

AN IMPROVED NEW MODEL FOR TOURIST FLOW BETWEEN THE DIVIDED TWO KOREAS

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On April 13-15, 2000 South and North Korean leaders gathered in Pyongyang for a meeting of peace ending over fifty years of hostilities. According to this meeting, South and North Korea were believed to be among the economies most directly affected by the world peace process. This had a large effect on both countries in many aspects, socially, politically and economically. One of the sectors, which may gain immediate benefits, is tourism even though the study of the relationship between tourism and peace is relatively new. This study investigates of peace tourism trends between politically divided South and North Korea. It examines tourism as past, present and future activities in influencing reconciliation between the two purpils and governments and discusses the current state of affairs of this two countries and tourism between South and North Korea.

Peace tourism trends, political division, South Korea, North Korea, Mt. Gungang, new model for tourism flow

INTRODUCTION

Divided nations is a term which appears frequently to describe certain types of change in the world political map (Waterman, 1987). The political map of the world has changed dramatically over the past half century, and one of the major characteristics of this change has been the tremendous increase in the number of political units which have been established. In the last decade in particular, events such as the break-up of the Communist block-up and the disintegration of Yugoslavia have resulted in the creation of many more states, and in a few cases, the unification of previously divided states. Not all of the new political units which have appeared have achieved global recognition, some have been ostracized on the basis of the method of their creation, for example, the Turkish Republic of North Cyprus (TRNC) even of the situation is Cyprus began to change in 2004, and others, for example Taiwan, have not been granted recognition as a result of pressure from the remaining parts of the original nation (Butler and Mao, 1996). Irrespective of the origins of the processes of partition or reunification, the results frequently have significant impacts upon travel between the partitioned parts of states, and between these units and conventional states (Waterman, 1987). These impacts are equally significant upon tourist travel in such a situation. In fact, the flow of travel between Taiwan and Mainland China is influenced significantly by the political relations between the two governments (Guo *et al.*, 2006).

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Moreover, tourism as a potential low-politics activity for influencing political interaction between the two Koreans was first recognized by Kim and Crompton (1990), who demonstrated that tourism is a vehicle for implementing people-to-people diplomacy in the context of Korea and that tourism can play a significant role in political integration of the Koreans (Yu, 1998; Yu and Chung, 2001). Indeed, this positive political tourism development of two-Koreas is expected to increased travel exchanges between the two peoples in the future, even if high political tension between South and North Korea top policy makers in dealing with strategic and security issues remains. Therefore, this paper examines South and North Korean tourism activities in the past, present, and also discusses the future new model for travel flows between South and North Korea.

BACKGROUND OF TWO KOREAS

South and North Korea have been politically divided since the Korean War between the Capitalists and the Communists in 1950. Indeed, Korea's "Fifty Years' Crisis" began in August 1945- just weeks before the end of World War II- when Moscow and Washington agreed to demarcate the peninsula into separate Soviet and American military zones for the processing of the surrendering forces of the Japanese Imperial Army. The partition of Korea into two countries is a completely unnatural arrangement. With this arbitrary and almost accidental decision, the division of the Korean nation became a political fact (Eberstadt, 1995). The division of the Korean people could only be maintained by force of arms. Indeed, it has been maintained for the past five decades. Despite the obvious ideological differences between North and South Korea, both share common linguistic and ethnic heritage, a common history and culture, and a common dream for a reunified Korea. After fifty years of separation, travel from South Korea to North Korea was completely prohibited, but some South Korean businessmen and few residents were secretly permitted to visit North Korea through third countries, mainly China. The division of a country - a frequent and major international event in the past five decades - has generated a group of unique political units. Although some units, such as Germany and Vietnam, eventually complete their division process by reunification through different processes, these uncertain entities seem likely to continue to appear in the future, and some may exist for considerable periods of time- especially South and North Korea.

