The Effort of Global Peace Foundation  
in Building Peace between South Korea and North Korea  

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Abstract  

The conflict between South Korea and North Korea is a prolonged conflict since 1945. Many states have involved to reconcile and solve the problem between these two states. Unfortunately, the problem solving is failed until now. However, many of NGOs have involved reconciling South Korea and North Korea. Global Peace Foundation (GPF) is one of international non-governmental organizations (INGOs) concerned on peacebuilding that also tries to solve this problem. This undergraduate thesis will analyze how the effort of Global Peace Foundation in building peace between South Korea and North Korea. In order to describe it, this undergraduate thesis using concept of Peace by Johan Galtung and concept of NGO’s Role by David C. Korten. The data collected in this undergraduate thesis are primary data from GPF’s member as the relevant parties, and secondary data from books, journals, and articles. This research found that GPF build peace between South Korea and North Korea by campaigning the unification of Korea in Korean peninsula and worldwide level.  

Keywords:  

South Korea, North Korea, INGO, Global Peace Foundation, Peacebuilding, Unification of Korea
Introduction

Global Peace Foundation (GPF) is an International Non-Governmental Organization (INGO) that concern on peacebuilding. GPF’s vision is “one family under God”. GPF is active in solving the conflict in several regions to achieve peace and create better life for all people. One of conflicts that become GPF’s focus is the conflict between South Korea and North Korea.

The conflict between South Korea and North Korea its started from the division of Korea in 1945. Korea was divided by the United States and the Soviet Union based on Postdam Agreement. Under the United States, South Korea used liberal and capitalist ideology. While North Korea used sosialist and communist ideology from the Soviet Union. South Korea and North Korea were claimed that they were the legitimate government in Korean peninsula. Unfortunately, based on United Nations general assembly, the sole legitimate government on the Korean Peninsula is the government of South Korea. This decision was increasing the tension between South Korea and North Korea and triggered war since 1950-1953 (Seung-Yoon & Setiawati, Sejarah Korea: Sejak Awal Abad Hingga Masa Kontemporer, 2003) After three years of war, South Korea and North Korea decided a ceasefire in 1953. The war finished by the signing of an armistice and created the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) to separate those two states.

This conflict gives impact on Northeast Asian regional peace and global security. The relation between South Korea and North Korea are still in strained and conflict situation. It is caused by mutual suspicion and distrust between South Korea and North Korea people. Toward this conflict, GPF tries to solve and building peace between these two states.
Theoretical Framework

1. Concept of Peace

According to Johan Galtung, peace is the absence/reduction of violence of all kinds (Perwita, 2015). He divided peace into two forms. First, positive peace means the integration of human society. Second negative peace means the absence of violence or war (Galtung, Positive and Negative Peace, 1964).

Johan Galtung writes the article of Three Approaches to Peace: Peacekeeping, Peacemaking, and Peacebuilding. Peacekeeping is the dissociative approach. Peacemaking is the conflict resolution approach. Meanwhile, peacebuilding is the associative approach.

Galtung defines peacekeeping as the antagonists are kept away from each other under mutual threats of considerable punishment if they transgress (Galtung, 1976). Other definition is if the two social forces threatening each others, the third party is needs to keep them apart and exercise peacekeeping operations, for example patrolling the borderline between those parties. In this condition, the third parties are monitors and observe the peace process in post-conflict areas and assist ex-combatant to implement the peace agreement. The assistances from third parties are such as building the confidence, power sharing agreement, electoral support, strengthening the rule of law, and social economic development.

Peacemaking means to keep the parties do not attack others by providing a barrier between them. The barriers are the neutral forces as mediators. The aim of the force is to calm the disputants or to prepare a diplomatic way to resolve the dispute through gets rid of the source of tension and the underlying conflict (Galtung, 1976). Usually peacemaking is done by a diplomat or a person who has experienced in resolving a dispute. A peace agreement is hand in hand with building peace through the improvement of relations and reconciliation between the parties.
While peacebuilding is the process of creating self-supporting structures that removes causes of wars and offering alternatives to war in situations where wars might occur (Selected Definitions of Peacebuilding, 2013). The third parties in this approach create policies to resolve the conflict in order to end the differences between the dispute parties. The peaceful resolution has aims to reduce and eliminate the frequency of violence in the conflict. Many national and international organizations have involved in building peace in conflict areas. They create sustainable peace to eliminate the hostility between states and create a new social order. They also did capacity building activities for the society, did reconciliation, and did society transformation in the long-term.

2. Concept of NGO’s Role

According to David C. Korten, he defines NGO as all organizations that not belong to the government and non for profit. Korten explains the role of NGO by dividing NGO into four generations. First generation is relief and welfare. Second generation is small-scale self-reliant local development. Third generation is sustainable system development. Last but not least, fourth generation is people movement. (Korten, 1990)

First generation of NGO is an organization that focuses on natural disaster, war, and poor people as a mitigation assistance movement. The aim of this organization is to help the victim by providing assistance in goods or services form as humanitarian aid. In this generation, NGOs help the people directly, and the amount of aid is depending on their ability. (Sommer, 1977).

Second generation is focused on community development. In this generation, NGOs tend to empowering people to solve the problem by themselves. The relation between NGOs and society are like a partner. Therefore, the organization in this generation gives aid by
developing the society through stress on their local self-reliance. (Korten, 2001).

