

AN EMPIRICAL STUDY OF PEACE TOURISM TRENDS BETWEEN POLITICALLY DIVIDED SOUTH AND NORTH KOREA: PAST, PRESENT & FUTURE

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On April 13-15, 2000 South and North Korean leaders met in Pyongyang for a meeting of peace ending over fifty years of hostilities. According to this meeting, South and North Korea were believed to be among the economies most directly affected by the world peace process. This had a large effect on both countries in many aspects, socially, politically and economically. One of the sectors, which may gain immediate benefits, is tourism even though the study of the relationship between tourism and peace is relatively new. This study investigates of peace tourism trends between politically divided South and North Korea. It examines tourism as past, present and future activities in influencing reconciliation between the two peoples and governments and discusses the current state of affairs of this two countries and tourism between South and North Korea.

Keywords: *Peace tourism trends, political division, South Korea, North Korea, reunification*

INTRODUCTION

South and North Korea have been politically divided since the Korean War between the Capitalists and the Communists in 1950. Indeed, Korea's "Fifty Years' Crisis" began in August 1945- just weeks before the end of World War II- when Moscow and Washington agreed to demarcate the peninsula into separate Soviet and American military zones for the processing of the surrendering forces of the Japanese Imperial Army. The partition of Korea into two countries is a completely unnatural arrangement. With this arbitrary and almost accidental decision, the division of the Korean nation became a political fact (Eberstadt, 1995). The division of the Korean people could only be maintained by force of arms. Indeed, it has been maintained for the past five decades. Despite the obvious ideological differences between North and South Korea, both share common linguistic and ethnic heritage, a common history and

culture, and a common dream for a reunified Korea. After fifty years of separation, travel from South Korea to North Korea was completely prohibited, but some South Korean businessmen and few residents were secretly permitted to visit North Korea through third countries, mainly China.

The dividing of a country, a frequent and major international event in the past five decades, has generated a group of unique political units. Although some units, such as Germany and Vietnam, eventually complete their division process by reunification through different processes, these uncertain entities seem likely to continue to appear in the future, and some may exist for considerable periods of time- especially South and North Korea.

Tourism as a potential low-politics activity for influencing political interaction between the two Koreans was first recognized by Kim and Crompton (1990), who demonstrated that tourism is a vehicle for implementing people-to-people diplomacy in the context of Korea and that tourism can play a significant role in political integration of the Koreas (Yu, 1998). Indeed, this positive political tourism development of two-Koreas is expected to increased travel exchanges between the two peoples in the future, even if high political tension which involves top policy makers between South and North Korea in dealing with strategic and security issues remains. This paper examines South and North Korean tourism activities in the past, present and future, and discusses the current travel flows of South Koreans through Mt. Geumgang. The primary survey carried out to discover the perceptions and attitudes of domestic visitors while visiting the DMZ and how they perceived safety in the DMZ area. It also attempts to analyse the relationship of peace and tourism between the two politically divided countries.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Past Tourism Activities of the Two-Koreas

The insights from this paper should provide support for the way forward for the anticipated unification of South and North Korea. However, the major problems relate to the different approaches adopted under capitalism and communism. Given that North Korea is a communist state with a political and economic system dominated by centralized planning, the impact of such an ideology on the tourism industry is different to that under capitalism (Choi, 1995). The existence

of travel restrictions is a common occurrence between quasi-states and this can give rise to unusual and distinctive travel patterns (Butler & Mao, 1995).

Despite the uncertainty, and sometimes even personal danger created by division, many people continue to travel between the elements of divided nations (Pearce, 1987). Economic necessity, religious obligations, family ties, political requirements, and pleasure are all reasons of the cross-border travel of people in such situations. Tourist movement has been integrated as part of the divided nation development, and has generally been a subject of negotiation between the elements involved in the political disputes. Because of the partitioning process and its results, political relations vary between divided nations and have resulted in different patterns of accessibility. Moreover, borders are commonly regarded as barriers or constraints, even in the context of tourism however, in many cases this goes beyond mere perception. Many examples exist where tourist flows between neighboring countries are heavily restricted (e.g. many African and Middle Eastern boundaries) and even altogether prohibited (e.g. South and North Korea) (Timothy, 1995).

