

2023 DMZ OPEN Festival EcoPeace Forum

Outcome Report



DMZ OPEN
Festival

Hosted by
Gyeonggi Provincial Government



Organized by
Gyeonggi Tourism Organization



경기관광공사
GYEONGGI TOURISM ORGANIZATION

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Summary

The EcoPeace Forum, a core academic program of the 2023 DMZ OPEN Festival, was hosted by the Gyeonggi Provincial Government, Republic of Korea and organized by the Gyeonggi Tourism Organization. Starting with a field visit to the DMZ Region on September 19, 2023, the academic forum was held in Aegibong Peace Ecopark, Gimpo and KINTEX, Goyang from September 20 to 22, 2023. The DMZ Forum, held by the Gyeonggi Provincial Government every year since 2019, was renamed ‘EcoPeace Forum’ this year, focusing on the connection between ecology and peace and strengthening its direction and identity.

Fifty-six experts in ecology and peace from universities, research institutes, press, etc. from nine countries participated in the international forum as presenters, discussants, and chairs. More than 200 people attended the forum, and the opening ceremony streamlined live on September 20 was watched by more than 400 people.

This year, to mark the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the DMZ, the forum was held under the theme of ‘Open DMZ, Greater Peace - A Vision for Sustainable Ecology and Peace in the DMZ.’ Recognizing the need for a new paradigm for the vision, the concept of the eco-peace nexus was presented as a new approach for the Greater Peace. This is grounded on the perception that the DMZ eco-peace nexus will help promote peace worldwide beyond the Korean Peninsula.

The forum comprised a keynote talk, five ecology sessions (including the visioning workshop), five peace sessions, an expert roundtable, etc. Renowned scholars in ecology and peace from home and abroad highlighted the latest global trends and shared diverse research studies. The Gyeonggi Province Governor and distinguished scholars had an opportunity to discuss relevant topics via a keynote talk, and public participants took part in the visioning workshop to create future visions for the DMZ through two-day activities following the given procedure. Such participatory programs were well appreciated by participants. Results from peace sessions and the visioning workshop are expected to be

presented as academic papers.

This English version of the outcome report summarizes the original report written in Korean. It offers information on the forum's background and relevant preparatory processes that can be used to prepare future forums. It also includes topics, programs, session presentations, and discussions to establish a framework to discuss ecology and peace for the Gyeonggi Province and to serve as a stepping stone for Greater Peace. Moreover, based on the expert roundtable organized during the forum and the in-depth interviews with public participants, this report delivers achievements, things to improve, and suggestions for future development from the different perspectives of the forum participants and organizers.

1. Background and purposes

1.1. Background

- The EcoPeace Forum was planned to be the most exemplary academic event among academic, art, and sports programs of the ‘DMZ Open Festival’ hosted by the Gyeonggi Provincial Government, Republic of Korea.
- The ‘EcoPeace Forum’ is a new name of the ‘DMZ Forum,’ which has been hosted annually by the Gyeonggi Provincial Government since 2019. With this name change, the forum strengthened its direction and identity, focusing on connections between ecology and peace.
- The DMZ Forums were a venue to discuss global solidarity for inter-Korean cooperation and ways to facilitate stability in the DMZ border areas and the Han River estuary. Since 2022 when the 8th elected Gyeonggi Provincial Government was inaugurated, the forum has paid keener attention to ecology and peace in the DMZ, considering worsening inter-Korean relations and global and national environmental changes. At the same time, it was converted into a venue to seek new visions and policies including the sustainable development of North Gyeonggi Province.

1.2. Purposes

- The EcoPeace Forum in 2023 aims to further improve the value of peace by providing a venue for global and national experts in ecology and peace and relevant officials working in border areas to gather and learn lessons from the seven-decade-old Armistice Agreement and to discuss a future-oriented vision for peace and ecology in the DMZ. Based thereon, it helps identify policies for the sustainable development of North Gyeonggi Province.
- The forum is designed to specifically present the values of the DMZ in ecology and peace at the global and Korean Peninsular levels. Also, it provides opportunities to seek ways to enable the DMZ to contribute to enhancing inter-Korean relations and to be positioned as a strategic place for sustainable peace promoted by global citizens.
- By introducing horizontal communication-based programs, which ensure a higher level of participation not only by professionals but also by the general public, the forum aims to explore and disseminate more practical and feasible visions and policy measures.

2. Forum overview and participants

2.1. Basic information of the forum

- Period: 19 (Tue.) - 22 (Fri.) September 2023
- Venue: Aegibong Peace Ecopark (Gimpo City) and KINTEX (Goyang City), Republic of Korea
- Theme: Open DMZ, Greater Peace – A Vision for Sustainable Ecology and Peace in the DMZ
- Hosted by the Gyeonggi Provincial Government and organized by the Gyeonggi Tourism Organization
- Forum Homepage and QR Code (integrated into the DMZ OPEN Festival Homepage)

<https://dmzopen.kr/>



- Program
 - Field visit to the DMZ Region
 - Main events: opening ceremony, keynote talk, ecology sessions (including visioning workshop), peace sessions, general session, and roundtable
 - Side events: exhibition booths of relevant agencies and the DMZ Open hackathon and welcome dinner
 - The opening ceremony was streamlined live via the official YouTube account of the Gyeonggi Provincial Government.

