DMZ FORUM DECLARATION

We welcome the road and rail connection of North and South Korea to which both countries have agreed after three years of war and nearly 50 years of tense armistice.

BUT, we beg those designing and building these links to pay close attention to protecting the DMZ ecology. If care is not scrupulous, two unique opportunities will be lost:

1. Species of many animals and plants native to the Korean peninsula remain in the DMZ though they have been rooted out by industrialization in both South and North Korea. These species could be transplanted to restore biodiversity in both countries.

2. Scientists can study what is nowhere else available, an area devastated by war but allowed to regenerate naturally without any human imprint for half a century.

In addition, the DMZ is essential habitat for several endangered species, including white-naped and red-crowned cranes and black-faced spoonbills. Some claim that tigers and leopards are living there.

So utmost efforts should be made in the construction and use of the transportation corridors to protect those opportunities. And plans for future use of the DMZ that respect those opportunities should be made jointly by South and North Korea.

We urge the governments of North and South Korea to enlist an international team of scientists expert in mitigating the impact of development on natural areas to advise them on the road and rail design and construction.

ENDORSED BY:

George W. Archibald,  
Director, International Crane Foundation

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President, DMZ Veterans Association

Stephen W. Bosworth  
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Cora Weiss,  
President, Hague Appeal for Peace

Arthur Westing  
Westing Associates in Environment, Security, & Education

E.O. Wilson  
Frank B. Baird Professor Science, Harvard University

Sheila Dickie  
Member, SAVE International

James M. Lee  
 Former Special Advisor to the UN on Armistice Affair
Stephen W. Bosworth began serving as Dean of the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy of Tufts University in February 2001. Prior to his appointment at the Fletcher School, Mr. Bosworth served as the United States Ambassador to the Republic of Korea from November 1997 to February 2001. Ambassador Bosworth served as Executive Director of the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organization (KEDO) from July 1995 to October 1997. In that capacity, he directed the startup and operation of KEDO, a multinational organization supplying two nuclear power plants and annually shipping 360,000 metric tons of heavy fuel oil to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, in exchange for the dismantlement of North Korea's nuclear weapons capability.

Before joining KEDO, Ambassador Bosworth served eight years as President of the United States Japan Foundation, a private American grant-making institution with extensive programs in education, leadership exchange and policy studies. During this period he chaired and coauthored several studies on U.S. relations with Asia and other public policy issues for the Carnegie Endowment and the Twentieth Century Fund. He also taught international relations as an Adjunct Professor at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs from 1990 to 1994. In 1993, he was the Sal Lirmanowitz Visiting Professor at Hamilton College.

Ambassador Bosworth had previously distinguished career in the U.S. Foreign Service from 1961 to 1988, including service as Ambassador to Tunisia from 1979 to 1981 and Ambassador to the Philippines from 1984 to 1987. Earlier Foreign Service assignments included Paris, Madrid, and Panama. City. He also served in a number of policy level positions in Washington, including Director of Policy Planning, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Economic Affairs, and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Inter-American Affairs.

Ambassador Bosworth graduated from Dartmouth College and pursued graduate studies in economics at George Washington University. He is the recipient of numerous awards, including the American Academy of Diplomacy's Diplomat of the Year Award in 1987. He has been a member of the Board of Trustees of Dartmouth College since 1992, and served as Board Chair from 1995-1999. He is fluent in Spanish and French. Ambassador Bosworth is married to the former Christine Holmes; they have two daughters and two sons.

Message From the President

In the July 2003 issue of National Geographic magazine, we see the map of the two Koreas with the vivid history of the Korean War and how the DMZ was created. The Korean War was one of the most tragic human mistakes, with more than three million casualties. Fifty years after the war, the two Koreas are still divided and regarded as a source of instability for peace and security in Northeast Asia. Can the two Koreas repair that mistake for their future generations? I see the opportunity in the Korean DMZ, a buffer zone set aside for military purpose for half a century that has become a sanctuary for many rare plants and animals. By transforming the DMZ into a peace and nature sanctuary, the two Koreas can somewhat compensate for the tragic mistake of the war and contribute to world peace and environmental security.

