

Report on UPF Oslo, Norway's Korea Webinar

Steinar Murud
July 1, 2021



On the 1st July Norway UPF organized a webinar with the title «Korea - two nations-one people-humanitarian project's contribution to peace and development» Our wish was to learn from the experiences of humanitarian projects in North Korea. The «grassroots-perspective», or the people-to-people perspective, is most likely different than the political perspective.

Two representatives shared their stories.

One of them was Torben Henriksen representing the Norwegian Red Cross. He has visited North Korea more than 30 times. He explained about the Red Cross engagement and the various projects that have been done since 1995.

He explained how the Red Cross in North- and South Korea cooperated on several occasions. They had a tree planting project for a couple of years, dialogues are taking place regularly even during difficult times and family reunions have been organized more than 20 times. In addition, North Koreans are invited to visit both Norway and other nations regularly.

Mr. Henriksen believes that all these meetings and exchanges contribute to creating friendship and that it gives impulses that can add value to North Korea. The other participant was Mr. Roald Førelund, from the Christian organization Evangelical Orientation mission. They cooperate with an American group called Christian Friends of Korea. Together they do a series of agricultural programs. Such as installing green hoses and building water pumps. All projects are done in very friendly cooperation with North Korean partners.

Steinar Murud, UPF Norway, shared the background for UPFs interest and involvement in Korea and introduced the Think Thank 2022 that has been established to promote Korean reunification.

Humanitarian projects are certainly of great help to people in need. But in addition, they also build a warm relationship between all the ones that are involved. Even representatives from nations that are political enemies can work well together on the ground.