

# Global Peace Foundation



Hyun Jin Preston Moon, founder and chairman of Global Peace Foundation, speaks during a joint interview with local media outlets at a Seoul hotel, Monday.

## 'Korea's unification best solution for stable NE Asia'

Head of Global Peace Foundation touts benefits of unification at international forum

Interview

point illustrating the proven importance of unification.

With inter-Korean confrontation expanding into a "New Cold War" narrative involving the United States, Japan, China and Russia, the outlook is getting gloomier for a unified Korea.

A recent poll by Seoul National University's Institute for Peace and Unification Studies showed that 43.8 percent of 1,200 respondents said they believe unification is necessary, marking the lowest number since the annual survey began in 2007. This means that a growing number of people are taking the two Koreas' division for granted at least in South Korea.

In the North, the Kim Jong-un regime has started referring to the South as "the Republic of Korea" instead of its usual term "South Chosun." This change, in comparison to its self-designated name of "North Chosun," signals the North's repositioning of the South as a distinct nation.

However, Hyun Jin Preston Moon, the founder and chairman of the Global Peace Foundation (GPF), a Washington D.C.-based non-governmental organization, says this is not a desirable progression, given the benefits and advantages that unification could bring.

"You have all the world leaders now realizing that the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula is the only and the best way to deal with the nuclear proliferation issue, as well as the destabilization in Northeast Asia, the most dynamic and significant region in the world," Moon said during a joint interview with news outlets on the sidelines of the International Forum on One Korea in Seoul, Monday.

Moon cited the recent trilateral summit between South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, U.S. President Joe Biden and Japanese Prime Minister Fumio Kishida at the U.S. presidential retreat of Camp David in August as a case in

point illustrating the proven importance of unification. During the Camp David summit, the leaders elevated the three countries' ties to a level of quasi-alliance in fields spanning from security to economy and social exchange. While the stronger three-way cooperation was widely recognized for its function as a countermeasure to the North's escalating nuclear and missile threats, Moon underscored the fact that the leaders stated their support for the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula in their joint statement, titled the Spirit of Camp David.

"What is one of the clear outcomes of Camp David? It was that the trilateral alliance would support the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula. It is not just to strengthen the trilateral alliance," Moon said.

"The key element of the Camp David accord is not just the strengthening of the tripartite alliance, it is actually, the commitment of these nations to the peaceful unification of Korean Peninsula."

Moon, who founded the GPF in 2009, has been championing the benefits and necessity of unification through international forums and a belief that the unification must be driven by a civil movement of Koreans, in the South and the diaspora, with broad international support.

He underscored that the unification should be driven by grassroots movements instead of inter-governmental talks that have achieved nothing to date except to help create a more powerful nuclear-armed North Korea. "As around 2010, some of the most influential thinkers in Korea advised me that Korea people are not interested in unification," Moon said. "They looked at the feasibility and the possibility of unification being some type of inter-governmental negotiation. That is a flawed model."

He said those inter-governmental negotiations do not guarantee what the Koreans really want from unification, but rather become a danger-



Hyun Jin Preston Moon, founder and chairman of Global Peace Foundation, delivers a keynote speech during the International Forum on One Korea at a Seoul hotel, Monday.

### Who is Hyun Jin Preston Moon?

Having graduated from Columbia University, Harvard Business School and Unification Theological Seminary, Hyun Jin Preston Moon, 54, founder and chairman of the Global Peace Foundation (GPF), has been leading the nonprofit organization for 14 years since its foundation in 2009.

He presided his first book, "The Korean Dream in 2010 and authored a book titled "Korean Dream: A Vision for United Korea" in 2014. Moon published the book with the purpose of inspiring civil society, individuals and overseas Koreans aspiring for the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula to be "more hopeful about unification."

"After the first edition came out in 2014, English and Japanese editions were published, and the centennial edition, published in August 2020 to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the March 1 Independence Movement, became a bestseller across the United States. In April 2018, the U.S. Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) selected it as a "must-read book for 2018."

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"What do you think is going to bring North and South Koreans together? It's going to be their Korean identity."