South Korea is praised for achieving one of the fastest records of economic growth; but it is condemned for environmental degradation with severe pollution and wildlife habitat destruction. North Korea with its isolated juche (self-reliance) ideology and nuclear weapons program has become a big military threat to its neighboring countries. Working together to build a peace sanctuary in the DMZ, the two Koreas could eliminate their bad images as threats to environment and peace.

In its historical and ecological significance, the peace sanctuary, "Green Wall", in the DMZ could equal the Great Wall of China and the Pyramids of Egypt. But it also has a practical current value. The DMZ peace and nature sanctuary could provide eco-tourism and scientific study, economically benefiting both Koreas while reducing the tremendous military cost. I urge the two Koreas not to lose this historical opportunity to demonstrate to the world that Koreans love peace and environmental security for all mankind-a stepping stone to build a proud motherland for future Korean generations in Korea and all over the world.

The DMZ Forum and Asia Society invite you to the
Anniversary meeting:
Toward Peace and Environmental Security for Korea:
Conservation of the DMZ

Wednesday, July 23, 2003
2:30-5:30 PM

The Asia Society, 725 Park Avenue @ 70th Street

This meeting brings together peace advocates and environmentalists to promote a joint North-South enterprise that will restore both countries' environment and foundation. The common goal is preserving the Demilitarized Zone. By 156 miles almost untouched by humans for half a century as a source of reclaiming beauty and rare plants, animals and birds lost both north and south. Its unique condition will attract environmental scientists from around the world to study how nature reclaims the land after war's devastation.

PROGRAM

COMMORATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE KOREAN WAR ARMISTICE

12:00 pm - 2:15 pm DMZ Forum Strategic Planning Meeting

Speaker: K.C. Kim, Penn State University, Chair of the DMZ Forum

2:15 pm - 2:30 pm Break

2:30 pm - 5:30 pm Public Conference

Moderator: Amb. Harry G. Barnes, Jr., Senior Advisor and Consultant, The Asia Society

2:30 pm - 2:40 pm Introductory Remarks

Seung-ho Lee, President, The DMZ Forum

Panel I: Strategies to Settle Down Crisis on the Korean Peninsula

2:40 pm - 3:00 pm Edward O. Wilson, Professor Emeritus of Biology, Harvard University

3:00 pm - 3:20 pm Stephen W. Bosworth, Dean, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

3:20 pm - 3:35 pm Cora Weiss, President of Hague Appeal for Peace

3:35 pm - 4:00 pm Q & A

Panel II: Action Plans to Establish a Peace Park in the DMZ

4:00 pm - 4:20 pm David Benbow, President of DMZ Veterans Association

4:20 pm - 4:40 pm John Klotz, Representative to the United Nations, Sierra Club

4:40 pm - 5:00 pm Hall Healy, Principal, Facilitated Solutions International

5:00 pm - 5:20 pm Q & A

5:20 pm - 5:30 pm Amb. Harry G. Barnes, Jr., Concluding Remarks
Speakers' Profile

Dr. Ke Chung Kim, Professor of Entomology, is the founding Curator of the Korea Entomological Museum and Director, Center for Biodiversity Research, Penn State Institutes of the Environment, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park, PA 16802. Professor Kim is a Fellow (Life Member) of the Korean Academy of Science and Technology and members of many scientific and professional societies and received many honors and citations in national and international publications. Professor Kim is a founding member of the DMZ Forum and has helped to promote the preservation of Korea’s demilitarized zone (DMZ) for conservation and peace.

Dr. Edward O. Wilson, Pellegrino University Research Professor, Emeritus, at Harvard University, is a preeminent biological theorist. He joined the Harvard faculty in 1956 and distinguished himself over the next four decades as professor of zoology, curator in entomology at the Museum of Comparative Zoology, and researcher. Two of his 21 books have been awarded Pulitzer prizes: On Human Nature (1978) and The Ants (1990). Dr. Wilson has received some 75 awards in international recognition for his contributions to science and humanity including the U.S. National Medal of Science. For his conservation work he has received the Audubon Medal and the Gold Medal of the World Wide Fund for Nature.

