

# Our Work in 2022

## A Peak Into HSF's Unification Work

*HSF Korea supports the process of reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula. In South Korea, this includes regional development, in which the border region (DMZ) is especially focused upon. In North Korea, HSF attempts to contribute to the peaceful development in the region through activities aiming for international integration and cooperation on the Korean Peninsula in the field of environment.*

### The Global Health Crisis and the Health Community of the Korean Peninsula Webinar

On January 20th, 2022, the Global Health Crisis and the Health Community of the Korean Peninsula Webinar was hosted by the Korean Society of Global Health and the Association of Healthcare for Korean Unification. The webinar invited experts from various fields, and Dr. Bernhard Seliger, the representative of HSF Korea, also contributed with a presentation on ‘Medical cooperation of Germany and Korea’.



Dr. Seliger talked about the East German health system. As he explained, East Germany had a fully-funded healthcare system that was very similar to the Soviet health system. By utilizing propaganda, East Germany proposed “better universal health care”, which in fact was revealed as an illusion rather than a practical procedure. Dr. Seliger claimed that since 1990 when the Western structure in the health care system was successfully delivered, and since the end of the state-run polyclinic system, extreme demographic challenges happened in East Germany.

### PyeongChang Peace Forum 2022

The PyeongChang Peace Forum 2022 was hosted under the slogan “Peace, Here and Now!” with the main theme “The Declaration to End the Korean War and Beyond”. It discussed peace-related issues on the Korean Peninsula under 5 key agendas: Economy, Sports, DMZ Peace zone, UN SDGs, and Peace Public Diplomacy for the special agenda “peace cooperation between South Korea and North Korea through co-hosting of the Winter Youth Olympic Games Gangwon 2024”.



Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Korea took part in Special Agenda Session 1 on 22nd February and Partner Session 8 on 23rd February. At the Special Agenda Session, Dr. Bernhard Seliger, representative of HSF Korea, spoke about the significance of sports as an avenue for dealing with North Korea. He mentioned how sports are used as a political tool and said that the fundamental problem with sports competition and South Korea is that it is highly political and high profile. He recommended people-to-people contacts and sports, and to reduce publicized meetings. In conclusion, Dr. Seliger mentioned a need for a radically new approach, especially regarding the National Security Law to create a realm of civil exchanges and a need to accept the loss of state control in sports exchange.

### Second Lecture Series on Green Growth with North Korea

On February 9th and 10th, HSF Korea held its first joint virtual lecture of 2022 with the Ministry of Land and Environment Protection (MoLEP) of North Korea as part of the “Virtual Lecture Series on Green Growth.”



The two-day event was opened by Dr. Susanne Luther, head of the Institute for International Relations of Hanns Seidel Foundation, who emphasized the significance of green growth strategies for reconciling sustainable development and economic growth vis-à-vis accelerating climate change. Following Dr. Luther's opening remarks, Mr. Daniel Weiß, Head of Programme Green Economy at adelphi consult GmbH, a leading consulting firm in the field of environment and development, which contributes to sustainable resource use and sustaining natural life systems, was joined by Ms. Lea Mohnen to commence the first lecture. In their presentation, Mr. Weiß and his colleague provided an in-depth introduction to the German national climate strategy and the development of national climate policies. In the second part of the lecture, the two speakers provided definitions of different types of hydrogen and elaborated on the importance of green hydrogen for the transformation of the German economy.

## Tree Planting Day in North Korea and World Forestry/Wildlife Day

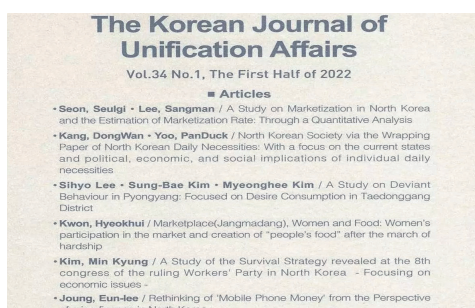
March 21st is the International Day of Forests proclaimed by the United Nations to celebrate and raise awareness of the importance of forests, and to promote the need for forest conservation. March 2nd is Tree Planting Day in North Korea. It is around one month earlier than South Korean Tree Planting Day (Singmogil). According to Rodong Sinmun, the party-run official newspaper in North Korea, citizens plant millions of saplings this year as a part of the 'war with Nature' to transform 'Bare Mountain' into 'Gold Mountain.' Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea cooperates with North Korea on sustainable forestry since 2008.