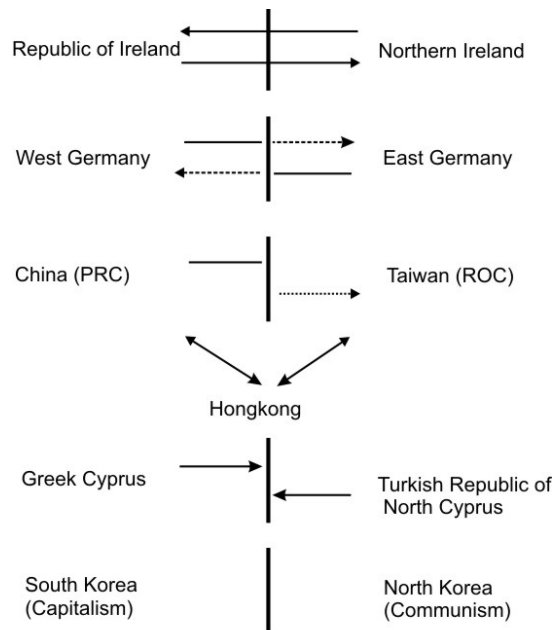
Past Tourism Activities of the Two-Koreas

The insights from this paper should provide support for the way forward in anticipated unification of South and North Korea. However, the major problems relate to the different approaches adopted under capitalism and communism. Broadly, communism is a doctrine of totalitarian methods combined with enforcement of conformity, state propaganda and monopoly of information. The social system is based upon common ownership of the means of production and distribution achieved through centralized planning. In contrast, capitalism refers to a system/ society in which most of the instruments of production, as well as objects of consumption, are privately controlled. It is dominated by an ideological preference for private property. Given that North Korea is a communist state with a political and economic system dominated by centralized planning, the impact of such an ideology on the tourism industry is different to that under capitalism (Choi, 1995). The existence of travel restrictions is a common occurrence between quasi-states and this can give rise to unusual and distinctive travel patterns (Butler & Mao, 1995; Yu, 1998; Kim and Prideaux, 2003; Timothy et al., 2004) (Figure 1).

Despite the uncertainty, and sometimes even personal danger created by the division, many people continue to travel between the elements of divided nations (Pearce, 1987). Economic necessity, religious obligations, family ties, political requirements, and pleasure are all reasons of

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the cross-border travel of people in such situations. Tourist movement has been integrated as part of the divided nation development, and has generally been a subject of negotiation between the elements involved in the political disputes. Because of the partitioning process and its results, political relations vary between divided nations and have resulted in different patterns of accessibility. Moreover, borders are commonly regarded as barriers or constraints, even in the context of tourism however, in many cases this goes beyond mere perception. Many examples exist where tourist flows between neighboring countries are heavily restricted (e.g. many African and Middle Eastern boundaries) and even altogether prohibited (e.g. South and North Korea) (Timothy, 1995).



Source: Butler & Mao, 1995

Figure 1
Tourist flows in quasi-states

In the past, tourist flows between South and North Korea were heavily restricted and even altogether prohibited (Webster & Timothy, 2006). Their own ideology and political system, maintained a zero-sum relationship that included attempts to overwhelm the other with their conflicting system (Koh, 2000). Figure 1 illustrates five of these patterns in a diagrammatic fashion. The tourist flow between Taiwan and the People Republic of China (PRC) has been argued to have had positive effects on the Taiwan Straits area (Zhang, 1993), and tourism development is certainly seen as a factor in modernization in the PRC (Richter, 1993). However, in the past, the example of South and North Korea is no tourism between this pair of quasi-states, although recently both sides agreed to tourist travel between themselves. The populations under the authority of the two Korean governments have been kept in almost complete isolation from one another; unlike the two Germanizes, for example, there has been virtually no contact or communication between private citizens in North and South Korea since the stalemate in the Korea War some fifty years ago (Eberstadt, 1995).

Present Tourism Activities

Kim and Crompton (1990) reviewed the political environment surrounding the initiative for travel between the two Koreas, and perceived that the potential tourism movement between the two Koreas could be a primary vehicle for facilitating the unification of Korea. In this respect, North Korea has been recently opening its doors to the outside world. Even the two Koreas have made attempts to initiate tourism movement across the 38th parallel and succeeded in arranging a symbolic hometown tour in 1985 (Kim and Crompton, 1990). The response from around the world and especially from neighboring countries that tourism on the peninsula stands to benefit dramatically from the long overdue warming of relations between the two Koreas (McInermey, 2000). As a result, there has been a significant increase in inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation, and substantial improvement in maintaining peace on the Korean peninsula. Moreover, the South Korean government has been providing direct and indirect support, including guidance and advisory programs for visitors to North Korea, as part of the efforts to promote private-level inter-Korean exchange.