Third generation is focused on facilitating sustainable changes in regional or even national level. This organization offers alternative strategy of development and cooperates with national agencies as policy maker, such as local and national governments, private enterprises, other independent sector institutions, and so forth. NGO’s strategy in this phase focused on making policies and local sustainable development. They also encourage all parties to support the actions that could make the system more responsive with interests of people.

Fourth generation is focused on support social movement. In this generation, NGOs tend to energize decentralized action toward a people-centered development on the broader scale. NGO become the facilitator of global people’s movement. The goal is to coalesce and energize a critical mass in support a social vision. In order to mobilize the people, NGO uses the power of ideas, values and communication links. NGO also try to cooperate with all parties to create network and coalition. (Korten, 1990) One effort that uses by NGO in order to do social force is through the campaign.

According to Kotler and Roberto, campaign is an organized effort conducted by one group (the change agent) which intends to persuade others (the target adopters) to accept, modify, or abandon certain ideas, attitudes, practices and behavior. (Philip Kotler & Eduardo L. Roberto, 1989) Campaign is an efficient effort to change public behavior and to achieve social goals without repressive action. NGO also use a campaign for imbuing the public consciousness to mobilize voluntary action on national or global scale. (Korten, 1990) NGO’s campaign almost always geared towards protest, debate, and polarization. (NGO Strategies, n.d)
The division of South Korea and North Korea have brought suffer for many people, both North Korea and South Korea, and also bring 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 have big effort in reconciling and 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.

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.

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 with 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 building peace in Korean peninsula with using “Hongik Ingan” philosophy. *Hongik Ingan* has meant to live and work for the benefit of all mankind. GPF use this philosophy because *Hongik Ingan* is the original philosophy of Korea. This philosophy can unify South Korea and North Korea because *Hongik Ingan* philosophy is Korea 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 benefit everyone.

The main GPF’s mission in solving Korean peninsula problem is unified South Korea and North Korea. GPF promote the
unification because South Korea and North Korea have same people, language, and history. Many people have suffer caused by the division. Many old people tend to hopeless with the unification caused by the engagement policy and mechanism. However, the young people have a little enthusiasm to unify the peninsula. Toward this situation, GPF as people movement, try to realize the peaceful unification with 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 building 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.

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 the unification of Korea to influence public opinion, change the perspective about the hostilities of South Korea and North Korea, and raise 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 build 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 building 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 is 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 aims to advance civil society cooperation and bring 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 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 support North Korea people with engaged all people to contribute to those projects. The aim is to promote unification and invite all people to realize 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 has 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 are 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 have 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-mil 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,
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)

**Conclusion**

This research has presented one of prolonged conflict in the international relations, which is the conflict between South Korea and North Korea. Many parties, both state and non-state, try to reconcile and solve this conflict. A lot of efforts have been done to reconcile South Korea and North Korea and build peace between those states. The effort of Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) in solving this conflict has been examined by previous researchers. It proves that NGO is one of important actors in international relation.

This research focused on the involvement of Global Peace Foundation (GPF) in solving the problem between South Korea and North Korea. Global Peace Foundation as a new actor in international relations that concerned on building peace also involve in solving South Korea and North Korea problem. This NGO founded by Hyun Jin Preston Moon in 2009 with 24 branch offices worldwide. Since its establishment, GPF has concerned on Korean peninsula issue and created a lot of programs bridging the division of Korea and advancing peace between the two states.

In addressing this issue, GPF tries to build peace between South Korea and North Korea through campaigning the
unification of Korea as Korean dream. GPF build a grassroots movement by engaging multi-sector partners. GPF also organized several programs in order to promote the unification of Korea, such as Action for Korea United (AKU), Korean Unification Forum Series, Humanitarian Projects, One K Concert, U-Dream Project, and Unification Project for foreign student and North Korea defector. Through those projects, GPF has been successful in promoting and raising the awareness of people toward the unification of Korea.

The conflict between South Korea and North Korea has given a big impact on international security and peace. In building peace, the civil society movement also involves in realize it. This research found that NGO also has big contribution in building peace and creating the global changes. In this case, as an INGO which concern on peacebuilding, GPF always tries to build peace between South Korea and North Korea, engages all parties to involve in humanitarian projects in support North Korea people and promote the unification of Korea in regional and international level.

This research found that South Korea and North Korea conflict caused by the different of ideology and the desire to unify Korea under each ideology. Based on this problem, GPF tries to build peace between South Korea and North Korea and unify the Korea by using Hongik Ingan philosophy and GPF’s vision is One Family under God. In unification process, GPF also engaged many parties, such as the government, corporate, interfaith leader, civil society organization, and so forth in realizing the unification as Korean dream.

By using the concept of Peace and NGO’s Role, this research has been success in answering the research question and proving the hypothesis that the effort of GPF in building peace between South Korea and North Korea is through campaigning the unification of Korea. Because of the campaign, GPF can execute
its mission in building peace between South Korea and North Korea to achieve prosperity and sustainable peace in Northeast Asia and the world. This research has been successful in presented the effort of GPF in building peace between South Korea and North Korea through campaigning the unification of Korea by building social engagement and partnership between the government and society.

According to the writer, the effort of NGO and its cooperation with other organization, society and government can be a power in building peace and creating social transformation. The action of GPF has got a lot of attentions and good response from many parties such as society, government, and other organizations. The GPF have a big contribution in reconcile and building peace between South Korea and North Korea. The effort of GPF in building peace between South Korea and North Korea proved that the effort of non-state actor is also important in solving the problem in international relations.

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