From 2014 to 2017, HSF also carried out an EU-financed project on afforestation in North Korea, which included capacity building, the establishment of a model tree nursery, and afforestation area for the severely deforested Western lowlands in Sangsori, Taedong-gun, Pyongan-Namdo. For the upcoming international day of forests on the 21st of March, the FAO has planned an online seminar event on 'Sustainable wood for people and the planet'.



## The Korean Journal of Unification Affairs (Vol.34 No.1)

The Institute for Peace Affairs, a long-term and important partner of Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea in reunification preparation work, has published a new issue of "The Korean Journal of Unification Affairs" (Vol.34 No.1, First Half of 2022). Again, several experts contributed insightful articles and studies on relevant topics regarding unification affairs on the Korean Peninsula.



## The Changing Maritime Strategy of Northeast Asia and Inter-Korean Cooperation

The first session was coordinated to talk about the US, China, and Japan's maritime strategy and the status quo of Northeast Asia. Dr. Roland Wilson from George Mason University Korea represented the United States' Northeast Asia maritime strategy, professor Li Jia Chung from Liaoning University, and Dr. Mitsuhiro Minura from the Economic Research Institute for Northeast Asia discussed China and Japan's maritime strategy. In the middle of the conflicting regional and global orders, South Korea is an important strategic point. Especially the maritime strategy is part of the US's Indo-Pacific Strategy and China's Maritime Goals to peer to the US power. In the case of Japan, the Northeast Asia issue does not take a big portion of the marine strategy. However, there is a high possibility that disputes with China regarding international order related to maritime issues will increase in the future.



## 2022 Korean-German Unification Forum 1st <Unification Academy>

On July 1st, the Unification Academy hosted by the Hanns Seidel Foundation and the Korea Institute for Peace and Cooperation was held at the Korean Press Center. This academy has great significance in promoting overall unification by instilling awareness of Korean unification in students from Jeju and suggesting what should be done for unification. Hanns Seidel Foundation's senior researcher Dr. Hyun-Ah Choi and intern researcher Helena attended the forum to help organize the forum and conduct a survey.

In the first session, a keynote speech entitled "Peace and Unification on the Korean Peninsula" by Dr. Ki-Woong Son, President of the Korea Institute for Peace and Cooperation, and a video congratulatory message from Dr. Bernhard Seliger, representative of the Korea Office of the Hanns Seidel Foundation, were delivered.

## Public Diplomacy in Culture and Ethics - Workshop at Chungnam University

With the fall of the Berlin wall and the end of the socialist block, there seemed to be a triumphal procession of democracy and market economy, a process once called "the end of history". Thirty years later, it became clear that this was a misleading impression. Indeed, democracy and the values underpinning democracy were in decline, even in some of the core democratic countries. Partisanship, the dwindling of moral values, the canceling of unwanted opinions at university campuses originally thought to be the core units defending free speech under the banner of "critical race theory", all point to the decline and precariousness of democracy.

## Participation in the 2022 workshop of the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Committee Workshop in Goyang, Gyeonggi-province

On Friday, the 8th of July 2022, Kim Young-Soo, project manager at the Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea, took part in this year's Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Committee Workshop, organized by its Consultation Committee. A total of 21 members of the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Committee in Goyang City, as well as government officials from the Goyang City Hall, attended. Kim Young-Soo has been a member of the Inter-Korean Exchange and Cooperation Committee since 2020. During the workshop, discussions were held, concerning the new policies directed toward North Korea by the newly elected Yoon-administration, with special regards to the consequences of the government's peace policy on a municipal level.

## Local Governments and Inter-Korean cooperation

On December 6th, Dr. Hyun-Ah Choi, Senior Researcher at HSF Korea, was invited to speak at a seminar that discussed the role of local governments in the inter-Korean exchange and cooperation.





## The 35th Unification Korea Forum

On September 6th, a group meeting was held in Jung-gu, Seoul, for the presentation of the Unification Korea Forum on the Yun Seok-yeol administration's North Korea policy initiative and the prospects for the situation on the Korean Peninsula.

The Group meeting of the 35th Korea Forum for Unification hosted by the Institute for Peace Affairs of Korea and supported by the Hanns Seidel Foundation was held in Seoul. At the meeting, Professor Won-Gon Park of the Department of North Korean Studies at Ewha Womans University presented the current inter-Korean political situation, the possibility of inter-Korean cooperation, and the outlook for the international situation. Experts had an opportunity to discuss, ask, and answer questions. After the announcement of the Yun Seok-yeol administration's "Bold Initiative" to North Korean policy, inter-Korean cooperation has almost ceased due to North Korea's response to North Korea's overall nuclear policy and actions, provocations, and suspension of inter-Korean exchanges.

