

CHAPTER IV

THE EFFORT OF GLOBAL PEACE FOUNDATION IN BUILDING PEACE BETWEEN SOUTH KOREA AND NORTH KOREA

In this chapter, the writer explains the effort of NGOs, especially Global Peace Foundation in building peace between South Korea and North Korea. Toward the problem, the GPF's effort attested by its action in campaigning the unification of Korea in building peace between the disputes parties. This chapter also describes how GPF execute its campaign to attract people respond toward the Korea Peninsula case.

A. The Effort of NGO in Building Peace in Korean Peninsula

Nowadays, the power of people can lead the global changes. The social revolution has no longer come from the top, but also can drive from the bottom. In this era, the citizen peace movement has played important role in building among people linkages across the divide that separated superpowers, reducing mutual suspicion and creating pressures on governments to reassess outdated positions (Carlson & Comstock, 1986). This movement emerged from the will of the people to create a better life.

The division of South Korea and North Korea has brought suffer for many people, both North Korea and South Korea, and also brought security problems in Northeast Asia. Many parties have involved solving this problem. However, the reconciliation between those two states is still hard to achieve. In this problem, NGO as non-state actor has big effort in reconciling and building peace between South Korea and North Korea.

Toward Korean peninsula problem, number of NGOs have tried to reduce suffer in North Korea and promote philanthropy in South Korea through humanitarian engagement. NGOs also tried to reconcile the relations between South Korea and North Korea (Reed, 2009). NGOs build mutual contributions between those two states as the way in building peace between South Korea and North Korea. One of NGOs that try in building peace between South Korea and North Korea is Global Peace Foundation.

GPF believes that all people have equal rights and shared the universal principles to each other. GPF with its vision of brotherhood “One Family under God” try to build a sustainable peace in the world, especially between South Korea and North Korea. Since established in 2009, GPF has concerned on Korean peninsula issue. In addressing the division of South Korea and North Korea, GPF acts as peacebuilder between South Korea and North Korea through bridging the division of Korea and advancing peace between the two states.

B. Global Peace Foundation as Peacebuilder and People Movement

According to Ms Yor Ching, as country directors of GPF Indonesia, peacebuilding is anything could bring benefit, happiness, and prosperity to the community (Poon, 2017). Therefore, GPF as civil society movement tries to bring prosperity and benefit for all people. In Korean peninsula problem, GPF tries to build peace between South Korea and North Korea. Based on peace concept by Johan Galtung, GPF acts as peacebuilder between South Korea and North Korea by trying to understand the problem between the two

states, reconcile the dispute parties, and make a long-term transformation in South Korea and North Korea's society through unified these two states.

GPF started the process of building peace in Korean peninsula by using *Hongik Ingan* philosophy. It means to live and work for the benefit of all mankind. It also has three principles which are *Ido-yeochi* (morality and truth), *Kwangmyung-ise* (enlightening the world with truth), and *Jaesa-ihwa* (creating a world of truth). According to Dr Yoon Kyung-Ro, *Hongik Ingan* is the foundation of social transformation, ethical values and the spiritual virtues (Moon, A Global Ethical Framework As The Foundation For Societal Transformations, 2014). GPF believes that *Hongik Ingan* contained the universal values of humankind. (Moon, 2016) GPF uses this philosophy because it is the original philosophy of Korea. This philosophy can unify South Korea and North Korea because *Hongik Ingan* philosophy is Korean common identity and belongs to the both states. Based on this philosophy, GPF has a mission to bring peace to the Korean Peninsula and to bring benefit everyone.