In the past, tourist flows between South and North Korea were heavily restricted and even altogether prohibited. Their own ideology and political system, maintained a zero-sum relationship that included attempts to overwhelm the other with their conflicting system (Koh, 2000). In the past, the example of South and North Korea is no tourism between this pair of quasi-states, although recently both sides agreed to tourist travel between themselves. The populations under the authority of the two Korean governments have been kept in almost complete isolation from one another; unlike the two Germanizes, for example, there has been virtually no contact or communication between private citizens in North and South Korea since the stalemate in the Korea War some fifty years ago (Eberstadt, 1995).

Present Tourism Activities

Kim and Crompton (1990) reviewed the political environment surrounding the initiative for travel between the two Koreas, and perceived that the potential tourism movement between the two Koreas could be a primary vehicle for facilitating the unification of Korea. In this respect, North Korea has been recently opening its doors to the outside world. Even the two Koreas have made attempts to initiate tourism movement across the 38th parallel land succeeded in arranging a symbolic hometown tour in 1985. The response from around the world and

especially from neighboring countries that tourism on the peninsula stands to benefit dramatically from the long overdue warming of relations between the two Koreas (McInermey, 2000). As a result, there has been a significant increase in inter-Korean exchanges and cooperation, and substantial improvement in maintaining peace on the Korean peninsula. Moreover, the South Korean government has been providing direct and indirect support, including guidance and advisory programs for visitors to North Korea, as part of the efforts to promote private-level inter-Korean exchange.

Inter-Korean Summit

The New government in South Korea in March 1998 announced that its policy toward North Korea will be aimed at realizing the concept of “peace, reconciliation and cooperation”. President Dae-Jung Kim also emphasized that the two sides must let separated family members in South Korea and North Korea meet and communicate with each other and that the two sides must try to expand cultural, academic and economic exchanges between them based on the principle of separating politics from economics. Likewise, the South Korea government eased administrative procedures for approval of visits to North Korea by representatives of conglomerates and heads of economic organizations, and under this new regulation, many businessmen in the South are expected to make visits to North Korea. So far only those who are pre-designated as “business proprietors for South-North cooperation” have been permitted to visit North Korea, but this rule is also abolished, and all other business people will be permitted to visit North Korea (Koreascope, 2000).

Afterwards, President Dae-Jung Kim visited Pyongyang June 13-15, 2000 for a historic summit meeting with North Korean leader Jong-Il Kim. The first ever inter-Korean summit, undeniably the biggest diplomatic event involving the two countries since the division of the Korean Peninsula in 1945, was made possible through the South Korean government’s persistent implementation of the engagement policy. This meeting had been made to promote national reconciliation, unity, exchanges, and cooperation, and to achieve peace and reunification at an early date (Koreaherald, 2000). The meeting marked another chance to start heading half a century of brotherly hatred. North Korea snubbed a Red Cross meeting consistently proposed by the South Korea for exchange of home-visiting groups and resolution of the issue of separated families, arguing that they were political issues. The leaders of the South

and North Korea discussed the question of the survival and future of the people, and came closer in their opinion that dialogue and cooperation is the way to prevent the deepening of nation division, to achieve common prosperity and advance peaceful unification. The two leaders could reach the historic decision, based on a consensus that peace and reconciliation-cooperation coincided with the national interest, which will have for the future rather than the past. This testifies that the South Korean government will maintain its reconciliatory and cooperative policies consistently matched the direction of North Korea's policy adjustment. Based on public support of the policies for peace and reconciliation-cooperation, South Korea has been able to maintain its policies in a consistent way, and this has helped the South with extensive support from international society for its North Korea policy and induce the change North Korea's attitude. Meanwhile, the policy coordination among South Korea, the United States and Japan based on South Korea, reconciliatory and cooperative policy has helped to create a favorable climate for North Korea's participation in the international community. China and Russia also offered positive cooperation toward efforts for the peace and stability on the Korean Peninsula and the international community recommended inter-Korean dialogues.