Inter-Korean Summit

The new government in South Korea in March 1998 announced that its policy toward North Korea will be aimed at realizing the concept of “peace, reconciliation and cooperation”. President Dae-Jung Kim also emphasized that the two sides must let separated family members in South Korea and North Korea meet and communicate with each other and that the two sides must try to expand cultural, academic and economic exchanges between them based on the principle of separating politics from economics. Likewise, the South Korea government eased administrative procedures for approval of visits to North Korea by representatives of conglomerates and heads of economic organizations, and under this new regulation, many businessmen in the South are expected to make visits to North Korea. So far, only those who are pre-designated as “business proprietors for South-North cooperation” have been permitted to visit North Korea, but this rule is also abolished, and all other business people will be permitted to visit North Korea (Koreascope, 2000).

Afterwards, President Dae-Jung Kim visited Pyongyang June 13-15, 2000 for a historic summit meeting with North Korean leader Jong-Il Kim. The first ever inter-Korean summit, undeniably the biggest diplomatic event involving the two countries since the division of the Korean Peninsula in 1945, was made possible through the South Korean government’s persistent implementation of the engagement policy. A summit was planned in 1994, but the event never took place because of the sudden death of North Korea’s then-leader Il-Sung Kim. This meeting had been made to promote national reconciliation, unity, exchanges, and cooperation, and to achieve peace and reunification at an early date (Korea Herald Daily, 2000). The meeting marked another chance to start ending the half centuries of brotherly hatred. North Korea snubbed a Red Cross meeting consistently proposed by the South Korea for exchange of home-visiting groups and resolution of the issue of separated families, arguing that they were political issues. During the recent inter-Korean summit (June 13-15, 2000), North Korea took a look-forward attitude to accept a proposal from Seoul. The two Koreas clearly stated in their joint declaration that “the South and the North have agreed to promptly resolve humanitarian issues such as exchange visits by separated family members and relatives on the occasion of the August 15 National Liberation Day...”. Thus, a group of South Korean homecoming visitors was to enter North Korea on August 15. In addition, it was expected that separated families would reunite with each other through an inter-Korean Red Cross meeting.

The South and North Korea leaders discussed the question of the survival and future of their people, and came closer in their opinion that dialogues and cooperations were the way to prevent the deepening the nation's division, to achieve common prosperity and advance peaceful unification. The two leaders could reach the historic decision, based on a consensus that peace and reconciliation-cooperation coincided with the national interest, which will have for the future rather than the past. South and North Korea agreed on this occasion to respect the principles of the existing agreements and to translate them into concrete projects. This testifies that the South Korean government will maintain its reconciliatory and cooperative policies consistently matched the direction of North Korea's policy adjustment. Based on public supports of the policies for peace and reconciliation-cooperation, the South Korea has been able to maintain its policies consistently, and this has helped the South with extensive support from international society for its North Korea policy and induce the change North Korea's attitude. Meanwhile, the policy coordination among South Korea, the United States and Japan based on South Korea, reconciliatory and cooperative policy has helped to create a favorable climate for North Korea's participation in the international community. China and Russia also offered positive cooperation toward efforts for the peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and the international community recommended inter-Korean dialogues.

Mt. Gumgang tourism project

In recent years, some researchers are focusing on cross-border cooperation in tourism planning and development (Leimgruber, 1998; Timothy, 1998; Boyd, 1999; Sonmez and Apostolopoulos, 2000; Timothy, 2000; Timothy, 2001; Tosun *et al.*, 2005; Webster & Timothy, 2006). Some scholars studying borderlands, emphasise that the focus on cooperation is seen as promoting political harmony (Minghi, 1991; 1994; Newman, 1998; Timothy, 1998; Sonmez and Apostolopoulos, 2000). Kliot (1996) notes the model of development of cross-border cooperation from a hostile closed border with no cooperation to a border with substantial cooperation. Timothy (2001) thus notes "Cross-border cooperation is particularly consequential in assuring that the principles of sustainability (e.g. equity, harmony, holistic development, and economical and cultural integrity) are supported". Cooperation in tourism between South and North Korea will be contingent on the same factors, which could unleash other forms of foreign income generation, especially joint venture exports. North Korea has long had modest inbound tourism but it was not until the beginning of the Mt. Gumgang venture in November 1998.

