

The Round Table

“Russia and countries in the Asia-Pacific region: towards peace, security and sustainable development”

Moscow, the National Hotel

Maria Nazarova - April 13th, 2019



On April 13th, 2019 the round table “Russia and countries in the Asia-Pacific region: towards peace, security and sustainable development” was held in Moscow, at the National Hotel. Russian experts on Korea and the countries in the Asia-Pacific region gathered to analyze the present situation on peace, security and development in the region. Representatives of the NGOs of Russian Koreans also participated at the conference.

Alexander Zhebin, Ph.D., Head of the Center for Korean Studies, Institute of the Far East (IFES), Russian Academy of Science opened the conference.



He presented deep analysis of the present situation on Korean Peninsula. He shared that in fact, each of the parties to the conflict in its own way ranks common goals. If the United States’ main priority is denuclearization of the DPRK, then that of the DPRK it is peace or security, for which the country just went for creation of nuclear weapons.

The events of 2018 showed also that the Republic of Korea’s priority was peace on the peninsula, and not denuclearization of the DPRK by itself. In any case, it was clear that Seoul’s priority was not denuclearization at any cost. These circumstances suggest that the tendencies towards detente in

Korea that were outlined in 2018, and search for a diplomatic solution to the Korean problems are not easy. Considerable political will and patience of all contracting parties, primarily the United States and the DPRK, will be required in order to reach mutually acceptable agreements.

What opportunities for this are provided by the already signed inter-Korean documents, in particular the Panmunjom Declaration on Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula of April 27, 2018? The central point of the Declaration, in my opinion, is commitment of the leaders of the two Korean states, pronounced by them "solemnly in front of 80 million Koreans of the North and South and the whole world that there will be no more war on the Korean Peninsula". This is the most important provision of the Declaration, which, like the entire document, although

it is not legally binding, however, in situations that directly threaten the world, can play a key role in conflict prevention.

The second aspect of the inter-Korean thaw is the problem of reviving the inter-Korean economic cooperation, which successfully grew between the first and second inter-Korean summits of 2000 and 2007. This is one of the most difficult tasks to be solved, since the DPRK is subject to unprecedented tough international sanctions imposed by resolutions of the UN Security Council. These sanctions complicate not only trade and economic investment cooperation, but also cultural, humanitarian, sports exchanges, various international actions promoting Korean unification, such as marches across the entire Korean Peninsula, friendship trains, etc. To drastically improve the situation, it is necessary to make changes in the resolutions of the UN Security Council.

A significant obstacle to any cooperation and exchange, in addition to the resolutions of the UN Security Council, remains the unilateral sanctions of a number of states and, finally, South Korea itself. The South Korean authorities could well show goodwill and lift sanctions against the DPRK, which were unilaterally imposed by previous administrations, and which, from the point of view of international law, are considered illegitimate. In general, if we consider the economic block of inter-Korean cooperation, the corresponding points of the Panmunjom and Pyongyang Declarations are not new. Thus, the railways of the two Koreas were connected in 2005, and in December 2007, test runs of trains took place. The zone of peace and cooperation in the West Sea was also agreed during the second Inter-Korean Summit 2007, which was prepared by the current President of the Republic of Korea, Moon Jae-in, who then held the position of Chief of Staff of the then Head of State Roh Moo-hyun. Thus, in the economy we are talking about restoration of the lost.

However, there are new moments. In my opinion, the second inter-Korean Summit in May 2018 demonstrated an unprecedented readiness and ability of the top leaders of the South and the North to quickly respond to any dramatic changes in the international situation affecting the interests of Koreans. The reason for the Summit was the decision of President Trump to cancel the meeting with the North Korean leader, in organization of which Moon Jae-in and Kim Jong-un himself put a lot of effort. The coordinated efforts of the leaders of the South and the North, who held the Summit in May, gave a positive result - the first Summit in history between the current President of the United States and the Head of the DPRK was held on June 12 in Singapore. The September Summit of the Heads of the South and the North, held on September 18-20, 2018 in Pyongyang, demonstrated determination of the leaders of the DPRK and the Republic of Korea to secure the leading role in determining the fate of the peninsula. Despite the serious difficulties faced by the American-North Korean dialogue after the Summit in Singapore, Moon Jae-in and Kim Jong-un not only managed to make progress in concretizing the political agreements set forth in the Panmunjom Declaration, but also made a crucial step in the field of military detente and promoting confidence building measures. In their presence, the heads of the military departments of the South and the North signed an agreement on the implementation of the historic Panmunjom Declaration in the military field, which has already begun to be implemented.

