, organized programs like special lectures on unification policy and field trips to locations related to inter-Korean relations for smaller groups of 20-30 people, including policy advisory members for Yeoncheon County, tour guides in Yeoncheon, and officials from Camp Greaves. In all cases, it duly complied with the COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

Lecture for Yeoncheon tour guides at the Unification Experience Hall (May 12)

Officials from Camp Greaves visit the Baekmagoji battlefield (May 27)

(3) Expanding the foundation for experience training and improving the center's environment

The center remodeled the "Vision Hall" located in the Unification Experience Hall. The future unification experience program consists of three parts: introduction (boarding KTX), the future experience (four areas: resources, logistics, tourism,

and culture), and reality (in the Vision Hall).

In order to grab the trainees' attention when watching the video, the center installed 45 new chairs and introduced new 3D computer animation effects. It also installed a three-sided wall screen and a beam projector in the Vision Hall and was able to project video to the three-sided screen by linking the projector to a control system.

Viewing images on the three-sided screen in the Vision Hall located in the Unification Experience Hall

As part of the project to improve the center's environment, the center removed the utility poles near the Dream Making Zone and created a silver grass habitat. It also installed an elevator for the convenience and safety of the disabled when using the facilities.

Before After

(4) Improving communication with local communities and enhancing the center's image

The center has expanded areas of contact with local residents through communication and collaboration with said communities. It offered its facilities as shelter for the residents during the heavy rains in August 2020: 111 people were able to take shelter in the Residence Hall for the two days of August 5 and 6.

During this process, the center fully cooperated with guidelines in taking temperature checks, controlling access to the center, and providing daily necessities.

The center also opened its facilities including the "Hapsumeori Observatory," the "Berlin Wall," and the "Korean Peninsula Touring Ground" so that Yeoncheon County could effectively implement its "Central Region Datum Point Theme Park Tourism Plan." The opening of the facilities allows both residents and tourists to tour the park and the center at the same time, which is expected to help enhance the center's image. A tour linking the park and the center is available only on weekends and holidays and will begin in earnest after a trial run from November 14 to 30.

Korean Peninsula Touring Ground

Dream Making Zone

Consolidating the Foundation for Policy Implementation

Section 1 Provision of the North Korea Information Service

Section 2 Establishment of Legal and Institutional Frameworks

Section 3 Management and Operation of the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund

Ministry of Unification

Chapter 7

Consolidating the Foundation for Policy Implementation

The government provides a North Korea information service to help citizens better understand North Korea. This service is accessible through the North Korea information portal (http://nkinfo.unikorea.go.kr) and at the Information Center on North Korea located on the fifth floor of the National Library of Korea. In 2020, the government completely redesigned the portal, including updating its main screen and the menu of the map of North Korea. The whole redesigning process, from the beginning to the end, was done in conjunction with the general public: the government selected those with the best suggestions for the portal's redesign from among its users and formed an evaluation group. Then, the government conducted a survey of the people who use the portal, asking their opinions on ways to improve the system, and based on the responses, it redesigned the portal and expanded its content. The evaluation team then assessed these changes, and their suggestions were incorporated once more. This process reflects the government's efforts to provide a service centered around its users.

To increase user convenience at the Ministry of Unification Information Center on North Korea, the government amended the rules on special materials on North Korea in 2020. It abolished the requirement for a letter of recommendation that used to be submitted when copying or borrowing materials and simplified the procedures to use and renew materials. In addition, during the period when the center was closed due to COVID-19, it installed reading tables near the windows and created the "What's Hot" section for new materials in order to

increase user convenience.

The government formulated the Third Master Plan on Development of Inter-Korean Relations (2018-2022) based on the Moon Jae-in government's policy on the Korean Peninsula in accordance with the Development of Inter-Korean Relations Act and has established annual implementation plans for the master plan. The 2020 Implementation Plan for the Development of Inter-Korean Relations assessed the achievements of 2019 and set forth the plan for 2020 while adhering to the basic direction of inter-Korean development defined in the third master plan.

The government has continued to work hard to improve legal and institutional frameworks in preparation for the process of national integration during and after unification. It commissioned policy studies on unification legislation and held joint academic conferences in which new up-and-coming researchers participated. It appointed fourteen private (non-governmental) members to form the Unification Legislation Committee and gathered their opinions on issues regarding unification legislation on four separate occasions. The government is striving to properly realize the goals of two amendments to the Development of Inter-Korean Relations Act.

In 2020, the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund devised an expenditure plan of KRW 1.9028 trillion (project expenses of KRW 1.2030 trillion) to strengthen the foundation of and sustainably provide support for inter-Korean exchange and cooperation in preparation for any new developments or progress in inter-Korean relations. The government utilized the funding from the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund for projects that support the development of inter-Korean relations and the peace process on the Korean Peninsula. Some examples include the implementation of the Panmunjom Declaration; support for social and cultural exchange; support for exchange between separated families; humanitarian assistance and support for cooperation in the people's livelihood; and the laying of the foundation for inter-Korean economic cooperation.

Section 1 Provision of the North Korea Information Service

1 Operation of the North Korea Information Portal

Since 2011, the government has built a comprehensive North Korea database according to a phased plan. In 2013, it implemented the North Korea information portal (http://nkinfo.unikorea.go.kr) to increase public access to information about North Korea, and after opening services on January 27, 2014, it has continued to add relevant data and expand and improve the database.

The portal mainly includes the latest information and trends of North Korea by subject matter, such as politics, military, economy, society, culture, and education, with the goal of helping people understand North Korea more objectively. It also contains information on important figures in North Korea, a dictionary, statistics, publications, multimedia, North Korean TV program schedules, an organizational chart of the North Korean leadership, and major event schedules. A map service that allows users to search the names of 300,000 regions and facilities based on information about the geography of North Korea is also provided.

In 2020, the government gathered opinions on how to improve the system from portal users and formed a public evaluation group (20 persons) and collected their opinions as well. Based on the opinions gathered, it adjusted the order of the items on the main menu as follows: Overview of North Korea, Trends of North Korea, Themes on North Korea, Special Materials, and Maps. It also included the latest trends on the front page so as to increase users' readability

and convenience. It added North Korean trade data to the portal in cooperation with the Korea International Trade Association, and also added new content from the Ministry of Unification, such as “Infographics” and “Gwanghwamun Pencilcase” so that users can easily find relevant information. The government will continue to ensure that access to the portal is as easy and convenient as possible and improve services by releasing more information about North Korea.

North Korea Information Portal

2 Operation of the Information Center on North Korea

The government opened the Information Center on North Korea on May 22, 1989 to provide the public convenient access to information and data that it collects on North Korea and unification. The center is located on the fifth floor of the National Library of Korea.

It has made more and more information on North Korea available to increase the public's understanding of North Korea. On July 23, 2020, it changed the rules on the use of special materials: it abolished the requirement for an official document and a letter of recommendation from one's institution to obtain permission for copying or borrowing materials, extended the loan period from one week to two weeks, and simplified the procedures for the use of materials. Now, only one document is required when using materials.

Simplifying the procedures for the use of special materials

The center has a collection of 116,027 materials on North Korea, including 80,800 books, 13,900 periodicals, 9,800 audio and video materials, and 6,700 publications from the Ministry of Unification.

North Korean Materials held by the Information Center on North Korea

(As of December 31, 2020)

Category	Book	Periodical	Non-book material	Total
Number of materials	23,591	4,712	6,422	34,725

For greater convenience of use, it digitized North Korea materials to be stored in a digital archive and included an index of articles from various periodicals into a database. As a result, visitors to the center are able to use not only materials published in North Korea but also roughly 9,000 materials on an academic database specialized in unification and North Korea-related materials, as well as the databases of the National Library of Korea and the National Assembly Library.

On the center's website, users can search for materials, find synopses on North Korean films, and check the center's collection of North Korean textbooks and comic books. The website also provides the original texts of 4,000 publications from the Ministry of Unification and 3,000 publications from the National Institute for Unification Education.

In 2020, the Information Center on North Korea was closed temporarily due to COVID-19 but then was able to operate on a limited basis through pre-booking. During the period of closure, it allowed users to borrow general materials via mail. The pre-booking service was operated flexibly in both the morning and afternoon, thereby doubling the number of visitors. For efficient use of the reading room and to increase user convenience, it installed reading tables near windows and developed a new section called "What's Hot" for new materials.

Improving the interior of the reading room

The center contains 4,700 North Korean films, and institutions or groups can hold a screening of a film upon request. It first showed a film at Odusan Unification Observatory in 2006 and then expanded the locations for North Korean film screenings to eight regional Unification Halls (Seoul, Incheon, Gyeongnam, Chungnam, Jeju, Busan, and Gwangju). In 2020, due to COVID-19, the number of screenings of North Korean films and the number of people watching them decreased. A total of 2.43 million people have seen North Korean films from 1990 to 2020.

Section 2

Establishment of Legal and Institutional Frameworks

1 Establishment and Implementation of the 2020 Implementation Plan for the Development of Inter-Korean Relations

(1) Establishment of the 2020 Implementation Plan for the Development of Inter-Korean Relations

To establish and implement systematic, sustained policy on North Korea in accordance with the Development of Inter-Korean Relations Act, the government formulates a master plan on the development of inter-Korean relations that presents its vision, goals, and basic direction for the development of inter-Korean relations every five years as well as annual implementation plans.

In 2020, the government formulated the 2020 Implementation Plan for the Development of Inter-Korean Relations, which is the third annual plan for the Third Master Plan on Development of Inter-Korean Relations (2018-2022).

The implementation plan (proposal) was devised through the collection of opinions from 39 central administrative agencies, including the Ministry of Unification, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and the Ministry of National Defense, non-governmental members of the Inter-Korean Relations Development Committee, and other experts.

On March 9-13, the Working Group of the Inter-Korean Relations Development Committee composed of the Vice Minister of Unification as the chair and senior

officials from each ministry deliberated on the 2020 Implementation Plan in a meeting in writing. Then, on March 24-31, the Inter-Korean Relations Development Committee composed of the Minister of Unification as the chair, vice ministers from 14 ministries, and 10 non-government members held a meeting in writing and deliberated on the implementation plan in accordance with the Development of Inter-Korean Relations Act. The Minister of Unification finalized the plan in consideration of the deliberation results on April 22, reported the plan to the National Assembly on April 23, and announced it through the official gazette on April 29.

(2) Main content

The 2020 Implementation Plan for the Development of Inter-Korean Relations aimed to set forth creative and realistic plans to make consistent progress in the peace process on the Korean Peninsula and to increase the room for maneuver in inter-Korean relations. As for inter-Korean economic cooperation, the government's aim was to focus on non-traditional security areas such as healthcare and prevention of communicable diseases including human and livestock infectious diseases, natural disasters, and climate change. It also sought to expand cooperation to the areas of sports, tourism, and railways and roads with consideration for the international community's sanctions on North Korea, the demands of North Korea, and the probability that the North will respond positively. It strived to lay the foundation for exchange and cooperation based on field-centered and decentralized cooperative governance together with local governments and the private sector. After gathering opinions on North Korea policy from all levels of society and sharing the ROK's policy initiatives, the government sought to secure domestic and international support and a consensus on the development of inter-Korean relations and progress in the peace process

on the Korean Peninsula, thereby laying the foundation for sustainable inter-Korean relations.

The 2020 Implementation Plan for the Development of Inter-Korean Relations consists of sixteen tasks for the implementation of the main tasks set forth in the Third Master Plan on Development of Inter-Korean Relations (2018-2022).

Tasks in the 2020 Implementation Plan for the Development of Inter-Korean Relations

Seven Main Tasks	Tasks
1. Resolving the North Korean nuclear issue and establishing a peace regime	1-1. Facilitating complete denuclearization
	1-2. Creating conditions for a peace regime by building military trust
2. Inter-Korean dialogue	2-1. Resuming inter-Korean dialogue
	2-2. Establishing sustainable inter-Korean relations through institutionalization
3. Inter-Korean exchange and cooperation	3-1. Promoting exchange and cooperation in diverse areas
	3-2. Improving the legal system to expand the basis for exchange and cooperation
4. Implementing a New Economic Map Initiative for the Korean Peninsula	4-1. Giving shape to a New Economic Map Initiative for the Korean Peninsula
	4-2. Preparing for inter-Korean economic cooperation
5. Humanitarian cooperation	5-1. Resolving issues of separated families, etc.
	5-2. Substantially improving human rights conditions in North Korea
	5-3. Increasing humanitarian cooperation to improve the living conditions of the North Korean people
6. Settlement support for North Korean defectors	6-1. Carrying out policy for North Korean defectors in consideration for their everyday needs
	6-2. Facilitating social assimilation of North Korean defectors
7. Expanding consensus on peaceful unification and improving unification capabilities	7-1. Building public consensus on North Korea policy
	7-2. Promoting unification education based on social consensus
	7-3. Increasing international cooperation for peaceful unification

The government sought to carry out the tasks set forth in the 2020 Implementation Plan for the Development of Inter-Korean Relations in close cooperation with appropriate ministries, pursue stable management of the situation on the Korean Peninsula, and maintain the momentum for denuclearization and the establishment of a peace regime on the Korean Peninsula.