The Mt. Gumgang project is regarded as one of the most significant events in the half century-old division of Korea and is the tangible result of Sunshine Policy of the Dae-Jung Kim administration (Choi, 1999; Sims, 2000; Hong, 2005). When he visited North Korea in 1989, Ju-Young Chung, honorary chairman of Hyundai group, proposed the idea of a sightseeing tour to the mountain and reached a basic agreement with North Korea. The agreement, however, was unable to be realized largely due to the confrontation between the two Koreas. It was when President Dae-Jung Kim announced the principle of separating politics from economics that the Mt. Gumgang project was brought forward after nine years and the Mt. Gumgang Tour Project was finalized on June 22, 1998.

The two sides also agreed on other related issues, including 'Guarantee of the Safety of Tourists' and 'Guarantee of Access to Telecommunications during the Trip'. On September 7, 1998, the South Korean government approved the Mt. Gumgang Tour Project as an 'inter-Korean cooperation business'. The cruise ship Gumgang set sail for the historic tour on November 18, 1998, after two months of preparation. A total of 370,000 tourists visited Mt. Gumgang between the first trip on 18 November 1998 and December 2000 (Hyundai-Asan, 2001). Most South Korean

tourists traveling to Mt. Gumgang are motivated by the longing for kinship and cultural ties, with a few visitors seeking pleasure and recreational activities (Unikorea, 2000). Huge numbers of South Koreans are expected to visit Mt. Gumgang, and more contacts between visitors and their Northern kin should help ease hostility between the two. Kinship ties between residents of divided nations are generally stronger than those between residents of conventional states for a variety of reasons, including the subsequent division of families. In general, the probability of such residents having a family network within the original state boundary is much higher than of them having such a network outside the boundary. When a new boundary is superimposed and one country is partitioned into two or more sections, such family networks are often divided by the partition. The presence of these pre-partition family and kinship ties is a major factor in the motivations of residents of these units to travel between them. In some cases, it was even found that tourist flows between such units are much significant than flows from outside (Chow, 1988; Richter, 1989; Gormsen, 1995). A pattern is true for China, where more than two million mainlanders moved to Taiwan when the civil war ended. Most of these people were military personnels who moved without their families, which is the major reason why so many Taiwanese residents still have relatives in Mainland China. The desire to visit friends and relatives also has strong political ramifications, and this desire may be the trigger to develop exchanges between the partitioned states. Therefore visiting friends and relatives is often allowed between divided nations even if no other relationships exist. This occurred between West and East Germany, and since the 1980s China has used 'free travel' to China by Taiwanese to coerce Taiwan to negotiate a reunification pact. Likewise, the 2003 opening of the border in Cyprus changed the political situation entirely and there is hope for reconciliation and a true extension of the limits of the EU (Webster & Timothy, 2006).

In addition to continuing concerns over personal safety while visiting Mt. Gumgang (Sohn, 2001), the structure of the tourism experience offered by Hyundai at Mt. Gumgang has been criticized by participants on a number of grounds that may, in part, explain why demand has fallen since 2000. Tourist facilities at Mt. Gumgang are limited and even tour guidelines for passengers emphasise a negative message of 'don'ts', earning the Mt. Gumgang tour the reputation of the 'don't tour' (Cho, 2002). Facing a continuing fall in demand in 2002, moreover, US Military and the CIA believed that North Korea was using part of the currency received from the Mt. Gumgang project to make military purchases (Korea Times, 2002). At a time when North Korea was appealing for foreign aid to assist in famine relief, but appeared to be spending hard currency generated by Mt. Gumgang on weapons, many South Koreans also expressed concerns that support of the tour was not supporting peace but instead promoting the North's ability to wage war. Nevertheless, further efforts by the Kim administration to promote the project by restoring inter-Korean cross-border rail and road links and designation Mt. Gumgang as a special international tourism and free economic zone were met (Monthly Chosun, 2002).

The project has more become a significant political issue in South Korea and was a major issue in the 2003 Presidential elections (Kim and Prideaux, 2006). The election of incumbent President Moo-Hyun Roh in 2003, who ran on an electoral platform supporting the continuation of the Sunshine policy, indicated that in spite of serious doubts the South Korean public was prepared to continue their support for policies designed to promote engagement with the North (Lee, 2002; Seo, 2003). A total of 822,201 tourists visited Mt. Gumgang during the six months from 18 November 1998 to 31 October 2004 (Table 1). In this respect, Hyundai-Asan invests infrastructure in Mt. Gumgang tourism business as follows:

- Designation of Mt. Gumgang area as a special economic zone by North Korea would

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provide the ground for legal protection. North Korea has also agreed to set up a special law within two months with regard to the designation of the Mt. Gumgang area as a special tourism zone. That legislation, which will offer a legal guarantee for the safety of investment assets and tax benefit for South Korean and foreign investment, will level up the attraction of South Korea and foreign investment and promote the Mt. Gumgang area as an international hub for trade, commerce, and culture as well as tourism.