Cora Weiss, President of the Hague Appeal for Peace, has been well known as a peace activist since the early ’60s when she was a co-founder of Women Strike for Peace which played a major role in bringing about the end of nuclear testing in the atmosphere. She is President of the International Peace Bureau, (Nobel Laureate 1910). She is also Joint-Principal of the Peace Boat’s Global University and an Advisory Board Member of Peace Child International’s Millennium Action Fund and the DMZ Forum. As President of the Hague Appeal for Peace, she is leading a campaign dedicated to the abolition of war. It seeks to re-focus our minds on the vision of a world in which violent conflict is publicly acknowledged as illegitimate, illegal, and fundamentally unjust. To implement that vision, the Hague Appeal for Peace has launched a Global Peace Education Campaign.

For over 30 years Hull Healy has facilitated environmental and strategic planning projects in the United States and other countries. Mr. Healy currently serves on the Board of Trustees of The Nature Conservancy, Illinois Chapter and has served on the Board of the Chicago Academy of Sciences. He helped establish conservation partnerships between organizations in the U.S., Mexico and Russia. A Lake Baikal, Russia/Lake Michigan, U.S. partnership formed in 2001, is dedicated to protecting watersheds and water quality in both countries and to providing environmental education programs. Currently, he is working with the DMZ Forum; a U.S.-based NGO to obtain GEF funding to protect habitats in the Korean Demilitarized Zone.

Since early 2000, Harry Barnes has been serving as senior advisor and consultant to the Asia Society. In that capacity the principal area of focus for his activities has been South Asia. He has also been exploring opportunities for American NGOs to carry out exchanges with North Korea. From 1993 to 1999 he was as the Carter Center in Atlanta, For most of these years he was director of the conflict resolution and human rights programs. In addition he was for shorter periods of time acting director of the democracy program and chair of the human rights committee to his Foreign Service career (1951-88) Ambassador Barnes was Ambassador to Romania (1974-77), Director General of the Foreign Service and Director of Personnel (1977-81), Ambassador to India (1981-85) and Ambassador to Chile (1985-88). Earlier foreign assignments included Bombay, Prague, Moscow, Kathmandu, and Bucharest. While in the Foreign Service, he studied Russian, Nepali, Romanian, Hindi and Spanish.

As an attorney, he represented a watershed coalition of organizations and activists. A former chair of the NYC Group, he has also served as a Webmaster and Editor of the City Streets, its quarterly journal. He has published Op-Ed articles nationally including pieces on corporate accountability for the destruction of rain forests and globalisation.

David Benbow was born in Washington, DC during WWII while his father was overseas with the United States Army. He enlisted in the United States Army in September of 1967 and was sent to Korea in February of 1968 after the U.S. Navy ship Pueblo was captured by the North Koreans. He served with Co. C, 3/23rd Infantry Division in and around the Korean DMZ for 16 months and returned to North Carolina in June of 1969 and was honorably discharged from the U.S. Army. He went to UNC Law School on the GI bill. He has been a lawyer in Statesville for the last 28 years. He is the founder of DMZ Vets which is a 500 member organization for U.S. soldiers who served in Korea after the Korean War ended in 1953.

Staffs of the DMZ Forum

William B. Shore
Secretary

Yusuke Kono
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Michael W. Lee
Director for Planning

Jane Jo Kyung You
Director for Communications

Harry G. Barnes Jr.

John Klotz

David Benbow

Cora Weiss

Edward O. Wilson

Ke Chung Kim
Chair, The DMZ Forum

Hull Healy

THE DMZ FORUM
TRANSBORDER PEACE PARK PROJECT

Introduction

For 50 years the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) has stood as a barrier between the Peoples’ Republic of Korea (DPRK—North Korea) and the Republic of Korea (ROK—South Korea) and has been relatively untouched by humans during that period. This situation has created an ideal habitat for hundreds of animal species, including black bear, leopard, lynx, endangered cranes and over one thousand plant species. Now there is the very real potential for closer linkages between the two Koreas, signified by the recent rebuilding of a rail line and numerous cooperative ventures between the two countries.

