
Editor's Note

It has been a year since the new South Korean government took off last year. There have been a lot of changes since then in terms of the South's North Korea policy and subsequently the North-South Korean relations in general. The new government's engagement policy or "sunshine policy" has not only attracted a great deal of interest, but also stirred up a hot debate between its pros and cons.

Whether or not one agrees with the tenets of the new policy, it cannot be denied that the policy represents a significant change in the way we view the North Korean problem. It seemed to be this change in our perspective that enabled President Kim Dae-jung to propose a package deal between North Korea and the U.S. in a recent interview.

This issue starts with Dr. Sung-han Kim's **Perspective** on U.S.-North Korea relations and their effects on North-South Korean relations in 1999. Putting forward three scenarios for the development of U.S.-North Korea relations, Dr. Kim analyzes how each scenario will affect the inter-Korean relations.

In our **Current Issues** section, we present a policy forum, where four experts debate the merits and shortcomings of the new government's sunshine policy. Dr. Do-tae Kim and Dr. Hak-soon Paik emphasize its brighter side, arguing respectively that the policy is firmly grounded in reality, and that the policy could lay the foundation for a new North-South Korean relationship.

On the other side, Professor Min-woong Kwon and Mr. Manwon Ji both point out the dangers and shortcomings of the sunshine policy. Professor Kwon first points out that the sunshine policy is based on an incorrect understanding of North Korea's politi-

cal situation, and then suggests Mao's dual strategy as the most desirable form for our North Korea policy. Mr. Ji criticizes the policy's naive view on the feasibility of a political reunification, and suggests that we focus our attention and energy on achieving peace, instead of reunification.

The section of **Inside North Korea** includes three papers, each of which provides us with useful and interesting information on what goes on inside the country. First, Dr. Kenneth Quinones examines the possibility of North Korea having constructed a new nuclear facility underground. According to him, it cannot be substantiated at this time. He suggests, therefore, that the Korean people stay calm and let the pertinent governments address the situation through appropriate channels, instead of being frightened and confused by the unsubstantiated report.

Next, Mr. Eul-chool Im provides us with various tips on how to make a successful business trip to North Korea. The most important thing, according to him, is to hold thorough and smooth consultations with the North Korean authorities on the visit schedule beforehand. This section's final paper by Mr. Jong-min Kim compares the two most important figures in North Korea, Kim Il-sung and Kim Jong-il. According to his account, the father and son are quite different from each other in terms of their characters, dispositions, hobbies, and leadership styles.

In the **Articles** section, we present five scholarly papers that analyze various aspects of the North Korean economy and North-South Korean relations. The first paper by Dr. Nicholas Eberstadt attempts a quantitative comparison of socio-economic conditions in North and South Korea. While initially noting the extraordinary

difficulties involved in such a task, he nevertheless comes up with reasonable and comparable measures for the two countries' population, health, urbanization, militarization, labor force, and other economic indicators.

Next, Dr. Marcus Noland analyzes the food problem in North Korea. According to him, a famine of unknown magnitude is underway in North Korea, and it is largely a result of the country's lack of comparative advantage in grain production. In order to resolve this crisis, therefore, he suggests that North Korea adopt trade- and reform-centered strategies, instead of production-oriented or aid-oriented strategies.

Mr. Seung-chol Kim examines the North Korean residents' labor consciousness on the basis of his personal experience in North Korea and previous studies on the subject. His major point is that the North Korean workers currently working in "export firms" are not representative of the overall work force in the country. While those "selected" workers may show great enthusiasm in their work, most North Korean workers simply obey the rules imposed by the system without a strong commitment to their work. Only a radical change of the existing system and ideology, he suggests, could correct this dualistic nature of North Korean workers' labor consciousness.

Mr. Jee-woong Jung gives his account of the German unification process from the perspective of integration theory. According to him, the process can be divided into two periods, which can be characterized by two different approaches to unification: functionalism and neofunctionalism. During the first period, West Germany primarily adopted the functionalist approach, focusing

on the reduction of tension, and economic exchanges and cooperation. The neofunctionalist approach dominated the second period, however, emphasizing the importance of solving political problems and establishing organizations for integration.

Finally, Dr. Soon-won Chung's paper on Korean integration is an attempt both to review critically the existing theories and to suggest a new model of Korean economic integration. After criticizing the existing theories' limitations and problems, he goes on to put forward a "hive-making" theory of integration by utilizing the concepts of system theory. Presuming that the process of integration occurs and progresses not by an artificial design imposed from outside, but by the emergence of a spontaneous order inside the system, Dr. Chung emphasizes the importance of economic exchanges and cooperation in the private sector for Korean integration. ■■