2.2. Forum Schedule

- The forum program consisted mainly of:
 - Field visit to the DMZ Region on 19 September, participated by more than 80 persons, consisting of local and foreign speakers and relevant officials (DMZ OPEN Festival Organizing Committee, Gyeonggi Provincial Government, Gyeonggi Tourism Organization, etc.);
 - Opening session, key-note talk, and ecology and peace sessions on 20–22 September, which were open to the public;
 - Visioning Workshop (21–22 Sept.), participated by pre-registered applicants; and
 - Roundtable on 22 September, attended by foreign speakers and relevant officials to make forum evaluation and suggestions, and visions for the DMZ (closed-door)

- Timetable of the EcoPeace Forum

Date	Venue	Session	Content
Sept. 19 (Tue.)	Paju	Field visit to the DMZ Region	• Haemaru Village, Dorasan Observatory, Camp Greaves, Pyeonghwa Nuri Park, etc. in Paju City
Sept. 20 (Wed.)	Gimpo (Aegibong Peace Ecopark)	Ecology Session 1	• Ecological and Cultural Values of the DMZ Region as an Eco-Peace Space
		Peace Session 1	• Peace and Sustainable Development
		Opening Ceremony	• Performance and Video
		Keynote Talk	• Vision for Sustainable Ecology and Peace in the DMZ
Sept. 21 (Thu.)	Goyang (KINTEX)	Ecology Session 2	• Visioneering and Commons for the Sustainability of the DMZ
		Visioning Workshop 1 and 2	• DMZ Visioning 1: Seeds of Good Anthropocene
			• DMZ Visioning 2: Connecting Seeds and Formulating Visions
		Peace Sessions 2 to 4	• Prospects of International Cooperation for Peace
• Ideology of Peace, Ethics, and Ethnicity			
Sept. 22 (Fri.)	Goyang (KINTEX)	Visioning Workshop 3	• DMZ Visioning 3: DMZ Visioning – Synthesis and Presentation of Visions
		Peace Session 5	• International Solidarity for Conflict Resolution
		General Session	• Vision for and Future of the DMZ on the Korean Peninsula
		Roundtable	• Forum Evaluation and Suggestions

2.3. Participants

1) Speakers

- Fifty-six international and national scholars, researchers, journalists, etc. from nine countries participated in the forum as presenters, discussants and chairs.
 - For their photos and profiles, please refer to the EcoPeace Forum homepage. (<https://dmzopen.kr/svcProgramSubMain.do?programDtlCategory=1>)
 - Some speakers served as session chairs and mentors for the visioning workshop. (The names of chairs are marked with *; the ones of mentors with #.)
- Foreign speakers (15 persons)

Div.	Name	Organization	Title
Universities & Research Institutes (13)	Brendan HOWE	Graduate School of International Studies, Ewha Womans University in Korea	Professor
	Tomasz WIERZBOWSKI	Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Korea	Assistant Professor
	Garry PETERSON [#]	Stockholm University, Sweden	Professor
	Gerhard BEESTERMOLLER	Luxembourg School Of Religion and Society, Luxembourg	Retired Professor
	Dan KRAUSE	Helmut Schmidt University, Germany	Research Associate
	Laura PEREIRA [#]	University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa	Associate Professor
	Brian Miller [#]	US Geological Survey	Research Ecologist
	August PRADETTO [*]	Helmut Schmidt University, Germany	Professor
	ZHAO Huji	Charigo Center for International Economic Cooperation, China	Special Researcher
	Paula HARRISON [#]	UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Lancaster University	Professor
	Heinz GÄRTNER	University of Vienna, Austria	Professor
Lee Eun-jeung [*]	Freie Universitaet Berlin, Germany	Dean of History and Cultural Studies	
Kim Hye-jin [#]	UK Centre for Ecology and Hydrology	Senior Scenario Developer	
Politician (1)	Hartmut KOSCHYK	Former Member of the German Bundestag, Germany	Former Legislator
Journalist (1)	Norbert MAPPE-S-NIEDIEK	Journalist, Germany	Journalist

● Korean speakers (41 persons)

Div.	Name	Organization	Title
Universities & Research Institutes (31)	Koo Kyung-ah [#]	Korea Environment Institute	Researcher
	Kim Ol-teun	The May 18 Institute, Chonnam National University	Researcher
	Kim Gi-bum	Korea Institute for Defense Analyses	Senior Researcher
	Kim Joon	Seoul National University	Professor
	Kim Joon-soo [#]	KAIST	Researcher
	Kim Hak-jae	Seoul National University	Assistant Professor HK
	Nam Jung-ho	Korea Maritime Institute	Senior Research Fellow
	Moon Kyung-yon	Jeonbuk National University	Associate Professor
	Park Tae-gyun [*]	Seoul National University	Professor
	Baik Ji-woon	Institute for Peace and Unification Studies, Seoul National University	Associate Professor
	Suh Bo-hyuk	Korea Institute for National Unification	Research Fellow
	Ahn So-eun [#]	Korean Environment Institute	Researcher
	Oh Dong-suk	Ajou University	Professor
	Yoon Yeo-yl	Research Center on the Commons and Sustainable Society, Jeju Nat'l University	Research Professor
	Lee Dong-ki	Kangwon National University	Professor
	Yi Seong-woo [*]	Gyeonggi Research Institute	Director, Balanced Development Research Division
	Lee Sung-won	The Sejong Institute	Research Fellow
	Lee Young-sung	Seoul National University	Professor
	Lee In-sik	Knowledge Convergence Research Institute	Director
	Lee Jae-ho	KIPA	Chief Director
	Lee Jung-hoon	Gyeonggi Research Institute	Manager, North Gyeonggi Special Autonomous Province Research Unit
	Lee Hwa-yong	Kyunghee University	Professor
	Lee Hyo-won [*]	School of Law, Seoul National University	Professor
	Jang In-bong	Dept. of Public Administration, Shinhan University	Dean of External Affairs and Development (Professor)
	Cha Ji-ho	KAIST	Professor
	Choi Nak-hyeok	Gachon University	Professor
	Choe Yu-kyong	Korea Legislation Research Institute	Team Leader/Senior Research Fellow
	Choe Jae-chun	Ewha Womans University	Distinguished Professor

Div.	Name	Organization	Title
	Heo Ji-young	Inha University	Research Professor
	Hyon Jun-won	Korea Legislation Research Institute	Director General, Dept. of Innovative Legislation Projects
	Hwang Jin-tae	Dongguk University	Assistant Professor
Gyeonggi Province (3)	Son Gyeong-sig*	NGSP Joint Promotion Committee	Member
	Lee Jung-hoon	Gyeonggi Research Institute	Manager, North Gyeonggi Special Autonomous Province Research Unit
	Cho Sung-taek	Gyeonggi Research Institute	Research Fellow
Government Agencies, etc. (4)	Kim Hyun-sung	Gwangju Cooperative Job Foundation for Economy Promotion	President
	Ryu Jae-hyun	Namwon RE-PLUS Business Promotion Team	Team Leader
	Seo Hyung-soo	National Institute of Ecology	Research Associate
	Ji Sung-jin	National Intangible Heritage Center	Senior Researcher
NGOs (2)	Kim San-ha [#]	Biodiversity Foundation	President/Managing Director
	Shim Suk-kyung	Institute for Human and Nature	Director
Journalist (1)	Kang Chan-su*	JoongAng Ilbo	Environmental Issue Writer