Of course, in order for the decisions recorded in the inter-Korean declarations to be achieved, the North and the South need to do a great deal of work in politics, law, education and culture. However, the inter-Korean summits of 2018 showed that the national interests of Koreans will play an ever-increasing role in determining the fate of the Korean Peninsula.

The decisions to hold the summit were dictated by realization that at this stage, the possibilities to resolve inter-Korean disputes by relying on external forces have been largely exhausted. Moreover, such attempts, as shown in 2017, are fraught with the appearance of a serious threat to the very existence of the Korean nation. Under these conditions, the Koreans will be steadily finding their own way to solve their problems, based on common Korean interests. As a result, the three inter-Korean summits, held in 2018, became significant landmarks in the history of the two Korean states. This is a new attempt to establish peaceful relations in cooperation between North and South Korea, which have not been achieved in the last 70 years of the existence of two Korean states.

A few words about denuclearization and the DPRK-US relationship.

Most experts, including those in the United States, agree that progress in this area can be achieved only step by step through mutual concessions. The recent withdrawal from the sanctions regime of several charitable organizations wishing to help the DPRK, made by the UN Security Council Committee on sanctions, as well as statements by the special representative of the US Secretary of State for North Korea, Stephen Beagan, at the beginning of the year at Stanford University, indicates that this approach was adopted by the parties in preparation for the summit in Hanoi.

At the same time, more and more specialists believe that the DPRK will in no way go to complete elimination of its nuclear missile potential. The fact is that in Pyongyang they cannot help but wonder what will happen with possible agreements with the United States after Trump. The DPRK already has disappointing experiences in this regard.

Significantly progressed under Bill Clinton, the relations were rotated 180 degrees by George W. Bush, who included North Korea in the so-called "axis of evil" and invented the abbreviation of ABC - "Anything But Clinton" - a policy that completely denied everything that was done under Clinton. The course of the current host of the White House is best conveyed by a similar formula, "Anything but what Obama did." And canceled all that was done under Obama. It is almost possible to say with 100 percent certainty that if a candidate from the Democrats wins the presidential elections in the United States in 2020, his motto will be, "Anything but what Trump did." There is no doubt that the Northerners understand this well. In addition, there is no unity in the Trump administration on how to deal with the DPRK. Statements on this topic by such figures as Vice-President Pence and Assistant to the President for National Security Bolton indicate that they are supporters of a much more rigid course towards Pyongyang. So, taking into account the above mentioned and, by the way, a far from complete list of problems, really major breakthroughs in denuclearization of the DPRK in Hanoi would have been unlikely. At the same time, the absence of a joint document or any agreed statements, without which this Summit ended, suggests that the relations between the United States and the DPRK are deadlocked, and no progress can be expected either in denuclearizing the Korean Peninsula or improving relations.

It is important to bear in mind that the factors that led Donald Trump and Kim Jong-un to Hanoi, despite the lack of agreements, continue to operate. The United States still want to achieve denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, and the North Koreans want to lift the sanctions and normalize relations with the United States. These incentives retain their strength.

Secondly, in spite of the well-known reputational losses suffered in Hanoi, both leaders for the time being refrain from personal attacks and threatening rhetoric, which 2017 was so rich in. We can assume that at this stage, they prefer to leave the door for negotiations, even if closed, but not locked.

These two circumstances allow us to hope that the United States and the DPRK will continue the negotiation process with a view to resolving the issues that led their leaders to both Singapore and Hanoi. The statements of the DPRK leader at the recent session of the Supreme People's Assembly confirm that the DPRK leaves open room for negotiations with the United States.

In any case, the transition to dialogue on Korean issues is much more preferable than the explosive situation that has developed on the peninsula in 2017. It seems that Russian diplomacy should make every effort so that the parties remain at the negotiating table as long as possible. Russia has been conducting this position since the beginning of this century, and one might say the millennium. I want to remind that, back in 2002, President Putin sent a welcoming address to the participants of the peace and friendship train, which connected Korea, with wishes of success in the struggle for reunification of Korea and the Korean nation.

