
Editor's Note

The inter-Korean summit meeting, held in June between the two leaders Kim Dae-jung and Kim Jong-il, held the spotlights during the past two months. With its dramatic success and many significant agreements as its results, inter-Korean relations seem to be heading into a new era of reconciliation and cooperation. Following the summit, there have already been some substantive measures to implement the agreements, including the plan to reconnect the railway from Seoul to Shineuiju, and the reunion of separated family members on August 15th, 2000. As a consequence, the whole society seems to be in a state of euphoria, and everyone seems to be emotionally charged with great expectations for a peaceful unification. No one would want to ruin this good feeling and we have reasons to be optimistic about the future.

It would be a great mistake, however, if we simply indulge ourselves in this emotional state of mind and neglect to analyze the present situation and future prospects in an objective and scientific way. There are some serious matters that need to be dealt with urgently, as well as some important and difficult tasks that lie ahead for us. For example, the summit's success has ignited and exacerbated the domestic conflict between conservatives and reformists on many important issues such as the withdrawal of U.S. armed forces stationed in South Korea and the revision of the National Security Act. It is high time that we tackle these matters seriously, and this issue aims to contribute to this important task by discussing and analyzing them in the most objective and scientific way possible.

The issue starts with Mr. Won-sup Lee's **Perspective**, which provides us with a general and broad picture of the summit, its sig-

nificances, and its implications for our future. Hailing the summit as a historic event, Mr. Lee attributes its success in large part to North Korea's "strategic" (rather than "tactical") changes necessitated by the country's structural conditions. Furthermore, he emphasizes many future tasks that need to be accomplished in the new era of reconciliation and cooperation, and in particular, that of reorienting our attitude and values by destroying the so-called "division mentality within our mind."

In our **Special Feature** section, we present three long-term analyses on the future of the Korean peninsula after the summit by two preeminent domestic scholars and a foreign specialist on the North Korean economy. Focusing on the international political aspect, Professor Byung-joon Ahn argues that security cooperation with neighboring powers such as the U.S., Japan, and China will be the key to a bright future on the peninsula both in political and economic terms. According to him, "security is like oxygen," and thus will be the foundation for inter-Korean economic cooperation.

Dr. Hak-joon Kim provides an analysis of the meanings and prospects of the summit in the context of the history of inter-Korean relations. After a brief historical review of the bilateral relations, Dr. Kim points out the historical significance of the summit. Not to mention that it is the first meeting between the leaders of the two Koreas ever since the division in 1945, he believes that the summit is not only a symbolic expression of improved relations, but also an effective way to decrease the intensity of internal confrontation, which has prevented Koreans from achieving reconciliation despite the dissolution of the cold war structure at the international level.

Dr. Marcus Noland's analysis focuses on the economic future of the Korean peninsula. After reviewing various interpretations on North Korea's true intentions for the summit, Dr. Noland examines what North Korea needs in economic terms to meet the minimum survival requirements of its population and how it could finance those needs. The answer lies in engaging itself with the international community, thus being able to receive multilateral economic assistance. As a conclusion, Dr. Noland emphasizes that South Korea will play an enormously important role in this engagement process.

Our newly created section, **Policy Highlight**, includes three papers that deal with more specific topics regarding the post-summit policies and tasks. Dr. Young-chul Jung starts with an analysis of the summit's implications for unification. Characterizing the summit as a unification conference, Dr. Jung clarifies what was agreed at the summit and examines what needs to be done in the future. According to him, the process of Korean unification has just taken its first step and more tough obstacles may lie ahead.

Mr. Chan-woo Lee's paper focuses on post-summit inter-Korean economic cooperation. After comparing the economic structures of the North and South, Mr. Lee suggests some principles and tasks for balanced development of the national economy. More specifically, Mr. Lee emphasizes the signing, by the two sides, of an agreement on investment guarantees as the most important institutional basis for stable inter-Korean economic cooperation in the future.

Next, Mr. Chang-su Kim provides us with an analysis of post-summit tasks in sociocultural and humanitarian matters. After

underscoring the importance of sociocultural exchange as a means of breaking the mental barrier, Mr. Kim analyzes and compares the two sides' positions toward sociocultural exchange. Turning to humanitarian matters, Mr. Kim carefully examines some important pending issues and future tasks in this area. Finally, he touches on the necessity to revise the National Security Act.

In the **Articles** section, we present six scholarly papers by distinguished authors, both at home and abroad. The first one by Dr. Nicholas Eberstadt deals with a very interesting topic, the availability and reliability of official quantitative data for North Korea. After a detailed examination of available North Korean economic data, Dr. Eberstadt concludes that the overall credibility of available North Korean statistics today can only be described as low. Noting that the country's manifest and mounting economic failure is inextricably related to the failure of its statistical system, he strongly suggests that the North Korean leadership rehabilitate its statistical system with technical assistance from abroad.

Professor Young-jae Jin, in his paper, evaluates the sunshine policy at a point of the summit meeting from the standpoint of post-summit domestic conflict structure. Emphasizing the importance of first taking care of domestic conflicts within each system for the success of the summit, Professor Jin carefully examines each of the five major political conflicts within South Korea: ideological conflicts, regional conflicts, government-people conflicts, conflicts between the rich and the poor, and generational conflicts. According to him, understanding and managing these domestic conflict structures will be an important contribution to maintaining cooperative relations between the two Koreas.

Next, Professor Dong-man Suh examines the normalization of Pyongyang-Tokyo relations with a focus on its prospects and Seoul's role. Looking at the normalization process from a historical and realist viewpoint, Professor Suh argues that bilateral relations are located within the larger frame of U.S. global strategy, that is, the deterrence of weapons of mass destruction. After reviewing many pending issues in the normalization talks such as economic compensation for colonial rule, abduction case, missile programs, and treatment of Korean residents in Japan, he argues that South Korea should have a positive posture toward the normalization of Pyongyang-Tokyo relations and thus play a constructive role in the process.

The next paper by Professor Aidan Foster-Carter provides us with a comprehensive and objective analysis on the extent of North Korea's recent changes. Warning against the possibility of premature partying, Professor Foster-Carter reviews what precisely it is about North Korea that has worried the world for many years, and how much of it has yet changed. His conclusion is that the country has not yet changed much in most areas of concern. According to him, the new Korean peace process is only just beginning, and for it to be real, we should strive for an explicit and comprehensive settlement with everything out in the open, not swept under the carpet.

Next, Mr. Myung-shik Kim explores the financing methods that can be used in developing the North Korean economy and estimates the approximate scale of funding. Despite inherent difficulties in estimating how much money will be needed, the author predicts the methods and scale of financing for each stage of coop-

eration by considering factors such as Korea's credit rating or existing pool of funds. In addition, the article examines some considerations which we need to take into account in order to guarantee effective financing and support.

The final article by Dr. Sei-jin Jeong analyzes the expansion of North Korea's second economy and change in its governance structure. Focusing on the weakening of socialist ruling institutions such as the "executive" governance mechanism, center's control over front-line units, party state's control over party cadres, and state and party cadres' control over citizens, the author examines the possibility of change in North Korea's economic system. According to him, the socioeconomic conditions that will force the party to retreat from a fully controlled, centrally planned economy are already in place. ■■■