2 Establishment of Unification Legislation

The government continues to pursue research in various legal and institutional areas and continues to work to improve the framework for the process of national integration during and after unification through inter-agency cooperation and cooperation with experts in the private sector. It convened four meetings of the Unification Legislation Committee, a consultative body, to share opinions with officials from appropriate ministries and experts from the private sector (January 21, May 31, September 25, and December 17) and gathered an extensive collection of opinions on unification legislation issues and policy research tasks.

The government continued to work to cultivate experts in unification legislation and expand discussion on the subject. To identify and cultivate new up-and-coming researchers, it held a live online seminar entitled "Issues and Tasks to Expand the Infrastructure for Unification Legislation: Centered on North Korea's Judicial-Related Legislation and Major Administrative-Related Legislation" with the Seoul National University Constitution and Unification Law Center on December 14. At the seminar, new up-and-coming researchers presented and discussed issues regarding unification legislation.

In 2020, two amendments to the Development of Inter-Korean Relations Act were promulgated: one on March 6 and one on December 14 after being passed the National Assembly. The March 6 amendment prohibited disadvantageous

treatment of public officials dispatched to the North and increased the number of members on the Inter-Korean Relations Development Committee. The December 14 amendment recognized the members recommended by the Council of Local Governments as non-governmental members of the Inter-Korean Relations Development Committee. This improved the committee's expertise, guaranteed the participation of local governments, and further invigorated the activities of the committee. The December 14 amendment also specified which acts constitute a violation of inter-Korean agreements, which includes the scattering of anti-North Korea leaflets, and it established a legal basis to punish those who commit such acts. By doing so, the government paved the way to carrying out important agreements between the two Koreas and protecting the people in border areas.

Section 3

Management and Operation of the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund

1 Revenue of the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund

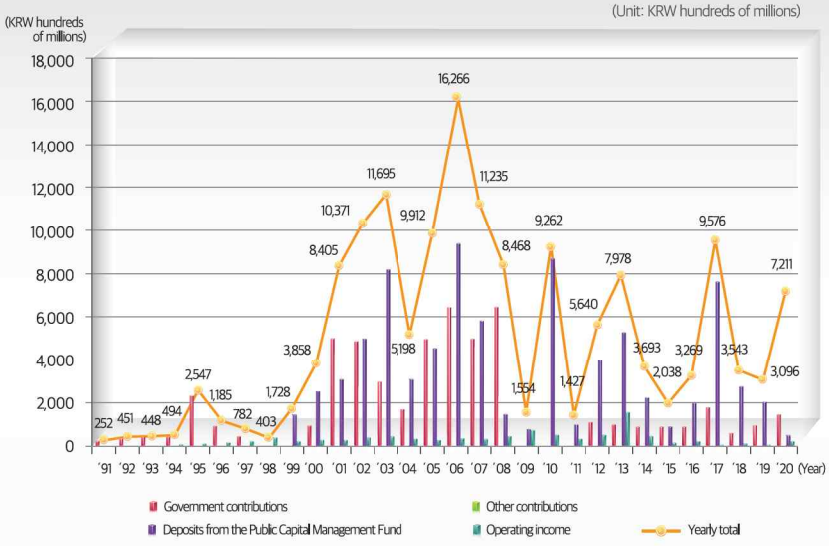
The revenue of the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund for 2020 was KRW 794.1 billion. A total of KRW 150 billion was received from general accounting in order to repay the interest on deposits from the Public Capital Management Fund regarding a light-water reactor project and to cover project expenses. Another KRW 548.6 billion was received from the Public Capital Management Fund to repay the principal on deposits from the Public Capital Management Fund. The recovered surplus fund was KRW 62.4 billion, including KRW 33.5 billion recovered from banks and KRW 28.9 billion from non-banking financial institutions. Self-generated revenue was KRW 33.1 billion, including returns after settlement of project expenses.

Revenue of the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund (2015-2020)

(Unit: KRW hundreds of millions)

Category	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Total	9,663	10,607	11,967	6,411	4,008	7,941
Government contributions	932	925	1,830	637	1,000	1,500
Deposits from the Public Capital Management Fund	905	2,070	7,650	2,784	2,030	5,486
Recovered surplus funds	7,195	7,242	2,304	2,789	846	624
Self-generated revenue	631	370	183	201	132	331

Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund (1991-2020)



* Fund composition: Government contributions + other contributions
+ deposits from the Public Capital Management Fund + operating income
(excluding the principal collected from other private loans)

2 Expenditures of the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund

In 2020, the government devised a budget of KRW 1.9028 trillion (including project expenses of KRW 1.203 trillion) for the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund and obtained approval for it from the National Assembly. To fund the projects, the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Council held seven sessions (311th to 317th session) and the Management and Deliberation Committee of the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund held twelve sessions (162nd to 173rd session), together agreeing to fund a total of KRW 55.7 billion. Out of

the funds agreed upon, the government executed KRW 44.2 billion (including KRW 1.7 billion carried over from 2019, 3.6% of budget execution rate).

It executed a total of KRW 4.249 billion for inter-Korean social and cultural exchange projects. It utilized KRW 3.34 billion for the joint publication of Gyeoremal-keunsajeon (Grand Dictionary of the Korean People's Language), an ongoing academic cooperation project to restore the Korean national community; KRW 688 million for establishment of the digital archive of Manwoldae artifacts discovered in Gaeseong; and KRW 221 million for a traveling exhibition of Manwoldae artifacts discovered in the past 12 years.

To support exchange between separated families, it executed KRW 1.135 billion for the production of video messages and DNA testing of separated families in preparation for exchange between separated families in the future, though reunions of separated families were not held in 2020 due to the freeze in inter-Korean relations. It also provided funds of KRW 103 million for private organizations which arrange inter-Korean exchange to facilitate exchange between separated families at the private level.

For humanitarian assistance for North Korea, it executed KRW 11.838 billion for a World Food Programme project to support infants and women in North Korea; KRW 1.328 billion for NGOs involved in humanitarian aid to and development cooperation with North Korea; and KRW 705 million for the establishment and operation of the integrated management system of aid projects for North Korea.

To lay the foundation for economic cooperation, it provided funds of KRW 12.8 billion in total for domestic projects with the goal of preparing for the resumption of inter-Korean consultations and inter-Korean exchange and cooperation projects outlined in the Panmunjom Declaration. It provided KRW 3.228 billion for the commission of the South-North Korea Exchanges and Cooperation Support Association to support exchange and cooperation projects

by local governments and NGOs and KRW 1.429 billion for the operation of the inter-Korean joint liaison office in Gaeseong. It also utilized KRW 1.87 billion for the comprehensive management and operation of tours to Panmunjom; KRW 2 billion for building a memorial hall on Arrowhead Hill; and KRW 971 million for establishing the comprehensive DMZ management system and holding a DMZ forum.

To support the Gaeseong Industrial Complex, it allocated KRW 8.795 billion for the operation of the Gaeseong Industrial District Foundation. By doing so, it helped GIC companies consolidate their businesses, maintained stable operation of the GIC during its suspension, and prepared for its reopening.

For the Center for Unified Korean Future, it allocated KRW 3.236 billion for facility maintenance and for the operation of peace and unification experience training programs to expand consensus on unification.

With regard to internal transactions, it executed KRW 605.6 billion total, including KRW 548.6 billion for the repayment of the principal on deposits of the Public Capital Management Fund and KRW 57 billion for the repayment of the interest on the deposits. It also allocated KRW 2.332 billion for management expenses for the Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund.

Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund Expenditures (2015-2020)

(Unit: KRW hundreds of millions)

Category		2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Project expenses	Center for Unified Korean Future	48	41	42	42	70	32
	Inter-Korean social and cultural exchange	61	23	37	100	37	42
	Resolution of humanitarian issues	174	23	20	78	358	151
	Inter-Korean economic cooperation	69	3,848	405	1,760	197	128
	Support for the Gaeseong Industrial Complex	201	1,359	181	138	88	88
	Subtotal	554	5,295	684	2,117	750	442
Repayment of the principal and interest on deposits of the Public Capital Management Fund		1,836	2,982	8,470	3,420	2,610	6,056
Operation of surplus funds		7,242	2,304	2,789	846	624	1,419
Management expenses		30	26	25	28	23	23
Total		9,663	10,607	11,967	6,411	4,008	7,941

3 Breakdown of 2020 Expenditures

(Unit: KRW millions)

Project	Amount	Project Category
Operation of the Center for Unified Korean Future	3,236	Unification policy (59 projects, 3,236)
Joint publication of *Gyeoremal-keunsajeon* (Grand Dictionary of the Korean People's Language)	3,340	Social and cultural exchange (11 projects, 4,249)
Establishment of the digital archive for artifacts jointly discovered at Manwoldae in Gaeseong	688	
A traveling exhibition of Manwoldae artifacts discovered in the past 12 years	221	
Promotion of exchange between separated families	103	Exchange between separated families (15 projects, 1,238)
DNA testing of separated families	851	
Production of video messages by separated family members	273	
Pursuing video reunions of separated families	11	
World Food Programme project to support infants and women in North Korea	11,838	Humanitarian assistance for North Korea (17 projects, 13,871)
Inter-Korean joint project to prevent infectious diseases such as African swine fever	1,328	
Establishment and operation of the integrated management system of assistance programs for North Korea	705	
Operation of the inter-Korean joint liaison office	1,429	Laying the foundation for economic cooperation (free) (174 projects, 12,837)
Commission for the South-North Korea Exchanges and Cooperation Support Association	6,614	
Building a memorial hall on Arrowhead Hill	2,000	
Comprehensive management and operation of tours to Panmunjom	2,794	
Operation of the Gaeseong Industrial District Foundation and the Kaesong Industrial District Management Committee (KIDMAC)	6,221	Laying the foundation for the GIC (4 projects, 6,221)
Operation of the Gaeseong Industrial District Foundation and the Kaesong Industrial District Management Committee (KIDMAC)	2,574	Loan for GIC operation (4 projects, 2,574)
Total (284 projects)	44,227	

※ As the figures in the detailed cateogry were rounded off, there may be differences in the totals.

APPENDIX

I Timeline of Two Koreas

II Statistics on inter-Korean Relations

III Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund

IV Current Status of the National Tasks of the Ministry of Unification

Ministry of Unification

I Timeline of Two Koreas

January

- **January 1, North Korea announced the outcome of the 5th Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee of Workers´ Party of Korea**
  - Self-reliance and capacity building for economy, strengthen military capacity, develop new strategic weapons, and flexible stance on denuclearization toward the US based on the US government´s North Korea policy.
  * No new year´s address for 2020

- **January 1, Unification Spokesperson´s Commentary on the outcome of the 5th Plenary Meeting of the Party Central Committee of Workers´ Party of Korea**
  - "The Government hopes the U.S.-DPRK talks be held at an early stage to bring substantial progress in accordance with the principle of simultaneous and parallel implementation of the U.S.-DPRK joint statement at the Singapore Summit."
  - "North Korea acting as stated(developing strategic weapons) will not help efforts to progress denuclearization negotiations and settle peace on the Korean Peninsula."
  - "The Government will continue to make efforts to contribute to substantial progress in the denuclearization negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea, and improve inter-Korean relations. In this regards, we confirm that the ROK and the U.S. have in fact refrained from conducting large-scale joint military exercises while talks were held."

- **January 2, President Moon´s remark during New Year´s Gathering with Business and Social Leaders**
  - "We will achieve without failure a peaceful community of mutually beneficial prosperity together with the people´s aspiration for peace on the Korean Peninsula."
  - "'Peace' does not come without action.", "In inter-Korean relations, we will also make efforts by further expanding our room to maneuver."

- **January 7, President Moon´s New Year´s Address**
  - "Internationally coordinated solutions are required to adhere to the three principles for peace on the Korean Peninsula: Zero tolerance for war, mutual security guarantees and common prosperity. Still, there are things that can be accomplished through inter-Korean cooperation."

- **January 14, President Moon´s New Year´s Press Conference**
  - "Although the dialogue between the U.S. and DPRK is not active at this moment, the trust between President Trump and Chairman Kim still exists and there are on going efforts."
  - "While inter-Korean relations faces challenge due to the stalemate in the U.S.-DPRK relations, there are continuing efforts to expand cooperation through dialogue and the opportunity still exists."
  - "Advancing inter-Korean relations itself can be beneficial and it will also contribute to create virtuous cycle by contributing to the U.S.-DPRK dialogue."

- **January 21, The Cabinet agrees to work on 'Co-hosting of 2032 Seoul-Pyongyang Olympics.'**

- **January 25, Minister Kim Yeon-chul during '36th Joint Ancestral Rite'**
  - "We will take all measures for separated families including face to face meetings, confirming life and death, video message, exchange of letters, and maintenance of buildings."