2) Public participants

- Starting one month before the forum was held, applications for the event were accepted via the forum homepage using the Google Form. No separate qualifications and participation fees are required.
- The number of total participants by date is as below:

Date	Number of public attendees
September 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 205 persons, including 45 speakers and VIPs attending the opening ceremony ■ For the opening ceremony, the number of hits during the opening ceremony live-streamed is 368. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • (Governor account) 9,299 persons • (Gyeonggi Province account) Korean: 6,927 persons; English: 3,112 persons
September 21	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 145 persons (82 in peace sessions, 43 in ecology sessions and 20 in the visioning workshop)
September 22	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ 80 persons (62 in peace sessions and 18 in the visioning workshop)

3. Forum theme and sessions

3.1. Forum theme

- The 2023 EcoPeace Forum was held under the theme of ‘Open DMZ, Greater Peace – A Vision for Sustainable Ecology and Peace in the DMZ.’
- The theme is fundamentally based on the critical mind that a new paradigm should be sought to identify a vision for sustainable ecology and peace in the DMZ. We have long seen that it is impossible to establish sustainable peace only via the traditional concept of government-led security. At the same time, the reunification of Germany showed that peace and reunification can also be achieved unconsciously and suddenly. It can also be seen that the reunification of Germany was attained because a diversity of members in German society continuously promoted exchanges and cooperation via participation during the nation’s division. To achieve peaceful unification on the Korean Peninsula, we should also explore the strategy to set up a bottom-up framework for sustainable peace and formulate specific action plans that can be carried out in our daily lives.
- The ‘Greater peace,’ one of the keywords for the EcoPeace Forum, starts from the perception that various bottom-up exchanges and collaboration should be fostered for peace on the Korean Peninsula, going beyond the traditional security framework. The forum sought ways to lead the DMZ to be positioned as a strategic place for sustainable peace promoted by all at a global level and for improving inter-Korean relations, going beyond the practical issue of protecting ecological, cultural, and historical assets.
- Against the backdrop of discussions on peace having no place in an international order featuring the climate crisis and the principle of ‘saving your own skin,’ everyone agrees that a new paradigm for peace on the Korean Peninsula should

include specific action plans for sustainable ecology, development collaboration, and sustainable peace. The forum served as a venue for the eco-peace nexus to be presented as a new approach for the Greater Peace.

- In terms of concept, the eco-peace nexus can act as an educational means to highlight the significance of ecology that has not been considered in the traditional security realm. Moreover, it can help conduct bottom-up discussions where international cooperation including the Global South in a wide range of fields from the ecological environment (non-political) to peace-building (political) can be achieved.
- Discussions on the eco-peace nexus aim to identify conditions for creating a vision for sustainable ecology and peace that all can accept and to devise specific action plans, going beyond enhancing environmental conservation and reducing war threats. To lead these discussions to play a role in establishing ecological peace and expand collaboration in both non-political and political spheres, it is necessary to reinforce bottom-up approaches based on comprehensive participation for implementing specific action plans at a community level.
- The eco-peace nexus is expected to provide a conceptual framework for eco-peace in the DMZ, helping promote peace on the Korean Peninsula and around the world.

3.2. Sessions

1) Highlights from the Keynote Talk

15:30–17:00, Wednesday, Sept. 20

■ **Topic: Vision for Sustainable Ecology and Peace in the DMZ**

Chair: Governor Kim Dong-yeon (Gyeonggi Provincial Government, Korea)

- **Prof. Choe Jae-chun** (Ewha Womans University, Korea)
- **Prof. Garry PETERSON** (Stockholm University, Sweden)
- **Mr. Hartmut KOSCHYK** (Former Member of the German Bundestag)
- **Prof. Laura PEREIRA** (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)
- **Prof. August PRADETTO** (Helmut Schmidt University, Germany)
- **Prof. Lee Eun-jeung** (Dean of History and Cultural Studies, Freie Universitaet Berlin, Germany)

● **Prof. Choe Jae-chun (Ewha Womans University, Korea)**

- If the unification between North–South Korea is achieved suddenly without being prepared as a result of placing too much emphasis on peace, a myriad of issues will be generated. Because ecosystems cannot prevent excessive development, it will be difficult to protect our precious and beautiful land including the DMZ. Therefore, it is essential to prepare for such incidents in advance thoroughly. The DMZ should be protected by using every possible means, considering that it does not belong only to Koreans and their posterity but also to humanity as a whole.

● **Prof. Garry PETERSON (Stockholm University, Sweden)**

- The DMZ on the Korean Peninsula can be regarded as a kind of non–voluntary park. Given that the unification of the Korean Peninsula will be a very surprising incident, we should be well–prepared for rapid changes and unexpected circumstances. Also, applying diverse types of knowledge for effective action and countermeasures, we need to devise new testing methods and develop solutions for the DMZ.

● **Prof. Laura PEREIRA (University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa)**

- Amid heightened tensions and confrontations in the DMZ, we should exercise our imagination and work hard to make it a venue for a new paradigm. Our heritage for future generations living on the Korean Peninsula 50 or 100 years later should be

something righteous. To this end, justice should be ensured not only among humans but also among species. Humanity's strongest emotion is 'hope' through which we can change our future. A case in point is deemed to be the DMZ.

- **Mr. Hartmut KOSCHYK (Former Member of the German Bundestag)**

- In Germany, Chancellor Willy Brandt's Eastern Policy was implemented continuously even after regime change, ultimately leading to its reunification. However, in South Korea, its reunification policies have been revised completely whenever the regime has changed. Its foreign policies have also been reshaped, emphasizing global trends more than inter-Korean relations. What South Korea needs is discussions on its reunification policies, through which a consensus among political parties, as well as among civic groups, should be reached. Inter-Korean relations should be addressed and enhanced on a long-term basis.

