



2016 International Women's Korea Peace Convenings February 7-14, 2016, Bali, Indonesia

Background

Following our highly visible DMZ crossing in May 2015, Women Cross DMZ conducted a series of internal evaluations and concluded that our next steps should include more in-depth dialogue with women from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK/North Korea) and the Republic of Korea (ROK/South Korea) through closed-door meetings that would allow for more intimate and frank conversation.

Through conversations with partners in South Korea and in meetings with the DPRK Mission to the UN, the Executive Committee proposed, and the Steering Committee approved, a convening of WCDMZ members with women from North and South Korea in February 2016. Our goal was to deepen relationships, further learn from past inter-Korean meetings, and begin to develop a common understanding, vision and strategy for the peaceful reunification of Korea. Indonesia was chosen as a neutral third-party country that would allow relatively easy access and travel for Korean women since it has diplomatic relations with both Koreas, and Bali because of its peaceful and serene setting.

The North Korean bomb test in January 2016 and subsequent further unraveling of the international situation forced us to adjust our original plan as the South Korean government imposed a ban on South Korean civilian contact with North Koreans. The WCDMZ Bali delegation, together with the Executive Committee, explored alternative scenarios that could include simultaneous meetings with both North and South Korean women, including dividing the delegation. Ultimately, we concluded that for the long-term safety and sustainability of the South Korean women's peace work, we would meet with each delegation separately. The ROK delegation readjusted their schedules and informed the Ministry of Unification that they would only meet with the WCDMZ delegation without the North Korean women. North Korea honored their original commitment and sent a delegation of six women.

Convenings Goals

1. Discuss issues of peace, reconciliation and reunification of Korea from a woman-centered view, including the role of UNSCR in the Korean context.
2. Strategize together about a transnational peace building campaign for a peace treaty and de-mining the DMZ.
3. Deepen understanding and develop relationships among the participants through sharing stories and engaging in interactive team-building activities.

Significance of the Bali Meetings

1. Given worsening tensions on the Korean peninsula, it was remarkable that these meetings went ahead. It was significant that the DPRK honored their commitment to send their delegation despite tremendous international criticism and hostility, and that the South Korean women persevered with their plans to meet the international delegation in Bali. We gratefully acknowledge the vision and commitment of our

funders, members of the Bali delegation, and other members of WCDMZ who supported this effort in many ways.

2. The meetings were invaluable in providing a space for deeper discussion between each delegation and members of WCDMZ. It afforded the rare opportunity to deepen understanding and develop relationships among participants through women-centered activities, like creating an inspiration table and developing a timeline of women's peace work that precedes us.

3. At the end of our meetings with both Korean delegations, we generated an agreed summary and/or notes to be used as a basis for further reporting and future discussions and activities. The international delegation shared the summary statement we crafted with the DPRK delegation with the ROK delegation who reflected back to us that they felt that this summary record broke new ground, especially the point about the eventual denuclearization of the Korean peninsula.



Left: WCDMZ Meeting with DPRK Delegation; Right: WCDMZ Meeting with ROK Delegation

***MEETING AGREEMENT, Bali Indonesia February 10, 2016
(Between WCDMZ International Delegation and DPRK Delegation)***

1. We will make active efforts for public education and awareness raising regarding the situation on the Korean Peninsula, and the need for an end to military action that further aggravates the situation.
2. We will work together as Korean and international women, in efforts to improve inter-Korean relations and achieve peaceful reunification of Korea, in the spirit of prior inter-Korean agreements such as the June 15 North and South Joint Declaration, 2000.
3. We will carry out work toward the achievement of lasting peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula. This includes the removal of various political and physical hindrances to peace and reunification, replacement of the Armistice Agreement with a peace treaty, and the eventual denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and the entire world.
4. We will promote women's leadership at all levels of peacebuilding, including preventing armed conflict and participating in peace negotiations. International women will actively work to urge each government to support women's involvement in the Korean peace process, as provided for in UN Security Council Resolution 1325.