- **January 30, North Korea´ Mt. Geumgang International Tourism Bureau sent letter to the Ministry of Unification**
  - "Delay demolition work for facilities in Mt. Geumgang tourist complex to prevent the spread of virus"

- **January 30, two Korea agreed to stop operation of the inter-Korean Joint Liaison office until the COVID-19 issue is resolved**

February

- **February 3 to 9, North Korea did not participate the preliminary round for 2020 Tokyo Olympic Soccer match(in Jeju)**

- **February 26 to March 3, the 1st East Asia International Weight Lifting Competition(Seoul) postponed**

- **February 27, ROK-US Combined Forces Command postponed command post exercise**
  - USFK · ROKJCS, "Preventing COVID-19 and safety of ROK-US personnel is the priority."

March

- **March 1, President Moon during 101st March First Independence Movement Day**
  - "We can respond to unconventional security threats only when we strengthen cooperation, not only with North Korea but also with adjacent countries like China and Japan and nearby Southeast Aisan Nations."
  - "I am looking forward to cooperate with North Korea on healthcare as well. The lives of the Korean people will be safer when the two Koreas can respond together when infectious diseases spread among humans and animals and jointly cope with disasters and catastrophes in border areas and climate change on the Korean Peninsula."

- **March 2, North Korea fired two short range projectiles toward Nort East side of the East Sea**
  - "The government expresses strong concern towards North Korea's attempt to escalate military tension in the region. North Korea's such action does not help reduce tension on the Korean Peninsula, and thus the government urges North Korea to stop such activity."(March 2, Emergency meeting of ministers)

- **March 3, North Korea, statement by Kim Yo Jong, first vice-department director of the Central Committee of the Workers´ Party of Korea**
  - "It is us who have to express 'strong regret' at such incoherent and imbecile way of thinking of Cheongwadae."

- "The south side's response is so regretful and disappointing but it is somewhat fortunate that it was not direct statement of the president."

- **March 5, Chief of Public Communication of Cheongwadae's briefing on Chairman Kim's letter**
  - "North Korea's Chairman Kim Jong Un sent a personal letter to President Moon. Chairman Kim expressed his condolences to South Korean people fighting against the COVID-19."
  - "He also expressed his support to President Moon that South Korea will be able to overcome COVID-19 and Chairman Kim also mentioned that he has unyielding trust and friendship with President Moon. Chairman Kim also expressed his honest stance and opinion regarding the situation surrounding the Korean Peninsula. President Moon also sent a reply with his appreciation to Chairman Kim."

- **March 9, North Korea fired three unidentified projectiles to North East side of the East Sea from area near Seonduk in Hamkyung Province**
  - "Ministers of relevant ministries have emphasized that North Korea's attempt to continue large scale joint strike training will not contribute to set peace on the Korean Peninsula." (March 9, outcome of the emergency ministerial meeting)

- **March 21, North Korea field two projectiles to East Sea from North Pyongan province**

- **March 22, North Korea Kim Yo Jong's statement on President Trump's letter**
  - "In the letter, he also explained his plan to propel the relations between the two countries of the DPRK and the U.S. and expressed his intent to render cooperation in the anti-epidemic work."
  - "Fortunately, the personal relations between the two top leaders are not as far away as the relations of confrontation between the two countries, and they are very excellent."
  - "I think that the bilateral relations and dialogue for them would be thinkable only when the equilibrium is kept dynamically and morally and justice ensured between the two countries, not merely by the personal letter between the two leaders."

- **March 25, Eight countries including North Korea sent letter to the Secretary General of the United Nations to remove sanctions**

- **March 29, North Korea filed two projectiles to North East side of the East Sea from Wonsan**

April

- **April 18, Telephone call between President Moon and President Trump**
  - "President Moon spoke highly of President Trump's active engagement in North Korea issues to establish peace on the Korean Peninsula. President Trump replied that it is something he wants to do and that he will continue to make efforts in that regard. The two leaders reaffirmed the principle of providing COVID-19-related humanitarian assistance to North Korea."(Briefing by Cheongwadae)

- **April 23, 313th Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Council**
  - Approves railway construction between Gangneung and Jejin on the Northern East Sea Line

- **April 27, Ceremony for the start of the Northern East Sea Line in commemoration of the 2nd anniversary of the Panmunjom Declaration was held(Jejin Station in Goseong)**

- **April 27, President Moon's opening remark at meeting with senior secretaries**
  - "We will set out to find the most realistic and practical way for inter-Korean cooperation. The COVID-19 crisis may be a new opportunity for the two Koreas to work together."

May

- **May 3, North Korea fired gun shot to South Korea Guard Post**
  - South Korea made response fire and sent official letter to North Korea under the name of South Korean head delegation of inter-Korean general level dialogue.

- **May 8, Spokesperson of the North Korea KPA**
  - "South Korean military designated us as an enemy and conducted military exercise. This is a serious provocation that we must respond."
  - "South Korean military's reckless provocation is a betrayal and drawback of Korean people's efforts to stop hostile actions in ground, ocean and air as well as our effort to create West Sea Peace Zone."

- **May 10, President Moon's speech following his 3rd anniversary of inauguration**
  - "I hope that South and North Korea will move toward a single community of life and a peace community by cooperating on human security."

- **May 20, Spokesperson of the Ministry of Unification on May 24 measure**
  - "Throughout previous and current administrations, the government has taken measures to flexibly implement and exempt May 24 measure, and that the measure has lost most of its effectiveness. Thus, the government believes that the May 24 measure does not work as an obstacle for inter-Korean exchange and cooperation."

- **May 24, 314th Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Council**
  - Agreed to provide fund to UN Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) for North Korea's sustainable development

- **May 27, Implementation plan for 2020 North Korea Human Rights Promotion Plan reported to the National Assembly**

June

- **June 3, Minister Kim Yeon-chul's video conference with the Executive Director of WFP and signed Memorandum of Understanding**

- **June 4, First Vice Department Director of the Central Committee of the WPK Kim Yo Jong's statement**
  - "On May 31 I heard a report that so-called "defectors from the north" scattered hundreds of thousands of anti-DPRK leaflets into the areas of our side from the frontline areas."
  - "The south Korean authorities must be aware of the articles of the Panmunjom Declaration and the agreement in the military field in which both sides agreed to ban all hostile acts including leaflet-scattering in the areas along the Military Demarcation Line."

- **June 4, Committee of local governors along the border area sent letter to urge the government to stop leaflet scattering of organizations led by defectors**

- **June 5, Statement of Spokesman for United Front Department of Central Committee of WPK**
  - "As the first thing, we will definitely withdraw the idling north-south joint liaison office housed in the Kaesong Industrial Zone to be followed by effectuation of various measures which we had already implied."

- **June 9, North Korea cut inter-Korean communication line**

- **June 9, South Korean government´s stance on North Korea´s action to cut communication line**
  - "Communication line between two Koreas should be maintained as it is the basic means of communication. The government will adhere to inter-Korean agreements and work for peace and prosperity of the Korean Peninsula."

- **June 11, South Korea´s NSC Secretary General announced the governments stance on scattering of leaflet and items.**
  - "Scattering leaflets and items to North Korea should be stopped based on Panmunjom Declaration of 2018, Joint Statement based on the July 4th agreement of 1972, Annex 1 of inter-Korean basic agreement of 1992, June 4 agreement of 2004 and other agreements."
  - "The government regrets the fact that some civil societies continue to send leaflet to the North."
  - "The government will strictly enforce regulations to prevent scattering of leaflets and items, and hopes that organizations will adhere to relevant domestic laws."
  - "The government will adhere to all inter-Korean agreements to maintain peace on the Korean Peninsula and prevent unexpected military clash."

- **June 11, North Korea´s Ministry of Foreign Affairs Spokesperson**
  - "On June 10, the UN Secretary-General, borrowing the mouth of his spokesperson, made nonsensical expression of "regret", claiming that communication channels are necessary to avoid misunderstandings and miscalculations, while taking an issue of our measures for completely cutting off inter-Korean communication channels."

- **June 12, Ri Son Gwon, Minister of Foreign Affairs of DPRK**
  - "Never again will we provide the U.S. chief executive with another package to be used for achievements without receiving any returns."

- **June 12, Jang Kum Chul, Director of United Front Department of North Korea**
  - "(On Cheongwadae's statement on June 11) Can't help but doubt that their action is made to overcome today's crisis."
  - "Today's inter-Korean relations have resulted from the South's lack of capability as the south did not have a will to adhere to their words and promise and do not have power to implement them."

- **June 13, First Vice Department Director of the Central Committee of the WPK Kim Yo Jong's statement**
  - "It is clearly a time to breakout with South Koreans. Soon, they will witness useless inter-Korean liaison office to be demolished. Next action toward our hostile enemy will be delegated to our military."

- **June 13, North Korea, Press Statement by Director-General of Department of U.S. Affairs of Foreign Ministry of DPRK**
  - "For your own information, it is not because there is not a mediator that the DPRK-U.S. dialogue has gone away and the denuclearization been blown off."

- **June 15, President Moon, Opening Remarks at Meeting with His Senior Secretaries**
  - "My Administration will continue to make efforts to implement the agreements. We will safeguard the hard-earned achievements to date and build on them. For its part, North Korea should avoid cutting off communication, creating tension and returning to the past era of confrontation. I hope that, through communication and cooperation, the two Koreas will be able to resolve the unpleasant and challenging problems that both face."

- **June 15, President Moon, Congratulatory Message on 20th Anniversary of June 15 South-North Joint Declaration**
  - "The Korean Peninsula is not yet in a situation where both Koreas can charge ahead as much we desire at our own discretion. We must move forward, though slowly, with the international community's consent. Unquestionably, however, there are projects that both Koreas can pursue independently. What matters the most is the trust between us. The South and North have to build up mutual trust through unceasing dialogue."
  - "I also ask North Korea not to close the window on talks. I hope that even when facing obstacles, dialogue will enable us to put our heads together and leap over them."

- **June 16, North Korea demolishes Inter-Korean Liaison Office in Gaeseong**

- **June. 16, South Korea NSC Secretary General, outcome of emergency NSC senior committee meeting**
  - "The government expresses strong regret towards North Korea's unilateral decision to demolish inter-Korean Joint Liaison Office which was established based on Panmunjom Declaration in 2018."

- **June 16, Statement by South's chief representative of the South-North Joint Liaison Office**
  - "The North's unilateral decision to demolish the South-North Joint Liaison Office today is an absurd act that should not have been made. The ROKG expresses deep regret and strongly protests against the move, which is unprecedented in inter-Korean relations."
  - "Blowing up the Joint Liaison Office is a violation of the 2018 Panmunjom Declaration, and a one-sided abrogation of the Agreement on the Organization and Management of the Liaison Office."
  - "The demolition, which follows the North's vulgar denunciations and unilateral cutoff of communication lines, has shocked not only the South Koreans, but also the entire global community."
  - "In particular, the North took such action the day after the 20th anniversary of June 15 Joint Declaration, forsaking the desire of all those who wish for peace on the Korean Peninsula. The North will have to take due responsibility for its action."

- **June 17, First Vice Department Director of the Central Committee of the WPK Kim Yo Jong's statement**
  - Criticizes President Moon's senior secretary and staff meeting as well as video message in commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the June 15th declaration

- **June 17, Jang Kum Chul, Director of United Front Department of North Korea**
  - "There will be no exchange or cooperation with South Korean authority in the future."
  - "There is nothing to talk about."

- **June 17, Statement by Spokesperson of Korea People's Army of North Korea**
  - Regiment level unit and fire unit to be deployed to Geumgang Mountain Tourist Complex and Gaeseong Industrial Complex. Units to be deployed to posts in DMZ. Enhanced combat posture of artillery units along front line including the Southern side of the West Sea. Escalated front line guard operation to level one combat readiness posture and restarted

military trainings around the border area. Preparing leaflets toward South Korea and other military postures were suggested during the statement.

- **June 17, Chief of Public Communication of Cheongwadae´s briefing on North Korea´s statements**
  - "Vice Director Kim Yo Jong´s statement was made without understanding President Moon´s message and made an ignorant comment by denigrate the message in a very rude tone."
  - "North Korea also openly revealed our attempt to send special envoy to overcome current situation though back channel without consultation. This is unprecedented irrational action and the government expresses strong regret that North Korea has distorted the objective of the suggestion."
  - "North Korea´s recent comments not only does no good to North Korean side, but also the North should be responsible for everything caused by their comment."

- **June 17, Ministry of National Defense of South Korea´s comment on North Korea´s KPA´s statement**
  - "Our military expresses deep concern regarding KPA´s announcement that the military will get approval for military action plans."

- **June 17, Vice Minister of Unification Suh Ho´s statement on Mount Geumgang and Gaeseong Industrial Complex**
  - "The ROK Government expresses deep regret over the North´s statement issued by the spokesman for KPA General Staff, noting that it will deploy military units to the Mt. Geumgang tourism zone and Gaeseong Industrial Complex."
  - "The North´s announcement today is a move that regresses to the past before signing the June 15 Joint Declaration in 2000, and is a clear violation of the South Korean nationals´ property rights."
  - "The North should take due responsibility for its action. The ROKG urges the North to stop further exacerbating the situation."

