

The summer sun is shining and it's time to highlight everything the DMZ Forum is doing to help bring about positive ecological change on the Korean peninsula. We continue our efforts to inform and educate the global community about the environmental status and potential of the DMZ. We build and maintain relationships with individuals, organizations, and government agencies that are committed and able to assist in our efforts to promote conservation in the DMZ. But we still need your help. Your continued support of the DMZ Forum's mission and activities is urgent as we begin a process of brokering conversations between the DPRK and ROK that we hope will result in the two nations cooperating toward conservation and protection of the DMZ.

New Partnerships and Upcoming Events

➤ **Children's Peace Forest and Park**

The DMZ Forum has partnered with the organization "International Cooperation of Environmental Youth" (ICEY) to promote the creation of a forest and park near the DMZ dedicated to children. The park is the idea of 14-year old Jonathan Lee, who hopes it will help change one of the most hostile regions in the world into a place of innocence and peace. For more information visit http://articles.cnn.com/2010-08-19/world/korea.peace.mission_1_peace-treaty-forest-north-korea?_s=PM:WORLD and <http://www.gogreenman.com/>.

➤ **Roots of Peace**

Earlier this year, the DMZ Forum elected Ms. Heidi Kühn, founder of the humanitarian organization "Roots of Peace," to its board of directors. Roots of Peace "works to unearth dangerous landmines in war-torn countries and empowers the local communities scarred by these inhumane weapons. Working to build sustainable crops on land once too dangerous to traverse is how we transform the scars of conflict into the roots of peace." The two organization's missions are complementary, and the partnership will no doubt be fruitful. For more information on Roots of Peace, visit <http://www.rootsofpeace.org/>.

➤ **DMZ Coalition Annual Meeting**

- Time and Place still in negotiation, but tentatively set for mid-November. We will send another update in plenty of time for making travel arrangements.
- The focus of this meeting will be discussion of the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) the DMZ Forum has drafted regarding permanent conservation of the DMZ and surrounding buffer zones, north and south.

Our On-going Efforts

In addition to our commitment to conserving the biological and cultural resources of the DMZ and transforming it from a symbol of war into a symbol of peace, the DMZ Forum continues to:

- Up-date its website with news, events, and publications about the DMZ!
- Connect to young people through Facebook: <http://www.facebook.com/pages/The-DMZ-Forum/109924199030191?ref=ts>
- Work with various individuals, agencies, and organizations to build a strong partnership through the DMZ Coalition.
- Seek volunteers and donors to help in our efforts.

To get involved, or if you know an individual or organization that might like to become part of the Coalition, please contact Seung-ho Lee at shlee@dmzforum.org or 516-987-5282.

Recent Activities and Other News

- The DMZ Coalition met at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute at Columbia University in New York in December 2010 for its annual meeting. Keynote speakers included Dr. Charles Armstrong of Columbia University and Board Member Dr. Saleem Ali of the University of Vermont.
 - Professor Armstrong, a historian of Korea, gave the talk, “An Unfinished War, the Persistence of North Korea, and the Possibility for Peace.” He suggested that the United States, and the world, must deal with the DRPK as it is now, not as others expect it to be. He also stated that avoiding war is the most important thing the world can do now. Armstrong noted that finding the way to achieve that goal is tricky, but must include political engagement, rather than isolation, and a rethinking of American assumptions about the DPRK. Another way to accomplish the goal of peace on the peninsula, he suggested, is through reimagining the DMZ itself, and through transforming it into a zone of peace, rather than allowing it to remain a militarized zone.
 - Professor Ali’s talk was titled, “What Makes Peace Parks Work? Global Lessons for the Korean Peninsula.” Ali indicated that his talk would take a comparative approach, illustrating various models and concepts that might be useful to efforts toward making the DMZ into a symbol of peace. He reminded us that the initial goal of the DMZ Forum was to make the DMZ into a peace park. Ali also noted that peace is a multidisciplinary matter. He pointed to the work of Anatol Rapaport, a mathematician and author of *Ecological Peace*, to demonstrate that everyone can get involved in peace efforts. Ali concluded with a discussion of what makes peace parks successful. Providing local control over certain aspects of the process is crucial, but must not overshadow the larger goal. Environmental regulations must be made and enforced at the top level, but local buy-in and participation is necessary.



DMZ Coalition Meeting, left to right: Board member and keynote speaker, Saleem Ali, Board member Lisa Brady, and keynote speaker Charles Armstrong.

- In March 2011, board members Dr. Seung-ho Lee and Dr. Ethel Tobach met with 14-year old Jonathan Lee, creator of GoGreen Man and founder of the organization International Cooperation of Environmental Youth – Helping Our Polluted Planet” (ICEY-HOPE). Jonathan visited Pyongyang in 2010, where he presented a letter of peace to Chairman Kim Jong-Il. He sent similar letters to President Lee Myung-bak, President Barak Obama, and President Hu Jin-tao. The letters outlined Jonathan’s idea to create a Children’s Peace Forest in the DMZ as a symbol of ending 60 years of conflict in Korea.



Jonathan Lee and Friends in Pyongyang, Summer 2010



March 2011: Seung-ho Lee, Jonathan Lee, Ethel Tobach, and Sue Bernier

Welcome New Board Members!

Mr. **Ju-han Moon** has joined the board as Treasurer. Educated in both Korea and the United States, Mr. Moon brings over twenty years accounting experience to the DMZ Forum.



Heidi Kühn, Founder and CEO, Roots of Peace, was deeply inspired in September 1997 to create an organization dedicated to the eradication of landmines worldwide. With a simple toast in the living room of her home that the world may go from Mines to Vines™, a global initiative was launched from the heart of a mother of four children following the death of the late Princess Diana who catapulted the issue of landmines to the forefront of the international agenda. (Biography from [http://www.rootsofpeace.org/about-us/board-members/.](http://www.rootsofpeace.org/about-us/board-members/))



We welcome back to the board Dr. **Ethel Tobach**. Ethel has had a successful career in Comparative Psychology and is curator emeritus at the American Museum of Natural History. She is a founder of Psychologists for Social Action (PSA) and serves on the steering committee for Psychologists for Social Responsibility. She was a member of the precursor of APA's Board for Social and Ethical Responsibility.



Our Vision

A peaceful Korean peninsula united across an intact DMZ region, with biological and cultural resources preserved in perpetuity, enriching current and future generations of all Koreans.

Our Mission

The mission of the DMZ Forum is to support conservation of the unique biological and cultural resources of Korea's Demilitarized Zone, transforming it from a symbol of war and separation to a place of peace among humans and between humans and nature.

Much of it untrammelled by humans over the past half-century, the DMZ can inform world scientists and citizens about nature's reclamation powers.

Protected from development, the DMZ contains native plants, animals and intact habitats that do not exist elsewhere in North and South Korea but can be re-introduced to restore and maintain biodiversity on the Peninsula.

Retaining a wild natural state, the DMZ can attract and support eco-tourism activities compatible with ecosystem protection more profitably and productively than other potential development scenarios.