

Peace Road Horseback Riding Excursion Across the Korean DMZ Armistice Line

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"While crossing the country along the armistice line, I keenly experienced the pain of the division, and at the same time, the tragedy overlapped with the situation in Ukraine, and I felt heavily the sense of duty to protect peace."

On April 27, 2022, at the foot of Mt. Mani in Ganghwado, at the western end of the armistice line, this is how Leader Baek Jae-hyun who successfully completed the 14-night 15-day "Peace Road Horseback Riding Caravan Excursion Across the DMZ" reflected on the experience, saying, "It was an important time that helped him to deeply understand reunification and peace on the Korean Peninsula."



The "Peace Road Horseback Riding Excursion" was jointly organized by the National Union for the Unification of North and South Korea (President, Song Gwang-suk) and the International Riding Content Agency.

It was a first in Korea, and the four expedition members started from Myeongpa Beach in Goseong-gun, Gangwon-do at the eastern end of the Armistice Line on April 13, 2022, and rode horses to Ganghwa at the western end of the line. It was a meaningful event to pray for peace and unification of the Korean Peninsula. The road that the excursion members crossed was a 456-km long course named " Road that Opens Unification" (also known as Peace Nuri Road), which was built by the Ministry of Public Administration and Security.

The four members of the Peace Road Horse Riding Excursion, Leader Baek, Byun Yeong-Gi, Lee Yong-Gyu, and Jeong Jae-Gil, crossed Jinburyeong and passed through Yanggu, Hwacheon, Cheolwon, Yeoncheon, Paju, and Gimpo, powerfully overcoming diverse roads, including sand roads, gravel roads, field roads, and waterways. The trip was a fulfilling one, with the local horse riding club participating in some of the sections along the way, and the Peace Music String Quartet holding a unification concert in Paju. All the team members must have been tired both mentally and physically, but they all had bright smiles on their faces and their horses looked healthy. The members held a ceremony to combine the waters of the East and West Seas and prayed for unification.



The traverse completion ceremony held at the foot of Mt. Mani was attended by more than 60 people, including Kim Mi-Hae, President Lee Cheon-Ji of the National Union, members of the National Union Gyeonggi Ganghwa region, members of the Foreign Residents Association of Korea, and residents, who celebrated the event. At the ceremony, President Song Gwang-suk presented the members of the horseback riding expedition with a medal of appreciation to commemorate the completion of the traverse.

In his welcoming speech, President Sung Gwang-suk emphasized, "As the saying goes, faith can move mountains, so let us place the road of unification and peace on the Korean Peninsula with our own hands."



The National Union prepared this "Horseback Riding Excursion Across the DMZ" peace project as an event commemorating the 10th "Peace Road Unification Expedition" this year. The Unification Expedition, which will last from June to the end of August, will include a cross-country bicycle ride with the participation of 160 countries including the United States and Japan, and the Grünes Band bicycle ride at the East-West German border (July), together with other events. The event will be held in various ways allowing people to pray for the unification of the Korean Peninsula.

The event was supported by the Gyeonggi-do Horse Riding Association, the Gyeonggi-do Horse Industry Cooperative Association, and Peace-Life Valley.