



A Network of People
Building Peace

Maritime State University & GPPAC Northeast Asia Roundtable on the Korean Peninsula

August 13, 2021

We continue to experience turbulent times, full of risks and uncertainty: the ongoing pandemic, disrupted ties between countries, the absence of progress in stabilization on the Korean Peninsula, Northeast Asia and globally. Within this context, the Maritime State University (GPPAC Northeast Asia Vladivostok Focal Point) and GPPAC Northeast Asia will together convene an online closed roundtable of members and experts to consider some outcomes and try to forecast how the situation will develop in the near future.

This session will discuss various issues in the Northeast Asia with a focus on the Korean Peninsula, within the context of the failed approach of the US to the DPRK which creates almost insurmountable obstacles to normalization of bilateral relations; Moon Jae-in's presidential term coming to an end; and the ongoing voluntary self-isolation of the DPRK.

The roundtable will first include presentations by civil society and academic experts from Russia and the Republic of Korea, touching on issues including the following:

- Prospects of economic and social development of the DPRK in the conditions of ongoing pandemic
- Consequences of the voluntary self-isolation of the DPRK (for its economy, domestic and foreign policy)
- The general situation on the Korean Peninsula (covid-related problems, security etc.)
- Estimates of Moon Jae-in's policy on national reconciliation and unification, and the future of ROK and inter-Korean relations post Moon Jae-in's Presidency
- The role of the third countries in the inter-Korean and US-DPRK normalization processes

The session is planned to take place for 1.5 – 2 hours on the afternoon of August 13, with specific timings confirmed together with speakers. Participants will be on an invite basis, from the membership of GPPAC Northeast Asia and other partners or relevant institutes. It will be conducted in the English language, via the Zoom platform.

The Vladivostok Focal Point plans to publish selected materials of our virtual round-table (papers, presentations) in a special issue (devoted to Korean Peninsula issues) of their Asia-Pacific Journal of Marine Science&Education and welcomes presenters and participants as potential authors.

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