Next, **Alexander Vorontsov**, Ph.D., Head of the Department of Korea and Mongolia, Institute of Oriental Studies, Russian Academy of Science continued:



The topic of our round table is very relevant. We listened to a deep and solid report about the situation on the Korean Peninsula, which highlighted the main problems. Proceeding from the name of our event, I would like to approach this problem, based on a broader, regional context. In the title we have – the Asia-Pacific region. The countries of the region are increasingly seeking to strengthen security in the region. It is generally recognized that East Asia, where the Korean Peninsula is located, is the most dynamic and powerful economic region where the leading economies of the world are concentrated. The

Republic of Korea is at the forefront of the highly economically developed countries of this region. Of course, the lack of peace and security is extremely disturbing to all participants in this process. But we see that approaches to security

are different. Russia, China, the countries of the SCO, BRICS, put forward the concept of equal and indivisible security for all. Only in such conditions the countries of the region will be able to feel in real security. Equal and indivisible.

SCO, BRICS frankly take into account the positive experience of interregional cooperation within the framework of Southeast Asia, ASEAN, where, as you know, decisions are made on a consensus basis and with full equality. This is put on the top priority, so that the equality of all participants is guaranteed. Approximately on the same basis, Russia, with its concepts, and China are trying and offering to build regional cooperation, they have chosen a different approach. The United States see security primarily as their own and their allies' security. In the title of our round table, we see the Asia-Pacific region, and there, for the past one and a half years, the term Indo-Pacific has been used.

And it is not at all accidental that only the Indo-Pacific region is mentioned in all official documents. The explanation concerns India, on the one hand, and the United States, on the other, who limit this region. The main players, according to this concept, are the countries "quad", that is, the "quadrilateral" within the framework of this Indo-Pacific region: the USA-Japan-Australia-India that are democratic countries, a pillar of democracy. They are the main active players, the leading forces and it is the cooperation between them that should determine the whole life in this region. They call for the development of cooperation, including military, between these countries.

What about other countries? They remain outside of this privileged group. That is, in fact, there is a prospect of building new dividing lines. Who is outside of this design? Mainland: China, Russia and other countries that do not quite agree with US policy. These two concepts counteract, interact, and all countries in this region, including the Korean Peninsula, are in the coordinates of this new regional vision.

We see how the emphasis on alliances, within the framework of this broad construction, is trying to strengthen the interaction of the regional quadrilateral, relying on the existing military alliances of the USA: USA-Japan, USA-Republic of Korea, USA-Australia. But now relations between Japan and the Republic of Korea have become significantly more complicated for a number of reasons: now there is no opportunity to concentrate on them, therefore such a sub-regional structure is not very developed.

During the reign of the previous administration in South Korea, when Mrs. Park Geun-hye was president and led by the party she represented, they recklessly tried to be in the mainstream of military cooperation with the United States, and they decided to easily accommodate in South Korea a new missile system THAAD, which became an extremely painful point for the region, since as officially declared, it was directed against North Korea, but for its technical characteristics, THAAD was viewed very far by China radar. This caused a sharp reaction from China and Russia. China actually imposed sanctions against South Korea, they, of course, were not called sanctions. This complicated the regional situation.

The current administration of the Republic of Korea stands to a large extent from alternative positions. Concerning THAAD, there was an agreement that there would no longer be their expansion in South Korea. As a result, the situation is improving. And then there was a situation when in our region almost all countries were under sanctions: Russia and China under American sanctions; against China unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States on those organizations that cooperate with North Korea; South Korea under Chinese sanctions – an unhealthy situation. Now the situation has largely improved, and here, of course, the current President of the Republic of Korea, Moon Jae Yung, plays an important role. It should be recognized.

In relations with China, he also settled to a large extent acute conflict situations, and now the relations are normalizing. Previous speaker has already shared about inter-Korean relations. The current situation is fundamentally new for us, Koreans, who have committed their lives to studying the situation in Korea and want peace and stability for the Korean people, whom we love. 2017 was extremely alarming, then the war was actually knocking on the door of the Korean Peninsula, and this is not a pathetic or journalistic line. What happened last year, this cardinal turn to peace, to a diplomatic decision, should not be underestimated in any way. Moreover, the process is complicated, bumpy, now we are again seeing a pause, a slowdown of this process, but there are still prospects for its continuation.