The strategy and cooperation of the United States, China, and South Korea on the denuclearization of North Korea was conceived as a new paradigm when the new government came to power, which is an important starting point for understanding the reality of a divided country and setting goals in terms of politics and economy. The representative, Dr. Seliger, Kim Young-soo, and intern Eun Hyuk-bin of Hanns Seidel Foundation participated in this meeting and gave opinions on Germany's unification and the reality of a divided country, the coexistence, and the value of acceptance for cooperation. The possibility of opening up North Korea through China was presented, and the division of roles between the government and the private sector was emphasized through discussion.



## Korea Global Forum for Peace 2022

The Korea Global Forum for Peace, which was held from August 30th to September 1st, 2022, at the Millennium Hilton Hotel in Seoul, was organized by the South Korean Ministry of Unification and offered researchers, NGOs, and government representatives the opportunity to discuss issues concerning North Korea and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. Not only Dr. Seliger was attending to represent the Hanns Seidel Foundation, but also the project coordinators Jeongmin Khil, as well as the intern Sabine Leykam visited various panels.

Dr. Seliger headed the "Inter-Korean Agricultural Cooperation for the Joint Prosperity in the Climate Crisis" panel as moderator. The presenters Taek Goo Kang and Hyuk Kim introduced their research on "Inter-Korean Environmental Cooperation for Co-response to Climate Risk" and "Trend and Situation of Agricultural Infrastructure Policy under the Kim Jong-un regime". In the following, the participants Tae Jin Kwon, Sang Jun Lee, and Dong Ho Jo had the chance to share their views and provide new perspectives for both presenters.



## 30 Years of Sino-South Korean relations: Assessment and Prospects

The conference "30 Years of South Korea-China relations: Assessment and Prospects" of Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea and the Council for Diplomacy on Korean Unification addresses the pivotal role of China in the fate of the Korean Peninsula. But how will this role play out? 30 years ago, there was great enthusiasm about diplomatic relations, rising trade, and the hope for mutual understanding. By now, this has largely evaporated and many observers rather talk of a new Cold War. This conference brings together Korean, Chinese, and foreign experts to discuss the future of relations and the constructive role of China on the Korean Peninsula.

## 30th Anniversary of the first Inter-Korean Agreement

The Agreement on Reconciliation, Non-Aggression, and Exchanges and Cooperation between South and North Korea were signed 30 years ago between the two Koreas. Based on this, the international conference on inter-Korean relations and inter-Korean agreements was held on December 3rd. The Korea Legislation Research Institute, a partner of Hanns Seidel Foundation (HSF) Korea, hosted the international conference to discuss experts' opinions and international case studies, e.g., Germany. Dr. Bernhard Seliger, Representative of HSF Korea, presented the German case study and suggested some lessons learned from German unification. He emphasized that such lessons are helpful but are not fully adaptable to different nations. Hence, insights from the pre-unification period might be the most important right now. Dr. Hyun-Ah Choi also attended the event and shared her thoughts based on her experience of cooperation with experts from the two Koreas.



## International Conference on Inter-Korean Science Cooperation

Dr. Bernhard Seliger, representative of HSF Korea, participated in the International Conference on Inter-Korean Science Cooperation under the UN SDGs on December 12th. Ban Ki-moon, former Secretary-General of the United Nations, also joined this event and EU Ambassador Maria Castillo-Fernandez gave Congratulatory remarks.



## Forum on Forest Cooperation

Under the inter-Korean Gangwon-do cooperation association, the forest cooperation subcommittee and Research Institute for Gangwon (RIG) co-hosted the forum on forest cooperation between the North and South Gangwon Province to find a way to resume inter-Korean forest cooperation. Prof. Jong-Choon Woo, Chairperson of the Forest Cooperation Subcommittee, gave a keynote speech about the integrative forest cooperation between the two Koreas. After Prof. Woo's address, Dr. Kyung-Nam Kim, Senior Research Fellow at RIG, and Dr. So-Young Park, Research Scientist at National Institute of Forest Science, shared their research results and suggested a direction for future cooperation.

As a panelist, Dr. Hyun-Ah Choi, Senior Researcher at HSF Korea, also attended the forum. She shared the results of the forest project by HSF Korea and talked about international cooperation in the forest field.