- **Prof. August PRADETTO (Helmut Schmidt University, Germany)**

- It is deemed desirable to carry out detente policies requiring a minimum level of military deterrence. Policies based on common rules and interests will reduce violence and relevant threats, providing bigger opportunities to promote peace. Lessons can be learned from Europe's cases where peace has been facilitated based on common rules and systems. Ecology and peace are deemed to be the most significant themes in the modern world and should be approached via the eco-peace nexus.

- **Prof. Lee Eun-jeung (Dean of History and Cultural Studies, Freie Universitaet Berlin, Germany)**

- At present in Asia and Europe, major discussions are associated with wars, rather than with peace. In the 1970s under the Cold War, a new paradigm was created in Europe, causing most experts and citizens to discuss peace together with the environment. At that time, both military confrontations and the oil crisis led climate change to emerge as a main issue, bringing about peace and environmental movements. These initiatives ultimately led to the end of the Cold War, which should be brought to mind again. I hope this forum will serve as an opportunity for us to go back to basics and reach a consensus.

2) Ecology Sessions

- The ecology session comprised two sub-events for expert presentations/discussions and the visioning workshop attended by the public (The visioning workshop will be discussed separately in the succeeding section). The two sub-events were designed to identify the ecological and cultural values and current state of the DMZ region accurately and specifically based on the latest research studies conducted by relevant government agencies. They also aimed to seek new approaches to address the lack of systems for conserving and using the DMZ Region in a sustainable way.
- The presentations and discussions of Ecology Session, 1 on the ecological and cultural values as well as the conservation and use of the DMZ Region, served as the basis for the discussions on the sustainable vision for and future of the DMZ at Ecology Session 2 and the visioning workshop.

(1) Ecology Session 1: Ecological and Cultural Values of the DMZ Region as an Eco-Peace Space

10:30–12:00, Wednesday, Sept. 20

■ **Chair: Mr. Kang Chan-su** (Environmental Issue Writer, JoongAng Ilbo, Korea)

■ **Presentations**

- Issues in the ecological value and conservation of the DMZ Region based on ecological surveys of the Civilian Control Zone ecosystems
 - **Dr. Seo Hyung-soo** (Research Associate, National Institute of Ecology, Korea)
- Results from and implications of state survey of the DMZ for its inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage List
 - **Mr. Ji Sung-jin** (Senior Researcher, National Intangible Heritage Center, Korea)
- The DMZ and sustainable development of the Han River Estuary
 - **Dr. Nam Jung-ho** (Senior Research Fellow, Korea Maritime Institute, Korea)

■ **Discussion**

- **Dr. Brian MILLER** (Research Ecologist, US Geological Survey)
- **Prof. Oh Dong-suk** (Department of Law, Ajou University, Korea)

- Ecology Session 1 was designed to present the ecological and cultural values of the DMZ, the Civilian Control Zone, and the Han River Estuary that borders the DMZ

based on the latest research and data to shed new light on the values and significance of the DMZ Region, that has been highlighted as a border area featuring military security and disconnection as an eco-peace zone.

- Humans have not been able to access the DMZ for a long time due to military security and mines, often leading them to have inaccurate information or only ‘a haze of illusion’ about the zone. Considering these circumstances, based on results from comprehensive and professional academic research studies that relevant government agencies have conducted, although under limited conditions, this session aimed to help clearly understand the ecological and cultural values of the DMZ Region and to discuss the long-term conservation and peaceful utilization thereof.

(2) Ecology Session 2: Visioneering and Commons for Sustainability of the DMZ

10:00–11:30, Thursday, Sept. 21

■ **Chair: Prof. Lee Hyo-won** (School of Law, Seoul National University, Korea)

■ Presentations

- Visioneering of Korean DMZ eco-social systems towards sustainability: principles of complex systems for legislation
 - **Prof. Kim Joon** (Department of Landscape Architecture and Rural Systems Engineering, Seoul National University, Korea)
- Exploring the Commoning of the DMZ for the establishment of the sustainable Korean Peninsula
 - **Prof. Hwang Jin-tae** (Political Administration Track, Dongguk University, Korea)

■ Discussion

- **Prof. Yoon Yeo-yl** (Research Center on the Commons and Sustainable Society, Jeju National University, Korea)
- **Prof. Paula HARRISON** (UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Lancaster University)
- **Dr. Hyon Jun-won** (Director General, Department of Innovative Legislation Projects, Korea Legislation Research Institute)

- Ecology Session 2 was designed to connect the ecological values of the DMZ to the concept of Commons based on the discussions conducted at the former session to highlight the DMZ Region as an asset that our society should maintain and protect. To this end, this session discussed the explicit purpose of seeking the sustainability

of the DMZ and the need for establishing systems that can measure ecological integrity in a scientific way, exploring briefly the measures to set up systems through which diverse stakeholders can take part in this process.

- Above all, this session pursued to identify values on which our society agrees to conserve the DMZ ecosystem, connecting it to the concepts of the Commons, to find more specific and empirical processes and legal systems via transdisciplinary research approaches encompassing law, ecology, and other social and natural sciences. This was also designed to discuss ways to facilitate cooperation among multi-layered stakeholders from governments, academia, national research institutes, Commons networks, etc.

3) Visioning Workshop

- Visioning uses the methodology of the Seeds of Good Anthropocene (SOGA) and the Nature Futures Framework (NFF). The NFF is a scenario modeling framework developed by the Intergovernmental Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES). It is based on the 2050 Vision for Living in Harmony with Nature, promoted by the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD).
- The visioning workshop is the activity for creating a desirable future where living in harmony with nature is promoted by using the NFF developed by the IPBES.
- The DMZ visioning workshop held first during the EcoPeace Forum aimed to develop a pluralistic and fair vision for conserving the DMZ's ecology as a symbolic space for coexistence, how humans will interact with society, and how cultures will be created.
- The workshop results are represented via narratives and illustrations regarding future visions. They are to help Korean society members better understand the diverse ecological, cultural, and social values of the DMZ. As a result, they are expected to contribute to nature conservation and the well-being of humanity.
- A total of 31 persons, including 21 workshop participants and 10 mentors from

home and abroad, were assigned to four different groups, that is, Nature for Culture, Nature for Nature, Nature Service, and Nature for Nature–Nature for Culture, holding the workshop for two days from 21-22 September.

