

GPFF Sponsors Regional Forum Highlights Unification of Korean Peninsula

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SEOUL, Nov. 28 (Yonhap) -- Over 300 policymakers and scholars from the United States and Asia gathered in Seoul on Monday to share views on how South Korea should prepare for an eventual reunification with North Korea, an organizer said.

The three-day conference of the Global Peace Convention (GPC), sponsored by South Korea's foreign and unification ministries, is also aimed at drawing ideas about raising the potentially astronomic funds for reunification and outlining possible steps for rejoining North Korea, the organizer said in a statement.

Starting Monday, the GPC will "discuss the direction of unification of the Korean Peninsula, the status and roles of Korea after unification," the organizer Global Peace Festival Foundation (GPFF) said in a statement.

Key participants included Charles Morrison, head director of the East-West Center; Lawrence Wilkerson, a former senior official at the U.S. state department; and Kim Chun-sig, South Korea's vice unification minister, according to the statement.

The two Koreas are still technically at war since the 1950-53 Korean War ended with a cease-fire. Reunification with North Korea at this point seems very distant, but President Lee Myung-bak has spoken of the need to prepare for the eventual process.

Unification Minister Yu Woo-ik has said the Seoul government is planning to set up a fund as early as this year to start raising 55 trillion won (\$47.6 billion) to help pay for its eventual reunification with the North.