Mt. Geumgang tourism project

The Mt. Geumgang project is regarded as one of the most significant events in the half century-old division of Korea and is the tangible result of Sunshine Policy of the Dae-Jung Kim administration. It was when President Dae-Jung Kim announced the principle of separating politics from economics that the Mt. Geumgang project was brought forward after nine years and the Mt. Geumgang Tour Project was finalized on June 22, 1998.

The two sides also agreed on other related issues, including 'Guarantee of the Safety of Tourists' and 'Guarantee of Access to Telecommunications during the Trip'. On September 7, 1998, the South Korean government approved the Mt. Geumgang Tour Project as an 'inter-Korean cooperation business'. The cruise ship Geumgang set sail for the historic tour on November 18, 1998, after two months of preparation. A total of 370,000 tourists visited Mt. Geumgang between the first trip on 18 November 1998 and December 2000 (Hyundai-asan, 2001). Most South Korean tourists travelling to Mt. Geumgang are motivated by longing for kinship and cultural ties, with a few visitors seeking pleasure and recreational activities (Unikorea, 2000). Huge

numbers of South Koreans are expected to visit Mt. Geumgang, and more contacts between visitors and their Northern kin should help ease hostility between the two. A total of 340,844 tourists visited Mt. Geumgang during the six months from 18 November 1998 to 31 October 2000 (Table 1).

Table 1. Visitors to Mt. Geumgang

Year	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004 (until Oct.)	Total
Total	10,543	147,460	212,020	58,833	87,414	77,683	228,248	822,201

Source: KNTO (2004)

Therefore, the Mt. Geumgang Project can serve as a milestone to promote further inter-Korean cooperation. Likewise, The South Korean Government hopes that the Mt. Geumgang project turns out to be successful and helps enlarge mutual human trade exchanges, thus leading to reconciliation and cooperation between the two Koreas. Stability and peace on the Korean Peninsula would definite contribute to promoting cooperation in Northeast Asia generally. Most of all, the Mt. Geumgang project provides South Koreans with an opportunity to experience the possibility of unification (KNTO, 2000).

The Mt. Geumgang project has not only given an opportunity for South Koreans to see the mountain first hand, but also to create a basis for utter large scale exchanges of people between the two Koreas. Many Koreans hope that the project proves to be successful, thus gradually expanding the exchanges of both people and goods, and marking an important step towards restoring mutual confidence and enhancing reconciliation and cooperation between the two Koreas. The success of the project can help promote stability on the Korean peninsula, attracting more foreign capital investment to the peninsula. If the Mt. Geumgang project proves to be successful, greater sums of capital could be invested in the mountain area, and might result in the joint-development of nearby Mt. Sorak in the South. The Mt. Geumgang project represents a landmark event, the first-ever joint project between the two Koreas in the contact of tourism. In this sense, this project can continually contribute to the restoration of mutual confidence and development of common interests between the two Koreas.

The Korean Peninsula’s Future Tourism

North Korea has not accomplished an overall renovation yet, neither has it opened its door wholly to foreign visitors. Furthermore, North

Korea, sticking to its independent line, has been persisting in the defense of socialism and the idea of independence to delay the time of opening, so in a sense has failed to take the opportunity for development. To other communist nations, human exchanges (tourism, sports, art) have played a role in causing the opening and allowed trust ultimately to grow from experiences, but North Korea anticipates, that human exchanges introduce capitalistic poison and ideological pollution, and would cause the collapse of the established communist systems by a breakdown of the communist regime.

Therefore, exchange and cooperation between North and South Korea in the field of tourism is not simple, and approaches to cooperation require thorough preparations. This is particularly so since tourism exchange and cooperation can strongly impact upon the solidity of the political/ economic system about which North Korea is so concerned, careful approaches of both sides are demanded. Above all things, considering the movements of residents of two different political systems, delicate consultation is urgent. In legislating for the tourism exchange and cooperation between South and North Korea, systematic legislation needs to be established on such matters as procedure of visit and limitation of behavioral exposure during sightseeing. Only when the tourism exchange between South and North Korea is thoroughly prepared, can it give prosperity and welfare to both sides simultaneously. Thus, South and North Korea should reciprocally complement systematic, legislative defects and make plans of activating tourism exchange as follows:

First, South and North Korean leaders should re-open communications to actively cope with the recent changes of economic environment in the Korean peninsula. In particular, they must propel tourism culture policies for recovering the homogeneity of the Korean race in order to dissolve cultural heterogeneity which could occur in promoting tourism exchanges between the two countries.