- The discussions of the four groups are summarized as below:

► **Nature for Culture (NC) Group**

- The Nature for Culture (NC) group implemented the visioning workshop with seeds such as ① Nature benefits from ecotourism, ② Revival of guardian spirits in the DMZ – DMZ Branding, and ③ Ecological knowledge in the mainstream.
- Using and maintaining relations between humanity and Nature, the group highlighted the importance of economic, institutional, and political values rediscovered and stressed the need for having access to ecotourism, new institutions, and financial resources.

► **Nature for Nature (NN) Group**

- The Nature for Nature (NN) group chose three seeds under the theme of environmental pollution and biodiversity loss to represent Nature for Nature in the DMZ. The three seeds refer to ① Pollution–zero villages, ② Restoration of endangered mammals such as tigers, and ③ 30% expansion of protected areas.
- Based on the three seeds, the following was visioned: in the DMZ, as a society featuring the promotion of the diversity of ecology and life, people–people and people–nature will fully coexist and become a clean eco–peace space where all forms of polluting activities are controlled.

► **Nature Service (NS) Group**

- The Nature Service (NS) group dealt with diverse values that nature offers to people, focusing on the interface between people and nature. The group selected the three seeds of ① Nature recovery projects: responding to climate change via carbon sink expansion, ② Healthy soil, pollution reduction, safe farm produce and welfare, and ③ Low–growth economic model beyond the de–growth.
- The first and third seeds were integrated with the second seed in the center. Discussions on reflecting a type of governance characterized by changes in government organizations, revision of systems, and experience–based democratic approaches to conflict resolution were added in the process of connecting the seeds.

► **Nature for Nature–Nature for Culture (NN–NC) Group**

- The vision of this group was the village the ecosystem, animals, and people coexist. The group enabled everyone to experience the forms in which the vision is realized, embodying the expansion of the three seeds. The three seeds are ① Eco-cities, ② Species restoration, and ③ Carbon-Zero Villages.
- The future Korean Peninsula, where positive interactions among the three seeds have occurred, is an altruistic society where citizens regain their composure and the ecosystem where birds and animals can be heard between forests and buildings. Moreover, congested areas are decentralized to create nature-friendly spaces and promote ideal types of decentralization. While people resemble nature, symbiotic relationships are becoming more significant, and grassroots democracy and citizen autonomy activities are vitalized.

● The illustrations for future visions of each group are as below:



Nature for Culture Group
• Illustrated by Sun-kyung Lee



Nature for Nature Group
• Illustrated by Ji-hyung Kim



Nature Service Group
• Illustrated by Jeong-in Park



Nature for Nature–Nature for Culture Group
• Illustrated by Ah-young Won

4) Peace Sessions

- The peace sessions were designed to deal with sustainable peace from varied perspectives in the context of peace based on the traditional concepts of security and in terms of Greater Peace going beyond the realm of peace in a narrow sense of freedom from the danger of wars.
- With theoretical and ideological analyses of the concepts of conflict and peace, the prospects of international cooperation were discussed theoretically. Discussions on peace conducted at a global level and those on future visions for peace and ecology reviewed via various projects that have been implemented in the DMZ Region, including North Gyeonggi Province, clearly showed that eco-peace is conceptually differentiated from traditional security-based peace.

(1) Peace Session 1: Peace and Sustainable Development

13:00–14:30, Wednesday, Sept. 20

■ **Chair: Prof. Park Tae-gyun** (Seoul National University, Korea)

■ **Presentations**

- The Concept of Peace and the Global South: from the Perspectives of Asia and Africa
 - **Dr. Dan KRAUSE** (Research Associate, Helmut Schmidt University, Germany)
- HDP Nexus and the Korean Peninsula
 - **Prof. Moon Kyung-yon** (Jeonbuk National University, Korea)

■ **Discussion**

- **Prof. Cha Ji-ho** (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology)
- **Prof. Lee Hwa-yong** (Kyunghee University, Korea)
- **Prof. Heinz GÄRTNER** (University of Vienna, Austria)

- This session focused on development cooperation and peace strategies that will be devised at a global level from the perspectives of the Global South. Considering ongoing conflicts among powers, humanitarian-development cooperation and peace promoted together with the Global South were discussed theoretically based on a single framework, reviewing specific cases that show the feasibility thereof. Studying

humanitarian- development cooperation and peace based on a single framework is deemed to be the same as seeking a new framework to collaborate with North Korea.

(2) Peace Session 2: Prospects of International Cooperation for Peace

10:00–11:30, Thursday, Sept. 21

■ **Chair: Prof. August PRADETTO** (Helmut Schmidt University, Germany)

■ Presentations

- Prospects of international cooperation for peace in East Asia
 - **Prof. Brendan HOWE** (Dean, Graduate School of International Studies, Ewha Womans University, Korea)
- Historical analogies, theoretical approaches, and peace strategies for the Korean Peninsula
 - **Prof. Heinz GÄRTNER** (University of Vienna, Austria)

■ Discussion

- **Prof. Heo Ji-young** (Inha University, Korea)
- **Prof. Kim Hak-jae** (Seoul National University, Korea)
- **Dr. Kim Ol-teun** (Researcher, The May 18 Institute, Chonnam National University, Korea)

- This session concentrated on international cooperation for peace in East Asia. A general review of human history shows that every nation has established its framework to understand peace and cooperation in its history and culture. However, the new international order that was created after the Cold War ended in the late 20th century requires trans-continental peace and cooperation.