Along with the civil unification movements among Koreans, Moon also noted that unification cannot be done by Koreans alone. He said his foundation's Global Peace Leadership Conference in India in April was also part of hopes to convince Indians to use relations with Pyongyang to influence North Koreans. During his keynote speech at Monday's forum, Moon said a unified Korea could play a role in addressing global tension between global superpowers by becoming "a model nation and a catalyst for advancing a new civilization" through "unamiable rights and freedoms."

Under the theme of "Free and Unified Korea: A Catalyst for Regional and Global Peace and Development," the forum hosted hundreds of scholars, former government officials and other experts on geopolitical matters, including former United States Forces Korea (USFK) Commander John Tifflid and former South Korea Vice Minister of National Defense Park Seung-ja.

During the session, Tifflid shared a similar view to Moon that people should be "the instigators of change" toward unification. He said that unification could be a solution to various challenges that surround the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia.

"Peaceful reunification in the peninsula is a strategic imperative for all of us," Tifflid said. "The main instigators of change, were the people themselves, as one who witnessed the change in Germany... Governments cannot build the relationships that friendships and people do."

The former U.S. general cited the North Korean leader's recent meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, U.S. Department of Public Information (DPI), GPF, headquartered in Washington, D.C., active in 25 countries around the world. The GPF's most focused activity is the "interfaith movement." Its goal is to help each religious leader step away from the framework of religion and become a true leader who fulfills the practical goal of "peace."

"The most important thing for unification is ownership over identity. The National Foundation Day is a holiday also celebrated in North Korea. It is the identity that will bring the Korean people together."

Moon underscored the unification movement as a campaign led by the general public, not by government officials or politicians. He also added that the campaign will gather the voices of not only South Koreans but also those of the Korean diaspora overseas and also the people in North Korea.

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## Thousands gather in Seoul to support Korean unification

'Korean Dream 10 million' campaign underway

By Lee Hye-jin

On Tuesday afternoon, Yeouido Park in Seoul was filled with crowds rallying for the unification of two Koreas, in a major event held to raise public awareness about the "Korean Dream 10 Million" initiative launched by the Global Peace Foundation (GPF).

Around 20,000 people from different age groups participated in the ceremony hosted by the GPF, a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit group and eight other local civic groups promoting unification, according to event organizers. The rally followed the International Forum on One Korea held the previous day, also in Yeouido, western Seoul.

Tuesday's event included a speech by Hyun Jin Preston Moon, the founder and chairman of the GPF, as well as performances by various K-pop singers, a K-pop cover dance competition and Tiedokwon demonstration performance.

Among the guests of the event were Kim Ho-il, president of the Korea Senior Citizens Association, Kim Yong-in, head of the Korea National Police Veterans Association and Ahn Chan-il, co-chairman of Action for Korea United (AKU), a coalition of civic groups promoting unification. Established in 2012, the AKU is a coalition of more than 800 civic, religious, humanitarian and non-profit organizations that focus on North Korea issues and support the peaceful unification of Korea.

"The ongoing 'New Cold War' prompted by North Korea's nuclear threats, I believe, will end in two years, as we will be able to achieve unification in the next couple of years through the 10 million Korea Dream campaign," said Ahn in his opening speech. Ahn, who also heads the World Institute for North Korea human rights issues. In his keynote speech, Moon stressed the significance of the timing of the rally held at National Foundation Day, which fell on Oct. 3.

"The Foundation Day represents the opening of heaven, a timing in which humanity can realize the very principles and values. This day has tremendously special meaning for the Korean people," he said.



Hyun Jin Preston Moon, third from left, founder and chairman of the Global Peace Foundation (GPF), waves a flag with other participants during a ceremony held to raise public awareness about the 'Korean Dream 10 Million' initiative launched by the GPF, at Yeouido Park in Seoul, Tuesday.



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broader population — especially the young generation — is critical for campaign organizers. So they seek to garner support from young people through the medium of pop culture, especially K-pop.

Against this backdrop, the GPF launched the "10 million people Korea Dream rally for the 80th anniversary of Korean Liberation," to gather 10 million people in Korea and overseas and establishing unification by then by 2025. That year will mark the 80th anniversary of Korea's liberation from Japanese colonial rule that ended in 1945.

