

## Oslo, Norway, Peace Road 2021 on National Liberation Day of Korea

Steinar Murud  
August 15, 2021



15th August is the National Liberation Day of Korea and is a holiday celebrated annually in both South- and North Korea, commemorating the end of 40 years of Japanese rule.

Therefore we decided, in solidarity, to do a Peace Road walk on this day dedicated to peace, reconciliation, and reunification in Korea. After a kickoff in our center, explaining the meaning behind the event, we began our family-friendly walk that included three generations. The walk took place in the hills north of Oslo with around 30 participants.

A central point in our walk was the stop at a Korean-built peace pagoda. In 2014 the South-Korean municipality Hwacheon, close to the North-Korean border, donated two such peace pagodas to Scandinavia. Both are located on Norwegian soil, one is placed close to the border to Sweden. The other is located in Oslo in facilities administered by a Swedish conference center.

We chose to make this pagoda in Oslo the center point of our peace walk. Everybody gathered here and sang the tongil-song followed by a mansei for the peaceful reunification of Korea. Our hope was to express moral and spiritual support to the positive development of the Korean peninsula.

Next month we plan to send a similar peace greeting from the other pagoda at the border to Sweden as long as the corona situation and other circumstances allow it.

We continued our walk which ended with an enjoyable picnic at the Holmenkollen ski jumping hill.