

Official Signature and Exchange of the Inter-Korean Maritime Agreement and Subsequent Agreement (Summary)

June 5, 2004

The South and the North, during the 9th Inter-Korean Economic Exchange and Cooperation Promotion Committee held in Pyongyang from June 3 to 5, 2004, officially signed and exchanged the Inter-Korean Maritime Agreement and Subsequent Agreement.

Inter-Korean Maritime Agreement and Subsequent Agreement will come into effect from the date when the two Koreas exchange the official document of the Agreement after going through internal process for effectuation such as approval of the National Assembly

The South and the North, during the 5th Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks on September 2001, first consulted on and adopted the Inter-Korean Maritime Agreement as well as Subsequent Agreement through the four rounds of working-level talks on the Inter-Korean Maritime Cooperation. The two Koreas finally signed and exchanged the official document of the agreement

The Inter-Korean Maritime Agreement states:

- Sea routes between the South and the North are internal domestic routes
- The two Koreas shall open sea routes between seven new ports
- The two Koreas shall treat each other's ships on the same footing within their harbors, and cooperate with each other in case of maritime accident

If the Inter-Korean Maritime Agreement comes into effect, it is expected to lay the legal framework for safe and effective maritime transportation as the two Koreas will be able to engage in direct inter-Korean exchanges instead of depending on the third-party ships. This will promote inter-Korean exchanges and lay the foundation for inter-Korean cooperation in the maritime transportation area.

Source: <http://www.globalsecurity.org/wmd/library/news/rok/2004/rok-040614-rok-mou01.htm>