

The 4th Jeju Peace Forum

Jeju Declaration

June 23, 2007

Since the end of the Cold War, Northeast Asia has been emerging as one of the most dynamic regions of the world. While globalization is enhancing mutual dependence and cooperation within the region, elements of conflict, such as the North Korean nuclear issue, territorial disputes, and differences in national historical perceptions, are grave challenges to the security of individual states and threaten regional cooperation and integration.

The 4th Jeju Peace Forum, taking as its theme “Peace and Prosperity in Northeast Asia: Exploring the European Experience”, was held at the Haevichi hotel & resort on Jeju Island from June 21st to 23rd 2007. Opening with an address by President Roh Moo-hyun, the Forum assessed the applicability of the European experience of regional cooperation and integration to Northeast Asia. The Forum also considered the impact of technological change in the IT sector on the process of building an East Asian community.

During our deliberations, the participants of the forum including prominent Asian, European and North American politicians, diplomats, representatives of business, the media and academia examined the critical political and economic challenges of the region. Our discussions ranged widely, encompassing history, national identity, traditional and non-traditional security challenges, economic cooperation, epistemic community building and the role of a future Peace Operation Center (POC) in Jeju Special Self-governing Province.

While Europe’s political and security community continues to evolve, the example of the European Union, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the associated Helsinki Process demonstrates that Europe, compared to East Asia, is more advanced in terms of successful multilateral cooperation. While differences in history and culture prevent the European example from being mechanically and narrowly applied to Northeast Asia, nonetheless the considerable successes of Europe over the past 30 or so years, demonstrate that individual nation states can overcome parochial nationalism, in the process successfully laying the foundation for the creation of a strong, coherent and durable economic and security community.

On the basis of our deliberations, the 4th Jeju Peace Forum hereby declares the following:

- Multilateral mechanisms for the resolution of conflict and the promotion of cooperation and integration in Northeast Asia remain underdeveloped by comparison with Europe.
- Today’s critical security issues in Northeast Asia, most notably the North Korean Nuclear challenge, arms race pressures, structural instability within the region and newly emerging non-traditional security challenges, urgently require new measures to encourage multilateral security cooperation in the region.
- Such measures should be based on the practical lessons emerging from the European experience of negotiating and establishing the OSCE. In particular, the European experience highlights the critical role played by small and medium-sized states- most notably that of

Finland, Yugoslavia and Switzerland -in facilitating constructive change in the context of the broader superpower confrontation.

- The Republic of Korea, given its size and geographical position, is well suited to play a comparable critical and catalyzing role in establishing the foundations for an effective security and political community in Northeast Asia.
- The current Six-Party Talks, addressing the North Korean nuclear challenge, and in particular the detailed and constructive elements of the September 19, 2005 Joint Statement and the recently concluded Feb. 13, 2007 agreement provide the necessary means and mechanisms to ensure the construction of a new regional community.
- To ensure a lasting, flexible, and evolving process of dialogue and negotiation between the states, peoples, and public and private institutions of the Northeast Asian region, we advocate a new Jeju Process, modeled on and drawing on the valuable lessons of the Helsinki Process.
- With this in mind, the participants to the Forum recognize and emphasize that Jeju - designated by the Government of the Republic of Korea as an “Island of World Peace” in January 2005- is ideally suited to serve as the center for such a process and that immediate steps should be taken to promote such a role, building on the success of this and previous forums.