- **June 19, Farewell ceremony for the 40th Minister of Unification, Kim Yeon-chul**

- **June 20, Statement by Spokesperson of United Front Department of WPK Central Committee**
  - "The South must have known that scattering leaflets would violate agreements between the two Koreas. We do not intend to change or consider changing our plans as inter-Korean relations has already been destroyed."

- **June 23, During the preliminary meeting for WPK´s 5th meeting of 7th Central Military Committee, North Korea decided to postpone military action plan against South Korea**

- **June 24, Statement by Kim Yong Chul, Vice Chairman of WPK Central Committee, 'Call attention from South Korean Military'**

- **June 25, President Moon´s remark during the 70th year ceremony for the Korean War**
  - "We pursue peace and intend to live well together. We will continuously search for routes that are mutually beneficial for both Koreas through peace. Before speaking of reunification, I hope that we can become friendly neighbors first."

July

- **July 4, Statement of First Vice-Foreign Minister of DPRK**
  - "Is it possible to hold dialogue or have any dealings with the U.S. which persists in the hostile policy toward the DPRK in disregard of the agreements already made at the past summit?"

- **July 10, First Vice Department Director of the Central Committee of the WPK Kim Yo Jong´s statement**
  - "What is clear, though, is that if the DPRK-U.S. summit talks is needed as someone says it would be needed by the U.S. side, but there should be a telling on the part of the DPRK to fathom it over the fact that it is unpractical and does not serve us at all."

- **July 16, Address by President Moon Jae-in at Opening of 21st National Assembly**
  - "We will do our best to jointly implement the three principles of renunciation of war, mutual security guarantees and co-prosperity that we had agreed upon with North Korea. If irreversible progress in inter-Korean relations and peace on the Korean peninsula can be guaranteed by the National Assembly, it will make the foundation for peace-building on the Korean Peninsula much stronger."

- **July 25, WPK Central Committee Political Bureau holds emergency meeting**
  - Agreement made to implement maximum emergency measures for national emergency quarantine system. Punish military units which covers area where defection takes place and urge units to develop plans to prevent defection.

- July 26, An emergency situation has taken place as a defector who went to South Korea three years ago returned to Gaeseong with suspicions of having COVID-19

- July 27, Minister Lee, In-young 41st Minister of Unification assumes office

August

- August 6, President Moon visits areas suffering from damages caused by heavy rain
  - "If North Korea could give us an advanced notice Hwang River dam effluent, we will be able to manage Kunnam dam's water. But unfortunately, such coordination is not taking place at this moment."

- August 6, 316th Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Council
  - Review and decision was made to provide 10 million USD to WFP to provide assistant to children and women as well as 1st phase of DMZ Peace and Unification Cultural Complex.
  - "I express my regret that North Korea made unilateral decision to effluent a dam without notification. At least the North should have given us an advanced notice. We need at least some sort of communication to discuss humanitarian issue and safety issues of people living along the border areas."(Minister Lee In-young)

- August 13, WPK 7th Central Committee holds 16th Political Bureau Meeting chaired by Chiarman Kim Jong Un
  - Discussed issues concerning flood, maintaining national emergency quarantine measures, removing lock down measures in areas including Gaeseong, appointment of Prime Minister Kim Deok-hun, establishment of new departments under party central committee and preparation for 75th anniversary event of the establishment of WPK.

- August 15, Address by President Moon Jae-in on Korea's 75th Liberation Day
  - "Security and peace in this era are about guaranteeing the life and safety of everyone living on the Korean Peninsula."
  - "I hope there will be a breakthrough for mutual benefit and peace to achieve a community for life."
  - Suggested projects including joint disease control, management of rivers, healthcare, forestry cooperation, agricultural cooperation for technology and joint research for seeds.

- **August 18 - 28, ROK-US Combined Command Post Exercise**

- **August 19, 6th Plenary Meeting of WPK 7th Central Committee of North**
  - Decides to hold party congress on January 2021

- **August 25, 17th Enlarged meeting of political bureau of WPK 7th Central Committee of North Korea and 5th meeting of Executive Policy Council**
  - Enlarged meeting discussed review and improvement of emergency quarantine measure, and measures to prevent damages that can be caused by typhoonExecutive Policy Council, working level issues concerning 8th Party Congress

September

- **September 5, Enlarged meeting of executive policy council of WPK Central Committee of North Korea**
  - Received typhoon damage briefing, disccused and decided on recovery issues for South and North Hamkyung province under the leadership of Chairman Kim.

- **September 7-9, Korea Global Forum for Peace(KGFP)**
  - Minister Lee In-young, "I will use 'small projects' to restart humanitarian cooperation as well as other exchanges and cooperation so that we can restart dialogue and implement our promises one by one.", "We should create complete, verifiable and irreversible era of peace by having two Koreas to lead the effort while cooperating with the international community."

- **September 16, Minister Lee In-young, at Panmunjom**
  - "Historic decision and agreement by leaders of two Koreas should be evaluated highly, and the Pyongyang Joint Declaration and the Comprehensive Military Agreement played crucial role to prevent military confrontation."

- **September 19, 2nd anniversary of the Pyongyang Joint Declaration**
  - President Moon, "Comprehensive Military Agreement should be implemented. History never simply bypasses. A seed planted in the timeline of history will eventually become a fruit."

- **September 23, President Moon's remark at the 75th UN General Assembly Meeting**
  - "At the end of the day, the South and the North are bound by a single community of life, intertwined by mountains, rivers and seas stretching across the two sides. When one is exposed to infectious diseases or natural disasters, so is the other, requiring the two to cooperate to overcome these challenges. Inter-Korean cooperation in disease prevention and control and public health will also trigger dialogue and cooperation in the process of building a peaceful Korean Peninsula."
  - Suggested that the international community views the issues surrounding the Korean Peninsula through the lens of more inclusive international cooperation, I propose today launching a Northeast Asia Cooperation Initiative for Infectious Disease Control and Public Health, whereby North Korea participates as a member along with China, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea.

- **September 23, North Korea sent letter regarding missing South Korean citizen**

- **September 24, South Korean NSC statement**
  - "North Korea's murder of unarmed South Korean citizen who did not even resist as well as damaging the body cannot be justified in any means. North Korean military's action went against international norms and humanitarianism and we express our deepest regret to such actions. North Korea should be fully responsible for this incident, identify the cause of such tragedy and punish those who are responsible. Also, North Korea should apologize for such an inhumane actions and take initiatives to prevent reoccurrence. Our government will strengthen security posture along the border area including 5 islands at the West Sea and take all necessary measures to protect life and safety of our people. We will take definitive measure against North Korea's action that may threaten life and safety of our people."

- **September 24, Unification Ministry's statement regarding the shooting of our national near Yeonpyeong Island**
  - "The Ministry of Unification expresses its deepest condolences over the death of our national who was killed by North Korean soldiers after going missing in the waters near Yeonpyeong Island on September 21, and states its position as follows. The Ministry strongly condemns North Korea's act of shooting an unarmed South Korean and burning his body-it is an act against humanity that cannot be justified under any circumstance. We sternly protest against the North's act as it dampens our consistent patience and efforts for reconciliation and peace between the two Koreas, and goes against the Korean people's yearning for peace on the Korean Peninsula. The Unification Ministry strongly urges the North to clearly

reveal who is responsible, and take all necessary measures including an explanation of how it will prevent a recurrence of such an incident."

- **September 25, National Security Advisor Suh Hoon's briefing on North Korea's Letter**
  - North Korea delivered its apology and the result of the investigation for the incident that took place at the West Sea.
  - North Korea's letter sent by the WPK Central Committee United Front Department, "Chairman Kim Jong Un ordered to deliver sincere apology to South Korean people and President Moon for the tragic incident that happened at our sea while South Korean people are going though difficulties due to COVID-19."

- **September 25, National Security Advisor Suh Hoon's briefing on letters exchanged between two Leaders**
  - Shared contents of letter sent from South to North on September 8, North to South on September 12

- **September 25, NSC senior committee meeting**
  - "Since there are differences between the result of investigation North Korea shared with us on 25th of September and our intelligence analysis, we will continue investigation to identify facts. In line with this effort, we would like to urge North Korea to conduct additional investigation and if necessary, request to conduct joint investigation with North Korea. Also, in order to prevent such incident from happening again, we will strengthen our readiness posture and surveillance at the West Sea."

- **September 27, North Korean media coverage of the death of South Korean citizen**
  - "We have prepared the process and ways search and secure dead bodies to hand over to South Korea once the body comes to us through the tide."
  - "We urge South Korea to immediately stop crossing West Sea Maritime Military Demarcation Line that could escalate tension."

- **September 27, NSC Secretary General's briefing of emergency ministerial meeting hosted by the President**
  - Suggested joint investigation to find truth, rebuild and use military communication line and others

- **September 28, Opening Remarks by President Moon Jae-in at Meeting with His Senior Secretaries**
  - "It is the first time - and highly unusual - for North Korea's supreme leader to promptly issue a direct apology. As such, we can confirm that Chairman Kim Jong Un takes this matter seriously and gravely and wishes to avoid the complete collapse of inter-Korean relations."

October

- **October 3, Chairman Kim sent letter to President Trump after President Trump was diagnosed with COVID-19**
  - "I received very unfortunate and surprising news that you and the first lady was diagnosed with COVID-19. I convey my condolences to you and your family."

- **October 10, Chairman Kim's remark during the 75th Anniversary of the WPK**
  - "I send my warm heart to our South Korean colleagues so that we can overcome this healthcare crisis as soon as possible and hold hand together once again."

- **October 28, President Moon's remark for the FY 2021 Budget review**
  - "Across our shared territory, seas and sky, peace is a "path for coexistence" for both South and North Korea. It is my earnest wish that the two Koreas find a way to coexist as a community of life and safety to overcome disasters, catastrophes and diseases that infect people and animals."

- **October 30, North Korean media's coverage of the death of South Korean citizen**
  - "Our stance is that we do not want unexpected contingency that have led inter-Korean relations to the dead end to repeat again."

November

- **November 2, South Korea started survey on the South Korean side of the Han River estuary wetland**
  - "Ministry of Unification, Ministry of Environment and National Institute of Ecology conducted ecological survey for Han River estuary wetland from November 2."

- **November 3, US Presidential Election (electoral college)**

- **November 4, Restarted Panmunjom Tour and Opening of the Panmunjom Tourist Support Center**

- **November 4, ROK JCS's briefing on North Korean defector at the East Front Line**
  - "Our military has found an unidentified person near the military demarcation line using TOD equipments at the guard post of East Front Line around 22:14 on November 2."

- **November 6, President Moon's opening remark for 15th Jeju Forum**
  - "Having gone through human-to-human and domestic animal infectious diseases and natural disasters together, the South and the North have been repeatedly reminded that the two are a single community of life and safety. I am confident that a 'Northeast Asia Initiative for Infectious Disease Control and Public Health', embodying the spirit of solidarity and inclusiveness, will save lives and protect safety of all and pave the path toward peace on the Korean Peninsula and in Northeast Asia and beyond."

- **November 9, President Moon's remark during meeting with his senior secretaries**
  - "Building on the achievements and experience accumulated to date, my government will learn from the past and pool wisdom with the incoming U.S. administration to make further progress in achieving denuclearization and establishing peace on the Korean Peninsula."

- **November 12, President Moon's phone call with President-elect Biden (09:00~09:14)**
  - President Moon expressed his hope that he and President-elect Biden will work closely together for the future-looking development of the ROK-U.S. alliance, as well as the denuclearization and the establishment of permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula.
  - President-elect Biden said that South Korea is a linchpin of security and prosperity in the Indo-Pacific region and that he is deeply committed to South Korea's defense and will work as a close partner to address the North Korean nuclear issue.

- **November 16, 317th Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Council**
  - Agreed on establish memorial hall for the Allow Head Ridge and recovery project for southern side of Kyunggi-Wonsan Line railway

- **November 18, Third Committee of the 75th UN General Assembly adopted North Korea Human Rights resolution**

- **November 26, 76 South Korean organizations including June 15 Committee of South Korea held press conference to urge enactment of law to prohibit leaflet scattering to North Korea**
  - "Our organizations and civil societies believe that sending these leaflets not only escalates tension between two Koreas but also destroy peace and human rights. Therefore, we urge these organizations to stop sending leaflets and request the government and the National Assembly to introduce strong legal actions."

- **November 28, reopened Paju's 'DMZ Peace Trail'**

- **November 30, UN Security Council 1718 Committee approved revised guideline for sanctions exemptions for humanitarian assistance to North Korea**
  - Extended deadline for projects after sanctions exemption (6 months to 9 months), increased number of transportation (once to three times), expanded types of organizations which could apply for sanctions exemption, provided more information to streamline sanctions exemption process and others.