Second, through communication between the two sides, they should begin careful discussions to conclude an agreement on such matters as joint-development of tourism areas, sharing in the profits after tourism development, development of tourism education programs, should be drawn and reciprocal trust should be established based on the respect for each national system to put them into practice. For example, one possible focus could be on the pattern of tourism in and adjoining the DMZ, which raising issues such as whether it would be visiting friends and relatives, visiting previous home areas, ecotourism, or more general tourist travel, and perhaps also or separately, whether the pattern of Korean tourists would be the same or different from those of foreign tourists visiting

Korea after unification. One focus could be an eco-tour package around the area of the DMZ, which has been unpopulated and untouched since the Korea War in 1950, allowing nature to develop in its own way. As North-South relations mature, the mutual development can be foreseen of some of the beautiful, undeveloped areas of North Korea such as DMZ. The ability to link the Trans Siberian Railway through the Korean Peninsula would make Korea the last stop for the central Asian and European traveler and would open a new vista in Korean tourism. The assumption being that tourism is a potential growth area in both South and North Korea. It is necessary to develop DMZ in ways that preserve the ecosystem itself as the proper tour source to meet these demands.

Third, the government also seeks to restore the communication and transportation network between Seoul and Pyongyang aimed at facilitating access to Mt. Geumgang and other scenic places in the North. These recent improvements in North and South Korean relations suggest an investigation of the feasibility of joint North-South tourist products as a first step to reunification, which could yield great benefits to tourism on the Korean Peninsula (The Korea Times, 1998).

Tourism exchange projects by Hyundai, including the Mt. Geumgang Tour, are not for only travel interchange between the South and North but also for making a momentum for unification, so tourism exchange should shift from private enterprise leading to governmental policy whereby North Korea would discard near-sighted prospects for simple acquisition of foreign currency and show some changes of attitude to develop exchanges and communications between South and North in the true sense. Thus, the South Korean and North Korean governments should be further invested Mt. Geumgang tourism project for peace and reunification. In other words, the major opportunities that can occur in a state of peace.

Consequently, since the tourism exchange between South and North Korea could be an important element impacting considerably on the maintenance of each national system, it should be carefully carried out step by step and promoted in ways of combining industrial development with tourism industry and provide help to the future planning and development of Korean peninsula.

METHODOLOGY

This paper undertakes an in-depth investigation of peace tourism trends between the two Koreas. It attempts to identify the full range of

issues, views and attitudes towards peace tourism trends in order to provide an understanding of the causes of the current state and to hypothesise possible future changes. The research focuses on the following objectives:

- A review of the ongoing peace process between South-North Korea and the related tension from a tourism perspective.
- The exploration of the influence of peace through tourism in the DMZ area of South and North Korea.

The questionnaire survey was used to investigate perceptions held by domestic visitors in the DMZ areas. Survey was restricted to one month period in different parts of the DMZ during the peak season in the spring of 2002. Data for domestic tourists were collected through the use of a self-completed survey instrument. Tourists were selected while taking their walks out in the areas for domestic tourists. With regard to the general profile of domestic tourists, a total of 160 questionnaires were collected, with 151 valid ones available for data analysis. Among the 9 people who collected unanswered or uncompleted questionnaires, some have noted the reasons why they did not answer the questionnaire. All 151 respondents, as mentioned before in the methodology, are adult domestic tourists.

Perceptions of Tourism and Peace

It was noted that tourism can prosper only in a peaceful environment, and any serious violation would jeopardize not only peace but tourism flows and economic welfare. Peace according to the survey is seen as a means of enhancing future investments, as a means of increasing opportunities for cooperation and overall economic trade links. In trying to assess whether a fear of instability in the region might affect future development, respondents were also asked to respond to the question whether this region of the DMZ area is perceived as a dangerous destination in terms of political instability. 33.2% of the respondents disagreed with this statement, and 37.1% were neutral. However, 29.8% agreed with this statement (Table 2). This could be explained by the fact that when the macro region has suffered considerable political instability in recent decades, any significant increase in such disruption would seriously depress tourist activity. Thus, it can be concluded that there was a high level of agreement and certainty concerning the role of tourism and world peace when it came to the Korean peace process and how it affected the two Koreas.

