

## 2024 Korean Peninsula Peace Forum: A Path Toward a Heavenly Unified Korea

Yong-cheon Song

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Organized by The Segye Ilbo and supported by the Ministry of Unification  
Bank Hall International Conference Hall.



Around 200 attendees participated in the event, which included influential figures such as Jung Heetaek, President of Segye Ilbo Newspaper; Kim Young-ho, Minister of Unification; Nam Seong-wook, Professor at Korea University; Kim Hyun-wook, Professor at the Korea National Diplomatic Academy; Cha Doo-hyun, Senior Fellow at the Asan Institute for Policy Studies; and Park Young-jun, Director of the National Defense University's Security Issues Research Institute. The day's schedule was packed with an opening declaration, national anthem, video screening, welcoming remarks, congratulatory speeches, presentations, a general discussion, and a closing declaration.



In his welcoming remarks, President Jung Hee-taek touched on the recent changes in inter-Korean relations, highlighting the reclassification of South Korea by North Korea from a 'fellow countryman' to a 'hostile nation,' signaling a significant shift from the traditional unified national concept. This change coincides with growing concerns about increased instability on the Korean Peninsula, particularly with the impending U.S. presidential election.

He reflected on the historical efforts by Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon to promote interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values, striving for the achievement of peace, unification, and a Heavenly Unified Korea. Today, True Mother is striving to establish a Korean Peninsula where both North and South Korea pursue righteous values together, fostering a peace economy and create a system that enables coexistence on the Peninsula.

Minister Kim Young-ho addressed the global challenges facing the liberal international political order, with North Korea being the primary threat. He affirmed that Korea and the international community are poised to counter North Korea's ambitions to become a nuclear power with a firm and united response.

The government intends to introduce a new discourse on unification that embodies freedom and human rights to gain international support.

Professor Nam Seong-wook critiqued the "National Community Unification Formula" from 1994, declaring it outdated due to the severe reality of North Korea's nuclear threats.

He advocated for a fresh, bold unification strategy, suggesting that this should be included in President Yoon Suk-yeol's roadmap for North Korean denuclearization.



Professor Kim Hyun-wook speculated about possible shifts in U.S. policy under Trump's administration if re-elected, forecasting tougher trade policies and strategies towards China and anticipating new challenges for the Korea-U.S. alliance.

Senior Researcher Cha Du-hyeon stressed the need for substantial measures beyond the Washington Declaration to effectively address the North Korean nuclear threat.

The forum also featured a vibrant general discussion moderated by Park Young-jun, where Kim Yeol-soo discussed potential U.S. policy changes under Trump concerning Ukraine and potential negotiations with Russian President Vladimir Putin. Cheong Seong-Chang talked about the limitations of extended deterrence, tactical nuclear redeployment, and NATO-style nuclear sharing.

The event concluded with an in-depth discussion and Q and A session aimed at developing consensus and strategies for realizing a Heavenly Unified Korea amidst the 2024 U.S.

Presidential Election and the complex geopolitical dynamics of the Korean Peninsula.

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*This summary provides an overview of the discussions that took place at the event. It is intended for general informational purposes only and should not be considered a verbatim record of the proceedings.*