- Opening of land route to Mt. Gumgang will induce a significant number of tourists. Both parties agreed to make effort, such as obtaining the approval from each government, in order to begin construction of the 13.7 km roadway linking Kosung in North Korea to Songhyun-ri in South Korea for the inland Mt. Geumgang tourism (Figure 2). The construction, expected to cost between 60 billion and 100 billion won, would be completed within the second half of 2002.
- Hyundai-Asan's strategic alliance with KNTA (Korea National Tourism Organization) to benefit as it has extensive know-how in the development of tourism business. Thus, Hyundai-Asan is gearing up the second stage development plan, based on the projection of tourists via land route by famous consulting firm. Major target facilities would be hotel, golf courses, ski slopes, shopping centres and theme parks.

Therefore, the Mt. Gumgang Project can serve as a milestone to promote further inter-Korean cooperation. The Hyundai group has reached an agreement with North Korea on building an automobile assembly plant and an indoor gymnasium in Pyongyang. Likewise, The South Korean Government hopes that the Mt. Gumgang project turns out to be successful and helps enlarge mutual human trade exchanges, thus leading to reconciliation and cooperation between the two Koreas. Stability and peace on the Korean Peninsula would definitely contribute to promoting cooperation in Northeast Asia generally. Most of all, the Mt. Gumgang project provides South Koreans with an opportunity for unification (KNTA, 2000).

Table 1
Visitors to Mt. Gumgang

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 (until Oct.)	Total
Total	10,543	147,460	212,020	58,833	87,414	77,683	228,248	822,201

Source: KNTA (2004)

The Mt. Gumgang project has not only given an opportunity for South Koreans to see the mountain first hand, but also to create a basis for utter large scale exchanges of people between the two Koreas. Cho (2006) examined the case of the Mt. Gumgang tourism development on the Korean Peninsula and concluded the Mt. Gumgang tourism development contributes to the peace of the Korean Peninsula is valid although is not significant.

Many Koreans hope that the project proves to be successful, thus gradually expanding the exchanges of both people and goods, and marking an important step towards restoring mutual confidence and enhancing reconciliation and cooperation between the two Koreas. The success of the project can help promote stability on the Korean peninsula, attracting more foreign capital investment to the peninsula. If the Mt. Gumgang project proves to be successful, greater sums of capital could be invested in the mountain area, and might result in the joint-development of



Figure 2
Mt. Gumgang

nearby Mt. Sorak in the South. The Mt. Gumgang project represents a landmark event, the first-ever joint project between the two Koreas in the tourism field. The project exemplifies the South Korean government's Sunshine Policy and the principle of separating politics from economics. In this sense, this project can continually contribute to the restoration of mutual confidence and development of common interests between the two Koreas.

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North Korea has not accomplished an overall renovation yet, neither has it opened its door wholly to foreign visitors. Furthermore, North Korea, sticking to its independent line, has been persistent in defending socialism and the idea of independence to delay the time of opening. So in a sense it has failed to take the opportunity for development. To other communist nations, human exchanges (tourism, sports, art) have played a role in causing the opening and allowed trust ultimately to grow from experiences. North Korea anticipates, that human exchanges introduce capitalistic poison and ideological pollution that would lead to the collapse of the communist systems and regime.

Therefore, exchange and cooperation between North and South Korea in the field of tourism is not simple, and approaches to cooperation require thorough preparations. This is particularly so since tourism exchange and cooperation can strongly impact upon the solidity of the political/economic system about which North Korea is so concerned, careful approaches of both sides are demanded. Above all things, considering the movements of residents of two different political

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systems, delicate consultation is urgent. In legislating for the tourism exchange and cooperation between South and North Korea, systematic legislation needs to be established on such matters as procedure of visit and limitation of behavioral exposure during sightseeing. Only when the tourism exchange between South and North Korea is thoroughly prepared, can it give prosperity and welfare to both sides simultaneously. Thus, South and North Korea should reciprocally complement systematic, legislative defects and make plans of activating tourism exchange as follows:

First, according to Kim and Prideaux (2003), there are concerns over whether tourism should even exist between partitioned states because it might help support the 'other' regime financially. Therefore, South and North Korean leaders should re-open communications to actively cope with the recent changes of economic environment in the Korean peninsula. In particular, they must propel tourism culture policies for recovering the homogeneity of the Korean race in order to dissolve cultural heterogeneity which could occur in promoting tourism exchanges between the two countries.

