

Northeast Asia Regional Young Leaders Security Symposium
Exploring vital questions for the future of Northeast Asia
April 11-12, 2019 | Tokyo, Japan

Tabletop exercise scenario

It is December 2020. Donald Trump has been elected for a second term as president of the United States of America.

During the months leading up to the November 2020 presidential election, President Trump vowed to solve the North Korean issue “once and for all” if he was re-elected by “allowing Korea solve Korean problems.”

Two weeks after the election results, South Korean President Moon Jae-in embarked on a three-day trip to Washington to hold a summit with President Trump.

A White House readout of the Trump-Moon summit noted that, “Both leaders affirmed their intention to declare a formal end to the Korean War by March 2021. This declaration will mark the start of a process to fully withdraw US forces from the Korean Peninsula by December 2022.”

A Cheong Wa Dae (Presidential office of the Republic of Korea) readout of the summit said, “Both leaders look forward to a fully-fledged legal document replacing the 1953 Armistice Agreement and a new era emerging on the Korean Peninsula. This momentous step forward is a welcome outcome of President Trump’s bold leadership.”

A Tweet by President Trump during the summit read, “TRUST is important. I TRUST Chairman Kim to do the right thing. To denuclearize we must first focus on arms control and US troops MUST LEAVE!”

North Korea’s official KCNA news agency was quick to praise President Trump on this occasion, noting that Kim Jong Un expressed “tremendous satisfaction” regarding the outcome of the Trump-Moon summit and that “Kim Jong Un will walk in lock-step with President Trump and hold high the unfurled banner of peace. Together with President Moon Jae In, the two Koreas will advance step-by-step toward a peaceful, prosperous, and nuclear-free Korean Peninsula.”

A few days after the summit, President Moon invited President Trump, President Xi, and Chairman Kim to Seoul for an end-of-war declaration signing ceremony on March 1, 2021.

1. Rank your top four national priorities (denuclearization, unification, arms control, etc).
2. Identify five things you want each of the other country teams to do.
3. Identify five things you want each of the other country teams NOT to do.
4. What message does your government send to Pyongyang?
5. What five steps will you take in response to these developments?