## Visit program: Delegation of Gangwon Education Office

Gangwon Province has had a partnership with Hanns-Seidel-Foundation Korea Office since 2006 and from this background, we came to support an information visit of the Gangwon Education Office to Germany at the end of 2022. In 2023, a study trip to Germany is planned, in which 30 students and five teachers from Gangwon Province will participate. The theme of the study tour represents "International Encounter and Peace Building on the Way to Reconciliation of Korea". Based on this study tour plan, a delegation consisting of three school inspectors and one administrator conducted a fact-finding visit to Germany from November 27th to December 3rd, 2022.

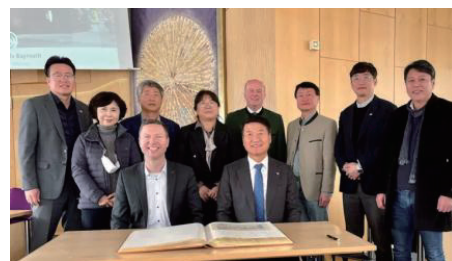
The trip was organized and accompanied on-site by Mr. Young-Soo KIM, Project Manager of HSF-Korea. The delegation visited Munich, Bayreuth, Hof, Leipzig, and Berlin. Important destinations of the visit included the Hanns-Seidel-Foundation e.V., Bavarian Ministry of Education and Culture, Christian Ernestinum High School in Bayreuth, German-German-Museum Mödlareuth, Contemporary History Forum Leipzig, Berlin Wall Memorial, etc.

## Visit program: Representatives of the Goseong county visit Germany

Mr. Ham, Myong-Jun, District Administrator of Goseong County in the Gangwon Province, completed a study tour in Germany from November 1st to November 9th, 2022, at the invitation of HSF, organized and accompanied by Mr. KIM, Young-Soo, Project Manager of HSF Korea. Six employees of the District Office joined to gain various experiences in politics, administration, economy, environment, international relations, etc.

The visit program started in Berlin. Before attending the 20th German-Korean Forum in the Bundestag, Mr. Ham had a political discussion session with Andreas Scheuer MdB and gave a lecture on the situation of the border region using the example of his district for the German-Korean Society in the Korean Cultural Center in Berlin. In Munich, the delegation visited the HSF headquarters and two Bavarian ministries, where reports were given on the changes in relevant sectors after reunification.

The last destination of the visit was Bayreuth, where the partner county of Goseong is located. The partnership between Goseong County and Bayreuth County was concluded through the mediation of HSF Korea in 2010. There, the delegation visited the Government of Upper Franconia, District Office Bayreuth, and IHK Upper Franconia.



## HSF activities with the invited expert Craig Boljkovac

On November 24th, 2022, Dr. Bernhard Seliger, a representative of Hanns Seidel Foundation Korea, held a special lecture at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. As a guest speaker and commentator, Mr. Craig Boljkovac, a former UN expert based in Geneva, participated in this lecture on "North Korea and the EU - between diplomacy and isolation".

He provided insights into his experiences working with and in North Korea, recounted his delegation trips to North Korea, and gave his opinion on how engagement with North Korea might develop in the future. Dr. Bernhard Seliger's presentation provided students with background information on North Korea, its people, EU-North Korea relations, and the development of international cooperation with DPRK.

For instance, he touched on topics such as the Covid pandemic effects, also in reference to the North Korean health system, and explained the process of how the historical background of North Korea and its international relationships led to today. He emphasized the importance of increased engagement with North Korea and, based on that, presented HSF's projects in DPRK, as well as lessons learned from the capacity building. Explaining why HSF considers it of great importance to engage in DPRK issues, Dr. Seliger touched on development projects such as the EU-DPRK Trade Capacity Project (2006-2009), the registration of CDM projects since 2010, pilot projects on renewable energy, and lessons which were learned.

## Visit program to Germany: Reunification Study Tour of IPA Delegation

IPA (Institute for Peace Affairs: President - Mr. SHIN, Young-Seok) has been the longest project partner for HSF Korea in the field of "Reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula" and from this background, we have been organizing and conducting the reunification study tour in Germany in cooperation with IPA regularly since 1990. Within this framework, we completed the study tour, entitled "Management of German division and unification: economy, politics and environment", in Germany from December 4th to December 11th, 2022. The six study trip participants visited various institutions in the new and old German states, where they were able to gather diverse impressions. They visited several places in Berlin, followed by Leipzig, Thuringia, and two former border regions (Hof and Egerland), where they inquired about the development of the border regions after unification. They also had discussions with Prof. Dr. Ralph Wrobel about social and economic conflicts after the unification, and their solution measures, as well as about the Green Belt when they visited the Foundation for Nature Conservation Thuringia.