Once again I would like to confirm that the role of President Moon Je-in here is very important. He showed certain courage. And of course Kim Jong-un. As one Korean proverb says, "You can't clap with one hand." They resolutely went to meet each other, starting with the Olympic Pause in Pyeongchang. It was felt that both sides were quite ready, the necessary concepts and programs of action were developed, because inter-Korean cooperation and rapprochement proceeded so swiftly, successfully, and effectively. Indeed, three summits in less than one year, in six

months. And before that, for the entire 70-year history of the two Koreas, there were only two summits, which, of course, were also good, but this here was a qualitative leap, a breakthrough. Then – a qualitatively new phenomenon. Earlier, the military sphere was touched upon in the inter-Korean agreements, but they were never implemented. And then they began to be rapidly implemented. And now most of the agreements in the military sphere, which were part of the Pyongyang Declaration of September last year, as an integral part, have already been implemented.

We see very serious positive changes on the Korean Peninsula, and in the region, and we very much hope for their positive continuation this year.

Otsuka Katsumi, Ph.D., Chairman of the Universal Peace Federation in Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East, spoke about first visit of Dr. Sun Myun Moon and Dr. Han Hak Ja Moon, the founders of the Universal Peace Federation, to Moscow, Soviet Union, in 1990. At that time, 40 former Heads of States attended the 11th World Media Conference, which was organized together with Novosti Press of Soviet Union.



Dr. Otsuka shared about an important meeting, which Dr. and Mrs. Moon had with the President Gorbachev at the Kremlin. Main federal newspaper gave the report about it on the first page. Dr. and Mrs. Moon visited Russia to love Russia and Russian people. The goal was also to lead to the end of the cold war, which is the turning point of history. They presented a new vision of nation and the world after 70 years after the 1917 revolution. It was the fruits of “the Washington times” and fact-finding tours. After this meeting, exchange program between Russian and American students as well as Russian and Japan began.

In 1990 Dr. and Mrs. Moon visited Kremlin and the Red Square, experienced Russian rich cultural heritage, found great possibility of development in Russian young people. They also emphasized true family values and family value based on ethics (moral).

Dr. and Mrs. Moon expressed, that without Russia it would be impossible to build the world peace, so Russia needs to live for the sake of world peace.

Also the construction of the Bering Strait bridge and tunnel, which requires political will of the Russia and USA government was presented at that time. Now, Dr. Han Hak Ja Moon emphasizes a lot the peace road project, which includes the construction of the Bering Strait bridge and tunnel.

Now after 29 years of the first visit to Moscow by Dr. and Mrs. Moon’s, their Idea of “living for the sake of others” and peace ideology have been attracting many leaders in the world. Again, Dr. Han Hak Ja Moon views Russia as the key nation for world peace, developing the peace road project. She also continues to emphasize the importance to stop family breakdown and immorality in the world. Also one of the priorities of the UPF is Inter-Ethnic and inter-religious tolerance and international dialogue for a better world and future. Of course the issue of the reunification is still one of the important issues in many parts of the world, especially in the Korean peninsula.

Dr. Otsuka shared about the present environment for the Reunification of the Korean peninsula and the role of UPF in it. First, he emphasized the importance to have a Korean Peoples’ desire for reunification, According to the present statistics desire of young people for reunification is much weaker than of elderly people. Also rich and poor people are less positive for reunification and the identity as a Korean is getting weaker on the Korean Peninsula. Next, is economy: there is a cost of reunification, which is 3 times of the National Budget of South Korea according to the World Bank-Wall Street Journal. Dr. Otsuka shared an interesting statistics of who was responsible for the division of Korea, according to the public opinion poll in South Korea (by “Cyugan Ilbo” Sep. 2005). The results were: USA 53%, Japan 15.8%, Russia 13.7%, China 8.8%. Of cause the cause of the division is the cold war.

Then he shared about the desire of Russia, China, USA and Japan, the biggest players in the region, to abolish nuclear weapons and missiles in the Korean Peninsula. Another issue, which needs to be payed attention to is cultural differences, which would require equalization.