Table 2. Domestic tourists' Perceptions about Peace and Tourism

Tourism can be a vital force for world peace		
Variables	Frequency	Valid (%)
1=Strongly Agreed	46	30.5
Agreed	72	47.7
Neutral	27	17.9
Disagreed	5	3.3
5=Strongly disagreed	1	0.7
Total	151	100.0
Mean: 1.96		
Std. Deviation: 0.824		
Peace encourages tourism links between past hostile nations		
Variables	Frequency	Valid (%)
Strongly Agreed	36	23.8
Agreed	74	49.0
Neutral	34	22.5
Disagreed	7	4.6
Strongly disagreed	0	0.0
Total	151	100.0
Mean: 2.08		
Std. Deviation: 0.804		
Investment in tourism is influenced by the peace process		
Variables	Frequency	Valid (%)
Strongly Agreed	36	23.8
Agreed	75	49.7
Neutral	35	23.2
Disagreed	5	3.3
Strongly disagreed	0	0.0
Total	151	100.0
Mean: 2.06		
Std. Deviation: 0.777		
Comprehensive peace and solution of the South and North Korea conflict is a prerequisite for tourism to prosper in the region		
Variables	Frequency	Valid (%)
Strongly Agreed	52	34.4
Agreed	58	38.4
Neutral	33	21.9
Disagreed	7	4.6
Strongly disagreed	1	0.7
Total	151	100.0
Mean: 1.99		
Std. Deviation: 0.902		
The DMZ area region is a dangerous tourist destination		
Variables	Frequency	Valid (%)
Strongly Agreed	17	11.3
Agreed	28	18.5
Neutral	56	37.1
Disagreed	25	16.6
Strongly disagreed	25	16.6
Total	151	100.0
Mean: 3.09		
Std. Deviation: 1.211		

To explore the relationship between peace and tourism, and the sample's profiles further, bivariate analyses between every pair of the variables were carried out, and are discussed in this subsection. On each of the 5 items, the distinctions among participants in different socio-economic profiles were compared. F ratios in the one-way analysis of

variance (ANOVA) were calculated and the results given below as the indication for distinguishing the group mean differences. However, if the variances of the groups are unequal in the population, a non-parametric test should be used instead of the parametric F test (Bryman and Cramer, 1999). Kruskal Wallis tests were therefore conducted for unrelated samples with two or more groups, since some F ratios (Figures in parentheses in the following tables) were computed regardless of the basic assumption of equal variances. T tests were occasionally used as an auxiliary method if the profile variable had only two groups (e.g., gender). The positive or negative t values imply which group has higher means than the other group. The results below are firstly presented in a summarized table. Then they are discussed respectively in the order of the sample's socio-economic background shown on the main questionnaire.

Table 3 demonstrates the significance of bivariate analyses between the samples' profiles and the tourists' perceptions of the peace and tourism relationships. Ticks show statistical significance ($p < 0.05$). In the six socio-economic variables (i.e., sample's gender, age, place of resident, educational level, income, occupation)

Table 3. Summary of Statistical Tests between Tourists' Perceptions and Respondents' Profiles

Peace and Tourism Relationship	A	B	C	D	E	F
1. Tourism can be a vital force for world peace.						
2. Peace encourages tourism links between past hostile nations.						X
3. Investment in tourism is influenced by the peace process.	X					
4. Comprehensive peace and solution of the South and North Korea conflict is a prerequisite for tourism to prosper in the region.						
5. The DMZ area region is a dangerous tourists destination.			X			

X = statistically significant

(A: Gender, B: Age, C: Place of resident, D: Education, E: Income, F: Occupation)

Differences between Respondents' Profile on the Peace and Tourism Relationship

Examinations were made to see whether men and women have difference perceptions of the relationship between peace and tourism. The only significant difference shown in Table 4 was in the item, 'Investment

in tourism is influenced by the peace process'. Table 5 presents the results of the ANOVA tests between respondents' age and their perceptions of relationship between peace and tourism. Older groups were more in agreement about the relationship peace and tourism than the younger groups. Attempts were made at re-coding the age data into fewer groups and conducting subsequent tests so that other crucial statements were likely to emerge. However, The older groups were still more in agreement about the relationship between peace and tourism than younger groups when the group means of this item were compared.