December

- **December 8, North Korea, statement by Kim Yo Jong, first vice-department director of the Central Committee of the Workers´ Party of Korea**
  - Criticized South Korean Foreign Minister´s comment on North Korea´s COVID-19 response.

- **December 14, Partial Amendment to Development of Inter-Korean Relations Act passed National Assembly**

- **December 15, Panmunjom tour suspended due to COVID-19 quarantine**

- **December 16, 75th UN General Assembly passed resolution on North Korea Human Rights**

- **December 29, Partial Amendment to Development of Inter-Korean Relations Act announced**
  - Clear definition regarding leaflet scattering and related activities
  - Penalty clause and violation clause for leaflet scattering and other violations of inter-Korean agreements
  - Included mayor and local governors committee´s recommended members for Inter-Korean Relations Development Committee

- **December 29, WPK 7th Central Committee holds 22nd Political Bureau Meeting**
  - Decisions to hold 8th Party Congress on early January, qualification evaluation and decisions for elected representatives of diverse organizations, confirmed schedule, executive bodies, administrative bodies and agenda for party congress, discussions and decision for key agenda items to be discussed for party congress.

II Statistics on inter-Korean Relations

1 People's visit and exchange of materials between two Koreas

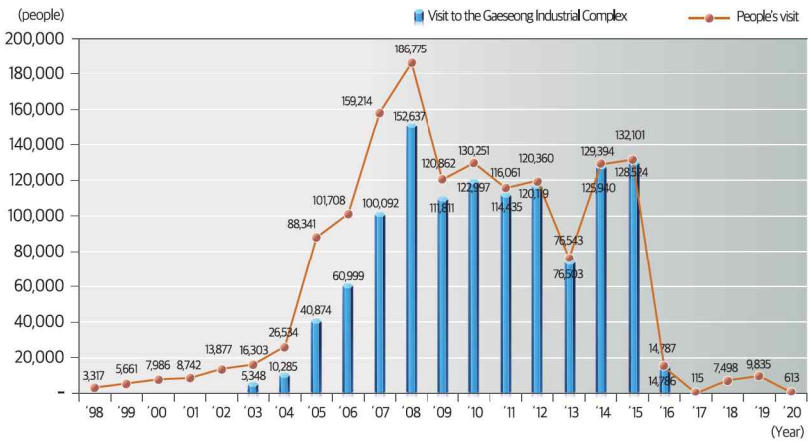
① People´s visit

(Unit: People)

Classification \ Year	'89~'01	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010
South→North	27,152	12,825	15,280	26,213	87,028	100,838	158,170	186,443	120,616	130,119
North→South	1,534	1,052	1,023	321	1,313	870	1,044	332	246	132
Total	28,686	13,877	16,303	26,534	88,341	101,708	159,214	186,775	120,862	130,251

Classification \ Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
South→North	116,047	120,360	76,503	129,028	132,097	14,787	52	6,689	9,835	613	1,470,695
North→South	14	0	40	366	4	0	63	809	0	0	9,163
Total	116,061	120,360	76,543	129,394	132,101	14,787	115	7,498	9,835	613	1,479,858

※ Excluded tourists visiting Mt Geumgang and other areas



② Mt Geumgang / Gaeseong / Pyongyang Tour

(unit: people)

Classification \ Year		'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04
Mt Geumgang Tour	Sea Route	10,554	148,074	213,009	57,879	84,727	38,306	449
	land Route	-	-	-	-	-	36,028	267,971
	Total	**10,554**	**148,074**	**213,009**	**57,879**	**84,727**	**74,334**	**268,420**
Gaeseong Tour		-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Pyongyang Tour		-	-	-	-	-	1,019	-

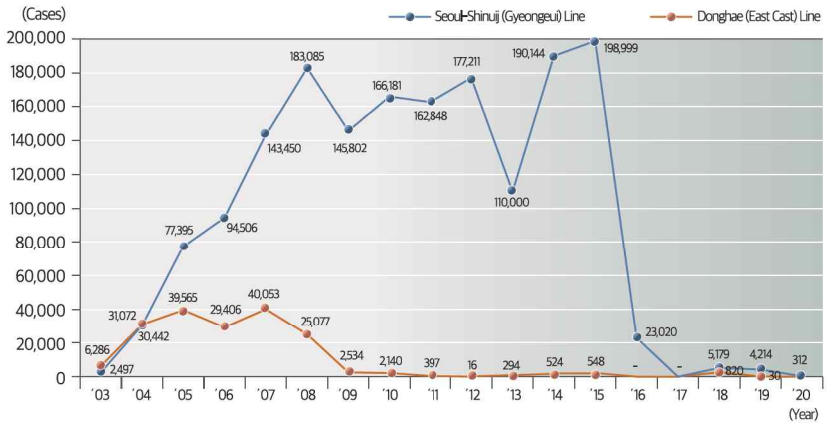
Classification \ Year		'05	'06	'07	'08	'09~'20	Total
Mt Geumgang Tour	Sea Route	-	-	-	-	-	552,998
	land Route	298,247	234,446	345,006	199,966	-	1,381,664
	Total	**298,247**	**234,446**	**345,006**	**199,966**	-	1,934,662
Gaeseong Tour		1,484	-	7,427	103,122	-	112,033
Pyongyang Tour		1,280	-	-	-	-	2,299

③ Entry and Exit of Vehicles

(Unit: Cases)

Classification \ Year		'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11
Vehicles (Number of entry/ exit)	Seoul-Shinuij (Gyeongeui) Line	2,497	30,442	77,395	94,506	143,450	183,085	145,802	166,181	162,848
	Donghae (East Cast) Line	6,286	31,072	39,565	29,406	40,053	25,077	2,534	2,140	397
	Total	8,783	61,514	116,960	123,912	183,503	208,162	148,336	168,321	163,245

Classification \ Year		'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	Total
Vehicles (Number of entry/ exit)	Seoul-Shinuij (Gyeongeui) Line	177,211	110,000	190,144	198,999	23,020	-	5,179	4,214	312	1,715,285
	Donghae (East Cast) Line	16	294	524	548	-	-	820	30	-	178,762
	Total	177,227	110,294	190,668	199,547	23,020	-	5,999	4,244	312	1,894,047

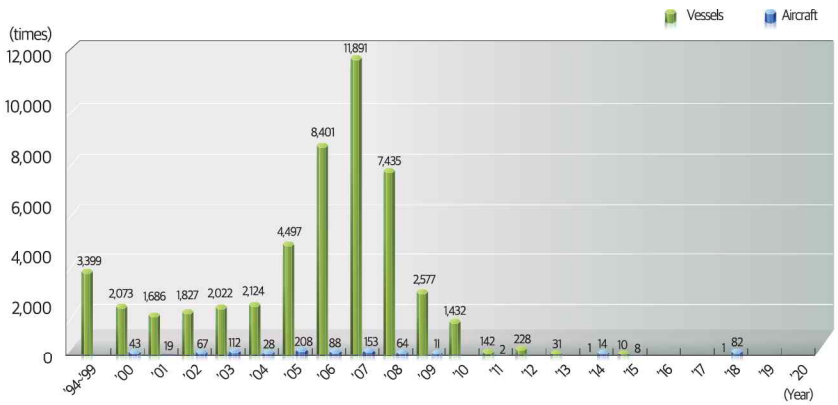


④ Vessel and Aircrafts

(unit: times(one way))

Classification \ Year	'94 ~'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09
Vessels	3,399	2,073	1,686	1,827	2,022	2,124	4,497	8,401	11,891	7,435	2,577
Aircraft	-	43	19	67	112	28	208	88	153	64	11

Classification \ Year	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	Total
Vessels	1,432	142	228	31	1	10	-	-	1	-	-	49,777
Aircraft	-	2	-	-	14	8	-	-	82	-	-	899



⑤ People · vehicles traveling via the land routes on the Seoul-Shinuiju (Gyeongui) Line and the Donghae (East Coast) Line each year

(Unit: people/vehicles)

Classification \ Year		2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Land route on the Seoul-Shinuiju (Gyeongui) Line	Number of people	3,643	24,164	66,772	84,100	144,971	263,258	115,026	126,107	115,249
	Number of vehicles	1,249	15,314	38,868	47,352	71,857	91,309	72,929	83,308	81,414
Land route on the Donghae (East Coast) Line	Number of people	39,395	296,924	335,713	266,541	384,911	223,972	3,682	3,051	436
	Number of vehicles	3,143	15,585	19,852	14,724	20,035	12,456	1,323	1,027	198
Total number of traveling people		43,038	321,088	402,485	350,641	529,882	487,230	118,708	129,158	115,685
Total number of traveling vehicles		4,392	30,899	58,720	62,076	91,892	103,765	74,252	84,335	81,612

Classification \ Year		2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
Land route on the Seoul-Shinuiju (Gyeongui) Line	Number of people	121,038	76,826	126,745	129,804	14,786	-	6,966	4,581	297	1,424,333
	Number of vehicles	88,586	55,007	95,079	99,518	11,437	-	2,591	2,107	148	858,073
Land route on the Donghae (East Coast) Line	Number of people	53	451	1,387	1,791	-	-	2,184	281	-	1,560,772
	Number of vehicles	8	147	262	274	-	-	410	15	-	89,459
Total number of traveling people		121,091	77,277	128,132	131,595	14,786	-	9,150	4,862	297	2,985,105
Total number of traveling vehicles		88,594	55,154	95,341	99,792	11,437	-	3,001	2,122	148	947,532

2 Status of inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation

① Status of the amount of inter-Korean trade

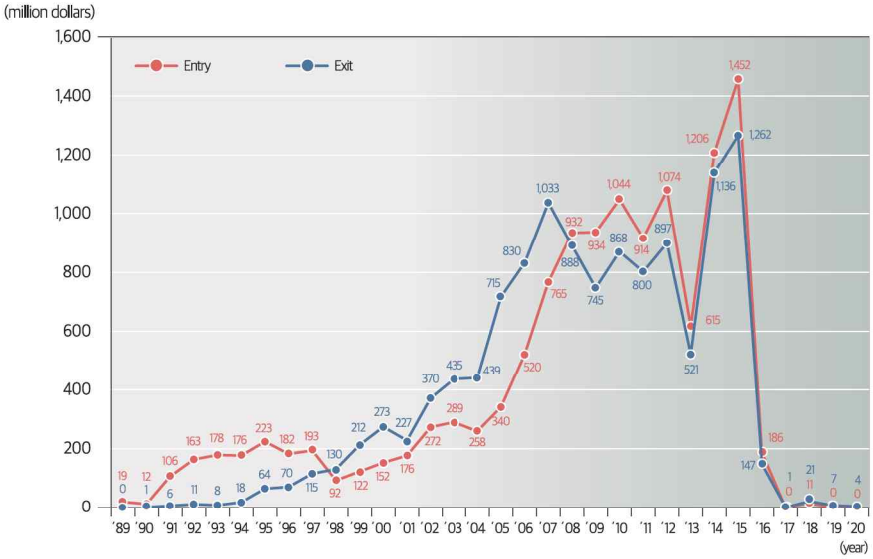
(Unit: million dollars)

Classification \ Year	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99
Entry	19	12	106	163	178	176	223	182	193	92	122
Exit	-	1	6	11	8	18	64	70	115	130	212
Total	19	13	112	174	186	194	287	252	308	222	334

Classification \ Year	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10
Entry	152	176	272	289	258	340	520	765	932	934	1,044
Exit	273	227	370	435	439	715	830	1,033	888	745	868
Total	425	403	642	724	697	1,055	1,350	1,798	1,820	1,679	1,912

Classification \ Year	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	Total
Entry	914	1,074	615	1,206	1,452	186	-	11	-	-	12,607
Exit	800	897	521	1,136	1,262	147	1	21	7	4	12,254
Total	1,714	1,971	1,136	2,342	2,714	333	1	32	7	4	24,860

※ Since the numbers were rounded off, the 'subtotal' of entries/exits for each year may be different from the 'total'. A trade amount below one million dollars is marked by '0'.



② Cases of inter-Korean trade

(Unit: case)

Classification \ Year	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99
Entry	66	79	300	510	601	708	976	1,475	1,806	1,963	3,089
Exit	1	4	23	62	97	267	1,668	1,908	2,185	2,847	3,421
Total	67	83	323	572	698	975	2,644	3,383	3,991	4,810	6,510

Classification \ Year	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10
Entry	3,952	4,720	5,023	6,356	5,940	9,337	16,412	25,027	31,243	37,307	39,800
Exit	3,442	3,034	3,773	4,853	6,953	11,828	17,039	26,731	36,202	41,293	44,402
Total	7,394	7,754	8,796	11,209	12,893	21,165	33,451	51,758	67,445	78,600	84,202

Classification \ Year	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	Total
Entry	33,762	36,504	20,566	38,460	45,640	5,352	1	212	49	2	377,238
Exit	40,156	45,311	25,562	47,698	55,267	6,072	3	487	385	43	433,017
Total	73,918	81,815	46,128	86,158	100,907	11,424	4	699	434	45	810,255

③ Number of items for inter-Korean trade

Classification \ Year	'89	'90	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99
Entry	24	23	43	69	69	80	109	130	143	136	172
Exit	1	3	16	25	37	87	167	167	284	379	405
Total	25	26	57	92	103	158	244	258	365	449	488

Classification \ Year	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10
Entry	204	201	204	186	202	381	421	450	482	486	448
Exit	527	492	493	530	575	712	697	803	813	771	740
Total	578	549	570	588	634	775	757	853	859	822	795

Classification \ Year	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	Total
Entry	363	377	359	349	362	226	1	238	82	2	910
Exit	676	705	644	697	718	447	60	410	292	137	1,192
Total	702	731	674	718	742	489	61	412	294	137	1,207

※ Due to some overlaps between items for entries and exits, the 「total」 does not match the sum of the figures.