Dr. Otsuka also explained how Dr. and Mrs. Moon's after visiting Moscow, had a top-level conference with Kim Il Sung in North Korea on Dec. 6th 1991. The results of the meeting was extraordinary: implementation of discrete family visitation, peaceful use of nuclear energy, welcoming of investment by overseas Koreans, call for the realization of Summit talk between North and South, development of Kumgan San mountain area as tourist area.

Then Dr. Otsuka shared about recent activity of Dr. Han Hak Ja Moon: series of Summit conferences in the world, Inauguration of IAPD and IAPP, importance to organize the Peace road project with crossing of DMZ in 2019 and about youth service for peace projects.

Evgeny Kim, Ph.D., Leading Researcher, Center for Korean Studies, Institute of the Far East (IFES), Russian Academy of Science.



He spoke about the attitude of Rev. Moon to the USSR and North Korea. In the twentieth century, there was a famous German writer, Thomas Mann, who said that "the greatest folly of the 20th century is anti-communism." Rev. Moon had to overcome a long-term struggle against communism and his extremely negative attitude towards communism in order to finally understand that there is something in the ideas of communism that can be used to establish peace on earth. Overcoming such one-sidedness, hostility to a different frame of reference was extremely important.

If we are talking about universal peace, we must forget about our ideological differences. It is necessary to consider the future of mankind, and in this sense, it is worth noting that the situation that has now developed on the Korean Peninsula requires the same approach that Reverend Moon Sun Myung showed in his time.

The position now expressed by some circles in the United States of America with regard to North Korea is related to the fact that they would like to eliminate this regime. The approach demonstrated by US National Security Assistant President, John Bolton, "all or nothing", means that since North Korea does not agree with this, it will have to be suppressed. There are two ways: the first is the military way; the second is economic sanctions to suppress the country and reset the regime.

In both cases, there will be millions of victims. In a war, this is somehow understandable; but as a result of economic sanctions that undermine the living conditions of the North Korean population, this will lead to the loss of health and the massive death of North Koreans. Such an approach is unacceptable, so the solution to this problem, which arose as a result of so many years of distrust and hostility, is possible only in stages, step by step.

When they say that we are now offering a big deal at once, and let's do it, it will not work. Remember the experience of the Germany reunification. Before Germany united, there were very strong contacts between the two states, including humanitarian ones. This tactic of small steps, it seems to me, is very important. It is also necessary to recognize the correctness of what Rev. Moon said in 1990-1991 regarding the use of atomic energy by North Korea: you should not try to forbid North Korea to conduct research in the field of atomic energy.

And I would like to point out the following circumstance. The extremely conservative circles of the United States of America, at one time known as the neoconservatists, to which John Bolton belongs, for some reason think that the North Korea has now contacted the United States of America and is ready even to reduce the level of tension, being frightened by the sanctions. They do not understand the nature of the regime and the peoples' of the North Korea unity. The North Korea took these steps – closing the nuclear center, dismantling the nuclear engine test facility, and was even ready to eliminate the nuclear center in Yongbyon – not because it was afraid of the US sanctions. Yes, sanctions affect the economy of the North Korea, but a country that has been under unprecedented sanctions for the past 70 years will not be scared. It is necessary to finally and clearly recognize that the neighbors of the North Korea, it seems to me, should act in a different way; they could support attempts to find approaches to cooperation between the United States of America and North Korea, North Korea and South Korea, instead of trying to prevent this.

From this point of view, it is clear that the improvement of relations between the United States of America and North Korea is supported by China and Russia. Japan does not support, moreover, it takes a very provocative position, all the time talking about increasing sanctions, demands introduction of new sanctions, puts forward unacceptable conditions for normalization of relations. It seems to me that in order to achieve peace, it is necessary to ensure that Japan realizes the fallacy of its actions before the Second World War, during the occupation of Korea. However, Japan does not want to admit its mistakes. Therefore, for example, in Japanese textbooks it is written that Japan was right during the Second World War. In this way, Japan will not find understanding from other states. In addition, as Dr. Otsuka said, when Korea unites, it can become a major economic power, as the country has abundant natural resources. In other words, Korea will become a very serious economic competitor to Japan. Therefore, Japan does not want a rapprochement between the two Koreas, and does not want to help establishing cooperation with the future giant of the economic world.

