

Joint Press Release of the 8th Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks

Pyongyang, October 22, 2002

The 8th Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks were held in Pyongyang from October 19 to 22, 2002.

In the meeting, the two sides discussed recent inter-Korean relations and concluded that they have been developing favorably and in conformity with the basic spirit of the June 15 Joint Declaration. Both sides agreed to continue efforts to implement the South-North Joint Declaration. In order to resolve pending problems, both further agreed as follows:

- 1 The South and the North agreed to make common efforts to guarantee peace and security on the Korean Peninsula, consistent with the spirit of the June 15 Joint Declaration, and to actively cooperate to resolve all problems through dialogue, including the nuclear issue.
- 2 The South and the North agreed to expedite the construction of the Seoul-Sinuiju and East Sea railways and roads so that the projects could make rapid and simultaneous progress; and the Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks will actively support the work. In the first stage, the two sides will connect the Seoul-Sinuiju railway and road to the Gaeseong Industrial Complex as well as the East Sea railway and road to the Mt. Geumgang region.

The two sides will accelerate the East Sea railway connection work and the South will expedite work on its segment toward Gangneung without interruption.

- 3 The South and the North agreed to discuss matters concerning groundbreaking in December for the construction of the Gaeseong Industrial Complex and related working-level details at a working-level meeting for the construction of the Gaeseong Industrial Complex. When the industrial complex is completed, a relevant office for the South will be established.
- 4 The South and the North will hold a working-level contact at Mt. Geumgang in November to adopt a maritime agreement governing passage by civilian ships through each other's territorial waters.
- 5 The South and the North will consult on the-adoption of an agreement on transit of personnel and materials to the other side when the inter-Korean railways and roads are connected.
- 6 The South and the North will hold working-level contact at an early date at Mt. Geumgang to discuss the partial use of the North's East Sea fishing ground by South Korean fishermen.
- 7 The South and the North will quickly construct the Mt. Geumgang reunion center for separated families and actively support Red Cross projects to confirm the whereabouts of those unaccounted for during the war.

8 The South and the North will hold the Ninth Inter-Korean Ministerial Talks in Seoul in mid-January 2003.

Source: *Peace and Prosperity: White Paper on Korean Unification 2005* (Ministry of Unification: Seoul, 2005)