④ Types of inter-Korean trade and its amount

(Unit: million dollars)

Classification	Entry				Exit			
	General trade·Consignment processing	Economic cooperation (Gaeseong Industrial Complex·Mt.Geumgang Tourism·Other cooperation in light industry)	Non-commercial trade (Governmental·Private support/Social and cultural cooperation/Light-water reactor (LWR) project)	Total amount of entry	General trade·Consignment processing	Economic cooperation (Gaeseong Industrial Complex·Mt.Geumgang Tourism·Other cooperation in light industry)	Non-commercial trade (Governmental·Private support/Social and cultural cooperation/Light-water reactor (LWR) project)	Total amount of entry
2006	441	77	1	519	116	294	421	831
2007	646	120	-	766	146	520	367	1,033
2008	624	308	-	932	184	596	108	888
2009	499	435	-	934	167	541	37	745
2010	334	710	-	1,044	101	744	23	868
2011	4	909	1	914	-	789	11	800
2012	1	1,073	-	1,074	-	888	9	897
2013	1	615	-	615	-	518	3	521
2014	-	1,206	-	1,206	-	1,132	4	1,136
2015	-	1,452	-	1,452	-	1,252	10	1,262
2016	-	185	-	185	-	145	2	147
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1
2018	-	-	11	11	-	-	21	21
2019	-	-	-	-	-	-	7	7
2020	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	4
Total	2,550	7,090	13	9,653	713	7,420	1,027	9,160

※ Since the numbers were rounded off, the 'subtotal' for yearly entries/exits types may differ from a 'total' of entries/exits. A trade amount below one million dollars is marked by '0'. If there is no trade amount, "-" is shown.

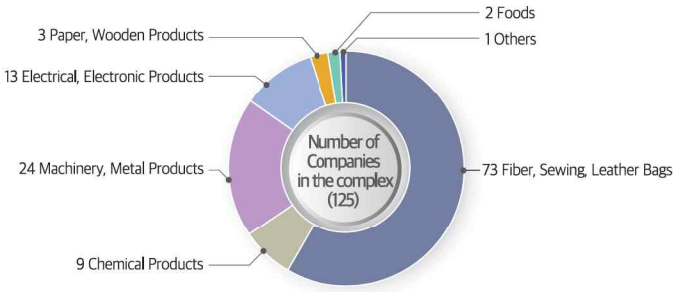
3 Gaeseong Industrial Complex Projects

※ The statistics for the Gaeseong Industrial Complex were prepared as of the end of 2015, due to the comprehensive suspension of the Gaeseong Industrial Complex on Feb. 10, 2016.

① The number of Gaeseong Industrial Complex companies

(Unit: Companies)

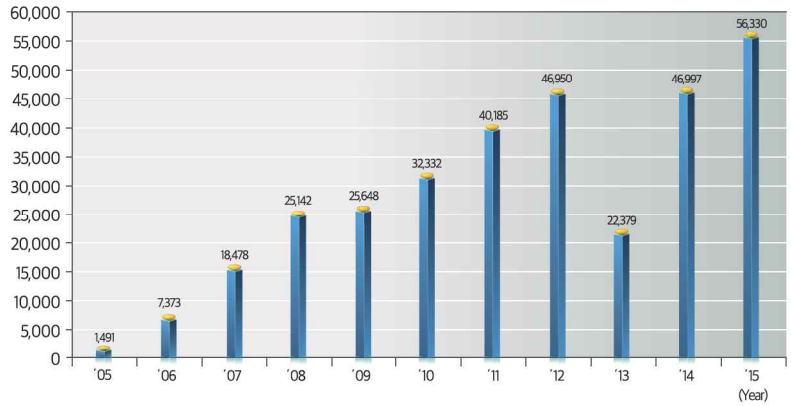
Classification \ Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
The number of companies	18	30	65	93	117	121	123	123	123	125	125



② Production amounts in the Gaeseong Industrial Complex

(Unit: 10 thousand dollars)

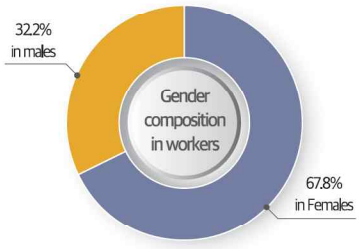
Classification \ Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	Total
Production amount (10 thousand dollars)	1,491	7,373	18,478	25,142	25,648	32,332	40,185	46,950	22,379	46,997	56,330	323,305

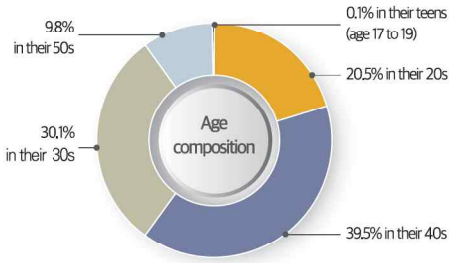


③ Status of Workers at the Gaeseong Industrial Complex

(Unit: workers)

Classification \ Year	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
North Korean workers	6,013	11,160	22,538	38,931	42,561	46,284	49,866	53,448	52,329	53,947	54,988





Distribution of academic backgrounds (%)			Average age (age)		
University graduate	Junior college	Middle school graduate	All	Males	Females
8.1	7.1	84.8	39	42.3	36.4

by age (%)					gender (%)	
ages in teens	ages in 20s	ages in 30s	ages in 40s	ages in 50s	Males	Females
0.1	20.5	30.1	39.5	9.8	32.2	67.8

4 Humanitarian Projects

① Humanitarian assistance to North Korea

(Unit: 0.1 billion won)

Classification	At the level of government						At the private level (free) C	Total (A+B+C)
	Grant aid				Loans for food B	Total A+B		
	At the level of authority (a)	Support of the fund by private organizations (b)	Support through international organizations (c)	Total A (a+b+c)				
1995	1,854	-	-	1,854	-	1,854	2	1,856
1996	-	-	24	24	-	24	12	37
1997	-	-	240	240	-	240	182	422
1998	-	-	154	154	-	154	275	429
1999	339	-	-	339	-	339	223	562
2000	944	34	-	978	1,057	2,035	386	2,421
2001	684	63	229	976	-	976	782	1,757
2002	832	65	243	1,140	1,510	2,650	578	3,228
2003	811	81	205	1,097	1,510	2,607	766	3,373
2004	949	102	262	1,313	1,359	2,672	1,558	4,231
2005	1,221	120	19	1,360	1,787	3,147	780	3,926
2006	2,000	133	139	2,272	-	2,272	709	2,982
2007	1,428	220	335	1,983	1,505	3,488	909	4,397
2008	-	241	197	438	-	438	726	1,164
2009	-	77	217	294	-	294	377	671
2010	183	21	-	204	-	204	201	405
2011	-	-	65	65	-	65	131	196
2012	-	-	23	23	-	23	118	141
2013	-	-	133	133	-	133	51	183
2014	-	-	141	141	-	141	54	195
2015	-	23	117	140	-	140	114	254
2016	-	1	1	2	-	2	28	30
2017	-	-	-	-	-	-	11	11
2018	12	-	-	12	-	12	65	77
2019	-	-	106	106	-	106	170	277
2020	-	7	118	125	-	125	23	149
Total	11,257	1,188	2,968	15,413	8,728	24,141	9,231	33,372

※ As the figures in the detailed category were rounded off, there may be differences in the totals.

② Separated Family Reunion

(Unit: case / (people))

Year / Classification	At the private level				At the level of authority				
	Confirmation of life or death	Exchanges of letters	Others	Reunions	Confirmation of life or death	Exchanges of letters	Reunions during visits to South Korea	Reunions during visits to North Korea	Video reunions
1985	-	-	-	-	65 (157)	-	30 (81)	35 (76)	-
1990	35	44	-	6	-	-	-	-	-
1991	127	193	-	11	-	-	-	-	-
1992	132	462	-	19	-	-	-	-	-
1993	221	948	-	12	-	-	-	-	-
1994	135	584	-	11	-	-	-	-	-
1995	104	571	-	17	-	-	-	-	-
1996	96	473	-	18	-	-	-	-	-
1997	164	772	-	61	-	-	-	-	-
1998	377	469	-	109 (2)	-	-	-	-	-
1999	481	637	-	200 (18)	-	-	-	-	-
2000	447	984	-	152 (392)	792 (5,276)	39 (39)	201 (1,720)	202 (674)	-
2001	208	579	-	170 (493)	744 (4,937)	623 (623)	100 (899)	100 (343)	-
2002	198	935	-	208 (616)	261 (1,635)	9 (9)	-	398 (1,724)	-
2003	388	961	-	283 (677)	963 (7,091)	8 (8)	-	598 (2,691)	-
2004	209	776	-	188 (470)	681 (5,007)	-	-	400 (1,926)	-
2005	276	843	-	95 (261)	962 (6,957)	-	-	397 (1,811)	199 (1,323)

(Unit: case / (people))

Year / Classification	At the private level				At the level of authority				
	Confirmation of life or death	Exchanges of letters	Others	Reunions	Confirmation of life or death	Exchanges of letters	Reunions during visits to South Korea	Reunions during visits to North Korea	Video reunions
2006	69	449	-	54 (105)	1,069 (8,314)	-	-	594 (2,683)	80 (553)
2007	74	413	-	55 (167)	1,196 (9,121)	-	-	388 (1,741)	278 (1,872)
2008	50	228	-	36 (97)	-	-	-	-	-
2009	35	61	-	23 (51)	302 (2,399)	-	-	195 (888)	-
2010	16	15	-	7 (18)	302 (2,176)	-	-	191 (886)	-
2011	3	21	-	4 (14)	-	-	-	-	-
2012	6	16	-	3 (6)	-	-	-	-	-
2013	9	22	-	3 (5)	316 (2,342)	-	-	-	-
2014	6	11	-	5 (10)	-	-	-	170 (813)	-
2015	4	26	-	1 (4)	317 (2,155)	-	-	186 (972)	-
2016	6	43	-	3 (8)	-	-	-	-	-
2017	10	46	1	1 (2)	-	-	-	-	-
2018	7	36	1	1 (1)	292 (1,996)	-	-	170 (833)	-
2019	2	16	-	1 (1)	-	-	-	-	-
2020	-	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
계	3,895	11,638	2	1,757 (3,418)	8,262 (59,563)	679 (679)	331 (2,700)	4,024 (18,061)	557 (3,748)

※ Status of registration on the Integrated Information System for Separated Families:
133,208 peopled registered (55,987 people alive, 77,221 people dead)
※ Others: Visits to family grave sites in North Korea

5 Inter-Korean Dialogues

① Inter-Korean dialogues by sectors

(Unit: cases)

Classification \ Year	'71~'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05
Politics	156	4	10	-	-	-	2	5	18	2	4	5	2	10
Military affairs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4	2	9	6	5	3
Economy	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3	3	14	17	13	11
Humanitarian assistance	111	-	-	3	-	4	1	-	2	1	3	7	2	4
Society · Culture	34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	1	1	6
Total	306	4	10	3	0	4	3	5	27	8	32	36	23	34

Classification \ Year	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16~'17	'18	'19~'20	Total
Politics	5	13	-	-	-	-	-	1	2	3	-	19	-	261
Military affairs	4	11	2	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	4	-	53
Economy	8	22	3	4	3	-	-	22	3	1	-	4	-	136
Humanitarian assistance	3	3	-	2	4	-	-	1	1	1	-	2	-	155
Society · Culture	3	6	1	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	7	-	62
Total	23	55	6	6	8	1	-	24	8	5	-	36	-	667

※ Politics (Ministerial or Vice-Ministerial-level dialogues, etc.) / Military affairs (General-level · Working-level Military Talks, etc.) / Economy (the Economic Cooperation Promotion Committee, etc)/Humanitarian assistance · society (Inter-Korean Red Cross Talks · Sports talks, etc.)
* Four Party Meetings which were held 12 times (7 in 97, 2 in 98, 3 in 99) are listed in different section

② Inter-Korean agreements adopted after dialogue

(Unit: Case)

Classification	'71~'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05
Agreements	40	-	2	1	-	2	1	1	18	4	23	31	20	23

Classification	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11~'12	'13	'14	'15	'16~'17	'18	'19~'20	Total
Agreements	10	39	5	1	1	-	8	2	3	-	23	-	258

※ The cases are reorganized in 2019 with new standards.

