

UPF Europe and Middle East Newsletter: Why do the two Koreas remain divided?

Jacques Marion
November 13, 2020

UPF EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST NEWSLETTER



Zoom conference: Why do the two Koreas remain divided and what can be done about it?

Friday, 13 November 2020 02:00pm - 03:30pm

Zoom with Michael Breen, author and commentator on Korean issues based in South Korea

Theme: "Why do the two Koreas remain divided and what can be done about it?"

Zoom Link : zoom.us/j/95142337715

Since their separation into two countries, the Koreans have remained committed to re-unifying. So, what exactly has prevented them in the last 70 years from doing it? And what is stopping them now? Could re-unification be around the corner and, if so, what can the international community do to support it?

Speaker:



Michael Breen is an author and commentator based in South Korea. A graduate of the University of Edinburgh, he is a former correspondent for *The Washington Times* and *The Guardian* and a past president of the Seoul Foreign Correspondents' Club. He is currently the CEO of Insight Communications Consultants, a business consultancy in Seoul. He is also writing for the *Chosun Ilbo* and *The Korea Times*. He is the author of four books on Korea, the most recent of which is *The New Koreans*. He was made an honorary citizen of Seoul in 2001.

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Zoom webinar: Prospects for Peace on the Korean Peninsula

Monday, 16 November 2020 01:00pm - 02:30pm

Registration: eume.upf.org/resources/signup-for-webinar-on-16-11-2020

The language of the webinar will be English with translation into Russian.

Backgrounder:

The purpose of the conference is to discuss topical issues of peace and security on the Korean Peninsula. The situation there affects not only the Asia-Pacific region but many world processes, including the possibility of peaceful sustainable development in many countries.

2020 marks the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War, which destroyed the lives and destinies of many people. After 70 years, how does humanity look at what happened? Is there a possibility of a new Korean miracle – the unification of Korea into a single state – in the near future?

2020 was a year of dramatic shocks for all of humanity, as evidenced not only by the COVID-19 pandemic. Great changes are taking place in the fields of geopolitics, the world economy, education, media, religion and culture, at all levels of society, including families, communities, cities and countries. Has 2020 brought the prospect of peace on the Korean Peninsula closer or further away?

Speakers:



Dr Alexander Vorontsov, Head of the Department for Korean and Mongolian Studies at the Institute of Oriental Studies of the Russia Academy of Sciences; MGIMO-University associate professor. First Deputy Chairman of the Society for Friendship and Cultural Relations between the Russian Federation and the DPRK. Served as second secretary in the Russian Federation's Embassy in Pyongyang from 2000 to 2002. He was visiting professor at the Hanguk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul from 1998 to 2000; at the Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan in 2009 and 2012, at the Akita International University, Japan in 2015.



Dr Barthelemy Courmont is Professor of Contemporary History and International Relations at the Catholic University of Lille, France, and Senior Research-fellow at the Paris-based Institute of International and Strategic Relations (IRIS). From 2006 to 2009, he directed the IRIS office in Taiwan. He was a Professor of Political Science at Hallym University, South Korea during four years. He has specialized in Northeast Asian security issues, US foreign policy, transatlantic relations, nuclear issues and new threats. He is the author of numerous books on East Asia and the Korean peninsula.

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Zoom webinar: Incentives for a Rapprochement on the Korean Peninsula

Friday, 27 November 2020 04:00pm - 05:30pm

Registration Link: eume.upf.org/resources/signup-for-webinar-on-27-11-2020

The Universal Peace Federation is pleased to invite you to participate in a webinar on the topic: **“Incentives for a Rapprochement on the Korean Peninsula”** on Friday November 27, 2020 from 16:00 to 17:30 CET.

Organized by UPF's International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP) and International Association for Peace and Economic Development (IAPD), in partnership with the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), the Webinar is part of a series of programs initiated by UPF Europe & Middle East to mark the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War.

The Webinars provide a platform for leading figures from the worlds of academia, politics, business, the media and religion to assess and contribute to the peace process in this significant part of the world.

Backgrounder:

In the last two years the Korean Peninsula has again become the center of the world's attention. 70 years after the Korean war, it is possible to consider again a rapprochement between North and South. Could this lead to re-unification? We have seen flickers of hope, yet this quickly reverted to deadlock.

The peace process on the Korean Peninsula depends in great part on its powerful neighbors: China, Russia, Japan, and the United States. Without their support, reunification will be hamstrung.

However, the key stakeholders are the Korean people. Divided for seven decades by ideology and a widening socio-economic gap, can North and South Korea envision a common destiny? Are there incentives that could help overcome the past of distrust and conflict, and open a path to mutual prosperity? Can lessons be learned from the German experience of re-unification?

The panelists will assess incentives and scenarios that could foster a peaceful rapprochement on the Korean Peninsula.

Moderator: **Mrs. Chantal Komagata**, coordinator, UPF Europe

Speakers:

- **Dr Rüdiger Frank**, Head of the Department of East Asian Studies, University of Vienna; Adjunct Professor at Korea University and at the University of North Korean Studies, Seoul – **(tbc)**
- **Amb. Marc Vogelaar**, former Director for External and Public Affairs at the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation (KEDO)
- **Dr Claude Béglé**, Founder and President, Symbioswiss; former Member of the Swiss Parliament
- **Mr. Yoshihiro Yamazaki**, Coordinator, IAAP Europe & Middle East; Liaison for Europe & Middle East, Institute for Peace Policies, Japan

Questions and Answers

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