

## 43rd Peace Forum on the Heavenly Unified Korea organized by THINK TANK 2022

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The forum invited Hong Yang-ho, former Vice Minister of Unification, to discuss "The Changing History of South and North Korea's Unification Policies," reflecting on the past and looking ahead to the future.

Yoon Young-ho, Chair of the THINK TANK 2022 Forum Steering Committee, emphasized in his welcoming address, "As the possibility of North Korea relinquishing its nuclear weapons becomes increasingly slim, we must carefully examine the current security environment and adjust our unification policies accordingly. Understanding North Korea's unification policies and developing creative policies that fit today's era is not only the government's responsibility but also that of civic groups."

Yoon Young-ho added, "UPF Co-founder and President Hak Ja-han Moon stressed that peace on the Korean Peninsula, the world's only divided nation, cannot be achieved solely through the efforts of the Korean people, as it is intertwined with international relations. A macroscopic international solidarity and the united power of the people are necessary. In this context, the Peace Summit 2023, scheduled for May, aims to expand international cooperation for peace and unification on the Korean Peninsula in the Asia-Pacific era. I believe that if we all work together for this vision, it will surely be realized."

Before the special lecture, Jin Sung-bae, the Director of the Hyojeong World Peace Foundation, held a session to examine the ideology of Godism, the guiding principle of Heavenly Unified Korea, through the 'All the Lectures on a Heavenly Unified Korea.' In his special lecture titled "The Changing History and Evaluation of South and North Korean Unification Policies," former Vice Minister Hong Yang-ho identified three key determining factors of inter-Korean unification policies: 1) legitimacy issues on the Korean Peninsula, 2) the international political climate, and 3) North Korean nuclear issues. He explained that with North Korea enacting the 'Nuclear Force Policy Law' last year, the security environment on the Korean Peninsula has completely changed, necessitating a review of unification policies by both South and North Korea.

Hong Yang-ho also stated, "South Korea's unification policy fundamentally proposes a peaceful, democratic approach and a gradual, phased approach based on the characteristics of the free democratic political system. However, 30 years after the proposal of the 'National Community Unification Plan,' considering changes in the international unification environment, it is necessary to revise the policy by evaluating the security reality more objectively. In this regard, summarized the core principles of unification policy into four points: 1) forming a firm understanding of the legitimacy and rationality of unification on the Korean Peninsula, 2) allowing national constituents to choose a political and economic system that guarantees human dignity, peace, and prosperity, 3) searching for and persuading the other party to adopt a peaceful and rational approach 4) minimizing risks in the unification process while implementing policies that can bring about a soft-landing unification.

Following the lecture, a Q and A (discussion) session was held, moderated by Cho Hyung-guk, President of THINK TANK 2022 Policy Research Institute. Hong Yang-ho and Moon Byung-chul, Senior Research Fellow at THINK TANK 2022 Policy Research Institute, engaged in a Q and A session with online participants to help deepen their understanding of policy proposals for Heavenly Unified Korea.