We presume that North Korea will not give up. And it seems to me that China, Russia, and South Korea will not allow anyone to try to destroy North Korea as a state.

Ernest Kim, Chairman of the Council of the Regional National-Cultural Autonomy of Koreans of the Moscow Region; participant, organizer and sponsor of the Rally Russia- Korea in 2014



Ernest Kim's speech was dedicated to the rally in 2014 with crossing of the DMZ. At that time we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the voluntary resettlement of Koreans to Russia. This became the topic of the 2014 Russia-Korea rally. We received permission for our team to pass the 38th parallel. As a result, 32 people inscribed their names in history because for the first time the team of such a composition crossed the demarcation line between the two states. In total there were 32 people on 7 cars, and there was also a bus.

All participants had been waiting for this moment for a long time, but the most unexpected was the

fact that the first person we met on the border between North Korea and South Korea was a military man in uniform of the UN - an American military man. We knew that the UN troops were there, still we perceived it as a surprise. Our desire was to unite the two countries by means of grassroots diplomacy. In both North Korea and South Korea, this is one nation, but now the two states are divided by some gap. This gap will become a huge abyss if we, through the efforts of the people's diplomacy or professional policy, fail to change this state of affairs and would not be able to find some forms of association and to unite the two countries. After all, having driven 4 km, we found ourselves in a completely different civilization. And this is all the same – our people. All participants of the round table, Koreans, are quite worried about it.

We cannot reach the highest authorities, although in the Republic of Korea we were received at the level of the Prime Minister, and in North Korea we were met by a third level person. So, in general whole rally was held at a high enough level. However, of course, we cannot influence the resolution of the situation. And this is a constant pain in our hearts.

The principal difference in comparison to 2014 will be team of North Koreans and that of Republic of Korea among the participants of this motor rally. There will be about 10 cars and 40 participants. The most important thing is to receive a document that will enable participants of the Republic of Korea to enter the territory of the DPRK, and participants of the DPRK to drive through the territory of the Republic of Korea.

We once again decided to make a statement that ordinary Koreans want unification, so this year we plan another motor rally with crossing 38th parallel. For 8 months now we have been negotiating at the embassies of both countries in order to get permission to cross the 38th parallel. I strongly believe that our project will be realized.

We start on July 9 from Vasilyevsky Spusk, Moscow, and finish on September 15 at the VDNH site (Moscow), where a big Korean holiday will take place.

Our doors are open, shared Ernest Kim. We will be happy if your organization joins this event. Now we are partners with the Assembly of the Peoples of Eurasia and the Assembly of the Peoples of Russia on this project. We are ready to cooperate.

Dr. Otsuka mentioned Kumgansan, a Korean peninsula diamond, in his presentation. In 2014, we visited the territory of this park, where we enjoyed the view of the amazingly beautiful virgin nature of those places. Here is an example: it is forbidden to wash hands in the waters of a river – in this way they are trying protect nature. Frankly, the places are somewhat abandoned. We asked why this is so? They explained to us that this territory was formerly a cultural park, a tourist area of South Korea. And now the citizens of South Korea are not allowed there due to the current political situation. They asked us: "If you will communicate with the authorities, tell them: it would be good if this tourist zone became available to the citizens of the Republic of Korea again." And this time we signed an agreement with the Government of Moscow, the Department of Tourism, and the Ministry of Tourism of the Republic of Korea that within the framework of the rally we would like to advance the issue of this tourist area.

If your organization has the opportunity to take care of this issue, at least in terms of tourism, we will be grateful to you. Citizens of Russia will also be able to see these beautiful places, and, willy-nilly, communication will begin between the people of the North and the South. This is the minimum of what we would like to do as part of our motor rally. In addition, we will organize a stationary exhibition in Moscow, in Seoul and in Pyongyang. We have also agreed on this in the framework of this rally.

The route passes through 7 states: countries of the post-Soviet space, Mongolia, China, North Korea and South Korea. Everyone is welcome to join finished his speech Ernest Kim.

After that **Vladimir Petrovsky, Ph.D.**, Chief Researcher of the Institute of the Far East (IFES) of the Russian Academy of Science, continues the round table.