The main GPF's mission in solving Korean peninsula problem is to unify South Korea and North Korea. GPF promotes the unification because South Korea and North Korea have same people, language, and history. Many people have suffered because of the division. Many old people tend to hopeless with the unification because of the engagement policy and mechanism. However, the young people have a little enthusiasm to unify the peninsula. According to Chu-shik Kim, vice minister of Korea's Ministry of

Unification, the reunification must create a country that does not threaten anyone (GPF, 2011). Toward this situation, GPF as people movement tries to realize the peaceful unification by engaging all people to contribute in the unification process. GPF engaged multi-sector partners such as the national and local government, United Nations agencies, corporate, research institutions, interfaith leaders, civil organization, policy makers, scholars, youth, cultural trendsetter, and entrepreneur, who recognized the implication of peaceful Korean unification. GPF believes that unification of Korea is Korean Dream based on Korean identity (Moon, 2016). Through unified South Korea and North Korea, GPF wants to contribute in making prosperity and sustainable peace in Northeast Asia and the world. Based on the concept of NGO's role, GPF is classified as people movement that tries to build people engagement and support through grassroots movement as based on *Hongik Ingan* philosophy as the main idea. GPF believes that from grassroots movement with engaged all parties, it can develop into a global wave in achieving the unification.

C. Campaign the Unification of Korea

According to Kyung Eui Yoo, Chairman of GPF Korea, a campaign can be a tool to advocate and build the awareness of people toward the Korean unification (Moon, 2014). GPF campaign focuses on the unification of Korea to influence public opinion, changes the perspective about the hostilities of South Korea and North Korea, and raises the awareness of people toward the

unification of Korea in building peace between South Korea and North Korea.

In reconcile South Korea and North Korea, GPF has a new approach in realizing it. GPF builds the awareness of people toward the importance of Korea unification through a humanitarian campaign and civil society partnership. Since 2010, GPF cooperated with 1100 domestic civil society group in building unification movement. GPF also tried to influence public opinion about the benefits of a peaceful unification of the Korean Peninsula through created several projects in order to promote the unification of Korea to all people, both in Korea Peninsula and the world.

1. Action for Korea United (AKU)

In 2012, GPF created a movement called Action for Korea United (AKU) as a coalition of more than 800 civic, religious, humanitarian and non-profit organizations that focuses on North Korea issues and support the peaceful reunification of Korea (Moon, 2016) AKU engage all North Korea people from all ages involved in the unification process, provide information for North Korea people, and builds the connection between South Korea and North Korea. The AKU project includes the Unification Leader Assembly, both local and international level, attended by the leader from many backgrounds to build consensus in society to prepare the future of unification. This movement committed supporting the South Korea government's efforts for peaceful reunification and promoting

“everyday unification movement” as Korean grassroots movement around the world to realize the unification through people contribution in daily life. AKU project also created “The New Era Unification Song” campaign cooperated with 1100 civic groups. This project was successful in promoting the unification in global level with evidence the establishment of AKU branch in China in 2014 and launched the One Korea Global Campaign at the UN General Assembly in New York in 2016 to rallying international support for Korean unification.

2. Korean Unification Forum Series

Since 2013, GPF created Korean Unification Forum as international forum aimed to advance civil society cooperation and brought new issues related to the reunification of the Korean peninsula and its implications for sustainable peace in Northeast Asia. This convention attended by experts, policy makers, politicians, governments, faith leaders, and scholars. This forum held annually since 2010 and discussed the role of civil society in achieving the unification, economic development as the tool of unification, humanitarian aid for the North Korea and so forth.

3. Humanitarian Projects

GPF created several humanitarian projects in supporting North Korea people by engaged all people to contribute to those projects. The goal is to promote unification and to invite all people in realizing the unification. In running the project GPF cooperated with several

organizations and institutions, such as Love North Korean Children and the Korean Sharing Movement. GPF's humanitarian projects are based on *Hongik Ingan* philosophy that all people must be a benefit for all, and the GPF's vision One Family under God. The projects, such as The Power of 1000 Won (to build bread factory for help the North Korea's undernourished children) and All-Lights Villages projects (the community development program bringing lights and hope to rural villages with limited access to electrical power).

