

## Abstract

---

After the Korean War, the border area between the two Koreas has been a space of disconnection and conflict. However, unintended results, such as the restoration of ecology has been given. In addition, issues for which inter-Korean cooperations are necessary are increasing, such as trans-boundary diseases, allocation of water in the joint river system, and joint measures for disasters. Proposals for peaceful use of the two Korean border area have been made since the end of the Cold War. However, most of the initiatives have been failed to be realized and only limited inter-Korean cooperation in the region has been made to deal with trans-boundary diseases. The reasons are South Korea's lack of jurisdiction over the DMZ, North Korea's negative perception of the peaceful use of the DMZ, and military confrontation and international sanctions against North Korea. Nevertheless, the South Korean government has consistently insisted the necessity of inter-Korean cooperation in the border area and has recently proposed the DMZ International Peace Zone initiative. The core content of this initiative follows the context of past proposals. However, we can find differences in two aspects: the initiative is based on agreements between two Korean leaders in 2018 and is being pursued in parallel with military confidence building between two Koreas. For peaceful use of the border area, the consideration of feasibility, reality, and substantiality of inter-Korean cooperation projects is inevitable. In other words, there should be consideration for practical issues such as the justification for the project, the

---

## Abstract

---

demand of North Korea, the international sanctions against the North, the adjustment of the DMZ jurisdiction and the interests of South Korean people living in the border area. Most fundamentally, the way of easing military tensions and building trust between two Koreas should be combined.

---

Keywords: Inter-Korean Cooperation, Border Area, DMZ, DMZ International Peace Zone, DMZ Jurisdiction

---