Russia and China have consolidated coordinated positions concerning the situation on the Korean Peninsula. In 2017, the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Russia and China signed a special statement that Russia and China will act together to help resolve the situation on the Korean Peninsula

I would like to look at this situation from a slightly different angle. Of course, we are discussing the problems of peace and security, but let's return to the exact formulation of the topic of our round table: "Russia and the countries of the Asia-Pacific region: peace, security and sustainable development." I would like to speculate about sustainable

development. It is precisely in addressing the problems of sustainable development that the key to resolving many crisis and conflict situations in the Asia-Pacific region, including the situation on the Korean Peninsula, is found. This is also important, because for the Universal Peace Federation and the fraternal organizations that it supports, the problem of sustainable development is the number one priority, one of the main directions. Therefore, when we say that Russia and China are against cornering North Korea, the simple message is that yes, Russia and China are against North Korea's nuclear missile program, but the sanctions that were imposed by the UN Security Council, must not infringe upon the right of North Korean citizens to peaceful development. That is, the citizens of the DPRK have the right to social and economic development in accordance with the economic model they have chosen. It is impossible to undermine the right to development under the pretext of politics and ideology. It is important. Therefore, when Russia and China put the question this way, they say that it is necessary to avoid suffering of the civilian population, which may occur as a result of sanctions. And the sanctions must be gradually lifted, starting with those that hinder development of peaceful economy, of peaceful sectors of the economy. Then, it is necessary to lift those sanctions that hinder development of the inter-Korean dialogue. And, by the way, the Republic of Korea also shares this approach, which is extremely important.

Problems of sustainable development are an absolute priority for the entire international community. The goals of sustainable development until 2027 were approved by the United Nations. This is the main strategic goal for the United Nations, and the Universal Peace Federation contributes to this goal. In general, this is already a long story:

the right to sustainable development, struggle for sustainable development. Previously were the goals of the millennium. There was about the same set of priorities; now there are more of them and the sustainable development goals have been adopted. One of the main points is fighting poverty, reducing the number of people living in absolute and relative poverty. This is one of the top priorities. Since we are now discussing the situation in the Asia-Pacific region, this is a region that is nowadays becoming a driver of world economic growth. On the one hand, it is a concentration of problems in the field of sustainable development, and on the other, this Asia-Pacific region is also a means of solving problems of sustainable development. I will give you just one fact. Now China is celebrating 40 years since the beginning of the reforms, which are called reforms for openness. During this time, the number of people living in absolute poverty in China has decreased by 700 million people. That is, China has brought 700 million people above the poverty line. And this makes up 70% of the total number of people all over the world who were able to be taken out of the poverty line all over the world. This is the contribution of China - only one Asian country - to the implementation of sustainable development goals. Such examples can be listed further on.

Important: the goals of sustainable development are the key to solving many problems of mankind. And I am very glad that last year, with the assistance of the Universal Peace Federation, the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development was created. It is very important that the attention is focused on development issues. In our region, we should not miss this, and in Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia this is the key to solving many problems.

Dr. Otsuka was very informative when he spoke about how Japanese-Korean relations are developing today. I can also say how complicated Sino-Japanese relations are. There is such a thing as historical memory, which is stored for a long time, but memory is selective. And often in human memory, in the memory of the people, there is a tendency to preserve precisely negative moments. And this is very difficult to overcome. Therefore, it is very important that the Universal Peace Federation is using methods of public diplomacy, and by methods of inter-religious dialogue it leads to overcoming the problems left over from the past. We all know that the Federation has done a lot in establishing human ties between the peoples of Japan and Korea. It was one of the priorities of Dr. Moon, and we all know that he worked a lot on this. Such work should be continued in relations between the peoples of China, Japan, North Korea, and South Korea. Here, a lot depends on establishing of humanitarian exchanges, human exchanges, which our Federation promotes in every possible way. If this can be resolved, then development goals will also become closer.

Here's another example, with numbers, if you will. Negotiations are underway to establish a trilateral free trade zone between China, Japan and the Republic of Korea. For many years they have been going on, and they were already close to success, but there was always some kind of event, an aggravation, which interfered. We know that territorial, border conflicts still exist in Northeast Asia. When another incident occurs, negotiations are again postponed. But economists estimate that if such a free trade zone is created, then the share of only these three countries in the region will account for 55% of the total world trade. Such a prospect, economic strength awaits us, if we manage to overcome misunderstandings, conflicts, distrust that have remained from the past.