(3) Peace Session 3: Ideology of Peace, Ethics, and Ethnicity

13:00–14:30, Thursday, Sept. 21

■ **Chair: Prof. Lee Eun-jeung** (Dean of History and Cultural Studies, Freie, Universitaet Berlin, Germany)

■ Presentations

- Nationalism and nation building as a problem of stable and peaceful relations in Europe
 - **Mr. Nobert MAPPES-NIEDIEK**, Journalist
- Peace strategies and traditions of peace ethics in Europe and Asia
 - **Prof. Gerhard BEESTERMÖLLER** (Luxemburg School of Religion and Society, Luxemburg)

■ Discussion

- **Prof. Lee Dong-ki** (Kangwon National University, Korea)
- **Prof. Baik Ji-woon** (Institute for Peace and Unifications Studies, Seoul National University, Korea)
- **Dr. Suh Bo-hyuk** (Research Fellow, Korea Institute for National Unification)

- The focus of this session was placed on the issues of peace and conflicts that have arisen due to national ideologies emerging in modern states. Analyzing the roles of nationalism and nation-building in the cyclic processes of conflicts and peace in Europe, this session discussed differences in peace-building strategies and traditional peace and ethics between Europe and Asia, each with unique histories and cultures.
- Based thereon, East Asia and Europe were compared, where discourses on peace mainly concentrate on war deterrence based on the balance of power. This session confirmed that discussions on a broader context are needed, and many reference systems, including Europe, are required to develop a discourse of ‘active peace’ in East Asia.

(4) Peace Session 4: Ecology, Peace, and Sustainable Development in the DMZ and North Gyeonggi Province

15:00–17:00, Thursday, Sept. 21

■ **Chair: Mr. Son Gyeong-sig** (Member, NGSP Joint Promotion Committee, Korea)

■ Presentations

- Establishment and use of the renewable energy belt in the DMZ
 - **Prof. Lee Young-sung** (Seoul National University)
- Industrial strategies and a special zone for peace and economy in North Gyeonggi Province
 - **Dr. Cho Sung-taek** (Research Fellow, Gyeonggi Research Institute, Korea)
- Industrial reorganization in North Gyeonggi Province and Industry 5.0
 - **Dr. Lee In-sik** (Director, Knowledge Convergence Research Institute, Korea)

■ Discussion

- Prof. Jang In-bong (Dean of External Affairs and Development, Shinhan University, Korea)
- Dr. Lee Jung-hoon (Manager, North Gyeonggi Special Autonomous Province Research Unit, Gyeonggi Research Institute, Korea)
- Dr. Lee Jae-ho (Chief Director, Korea Institute of Public Administration)
- Prof. Choi Nak-hyeok (Gachon University, Korea)
- Mr. Kim Hyun-sung (President, Gwangju Cooperative Job Foundation for Economy Promotion, Korea)
- Mr. Ryu Jae-hyun (Team Leader, Namwon RE-PLUS Business Promotion Team, Korea)

- This session introduced several peace projects carried out in the bordering region of North Gyeonggi Province, Republic of Korea. The area can be pivotal in peaceful prosperity, creative innovation, ecological conservation, and cultural creativity. The projects have focused on expanding inter-Korean economic exchanges, promoting complementary relations, redesigning strategies for prosperity on the Korean Peninsula, setting up an international mechanism for benefit sharing, and expanding sympathy, etc.
- Implementing strategies and projects to promote the DMZ border region as a special zone for peace and economy, this session discussed development potential as a new growth engine, cities for international peace and freedom in Northeast Asia, a future-oriented decentralized model for balanced regional development, a special zone for peace and economy, and future visions. It also reviewed the future values of Korea's creative eco-techno park characterized by industrial reorganization in North Gyeonggi Province, a human-centered economic paradigm for sustainable development through Industry 5.0, the eco-centric blue economy, and blue technologies.

(5) Peace Session 5: International Solidarity for Conflict Resolution

10:00–11:30, Friday, Sept. 22

- Chair: Dr. Yi Seong-woo (Director, Balanced Development Research Division, Gyeonggi Research Institute, Korea)

■ Presentations

- Implications of and issues in cooperation in crisis management between Korea and Europe
 - **Dr. Lee Sung-won** (Research Fellow, The Sejong Institute, Korea)
- Expansion of mini-lateral cooperation and collaboration in crisis management in the Indo-Pacific
 - **Dr. Kim Gi-bum** (Associate Research Fellow, Korea Institute for Defense Analyses)

■ Discussions

- **Dr. Huji ZHAO** (Special Researcher, Charigo Center for International Economic Cooperation, China)
- **Prof. Tomasz WIERZBOWSKI** (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Korea)

- Amid the growing US-China rivalry for global hegemony, the international and regional order has been rapidly reshaped, shifting the focus from the Pacific Rim to the Indo-Pacific. Against this backdrop, this session sought ways to promote regional stability, peace, and co-prosperity.
- With the international order being reorganized, the Indo-Pacific region has been recognized as a zone where national interests conflict and are integrated, significantly increasing its strategic importance. Given the complexity and instability of strategic interests, panelists agreed on the need to review the roles of more fragmented and networked alliances and cooperation in reducing conflicts and controlling crises.
- In this vein, this session concentrated on discussing the development of sustainable international alliances for facilitating regional stability and co-prosperity. In particular, along with Korea's strategic vision as one of the middle powers in the world, this session evaluated the roles of Korea-Europe partnerships, whose position has been further solidified as a value alliance, in the context of resolving regional conflicts and managing crises, discussing ways to contribute to strengthening the alliance.

4. Achievements and things to improve

- In-depth interviews with some forum participants and an expert roundtable with speakers and people from the DMZ OPEN Festival Organizing Committee were held to evaluate the achievements of the EcoPeace Forum. The results were comprehensively analyzed, resulting in achievements and things to be improved.

4.1. Achievements

- This EcoPeace Forum was successfully held, solidifying its position at home and abroad as a DMZ international academic event hosted regularly.
 - Since 2019, the DMZ Forum has been held annually as an international academic event where experts from home and abroad discuss DMZ-related topics. This year it was renamed the EcoPeace Forum.
 - In the year marking the 70th anniversary of the Armistice Agreement's signing and the DMZ's establishment, the EcoPeace Forum served as a meaningful venue to discuss the DMZ's significance, value, and future. In particular, the forum was the only DMZ international event held this year amid heightened tension on the Korean Peninsula. It provided valuable opportunities for professionals and citizens to exchange their opinions concerning the DMZ.
- The forum, under the theme of 'Open DMZ, Greater Peace - A Vision for Sustainable Ecology and Peace in the DMZ,' successfully positioned its identity and brand as a DMZ international academic event, which focuses on ecology and peace in the DMZ to promote peace between humans and between human and nature on the Korean Peninsula and around the world.
 - In the previous DMZ forums, the topics of peace and ecology existed together with little interconnection. The EcoPeace Forum 2023 delivered the eco-peace nexus

concept connected with ecological and peace values in the DMZ as a new approach to Greater Peace.