The GPF held the "Action for Korea United Festival" in 2022, during which the Citizens Organizing Committee for the Action for Korea United March was launched to carry out a step-by-step unification movement through to 2025.

The foundation soon plans to hold various events promoting its goal not only in Korea but also in other countries on six continents including Germany, the United States, India, Paraguay, the Philippines and Kenya.

Empowering young people for Korean Dream To realize the Korean Dream project, securing support from the

## Global Peace Foundation presents vision for unified Korea through campaign

By Suh Dong-seok

Established in 2009 and led by Chairman Hyun Jin Preston Moon, the Global Peace Foundation (GPF) is a nonprofit organization aimed at realizing world peace and seeking concrete action plans based on universal principles and values. As an organization having special consultative status accreditation from the U.N. Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and affiliation to the U.S. Department of Public Information (DPI), GPF, headquartered in Washington, D.C., active in 25 countries around the world.

The GPF's most focused activity is the "interfaith movement." Its goal is to help each religious leader step away from the framework of religion and become a true leader who fulfills the practical goal of "peace."

mi" held in Washington in 2011, resolving conflicts and strengthening cooperation among religious leaders were urged to realize a nation based on the founding spirit of the United States. In the Global Peace Leadership Conference (GPLC) held in Nigeria in 2013, it was proposed to "revolve religious and tribal conflicts with leadership based on moral principles and universal values" in the presence of Christian and Muslim leaders, and cooperation from the leaders were drawn.

Domestically, the GPF has presented the "Korean Dream" as a vision for a unified Korean Peninsula, focusing on a citizen-led unification movement for the Korean Peninsula. In August 2012, the Global Peace Festival took place with the participation of 370 civic groups; to sponsor the creation of the "Action for Korea United" and announced the "Unification Declaration." Last

year, the GPF hosted the "2022 Action for Korea United Festival" in the presence of unification experts, universities and citizens. During the festival, the Citizens Organizing Committee for the Action for Korea United March was launched to carry out a step-by-step unification movement through 2025.

Attempts to graft the unification movement onto pop culture contents are also under way. The "One-K Global Campaign," a global civil unification and culture movement that started in 2015 at the initiative of the Action for Korea United, has been playing a great role in inspiring the Korean people's aspiration for unification and urging support from the international community.

the Korean Peninsula where nobody knows what may happen tomorrow owing to global division and conflict, the only solution that can bring peace and prosperity to the Korean Peninsula and Northeast Asia is a reunified Korea. Now unification is no longer a matter of choice but a top priority on which the survival of all Koreans are dependent.

The March 1 Independence Movement in 1919 was not a mere anti-Japanese movement but a movement designed to build a new nation. Koreans dreamed of a new nation where the ideology of "Hongik Ingan" was realized through a nationwide civil revolution called the March 1 Movement, but the dream remains as an unfinished task. To realize the dream of building a new nation, ensure world peace and create a new civilization by inheriting the March 1st Movement, the biggest civil revolution

Amid today's circumstances on

of Korean people, in which 2 million people participated, 10 million Koreans and global citizens will gather on Oct. 3, 2025, to launch the second March 1 Movement, for unification on the "Korean Dream 10 Million campaign."

The Korean Dream 10 Million campaign, a grassroots unification movement to realize the peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula in 2025, the 80th anniversary of national liberation, envisions a plan to hold a large-scale unification movement rally in 2025 with the participation of 10 million citizens. The campaign looks to create a decisive momentum by 2025 to build a united nation where the Korean Dream is realized based on the ideology of Hongik Ingan, which means benefiting the world broadly, with the participation of the Parliamentarians Society of the Republic of Korea, the Korean

National Police Veterans Association, the Federation of Artistic and Cultural Organizations of Korea and the Leaders' Alliance for Korea Unification.

The goal is to hold the largest unification movement rally of 10 million citizens in 2025, and as part of this effort, there are programs to tour seven cities in six continents around the world — Seoul in Korea, Germany in Europe, U.S. in North America, India in Asia, Paraguay in South America, the Philippines in Southeast Asia and Kenya in Africa — in 2025. Campaigns are continuously under way to that effect since 2012 on a year-by-year schedule, and in 2024, a 20,000-member citizen organizing committee was

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