
SUMMARY



A Study on the Comprehensive Strategies and Practical Application for Balanced Development in the Border Areas of Northern Gyeonggi Province II

Kang MinJo, Lim YongHo, Oh HoYoung, Kang HoJe, Yang JinHong,
Hong SoonJick, Park HunMin, Ryu JiSung

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Under the administration policy of Moon Jae-in on the Korean Peninsula's new economic plan and the development of the inter-Korean border regions, regional authorities should reexamine their roles and values for resolving conflicts between South Korea and North Korea. The inter-Korean border region, which is recognized as a disconnected and confrontational space, is expected to transform its status and role under changes in inter-Korean relations and the new peace regime on the Korean peninsula. The inter-Korean border belt can promote cooperation and exchange in areas such as ecology, culture, tourism, and the military. In addition, for the region to serve as a testbed for a unified Korean community, it is necessary to address any conflicting factors that may arise due to differences in lifestyle, systems and values resulting from long breaks in inter-Korean relations.

For this reason, this study suggests selecting projects for comprehensive

development in the bordering region of northern Gyeonggi Province and proposes plans for their implementation. These plans are divided into three stages: beginning, intermediate, and advanced. In addition, the study proposes significant deregulation, increased support systems, and funding resources, all of which are necessary for the comprehensive development of the Northern Gyeonggi Province border region.

According to the development plan presented in the first year of 2018, the developments in the bordering region of Northern Gyeonggi Province will 1) provide a foundation for inter-Korean cooperation through peace and reconciliation, 2) strengthen inter-Korean cooperation in industry and their general economies, 3) encourage inter-Korean cooperation in culture and tourism to create new growth engines, 4) pursue ecological and environmental cooperation for sustainable development in the inter-Korean border region, and 5) create employment and improve the quality of life in the area. Based on this, we suggest considering the following for selecting implementation projects: 1) the roles and values of the border regions, 2) the value of inter-Korean exchange and cooperation, and 3) strengthening regional competitiveness for balanced development.

The implementation projects include 1) identifying primary candidates through literature reviews, 2) identifying secondary candidates through interviews with practitioners in central and local governments, 3) evaluating priorities among secondary candidates through surveys of research institutes and academic experts related to the DMZ and border regions, and 4) selecting final candidates through second interviews. The implementation projects cover 22 areas, including 1) ecology, history, culture, and peace tourism, 2) a special economic unification zone, industry and logistics, 3) transportation infrastructure such as inter-Korean roads and railways, 4) human exchanges in

education, culture, medical and health cooperation between South Korea and North Korea, and 5) return the area's use and management for a basecamp of the United States Forces (Korea).

The beginning, intermediate, and advanced stages of inter-Korean cooperation are designed to allow flexibility in accordance with changes in inter-Korean relations. The beginning stage establishes a macro plan for inter-Korean exchange and cooperation, spatial planning for all inter-Korean border regions, and initiating developments from South Korea. In addition, research on legal and institutional improvement plans should be developed simultaneously with standards on inter-Korean exchange.

The intermediate stage develops a border region in North Korea which can cooperate with a border region in South Korea. The advanced stage encourages free exchange without additional sanctions and in which cooperation of the border region extends to the inland regions of South-North Korea. This spreads cooperation synergy in the border region and forms a unified community on the Korean peninsula.

As an institutional support plan for the implementation projects, first, the regions for inter-Korean exchange and cooperation need to ease excessive regulation and consider the various supports under the laws. Second, robust protocols are needed to promote inter-Korean cooperation projects. To this end, this study proposes establishing the 'Presidential Committee for Cooperation in the Border Region' (tentative title) for the development of the South Korea border regions with a South-North Korean Joint Committee for both border regions. It also recommends that an inter-Korean cooperation governance platform (provisionally referred to as the inter-Korean cooperation platform) should be established at the ministry level as a basis for communicating, cooperating and planning. Third, funding resource is the most important factor

for carrying out the projects, for which there are various sources, including public, foreign and private. In addition, this study presents the development methods preferred by North Korea and divides them by project and stages.

The purpose of this report's policy proposal is to enhance the value of the inter-Korean border region by promoting projects that highlight local specializations and to strengthen support for the 22 projects selected for balanced national development. These projects should be developed from the South Korea side in order to respond flexibly to North Korea's attitudes and to strengthen regional competitiveness in South Korea's border region. To this end, it is necessary to establish a national council for joint research outcomes with North Korea, prepare legislation related to inter-Korean economic cooperation, and conduct advanced research on inter-Korean integrated exchange and cooperation regulations. Because timely funding is essential for sustainable inter-Korean exchange and the balanced development of the border region, a phased procurement plan should be prepared according to the available funding resources.

Since it is necessary to create the northern Gyeonggi Province border region as a space that can use the complementary cooperation and synergy between the border regions, this three-year study will suggest the direction of connection and cooperation between hub cities in South-North Korea (referencing a case study of cooperating cities in Germany and elsewhere in Europe) using spatial information, satellite images, for inter-Korean exchange, cooperation and integration in the border regions of northern Gyeonggi Province.