- Since Gyeonggi Province includes a border region directly affected by inter-Korean relations and has the biggest population among provinces in Korea and many high-tech industrial complexes, it is not an exaggeration to say that the province is a microcosm of South Korea. The EcoPeace Forum allowed the Gyeonggi Provincial Government to set up a knowledge foundation and global networks to create a new vision for ecology and peace, which enables to make its way through the new Cold War and the worsening climate crisis.
 - The new vision for ecology and peace will apply to Gyeonggi Province and internationally. And the broad discussion on the vision for the sustainable development of North Gyeonggi Province, to which the vision for peace and ecology can apply in the future, was worthy of dealing with both theory and its application to the field.
- **Experts in ecology and peace from home and abroad provided the latest trends and many research cases, and newly introduced participatory programs contributed to fostering greater interest and engagement among participants.**
 - Fifty-six experts in peace and ecology from nine countries participated in the forum to apply new concepts and methodologies to discussions on the DMZ and to provide a wealth of information and study cases. As a result, the forum was differentiated from previous DMZ events in terms of content.
 - The keynote talk allowed the Gyeonggi Province Governor and scholars with ecology and peace expertise to exchange their opinions freely. The visioning workshop provided opportunities for citizen participants to create future visions for the DMZ through two-day activities following the given procedure. Public participants and international experts highly evaluated these participatory programs.
 - **The value, sense of place, and symbolism of the DMZ were well reflected in the event place and operation, contributing to conveying the purposes and meaning of the forum effectively.**
 - Aegibong Peace Ecopark, where the opening ceremony and the first-day sessions were held and was located in the Civilian Control Zone, allowed the participants to experience the purposes and significance of the forum directly by witnessing the

actual reality of the Korean division despite the inconvenience in accessibility.

- In terms of the event operation, the efforts to avoid using print materials on paper and plastics, reduce waste, and use biodegradable containers could share the forums' purposes and sincerity with the participants by fulfilling sustainability value, one of the essential elements for peace and ecology.

4.2. Things to improve

- **Wider outreach and sufficient information service**
 - Many public participants pointed out that the forum promotion was insufficient for the good quality of content and size of the event. The efforts to promote the event via diverse mass media must be carried out more actively to reach many more citizens. Considering that youth participation was very low in the forum in 2023, the event promotion that can spark their interest in the forum through social media needs to be fostered more.
 - The public participants also mentioned that it would have been better with information such as the significance of the event venue (Aegibong Ecopeace Park), the specific purpose and procedure of the visioning workshop, and instruction on the online proceeding book, including a brief explanation of technical terms. Information on the purposes and operation of the forum needs to be sufficiently offered on the spot or via source books in the subsequent forums.

- **Services relating to event venues and event management**
 - Areas around the DMZ, such as Aegibong Ecopeace Park, were proposed as suitable places for the forum's purposes by many participants. However, considering that those places are located remotely, comforts such as a rest space sufficient for the size of participants, including preparedness for inclement weather, and refreshments, need to be supplemented in advance.
 - Many participants found that KINTEX in Goyang City can be with no difficulty used as an academic forum venue. However, since it is a big exhibition complex building, the guidance of location as well as information on the provided services (refreshments, press center, etc.) should be adequately fed using a sufficient number of signboards and support staff.
 - Eco-friendly endeavors, such as an online proceeding book and the prohibition of plastic use, were well received by participants. On the other hand, there was some difficulty in accessing online information. Measures such as simple promotional materials on paper and instruction on the use of online information during the event would help alleviate the difficulty.

- **Program planning**
 - Programs to apply the themes of ecology and peace in citizens' daily lives, that is,

specific actions that ordinary people can do, need to be included in the forum.

- Participants were delighted with the visioning workshop characterized by a new type of participatory activity. Such participatory program elements need to be expanded in the following forums to increase attention to and participation in the forums.
- A session where experts discuss ways to implement visions from the visioning workshops would help participants' interest and concentration on the forum and increase interconnection between sessions. Also, for the 2024 Open Lab event of the DMZ OPEN Festival, a contest associated with these visions can be executed, and its result presented or exhibited at the forum.
- Considering the many comments that discussions were not conducted sufficiently due to a lack of discussion time at the forum in 2023, sufficient discussion time should be allocated. For instance, one session is composed of one speaker and two to three panelists, reducing time for presentations with presentation manuscripts given in advance. Discussions could be developed in depth with more positive moderation of the session chairs.
- Art performances played an effective role in inspiring participants and making them absorbed into the event. It would be desirable to consider more culture and art programs serving the purposes of the forum.

● **Speaker selection and pre-meetings**

- In the process of selecting speakers, it is necessary to consider a comment from participants in the 2023 forum that some speakers focused too much on theories in principle with a lack of expertise on the DMZ.
- The exchange meetings among speakers of each session seem very desirable to be organized before the forums are held like some sessions of the 2023 forum did. Such meetings will help them have a better understanding of forum and session themes and adjust the content and direction of presentations and discussions. It is deemed to be desirable to implement such preparation processes.
- Many participants were satisfied with the fact that they were able to get to know a wealth of relevant information and international research cases via this forum. It is therefore necessary to continuously find speakers who can help participants learn about the latest international trends and review new research cases.
- Most speakers were professionals from academia at the 2023 forum. Practitioners in ecology and peace need to be more included as speakers to balance theory and practice at the next forums.