Creating a permanent symbol of peace within the DMZ can further facilitate these linkages. The DMZ also can provide a memorial to millions of war victims from dozens of countries, a place to protect numerous globally rare and endangered animals and plants, as well as a source of revenue and jobs.

The DMZ Forum, a non-profit organization based in New York City, and the Korean Federation for Environmental Movement (KDEM), based in Seoul, are collaborating to protect the DMZ for future generations.

Background

The DMZ is a 4-kilometer by 258-kilometer (2.5 by 155-mi) corridor, extending the entire width of the country. Created by the Korean War Armistice signed in 1953, it is surrounded by barbed wire fencing and contains land mines. Due to minimal human activity over the intervening fifty years, vast habitats and natural landscapes have re-emerged, growing over farmland and damaged forests that had existed for thousands of years.

No direct ecological studies have been conducted of the DMZ. However, indicative of what the DMZ could possess, surveys have shown that the Civilian Control Zone (CCZ) is rich in biodiversity. The CCZ is a 1529 square kilometer buffer zone immediately south of the DMZ. It contains 83 fish species (18 of which are endemic to the area). It has 51 species of animals (representing 67% of Korean fauna, 9 being rare or endangered), and 1779 plant species. The DMZ and CCZ together also form a migratory pathway that is essential for survival of hundreds of bird species traveling every spring and fall between China, Mongolia, Russia, Japan and Vietnam. Many of these, like the Red-crowned and White-naped crane, are globally significant and globally rare or endangered.

The DMZ is the only place on the Korean Peninsula where large vestiges of Korea’s biodiversity remain intact. The DMZ has forest, mountain, wetland, prairie, and coastal ecosystems. These represent in situ biorestores and ecological laboratories, O. i.e., the importance of conservation efforts throughout Korea, and indeed, the world. The DMZ can provide germ plasm and natural capital for sustainable development of all Korea, with its invaluable assets for the country’s future. This collection of resources exists nowhere else on the peninsula or the world. These resources are doubly important considering that outside the DMZ and the buffer zone over 20% of South Korea’s terrestrial vertebrates (including 48% of its reptiles and 60% of its amphibians) have become extinct or endangered.

On September 17, 2002 the DPRK and the United Nations Command signed an agreement to permit reconnecting rail and road links across the DMZ that have lain dormant for 50 years. The rebuilding began immediately, with a ceremony in June 2003 to commemorate completion of one of the rail links. There are numerous additional examples of North and South Korea working together in recent years, including:

- Mount Geumgang (Diamond Mountain)
- A sports complex in Pyongyang

Next Steps

A number of critical steps are required in order to create a transboundary peace park that will incorporate these benefits and more. Currently, the DMZ Forum and KFEM are collaborating to apply for United Nations and other funding to develop and implement a plan to protect DMZ ecosystems. They also are assisting in the development of a coalition of stakeholders worldwide including scientists, conservationists, governments, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), corporations, foundations, universities, non-profit organizations and individuals. The DMZ Forum, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization based in New York City, is dedicated to preserving peace, species and habitat in the DMZ. KFEM is the largest non-profit conservation organization in Korea and has worked for decades on a wide variety of protection projects in Korea, including long-term survival of DMZ ecosystems.

The DMZ Forum has developed a grant application for multi-million dollar funds from the Global Environmental Facility (GEF) of the United Nations.

Additional steps on which The DMZ Forum, KFEM and members of the coalition will collaborate include:

- Promoting policy leaders of North and South Korea and other stakeholder countries to commit to a transboundary park
- Developing a strategic plan for the formation and long-term operation of a transboundary park using similar parks in Asia and Africa as models
- Obtaining funds for creation and long-term park operation
- Promoting development of necessary local, national and international legal mechanisms for the park’s long-term survival
- Developing a sustainable management structure for the park

For additional information, please see The DMZ Forum and KFEM websites at www.dmzforum.org and www.kfem.org, respectively.