

3rd Northeast Asia Peace Initiative in Washington D.C., USA

Chang Shik Yang
September 26, 2013



On September 26th starting from 6:30 pm in Washington D.C., USA, under the joint sponsorship of the Washington Times Foundation and the Universal Peace Foundation "Northeast Asia Peace Initiative- Sustainable Peace, Prosperity and Security in Northeast Asia: Toward a Roadmap for the Korean Peninsula" was held in the University Club, following the seminars held in Tokyo, Japan and Seoul, Korea.



The international seminar included about 150 participants from Korea, the US, Japan and Russia representing the political world, the press, academia, and religion including Chang Shik Yang, the chairman of the Washington Times Foundation, Douglas Joo, the former Washington Times President, Christopher Hill, the former Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Joseph

DeTrani, the president of the Intelligence and National Security Alliance, Tom McDevitt, the Chairman of the Washington Times, Alexandre Mansurov, CEO of Great Falls Solutions International, June Isomura, director of the Hudson Institute's U.S.-Japan Strategic Summit Program and 4 seating Japanese Assemblymen.



At the seminar that lasted for 3 hours a discussion took place about the proposal for long-lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, but resulted in the consensus that they should never lose faith and hope that the path the leader of North Korea Kim Jeong Eun is taking towards reformation and progression is for the better and that further discussion and cooperation must be actively sought out.



In the welcoming address, Chairman Chang Shik Yang Spoke about how "the founder of the Washington Times Foundation, Reverend Sun Myung Moon has dedicated his life towards ending the Korean War, and unifying the fatherland. The international seminar for peace in Northeast Asia was held based on those intentions."



Dr. Yang expressed his hopes for the leader of North Korea, Kim Jeong Eun to become like former President Mikhail Gorbachev who changed the old Russia through reformation and progression. He spoke about how “Premier Kim is not yet 30 years old, and has many years ahead of him” adding that “he can be the spark that changes North Korea just as Gorbachev has done with Russia,” and emphasized the fact that “he has such value that we look forward to him playing a positive role in the Unification of North and South Korea.” The Northeast Asian Peace Initiative the Washington Times Foundation and the Universal Peace Federation have been implementing was attended by politicians and national leader level representatives from more than 190 countries, and we see their wisdom and experience as crucial to drawing a roadmap for lasting peace and security in the Northeast Asia Region.”



The first speaker, Christopher Hill, the former Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs spoke about how “Northeast Asia must become a region that not only exports electronics, but also exports peace” adding “there is not estimation when or how it will come, but we must prepare for the day when Unification arrives on the Korean Peninsula.” He emphasized about how “talks about North Korea, humanitarian assistance, the building of trust, the building of a missile defense network, and sanctions

will all be required to be mobilized.” He was appointed during former President George W. Bush's second term in office, during which he lead a representative group in 2007 for the Six-Party Talks about North Korea's Nuclear Technology in regards to shutting down the Yongbyon Facility, and his diplomatic experience includes stints as US ambassador to Korea from 2004 to 2005 and as US ambassador to Iraq from 2009 to 2010. Currently he is dean of the Josef Korbel School of International Studies at the University of Denver.



The second speaker, ambassador Joseph DeTrani is President of the Intelligence and National Security Alliance, and the former National Counter Proliferation Center (NCPC) Director, from 2003 to 2006 he worked on a special envoy for negotiations with North Korea and from 2006 to 2010 he worked as North Korea mission Manager at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (DNI). He spoke about how "there are talks that Korea is suffering from fatigue, but this will last for another 20 years or so" and added that we should not abandon hope that a solution to the problem could be found through talks with North Korea. He stated that “North Korea's recent agreement to the opening of the Kaesong Complex was like reaching its hand out to Korea, and the position of resuming Six-Party Talks could be seen as a step in the right direction.” He added that in particular “The agreement to reopen the Kaesong Complex could be seen as a result of President Park Geun Hye's Korean Peninsula Trust Process” insisting that “the normalization of relations with North Korea must be consistent.”