4. One K Concert

One K concert is a unification song concert launched by GPF in 2015 to mark the 70th anniversary of Korean independent and division. The concert aimed to increase the awareness of youth and civil society about Korea reunification in the global scale because they lose their interest toward the unification. This concert held in Seoul and Manila, attended by 40,000 people and 30 more K-Pop stars. GPF also created the unification song "One Dream, One Korea" that composed by a famous South Korea musician and performed by 33 top K-Pop artists. This unification song is released in Seoul, Washington DC, Tokyo and Beijing. One Dream One Korea song gained a million views in online media from worldwide.

5. U-Dream Project

The U-Dream project is engaging students in thinking of peace, changing South Korea prejudice toward North Korea defectors and help

them adjust living in South Korea. This project has a unification project competition called as Need U Ideas competition that collected a number of applicants who submitted creative ways to promote unification. One of the outputs of this competition is Korean unification textbooks written by the winner of Need U Ideas. The textbook used in 200 secondary schools throughout Korea.

6. Unification Project for foreign student and North Korea defector

In promoting the unification, GPF also engaged the foreign student in South Korea and North Korea defector in realizing it. GPF organized the annual Korean Dream speech contest for the foreign student. The foreign student also invited in history and cultural tours highlighted the shared experience and values of Korean heritage, visit demilitarized zone and international multicultural festivals.

However, until December 2016 the total number of North Korea defectors that live in South Korea reached 30,208 people (Yonhap, 2017). Unfortunately, they get discrimination and isolation from South Korea people (Hee-jin, 2012). Regarding North Korea defector, GPF engaged North Korea defector to integrate them into South Korean society. GPF did several projects for North Korea defector such as visit North Korea defectors which is life in South Korea, provided home stays, support them to adapt to South Korea lifestyle, send the message to their family in North Korea and engaged them in the volunteer project to help bridge the division of Korea (Moon, 2016). GPF has succeeded in

engaged the defector through arranged a weekly table tennis classes for the defectors and became an annual Korea Peninsula Table Tennis Festival. Kim Hyang Hui one of North Korea defector and former of professional table tennis player, told her joy when she won the 3rd Korean Peninsula Table Tennis. She supports this competition as GPF program to build the pride and confidence of North Korea defectors. She also hopes this sports competition can be a soft diplomacy between South Korea and North Korea (Ah, 2014). GPF also urged greater exposure of human rights abuses in North Korea with featuring the North Korean defectors.

In campaigning the unification of Korea, GPF uses the Korean wave to spread and blow up the campaign around the world and also raise public awareness of the positive implications of unification. GPF build global impact through media strategy which is online campaign through Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and other online media to promote the unification. GPF also engaged other media, such as SBS, Chosun TV, and Korea Times reported GPF campaign. Several projects did by GPF campaigning the unification in the global context are declaration signature campaign and 160-mile walk campaign (same with the length of the 38th parallel dividing South Korea and North Korea), and the power of 1K Won donation initiative.

Until the end of 2016, GPF has succeeded encourage all people in the whole world, especially South Korea and North Korea, to build a consensus and try to achieve the unification. GPF has a big contribution in reconcile and

building peace between South Korea and North Korea. According to Dr Hyun Jin as the chairman of GPF, Global Peace Foundation has been pioneering a groundbreaking approach to unifying South Korea and North Korea with regional and global implication (Moon, 2016). This success proved by Certificate of Commendation from the ministry for Special Affairs of Republic of Korea's to GPF Korea in 2013 as an appreciation for its charitable activities in building peace between South Korea and North Korea (GPF, 2013). GPF Korea also awarded the Grand Prize in the Youth Leadership Category at 12th annual Korean Youth Award ceremony hosted by the Korean Youth newspaper. GPF Korea was recognized succeed in raising "Unification Generation" through a creative project in grassroots level to spread the vision and culture of unification to Korean youth. GPF Korea also wins NGO Collaboration Award (GPF, 2014).