

SOUTH KOREA'S BLUEPRINT FOR EXPANSION OF INTER-KOREAN RELATIONS

On June 27, an enforcement ordinance was passed in order to reinforce the “Law on the Expansion of Inter-Korean Relations,” which was established on December 29, 2005. This ordinance lays out a basic 5-year plan for developing inter-Korean relations from 2007 through 2011. This ordinance frames up a rough draft for inter-Korean relations, and was passed on June 27 by the State Council after being brought about through cooperation between relevant State and business authorities and examined by associated legislative bodies.

This ordinance is designed to work together to fill the gaps where current legislation is lacking. Central administrative bodies were obligated to propose steps necessary to establish the “Basic Plan for Development of Inter-Korean Relations” and the “Yearly Plan of Action.” In addition, through the Committee on the Promotion of South-North Relations and business committee’s activities, structured long-term management of inter-Korean relations has been prepared.

This ordinance also lays the groundwork for the participation of the private sector in the establishment and enforcement of laws regarding inter-Korean relations. The business committee operating under the supervision of the Committee on the Promotion of South-North Relations allows for private citizens to serve as committee members, and provides for their compensation. Plus, in the event that private citizens serve as special envoys to North Korea, it provides the necessary authority and allowances.

The Ministry of Unification is granted a central role in the realm of North Korea policy. South Korean representatives at inter-Korean conferences and special envoys, during their

NK Brief No. 06-7-18-2

trips to North Korea, are to carry themselves according to standards and principles set by the Minister of Unification. Provisions are in place to provide for the activities of these representatives in the course of their duties, and allows for the Unification Minister to promote the assignment and/or reinstatement of particular regional North Korean civil servants. The ordinance also structuralizes the road toward inter-Korean relations by putting a halt to current investigations, resolutions, and implementation of inter-Korean agreements and related government agreements, and by bringing about new, consolidated government reviews.

Included in this ordinance is, among other topics, promotion of peninsular peace, realization of inter-Korean economic cooperation, reinstatement of equality in socio-cultural exchanges, efforts toward resolution of humanitarian issues on the Korean peninsula, humanitarian and nationalistic support for North Korea, and international support for inter-Korean cooperation. Despite the fact that it is still lacking on several issues, it does promote cooperation between individual enterprises, and offers concrete steps toward promotion of inter-Korean relations.

Institute for Far Eastern Studies, Kyungnam University
The Center for International Cooperation for North Korean Development
28-42 Samchung-dong, Chongro-ku, Seoul, 110-230, Korea
Tel: 82-2-3700-0780 Fax: 82-2-3700-0707
E-mail: icnk@kyungnam.ac.kr <http://ifes.kyungnam.ac.kr>