6 Settlement Support for North Korean defectors

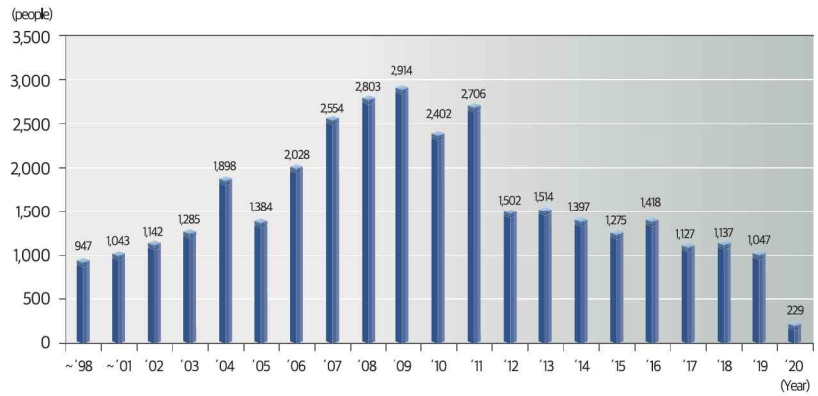
① North Korean Defectors Entry to South Korea

(Unit: people)

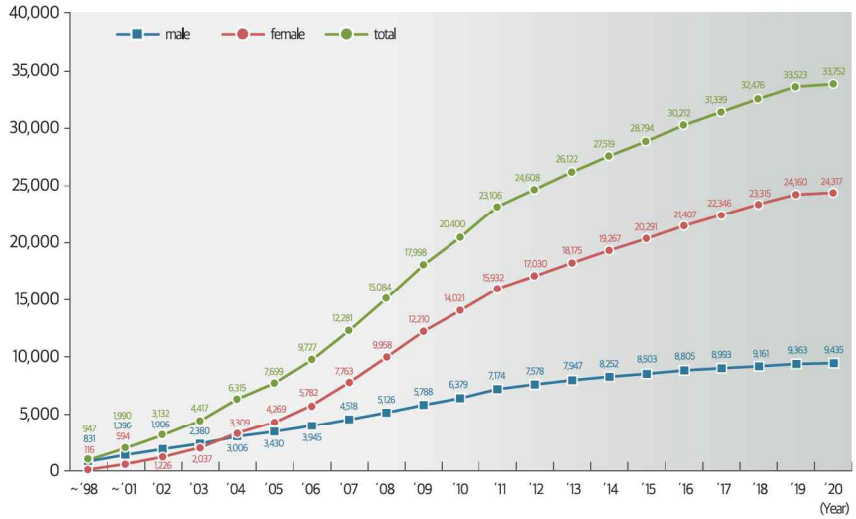
Classification \ Year	~'98	'99~'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10
Males	831	565	510	474	626	424	515	573	608	662	591
Females	116	478	632	811	1,272	960	1,513	1,981	2,195	2,252	1,811
Total	947	1,043	1,142	1,285	1,898	1,384	2,028	2,554	2,803	2,914	2,402
Percentage of Females	12%	46%	55%	63%	67%	69%	75%	78%	78%	77%	75%

Classification \ Year	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	Total
Males	795	404	369	305	251	302	188	168	202	72	9,435
Females	1,911	1,098	1,145	1,092	1,024	1,116	939	969	845	157	24,317
Total	2,706	1,502	1,514	1,397	1,275	1,418	1,127	1,137	1,047	229	33,752
Percentage of Females	71%	73%	76%	78%	80%	79%	83%	85%	81%	69%	72%

※ The number of North Korean defectors who entered South Korea is calculated based on the number of defectors who entered the protection center.



Number of Defectors



Age upon arrival

(As of December 2020)

Classification	0-9	10-19	20-29	30-39	40-49	50-59	Over 60	Total
male	608	1,630	2,649	2,124	1,453	596	360	9,420
female	601	1,960	6,771	7,591	4,773	1,546	1,034	24,276
Total	1,209	3,590	9,420	9,715	6,226	2,142	1,394	33,696
Ratio	3.6%	10.7%	28.0%	28.8%	18.5%	6.4%	4.1%	100%

※ Excluded defectors in protection center

Job before entering South Korea

(As of December 2020)

Classification	Manager	Military	Laborer	No Job	Volunteer Work	Art, Sports	Pro fessional	Children, Students	Total
male	410	716	4,137	3,214	92	83	231	537	9,420
female	139	160	9,188	11,942	1,444	221	523	659	24,276
Total	549	876	13,325	15,156	1,536	304	754	1,196	33,696
Ratio	1.6%	2.6%	39.5%	45.0%	4.6%	0.9%	2.2%	3.5%	100%

※ Excluded defectors in protection center

Level of education

(As of December 2020)

Classification	Pre school	Kinder garten	Elementary School	Middle School	Junior College	University and above	None	Others (unidentified)	Total
male	418	136	803	5,719	844	1,109	361	30	9,420
female	404	215	1,497	17,691	2,661	1,213	515	80	24,276
Total	822	351	2,300	23,410	3,505	2,322	876	110	33,696
Ratio	2.4%	1.0%	6.8%	69.5%	10.4%	6.9%	2.6%	0.3%	100%

※ Excluded defectors in protection center

Address in North Korea

(As of December 2020)

Classification	Kangwon	Nampo	Yanggang	Jagang	South Pyongan	North Pyongan	Pyongyang
male	220	74	1,552	76	454	375	453
female	374	89	4,433	163	653	504	335
Total	594	163	5,985	239	1,107	879	788
Ratio	1.8%	0.5%	17.8%	0.7%	3.3%	2.6%	2.3%

Classification	South Hamheung	North Hamheung	South Hwanghae	North Hwanghae	Gaeseong	etc (Unidentified)	Total
male	774	4,845	269	184	46	98	9,420
female	2,099	14,975	203	284	33	131	24,276
Total	2,873	19,820	472	468	79	229	33,696
Ratio	8.5%	58.8%	1.4%	1.4%	0.2%	0.7%	100%

※ Excluded defectors in protection center

② Social adaptation training for North Korean Defectors

Number of Participants

(Unit: people)

Classification	Number of participants								
	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Female	1,002	843	1,018	785	904	807	726	788	260
Male	361	254	262	168	198	150	116	165	97
Total	1,363	1,097	1,280	953	1,102	957	842	953	357

Children and Teenagers who have completed training

(Unit: people)

Year	´06	´07	´08	´09	´10	´11	´12	´13	´14	´15	´16	´17	´18	´19	´20	Total
Preschool	19	53	54	63	70	69	42	38	28	28	25	36	20	23	7	575
Elementary School	97	104	107	142	118	179	124	97	87	49	46	43	49	57	19	1,318
Teenager	169	232	276	220	192	198	114	106	90	68	86	116	108	105	52	2,132

Advanced training and vocational training

(Unit: people)

Classification	Advanced Training			Vocational Training	
	Number of programs	Completed	Acquired License	Number of programs	Completed
2014	5	103	85	11	440
2015	6	117	72	10	521
2016	8	247	206	8	315
2017	7	291	251	7	290
2018	7	335	292	8	305
2019	7	385	314	8	247
2020	-	-	-	4	28

※ Hanawon Hwacheon Offices's advanced training program is completed and the responsibility is delegated to Hana Foundation as of May 8, 2020

③ Housing support

(Unit: House Holds)

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	Total
House Holds	1,815	1,320	1,027	1,232	969	1,096	1,044	868	1,062	448	10,881

④ Settlement Support Subsidy

Criteria for Settlement Support Subsidy (Unit: 10,000 Won)

Classification		Criteria		Amount
Basic Subsidy	Initial Subsidy, Subsidy in Installment * Installment will be provided quarterly three times	1 person (Initial 500, Installment 300)		800
		2 people (Initial 700, Installment 700)		1,400
		3 people (Initial 900, Installment 1,000)		1,900
		4 people (Initial 1,100, Installment 1,300)		2,400
		5 people (Initial 1,300, Installment 1,600)		2,900
		6 people (Initial 1,500, Installment 1,900)		3,400
		Above 7 (Initial 1,700, Installment 2,200)		3,900
Housing Subsidy		1 person		1,600
		2~4 people		2,000
		above 5 people		2,300
Subsidy to live in provinces	Ⓐ province: Seoul, Incheon, Gyeonggi Ⓑ province: metropolitan cities other than Incheon Ⓒ province: provinces not included in ㉮ ㉯	1 person	Ⓑ province	160
			Ⓒ province	320
		2~4 people	Ⓑ province	200
			Ⓒ province	400
		above 5 people	Ⓑ province	230
			Ⓒ province	460
Settlement subsidy (For those who have settled down after April 30, 2013)	Vocational training subsidy	below 500 hours		-
		500 hours		120
		500 hours to 740 hours		20 per 120 hours (160 max)
	Additional subsidy	1 year course, selected courses		200
	Subsidy for license	once		200
	Employment subsidy	6 months	(capital) 200	(province) 250
		first year	(capital) 450	(province) 550
		second year	(capital) 550	(province) 650
		third year	(capital) 650	(province) 750
	Total settlement subsidy (maximum) capital 22.1 million won, province 25.1 million won			

Classification		Criteria		Amount
Additional subsidy	Subsidy for old people	Subsidy for people above 60 years old		720
	Subsidy for disability	Level of disability	Severe disability	1,540
			Mild disability	360
	Long-term medical care	Subsidy for those who have been hospitalized for over three months due to severe illness, subsidy provided for up to nine months		80 per month (up to nine months)
	Child care subsidy for single parent	Single parent with children under 13 upon the decision to provide protection and support		360 (per house hold)
	Child care subsidy for children born in third countries	Children under 16 years old born in third countries (up to 2 people)		400 (1 per person)
Employment Subsidy	For companies that hired North Korea defectors	1/2 of payment, up to 500,000 won per month for three years and up to 4 years		6 million won per year (Max 24 million won)

* Since November 29 2014, due to the introduction of the Future Happiness Account project, vocational training and scholarship for license are abolished
** Additional subsidy is provided to qualified individuals after a year of settlement for four years. The subsidy is provided quarterly

Basic Subsidy

(Unit: people/million won)

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
People	2,417	1,524	1,307	1,601	1,171	1,311	1,221	1,015	1,125	446
Amount of subsidy	13,815	12,167	9,173	9,429	7,609	8,277	8,612	6,574	8,267	4,723

Housing Subsidy

(Unit: people/million won)

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
People	2,417	1,524	1,307	1,601	1,171	1,311	1,221	1,015	1,125	446
Amount of subsidy	26,997	25,516	21,454	23,288	19,530	19,983	18,201	16,880	18,824	9,934

Subsidy to live in provinces

(Unit: people/million won)

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
People	369	744	752	555	420	443	353	414	352	201
Amount of subsidy	805	2,323	1,806	1,172	857	952	721	828	678	511

Subsidy

(Unit: people/million won)

Classification	Vocational Training		License		Selected Jobs		Employment		Total	
	people	amount	people	amount	people	amount	people	amount	people	amount
2011	726	1,181	819	1,638	352	704	2,406	11,813	4,303	15,336
2012	1,118	1,916	1,472	2,944	496	992	3,455	17,204	6,541	23,056
2013	774	1,221	952	1,904	266	532	3,304	16,608	5,296	20,265
2014	706	1,082	879	1,757	181	362	3,631	18,238	5,397	21,439
2015	516	753	733	1,466	135	270	2,844	14,272	4,228	16,761
2016	252	360	455	910	64	128	2,483	12,078	3,254	13,477
2017	98	137	202	404	12	24	2,092	10,024	2,404	10,589
2018	61	82	131	262	14	28	1,720	8,021	1,926	8,393
2019	33	46	46	92	11	22	1,620	7,542	1,710	7,702
2020	3	4	5	10	-	-	1,482	7,048	1,490	7,062

Additional Subsidy

(Unit: million won)

Classification		2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Subsidy	Disability	499	315	243	212	140	110	80	46	135	130
	Elderly	849	671	795	658	602	457	327	279	205	206
	Single Parent	809	568	717	631	570	475	385	318	218	147
	Long term treatment	40	57	40	43	29	10	10	5	19	10
	Children born in third countries	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	79	223	394
Total		2,197	1,611	1,795	1,544	1,341	1,052	802	727	800	887

Employment Subsidy

(Unit: companies/people/million won)

Year	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Companies	1,717	2,915	2,824	2,659	2,670	2,084	1,552	964	552	245
People	2,565	3,976	4,206	3,966	3,501	2,679	1,872	1,089	612	269
Amount	13,132	15,335	15,742	14,615	13,304	10,268	7,393	4,299	2,346	978

Education Support Subsidy

(Unit: number of school/student/million won)

Classification	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020
Universities	157	183	200	253	218	239	232	231	235	227
Students	1,334	1,570	1,704	1,894	2,006	1,934	1,844	1,885	1,889	1,938
Subsidy	3,157	3,294	3,747	4,212	4,555	4,216	4,120	4,154	4,329	4,410