In conclusion, I want to say that there is in Europe an Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and within the OSCE there are three "baskets": military security, economic cooperation and humanitarian exchange, including human rights and human exchange. I believe that in our Asia-Pacific region, and Russia, of course, is an Asia-Pacific country, everything that I am talking about, doubtless concerns Russia. In our region, we need to think more about this third "basket". If we succeed in making progress here, including the inter-Korean dialogue, it will help to resolve issues that concern the first and second "baskets". Once again, the goals of sustainable development are the key to everything.

Vladimir A. Nogai, Ph.D., Chairman of the Moscow Association for the Promotion of Korean Unification; Professor, Department of Finance and Credit, Moscow Psycho-Social University.



Dr. Nogai shared that an appeal has been issued from the Korean Peninsula to unite two states inhabited by one nation, one culture and one language. It happens for more than 70 years. The resolution of this problem is the aspiration of the entire Korean people. Today, on the basis of 70 years of experience in the negotiations on unification, I want to highlight some of the problems that hinder the development of this process for the moment.

First, presidents come and go. Dr. Zhebin also said this, saying that after President Trump, someone else might come and the whole policy would change.

In the unification of Korea, there was already a similar situation when the Liberal Party came to rule in the Republic of Korea with future President Lee Myung-Bak. Then almost all official negotiations of state authorities of one side with the other were banned. And also in the Republic of Korea, a government agency that dealt with issues of unification was abolished. This is due to the fact, that in the Republic of Korea, under the current Constitution, the term of the Presidency is limited to one term. Another President comes, and he makes very different decisions.

Second, there is a US military base in South Korea, and in general, in this zone, the United States of America is trying to maintain its dominance. They are officially conducting their policies from a position of strength. This is a huge obstacle.

The third condition restraining the unification on the Korean Peninsula is as follows. When the presidents of countries meet, epochal documents are adopted, aimed at uniting Korea, which inspire hope in the hearts of all Koreans of the world that this, at last, can happen. But, when it comes to fulfill the conditions of the concluded contracts, always this or that country interprets these agreements in its favor. This situation does not help in the unification of Korea.

The fourth condition that Dr. Otsuka spoke of: the proportion of young people wishing to unite Korea and living in the Republic of Korea is constantly falling. They do not feel their identity with the population of North Korea. This is a big problem, because in the future young people will come to power, they will have to solve this problem.

Well, or course, the nuclear problem, which can not be solved at this moment. My colleagues have already said a lot about this, I will not repeat.

It seems to me that the unification of Korea is not a question of the near future. Therefore, it seems to me, today, it is necessary to focus the attention of the two states on the establishment of good neighborliness, peaceful cooperation and to find points of contact, which in the future may become the basis for the merging of the two economies.

I would like to note the following circumstance. In the South, it is a market economy; in the North - the centralized economy. Painless merging of these is impossible. There will definitely be some shocks. When I was at a conference in Berlin, where a German specialist spoke, she asked me: "Why do you say that? After all, we are united!" To which I replied that if there had not been a progressive President Gorbachev M.S., the Germans would never have united. In relation to our problem, that in the North, in the South, such a leader is not expected for the moment. Therefore, to consider how much the potential absorption of North Korea by South Korea will cost is in vain work. Absorption will not be; it is simply impossible. If we find in the peaceful development of the two Koreas, points of contact, then these points of contact can become the basis of the coalescence of economies. In fact, today we hear some positive information that economic reforms are underway in North Korea, at least there are certain signs of a transition to a market economy based on Chinese modernization.

At the end of the round table , **Andrei Shin**, Secretary of the Interregional Public Organization for the Peaceful Unification of Korea "Bomminren", welcome all participants on behalf of the President of the organization, Dr. Felix Kim. The last speaker was **Sergey Dvoryanov**, Ph.D., Founder and President of the International Diplomatic Club "Amicability", who shared about the important steps, which Universal Peace Federation is making for the reunification of North and South Korea and for the world peace.