Second, the two sides should begin careful discussions to conclude an agreement on such matters as joint-development of tourism areas, sharing in the profits after tourism development, development of tourism education programs, should be drawn and reciprocal trust should be established based on the respect for each national system to put them into practice. For example, one possible focus could be on the pattern of tourism in and adjoining the Korean Demilitarized Zone (DMZ), which raising issues such as whether it would be visiting friends and relatives, visiting previous home areas, ecotourism, or more general tourist travel, and perhaps also or separately, whether the pattern of Korean tourists would be the same or different from those of foreign tourists visiting Korea after unification. One focus could be an eco-tour package around the area of the DMZ, which as been unpopulated and untouched since the Korea War in 1950, allowing nature to develop in its own way. As North-South relations mature, the mutual development can be foreseen of some of the beautiful, undeveloped areas of North Korea such as DMZ. The ability to link the Trans Siberian Railway through the Korean Peninsula would make Korea the last stop for the central Asian and European traveler and would open a new vista in Korean tourism. The assumption being that tourism is a potential growth area in both South and North Korea. It is necessary to develop DMZ in ways that preserve the ecosystem itself as the proper tour source to meet these demands.

Third, the government also seeks to restore the communication and transportation network between Seoul and Pyongyang aimed at facilitating access to Mt. Gungang and other scenic places in the North. These recent improvements in North and South Korean relations suggest an investigation of the feasibility of joint North-South tourist products as a first step to reunification, which could yield great benefits to tourism on the Korean Peninsula (Korea Times, 1998).

Tourism exchange projects by Hyundai, including the Mt. Gungang Tour, are not for only travel interchange between the South and North but also for making a momentum for unification, so tourism exchange should shift from private enterprise leading to governmental policy whereby North Korea would discard near-sighted prospects for simple acquisition of foreign currency and show some changes of attitude to develop exchanges and communications between South and North in the true sense. Thus, the South Korean and North Korean governments should be further invested Mt. Gungang tourism project for peace and reunification. In other words, the major opportunities that can occur in a state of peace.

Consequently, as mentioned before, tourists flow between South and North Korea are not absent anymore since opening traveling to the Mt. Gungang. It is developed the new figure (Figure 3).