Table 6 demonstrates the outcomes of the tests between the peace and tourism relationship and respondents' living places. No significant difference in the importance measure existed among the eight official regions in South Korea: Seoul, Gyeonggi Province, Chungchung Province, Keoungsang Province, Cheonra Province, Incheon city, Pusan city, Taegu city. This suggests that the informants from various regions did not value the relationship between peace and tourism differently. Table 7 presents the F and Kruskal Wallis tests of dependent occupation of the sample, and the five statements. There is a statically significant difference with regard to the statement "Peace encourages tourism links between past hostile nations." In Table 8, five statements were held differently among the sample with different educational levels. A significant difference ($p < 0.01$) was shown in the 'Peace encourages tourism links between past hostile nations.' The higher educational level the sample had, disagreement there was with regard to the statements. As demonstrated in Table 9, respondents' income failed to produce any significant result in distinguishing the statements.

Table 4. Tests of the Peace and Tourism Relationship and Respondents' Gender

Peace and Tourism Relationship	F (n = 151)	Sig.
1. Tourism can be a vital force for world peace.	0.054	0.816
2. Peace encourages tourism links between past hostile nations.	0.227	0.634
3. Investment in tourism is influenced by the peace process.	7.498*	0.007
4. Comprehensive peace and solution of the South and North Korea conflict is a prerequisite for tourism to Prosper in the region.	0.797	0.373
5. The DMZ area region is a dangerous tourists' destination.	0.080	0.777

Table 5. Tests of the Peace and Tourism Relationship and Respondents' Age

Peace and Tourism Relationship	F (n = 151, 6 groups)	F (n = 151, 5 groups)
1. Tourism can be a vital force for world peace.	1.310	1.516
2. Peace encourages tourism links between past hostile nations.	1.126	0.406
3. Investment in tourism is influenced by the peace process.	0.806	0.908
4. Comprehensive peace and solution of the South and North Korea conflict is a prerequisite for tourism to Prosper in the region.	0.698	0.259
5. The DMZ area region is a dangerous tourists destination.	1.733	2.161

Table 6. Tests of the Peace and Tourism Relationship and Respondents' Place of Resident

Peace and Tourism Relationship	F (n= 151, 8 groups)	df = 7	F (n = 151, 2 groups)	df = 1
1. Tourism can be a vital force for world peace.	0.831	0.639	0.140	1.660
2. Peace encourages tourism links between past hostile nations.	1.385	1.605	0.945	0.170
3. Investment in tourism is influenced by the peace process.	1.447	1.347	0.000	3.068
4. Comprehensive peace and solution of the South and North Korea conflict is a prerequisite for tourism to prosper in the region.	1.166	1.037	0.401	1.375
5. The DMZ area region is a dangerous tourists destination.	1.222	0.690	0.142	1.446

Table 7. Tests of the Peace and Tourism Relationship and Respondents' Occupation

Peace and Tourism Relationship	F (n= 151, 14 groups)	df = 13	F (n = 151, 6 groups)	df = 5
1. Tourism can be a vital force for world peace.	1.071	0.841	0.574	0.451
2. Peace encourages tourism links between past hostile nations.	1.739*	1.632*	1.628*	2.768*
3. Investment in tourism is influenced by the peace process.	1.363	1.323	0.670	1.041

4. Comprehensive peace and solution of the South and North Korea conflict is a prerequisite for tourism to prosper in the region.	1.025	1.471	2.281	0.883
5. The DMZ area region is a dangerous tourists destination.	1.126	1.490	0.669	1.996