7 Unification Education

(unit: people)

Classification	Before 2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
people	518,831	32,039	71,944	68,946	119,736	133,284	185,194	97,830

Classification	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	total
people	145,363	161,677	169,096	557,096	718,233	838,778	3,818,047

* Since 2018, social unification training is included
* With the enactment of Unification Education Support Act(September 14 2018), unification educations by public sectors were widely held and the training is not included in the statistics(2019-665,483, 2020-887,608)

8 Center for Unified Korean Future Training Program

(unit: people)

Classification	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	total
people	3,401	38,226	39,565	38,242	39,999	23,289	5,814	188,536

III Inter-Korean Cooperation Fund

1 Preparation of Fund

(Unit: million won)

Year	Government contribution	Other contributions	Deposit for the Public Capital Management Fund	Operation profit	Total
1991	25,000	-	-	237	25,237
1992	40,000	-	-	5,118	45,118
1993	40,000	3	-	4,778	44,781
1994	40,000	1	-	9,387	49,388
1995	240,000	119	-	14,589	254,708
1996	100,000	132	-	18,409	118,541
1997	50,000	288	-	27,874	78,162
1998	-	-	-	40,280	40,280
1999	-	3	149,831	23,013	172,847
2000	100,000	542	254,852	30,393	385,787
2001	500,000	1,079	310,000	29,406	840,485
2002	490,000	77	505,000	42,036	1,037,113
2003	300,000	1	823,000	46,515	1,169,516
2004	171,400	1	310,000	38,371	519,772
2005	500,000	33	460,000	31,178	991,211

(Unit: million won)

Year	Government contribution	Other contributions	Deposit for the Public Capital Management Fund	Operation profit	Total
2006	650,000	15	940,000	36,619	1,626,634
2007	500,000	75	584,591	38,859	1,123,525
2008	650,000	52	147,500	49,274	846,826
2009	-	56	81,000	74,354	155,410
2010	-	-	875,000	51,238	926,238
2011	-	2	104,400	38,276	142,678
2012	112,800	2	400,000	51,236	564,038
2013	105,500	3	530,000	162,300	797,803
2014	93,400	-	228,600	47,304	369,304
2015	93,203	238	90,500	19,863	203,804
2016	92,500	1	207,000	27,399	326,900
2017	183,000	1	765,000	9,631	957,632
2018	63,711	11	278,400	12,153	354,275
2019	100,000	-	203,000	6,574	309,574
2020	150,000	11	548,600	22,524	721,135
Total	5,390,514	2,746	8,796,274	1,009,188	15,198,722

2 Usage of inter-Korean Cooperation Fund

(Unit: 0.1 billion won)

Classification	'91	'92	'93	'94	'95	'96	'97	'98	'99	'00
Support visits	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3
Culture, Academics, and Sports Cooperation	9	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.3	-	21
Separated families	-	6	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	4	28
Humanitarian assistance (free)	-	-	-	-	1,824	55	191	199	339	977
Humanitarian assistance (paid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	867
Inter-Korean economic cooperation (free)	13	-	-	-	-	49	-	-	-	146
Inter-Korean economic cooperation (paid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	675	-	5
Loans for the light-water reactor (LWR)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	3,259
Payments of interest and principal on the deposit for the Public Capital Management Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	190
- Payments of the principal on the deposit for the Public Capital Management Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
- Payments of the interest on the deposit for the Public Capital Management Fund	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	190
Operation Cost	3	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	2	3
Total	25	9	3	3	1,826	106	193	876	345	5,499

Classification	'01	'02	'03	'04	'05	'06	'07	'08	'09	'10
Support visits	3	237	11	11	38	53	17	27	-	-
Culture, Academics, and Sports Cooperation	1	-	7	32	75	74	69	38	30	21
Separated families	13	20	30	32	133	99	269	182	22	20
Humanitarian assistance (free)	976	1,226	1,501	1,225	1,866	2,125	2,272	597	294	192
Humanitarian assistance (paid)	190	967	1,561	1,020	1,793	39	1,405	-	-	-
Inter-Korean economic cooperation (free)	898	368	763	760	2,045	1,521	1,725	1,101	415	177
Inter-Korean economic cooperation (paid)	461	667	547	814	568	710	1,400	366	240	453
Loans for the light-water reactor (LWR)	3,003	3,009	3,287	870	227	89	-	-	-	-
Payments of interest and principal on the deposit for the Public Capital Management Fund	391	2,124	3,250	3,895	3,658	8,713	6,337	1,512	1,159	9,306
- Payments of the principal on the deposit for the Public Capital Management Fund	-	1,498	2,549	3,100	2,820	7,730	5,330	500	100	8,200
- Payments of the interest on the deposit for the Public Capital Management Fund	391	626	701	795	838	983	1,007	1,012	1,059	1,106
Operation Cost	5	6	8	12	16	18	19	21	39	29
Total	5,941	8,624	10,965	8,671	10,419	13,441	13,513	3,844	2,199	10,198

(Unit: 0.1 billion won)

Classification	'11	'12	'13	'14	'15	'16	'17	'18	'19	'20	Total
Support visits	-	-	-	5	-	-	1	25	0	0	431
Culture, Academics, and Sports Cooperation	26	23	21	28	61	23	36	75	37	42	749
Separated families	1	4	21	31	52	16	7	51	44	12	1,097
Humanitarian assistance (free)	102	24	132	148	122	7	13	27	314	139	16,887
Humanitarian assistance (paid)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	7,842
Inter-Korean economic cooperation (free)	167	421	2,037	441	283	4,489	600	1,914	329	223	20,885
Inter-Korean economic cooperation (paid)	130	221	746	223	36	760	27	26	26	26	9,127
Loans for the light-water reactor (LWR)	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	13,744
Payments of interest and principal on the deposit for the Public Capital Management Fund	1,086	5,161	6,388	3,882	1,836	2,982	8,470	3,420	2,610	6,056	82,426
- Payments of the principal on the deposit for the Public Capital Management Fund	-	4,000	5,300	2,916	905	2,070	7,650	2,784	2,030	5,486	64,968
- Payments of the interest on the deposit for the Public Capital Management Fund	1,086	1,161	1,088	966	931	912	820	636	580	570	17,458
Operation Cost	27	28	30	30	30	26	25	28	23	23	468
Total	1,539	5,882	9,375	4,788	2,420	8,303	9,179	5,565	3,384	6,522	153,658

* Total amount of fund and annual fund may defer due to rounding of the total amount

IV Current status of the national tasks of the Ministry of Unification

Main Tasks	Implementation tasks	Main content
National Task No. 90 New economic map initiative on the Korean Peninsula and implementation of economic unification	[1] Realization of the New Economic Map Initiative on the Korean Peninsula	① Establishment and operation of the implementation system for the new economic map initiative on the Korean Peninsula ② Ensuring constant support from the international society and constructing a cooperative environment through projects that can be implemented in the country in the current situation
	[2] Cooperation toward one market for the South and North	① Establishment of the Master Plan for Cooperation for one market for the South and North ② Formation of a national consensus on cooperation toward one market for the South and North and establishment of a cooperative network ③ Promotion of maintenance of the laws and institutions related to cooperation toward one market for the South and North
	[3] Resumption of inter-Korean economic cooperation	① Support for damages to the companies related to inter-Korean economic cooperation, trade, Mt. Geumgang tourism, or the Gaeseong Industrial Complex ② Resumption of private economic cooperation ③ Reopening of the Gaeseong Industrial Complex ④ Construction of the circumstance for reopening Mt. Geumgang tourism and the resumption of Mt. Geumgang tourism ⑤ Cooperation for utilization of South and North common resources ⑥ Inter-Korean ICT exchanges and cooperation ⑦ Cooperation with International Financial Institutions and Neighbouring Countries
	[4] Development of the South and North border districts	① Develop and implement 「DMZ International Peace Zone」 initiative ② Support of promulgation of the Special Unification Economic Zone Act ③ Construction of the West Sea Peace Cooperation Special Zone
	[5] Community of Life and Peace for two Koreas	① Healthcare Cooperation ② Joint response to domestic animal disease and disease control ③ Joint management of shared rivers ④ Forestry Cooperation ⑤ Agriculture and fishery cooperation

Main Tasks	Implementation tasks	Main content
National Task No. 91 Signing of the Basic Inter-Korean Agreement and re-establishment of inter-Korean relations	[1] Resumption of Inter-Korean dialogues and re-establishment of inter-Korean relations	① Resumption of Inter-Korean dialogues ② Holding of Working-level talks in each domain ③ Establishment of inter-Korean constant communication channels
	[2] Signing of the Basic Inter-Korean Agreement	① Establishment of a plan for the establishment of the basic inter-Korean agreement and clarification of a vision for inter-Korean relations ② Formation of the national consensus on the basic inter-Korean agreement ③ Signing of the Basic Inter-Korean Agreement and institutionalization of inter-Korean relations
National Task No. 92 Improvement of North Korean Human Rights and resolution of humanitarian issues, such as separated families	[1] Substantial improvement of the human rights of North Korean residents	① Promotion of the improvement of human rights of North Korean residents and humanitarian situations ② Cooperation with the international society for substantial improvement of the human rights of North Korean residents ③ Accumulation of cases of North Korean human rights and research of the legal issues ④ Efforts to improve awareness of human rights by North Korean residents ⑤ Early inauguration of the North Korean Human Rights Foundation
	[2] Humanitarian assistance and promotion of developmental cooperation	① Facilitation of humanitarian assistance for North Korea by private organizations ② Provision of humanitarian assistance projects by the international society and the promotion of international cooperation ③ Promotion of humanitarian assistance at the level of authorities
	[3] Resolution of inter-Korean humanitarian issues	① Comprehensive confirmation of the life or death of separated families, regularization of reunions, and construction of a basis for multilateral exchanges ② Expansion of the national consensus on the issue of separated families ③ Promotion of the resolution of issues regarding South Korean Prisoners of the Korean War (POWs), South Korean abductees, and detainees
	[4] Life-friendly settlement support for North Korean defectors	① Provision of an efficient support system for defectors ② Expansion of life-friendly programs ③ Reinforcement of communication between defectors and local residents

Main Tasks	Implementation tasks	Main content
National Task No. 93 Advancements in inter-Korean relations through the facilitation of inter-Korean exchanges	[1] Resumption of exchanges and cooperation	① Promotion of resumption of exchanges and cooperation in various fields ② Promotion of the vitalization of exchanges in sports on the occasion of the Pyeongchang Olympics ③ Support of reinforcement of competence of privete organizations in exchanges and cooperation
	[2] Facilitation of exchanges and cooperation in society and culture across various fields	① Expansion of inter-Korean multilateral and intergrated exchanges and cooperation ② Support of exchanges and cooperation at the level of local government
	[3] Establishment of the governance for inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation	① Expansion and strengthening of the network for changes and cooperation ② Establishment of the basis for autonomy of local government
	[4] Improvement of the system for exchanges and cooperation	① Expansion of the basis for exchanges and cooperation through laws and institutionalization ② Improvement of the trade and economic cooperation insurance system
	[5] Co-host 2032 Seoul-Pyongyang Olympic	① Develop and implement cooperation plan ② Establish intra-government joint committee ③ Establish inter-Korean joint committee ④ Create favorable condition and support from in and out of Korea

Main Tasks	Implementation tasks	Main content
National Task No. 94 Expansion of the consensus on unification and promotion of the National Unification Contract	[1] Promotion of the signing of the National Unification Contract	① Signing the National Unification Contract through social conversations and ensuring consistency in the policy toward North Korea ② Research for a plan of succession and advancement in the National Community Unification Plan and expansion of the national consensus
	[2] Promotion of the installation of the Uni+Center in metropolitan and local governments	① Systematic support of unification-related services ② Phased expansion of the Uni+Center
	[3] Fostering next-generation experts in regard to peaceful unification	① Strengthening of competence toward preparation for future unification by fostering next-generation unification experts ② Establishment of the network by fostering experts on the Korean Peninsula issues in neighboring countries ③ Expansion of a consensus on unification in international society
	[4] Promotion of unification education based on national agreements	① Enhancement of the level of social agreement on the direction and principles of unification education ② Expansion of school unification education for establishing positive awareness regarding unification in our youth ③ Expansion of the basis for unification education of university academics who are lacking in awareness of unification, and resolution of university students' indifference to unification ④ Expansion of the nationwide sympathy for unification ⑤ Development and distribution of unification education materials tailored to suit various types of consumers

2021 UNIFICATION WHITE PAPER

2021 UNIFICATION WHITE PAPER

WWW.UNIKOREA.GO.KR

Printed in	August 2021
Published in	August 2021
Published by	Ministry of Unification
Address	Seoul, Jongno-gu, Sejong-daero 209 Government Complex Seoul
Tel	02-2100-5754
Fax	02-2100-5851
Production by	Association Together with the Disabled T. 02-464-5565

WWW.UNIKOREA.GO.KR
MINISTRY OF UNIFICATION