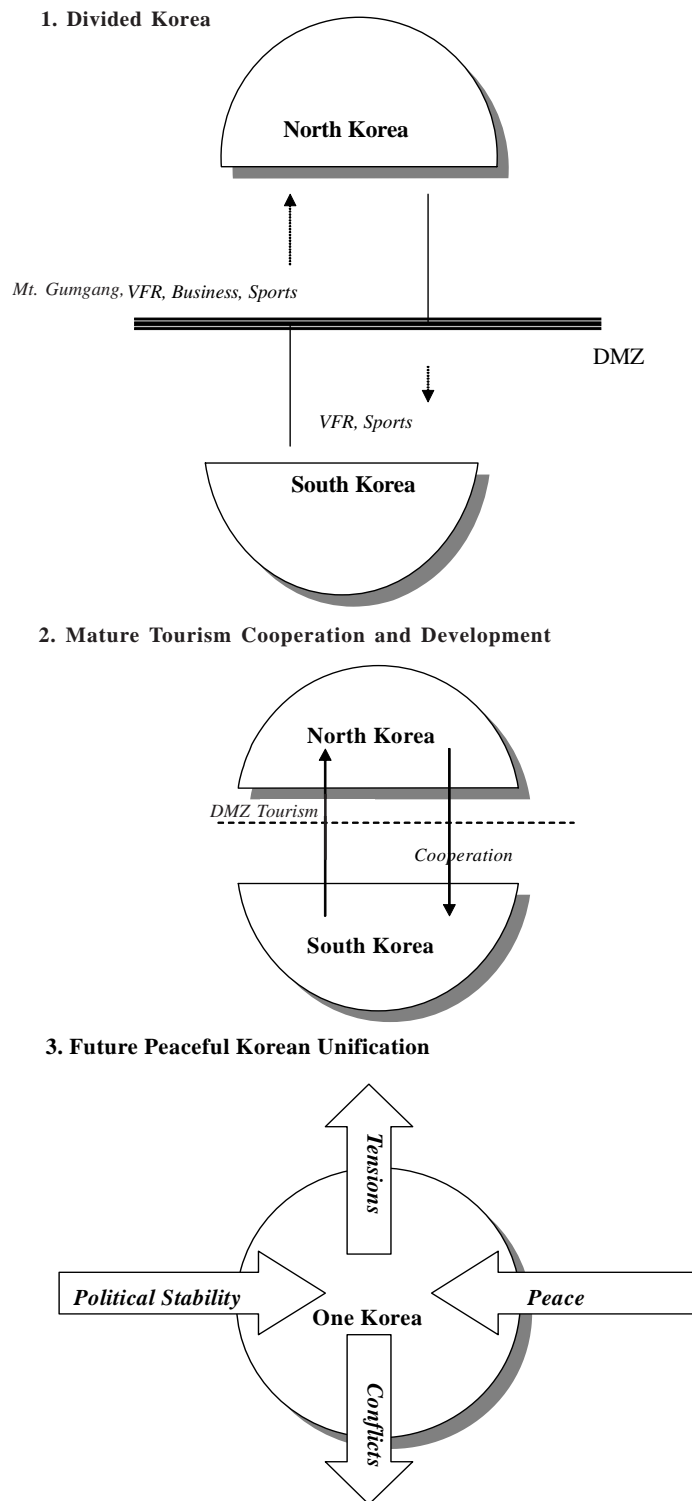


Figure 3
New Tourist Flow between the Divided two Koreas

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Especially, as it was also found that the travel development between South and North Korea for the research supports the revolutionary process model developed by Butler and Mao (1995).

Since the tourism exchange between South and North Korea could be an important element impacting considerably on the maintenance of each national system, it should be carefully carried out step by step and promoted in ways of combining industrial development with tourism industry and provide help to the future planning and development of Korean peninsula.

CONCLUSIONS

Changes in geopolitical conditions in recent years, the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of the cold war, the South and North Korean peace treaty, seem to point toward a new era in the world. There has been an accumulation of positive and encouraging developments toward unification in the Korean peninsula. In the light of these factors, the two Koreas face significant political and economic challenges, and tourism is among those sectors whose growth and prosperity could benefit greatly from peace. Moreover, at the turn of the new century, positive changes have taken place on the Korean peninsula in the year 2000. The reconciliation, to a great extent, has resulted from North Korea's positive response to an external environment favorable to it. The reconciliation influences not only inter-Korean relations, but also geopolitics and the security situation in the whole region. The two Koreas have reached a mutual understanding about taking their destiny in their own hands and reducing the possibility of North-South conflict to a minimum. A new opportunity for multilateral cooperation is emerging and the existing policies of China, Russia, the US, and Japan towards Korea is being challenged.

Existing literature has already proven that tourism is strongly influenced by political conditions. In other words, tourism has therefore significant political implications in world politics and international relations. Furthermore, peace on the Korean peninsula and eventually unification of Korea itself, will become an international issue. This paper has been written on the central premise that tourism is a highly political phenomenon with tourism. The issues address in this study suggest that the future of Korean tourism is dependent on the necessity to respond very promptly to some serious policy failures of the past. It is important that the researcher fully understand the factors that have contributed to recent growth and implement policies that will sustain recent tourism activities. Since many obstacles remain in the development of tourism and travel between South and North Korea are greatly influenced by the changing political relations of the two governments. In spite of a historical trend of expanded reconciliation and cooperation, the Korean Peninsula is still haunted by the specter of the Cold War. Military tension is still high in the Demilitarized Zone even after fifty years of national division. Therefore, South Korea government will continue with patience efforts to resume dialogue with North Korea. Furthermore, government should support in order to make our efforts for a better inter-Korean relations and national unification successful, government have to maintain the consistency in South Korea's policy and the policy must be made and implemented based on public consensus and support. Considering the recent developments in international relations and the North Korea's devastated economy, it will be convinced that North Korea's change is inevitable. Our ultimate goal – reunification-will probably have to wait a little longer. Consequently, a peaceful and successful Korean reunification can stand to benefit not only Koreans but also the entire world community.

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