5. Suggestions

- **Continued hosting of forums and reflection of the forum results in peace and DMZ policymaking of the Gyeonggi Provincial Government**
 - The eco-peace values of the DMZ that were discussed at the 2023 forum as well as short- and long-term perspectives and plans for peace-building need to be positively reflected in peace- and the DMZ-related policies of the Gyeonggi Provincial Government.
 - The Gyeonggi Provincial Government has played a key role in promoting DMZ agendas to be actively circulated in the international community, and such a role will also be significant in the future. The sub-national government needs to continuously take the lead in promoting the DMZ initiative without being subject to changes in international and national circumstances. The EcoPeace Forums can serve as a hub to explore the agendas.
 - Policy ideas for the development of the border region in North Gyeonggi Province can be identified in connection with the forum sessions, visioning workshops, and academic programs (e.g., open labs, agreements with residents in Gyeonggi Province, etc.).

- **Planing future EcoPeace Forums with a coherent development direction**
 - Interdisciplinary discussions on ecology and peace were conducted at the 2023 forum, but they could not yet connect diverse concepts and approaches organically. Interdisciplinary research need to be carried out to specify further the eco-peace nexus discourse, reflecting the results in the succeeding forums.
 - The key points and direction of the future EcoPeace Forums should be planned to promote the continuity of the forums and the phased development. For instance, a brief roadmap of the EcoPeace Forums until 2025 can be designed like the below:

Div.	Substance
2023 EcoPeace Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Establishing a foundation of the discourse on the DMZ ecology and peace • Creating a consensus on the need for the DMZ eco-peace nexus
2024 EcoPeace Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proposing a basic framework for the DMZ eco-peace nexus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – e.g. sharing the DMZ values as the Commons and global heritage • Discussing specific cases of the DMZ eco-peace nexus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Ideas of ecology and peace in North Gyeonggi Province, relevant cases of other countries, etc. – Visioning workshop and peace-making workshop where various participants including citizens discuss specific issues. – Sharing and connecting the results from ecology and peace sessions (workshops) at an ecology-peace general session
2025 EcoPeace Forum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expanding the Gyeonggi ecology and peace initiative based on the eco-peace nexus and specifying the Greater Peace discourse <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Institutional measures for the long-term conservation and management of the DMZ (e.g. applying the Commons concept to the areas where are excluded from the Civilian Control Zone) – Practical measures and policies that can contribute to ecology, peace and sustainable development of the border areas in North Gyeonggi Province, including opinions and ideas proposed at the 2023 and 2024 forums

● **Improving the organizational system for the forum planning and operation organically and systematically**

- A clear decision-making and communication system among all academic event units of the DMZ OPEN Festival is to be set up to plan and operate the EcoPeace Forum more effectively and efficiently.
- In terms of forum planning, the EcoPeace Forum task force is to be established, commissioning its operation to a relevant organization with its professional coordinator of the task force appointed. The coordinator will report the progress to and discuss relevant matters regularly with the DMZ Open Festival Organizing Committee, so that the overall purposes and direction of the festival can be connected and maintained relating to the forum.
- In terms of forum logistics and operation, the EcoPeace Forum organizer is to manage the event's PCO. A representative of the organizer becomes a member of the EcoPeace task force and communicates with the task force on a regular basis. Key issues are dealt with and decided by the task force.

- **Expanding participants and strengthening publicity in various ways**

- Various types of promotion and participation ways are to be explored to enable citizens with relevant jobs and diverse backgrounds to attend the forum.
- The participation of government employees in Gyeonggi Province and cities/counties in the border areas, who plan and implement relevant policies, in the forums is crucial. The possible measures and incentives to bring them to the forum are to be positively reviewed (e.g. inclusion of the forum on the obligatory education list, any kind of incentives for the participation, etc.) with a program that government employees, scholars, and practitioners develop related policies together.
- Small activities or events are to be organized before the opening of the forum to spark interest among the public and to make the forum more interesting and informative, incorporating their results in the forum program. For instance, youth/civic groups living or working in border areas in foreign countries can be invited to visit the DMZ Region and let them present their cases and ideas on the DMZ at the forum. A short-form content contest can be also considered.
- To promote participation of the youth, social media is to be more actively used in effective ways. It is also possible to consider offering them a role in writing down session discussions or acting as forum reporters, etc.
- The forum participant list is to be kept and managed, and relevant information, such as forum results, future forum information, and related articles, is to be provided continuously to help them maintain their interest and confidence in the forum.

[Annex] Photos

- Opening ceremony and Keynote talk - Sept. 20, 2023 / Aegibong Peace Ecopark (Gimpo)



〈Meeting hall of Aegibong Peace Ecopark〉



〈Lunch〉



〈Participants in the opening ceremony〉



〈Prof. Choe Jae-chun, Chair of the DMZ OPEN Festival Organizing Committee〉



〈Performance of a upcycled violin〉



〈Dr. Kim Dong-yeon, Chair of Keynote Talk〉



〈Panelist of Keynote Talk〉



〈Panelist of Keynote Talk〉

■ Ecology Sessions - Sept. 20~21, 2023 / Aegibong Peace Ecopark (Gimpo) & KINTEX (Goyang)



〈Ecology Session 1〉



〈Ecology Session 1〉



〈Ecology Session 1〉



〈Ecology Session 2〉



〈Ecology Session 2〉



〈Ecology Session 2〉

■ Peace Sessions - Sept. 20~22, 2023 / Aegibong Peace Ecopark (Gimpo) & KINTEX (Goyang)



〈Peace Session 1〉



〈Peace Session 1〉



〈Peace Session 1〉



〈Peace Session 2〉



〈Peace Session 2〉



〈Peace Session 2〉



〈Peace Session 3〉



〈Peace Session 3〉



〈Peace Session 4〉



〈Peace Session 4〉



〈Peace Session 5〉



〈Peace Session 5〉

■ Visioning Workshop - Sept. 21~22, 2023 / KINTEX (Goyang)



〈Introduction of the workshop〉



〈Team activity: Growing seeds〉



〈Team activity: Connecting Future Wheels / seeds〉



〈Presentation of visions〉



〈Presentation of visions〉



〈Workshop participants〉

■ General Session & Roundtable - Sept. 22, 2023 / KINTEX (Goyang)



<General Session>



<General Session>



<General Session>



<General Session>



<Roundtable>



<Roundtable>



<Roundtable>



<Roundtable>

2023 DMZ OPEN Festival
Outcome Report of the EcoPeace Forum

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