Table 8. Tests of the Peace and Tourism Relationship and Respondents' Education

Peace and Tourism Relationship	F (n= 151, 4 groups)	df = 3	F (n = 151, 3 groups)	df = 2
1. Tourism can be a vital force for world peace.	0.984	2.392	0.316	1.733
2. Peace encourages tourism links between past hostile nations.	1.900*	3.971*	1.454*	1.154*
3. Investment in tourism is influenced by the peace process.	1.429	2.859	1.749	1.803
4. Comprehensive peace and solution of the South and North Korea conflict is a prerequisite for tourism to prosper in the region.	0.598	2.472	0.453	1.145
5. The DMZ area region is a dangerous tourists destination.	1.640	2.106	1.481	2.374

Table 9. Tests of the Peace and Tourism Relationship and Respondents' Income

Peace and Tourism Relationship	F (n = 151)	df = 4
1. Tourism can be a vital force for world peace.	1.646	0.469
2. Peace encourages tourism links between past hostile nations.	0.386	1.594
3. Investment in tourism is influenced by the peace process.	0.636	0.317
4. Comprehensive peace and solution of the South and North Korea conflict is a prerequisite for tourism to prosper in the region.	0.370	0.553
5. The DMZ area region is a dangerous tourists destination.	1.611	0.581

Respondents Attitude to the Current Relationship between South and North Korea

Many of the respondents was 19.9%, strongly believed that the present relationship between South and North Korea would positive, with 41.1% agreeing. Nevertheless, 31.1% said they did not know, and 7.3%,

0.7% did not agree and strongly disagreed that the present relationship between South and North Korea was positive (Table 10).

Table 10. Present Relationship between South and North Korea*

	Frequency	Valid (%)
Strongly Positive	30	19.9
Positive	62	41.1
Neutral	47	31.1
Negative	11	7.3
Strongly Negative	1	0.7
Total	151	100.0

* Question: What is your overall perception about the current situation between South and North Korea?

Future Relationship between South and North Korea

Many of the respondents, 23.2% strongly agreed that future cooperation between South and North Korea would improve the relationship, with 45.7% agreed. However, 25.8% said they did not know, and 4.6% and 0.7% did not agree and strongly disagreed that cooperation would be of any benefit in the future of two Koreas (Table 11).

Table 11. Future Relationship between South and North Korea*

	Frequency	Valid (%)
Strongly Positive	35	23.2
Positive	69	45.7
Neutral	39	25.8
Negative	7	4.6
Strongly Negative	1	0.7
Total	151	100.0

* Question: What is your overall perception about the future between South and North Korea?

CONCLUSIONS

This study has presented the findings relating to descriptive and quantitative data in the main survey for domestic tourists. The socio-economic background of the sample and the facts about the respondents'

choices of the DMZ areas were explored. Besides, comprehensive analyses of the DMZ areas previously visited by the sample, and the DMZ area likely to be visited in the future were made. This study about domestic tourists has presented the results of the survey in the fullest possible way. However, the further study should analyze and discuss the results of the international tourists' survey and should compare domestic and international tourists with the data presented in the literature review.

Tourism has significant political implications in world politics and international relations. Furthermore, peace on the Korean peninsula and eventually unification of Korea itself, will become an international issue. This paper has been written on the central premise that tourism is a highly political phenomenon with tourism. The issues address in this study suggest that the future of Korean tourism is dependent on the necessity to respond very promptly to some serious policy failures of the past. It is important that the researcher fully understand the factors that have contributed to recent growth and implement policies that will sustain recent tourism activities. Since many obstacles remain in the development of tourism and travel between South and North Korea are greatly influenced by the changing political relations of the two governments. In spite of a historical trend of expanded reconciliation and cooperation, the Korean Peninsula is still haunted by the specter of the Cold War. Military tension is still high in the Demilitarized Zone even after fifty years of national division. Therefore, South Korea government will continue with patience efforts to resume dialogue with North Korea. Furthermore, government should support in order to make our efforts for a better inter-Korean relations and national unification successful, government have to maintain the consistency in South Korea's policy and the policy must be made and implemented based on public consensus and support. Considering the recent developments in international relations and the North Korea's devastated economy, it will be convinced that North Korea's change is inevitable. Our ultimate goal – reunification-will probably have to wait a little longer. Consequently, a peaceful and successful Korean reunification can stand to benefit not only Koreans but also the entire world community.

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