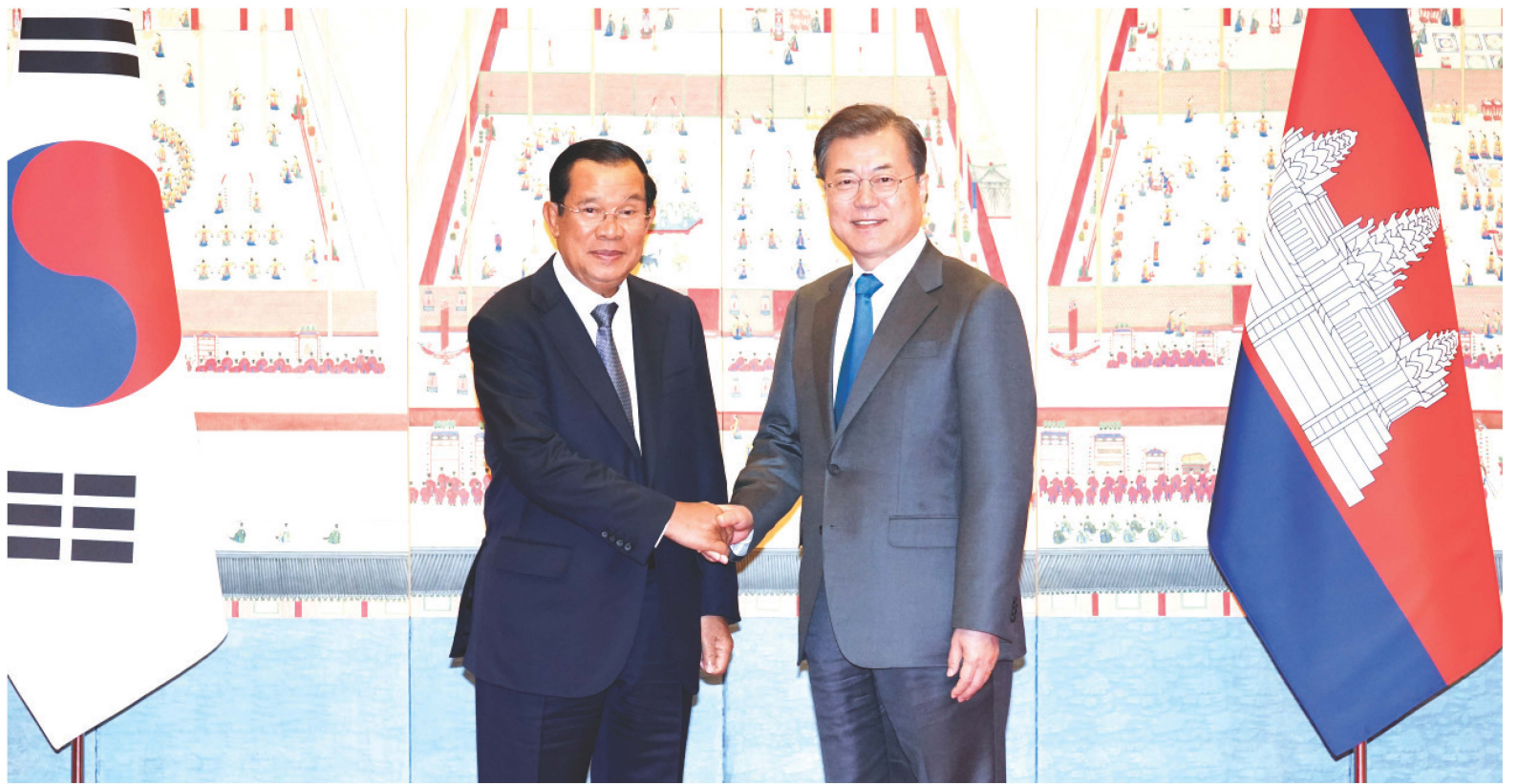


# OPINION

## Should Korea seek assistance from ASEAN



South Korean President Moon Jae-in (right) talks with Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen at Cheong Wa Dae in Seoul on Tuesday. Yonhap

Seun Sam

While the Republic of Korea (ROK) is one of the world's wealthiest nations, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) is the opposite. The two Koreas share the same language.

It's a pity when people who speak the same language are unable to communicate with one another.

When it comes to unification between the South and North Koreas, different perspectives from Korean citizens in both countries exist. For example, many young people in South Korea do not want to unite with North Korea because the North Korean economy is still in a difficult state.

Many people believe that if the two Koreas unite as one country, the South Korean economy will suffer for at least ten years because they will have to share their responsibilities with North Korea, which has a poor economy and a low standard of living.

The main factors to consider are the challenges and difficulties of unification; however, the two Koreas will not be able to unite as a single nation because they are linked to powerful countries such as China, Russia, Japan, and the United States.

Every person born into this world requires power, money, happiness, prosperity, and other good things in order to live a happy and prosperous life.

Everyone wishes for nearly the

same thing, but each person bears a different level of responsibility. Ordinary people will bear primary responsibility for their lives and families, and their work and decision-making will have an impact on the family's limitations. Those in positions of great power have a responsibility and make decisions that affect the entire country, and their decisions can even determine the country's fate.

The main point to remember is this: what kind of person are you? And what kind of responsibilities do you have to deal with?

The two Koreas are victims of their leaders' ambitions, as well as victims of powerful countries who need to use them as barriers to prevent their adversaries.

Please keep an eye on the competition between the United States and China, as well as Japan and China, and don't forget Russia (the most docile tiger).

President Moon of South Korea has tried many times to talk about peace on the Korean Peninsula, and he wants to unite the peninsula as a single country. His speeches at U.N. General Assembly on September 21, 2021, were interpreted in a variety of ways. His goal should be to accomplish the following:

1. That will be President Moon's final UN appearance before the March 9, 2022 presidential election in South Korea. This isn't the first time he's spoken out about the case, but this time he's saying it loudly.
2. His speech at the U.N.

General Assembly on September 21, 2021 will be remembered as a meaningful legacy for the Republic of Korea's next president, and he will be remembered as a president who worked tirelessly to bring Korean families from the south and north together. Despite the fact that his mission to peacefully work (or reunite) with North Korea will not be completed during his presidency, he must speak about it because it is critical to his presidency and, most likely, to his family or relatives in North Korea.

3. President Moon recognises that the Korean War, also known as the Korean Peninsula Conflict, cannot be resolved without US and Chinese cooperation. In his speeches, he has made specific mention of the United States and China.

4. When President Moon is no longer President of the Republic of Korea, he would be happy to meet with his relatives and explain that despite his best efforts, he was unable to bring the two Koreas together, and that his relatives would not blame him because they recognise the difficulty of the task.

5. While his speeches on the end of the Korean War did not produce significant results, they did allow Korean families in the South and North to meet once a year.

6. His speech at this time is also a good message for North Korea's leader to understand South Korea's good intentions. South and North Korean leaders will one day realise that only people who speak the same language can solve their own problems.

### Should Korea seek assistance from ASEAN?

President Moon has publicly asked ASEAN for assistance in finding a viable solution to the Korean Peninsula conflict. It's admirable that he has a strong desire to resolve the crisis, despite the fact that he was unable to do so during his presidency, but history will remember him.

The Korean president should write an official letter to an ASEAN Chairperson requesting assistance; sometimes a good start in the right place can yield big results.

They will consider the direct message and back-door diplomacy in ASEAN ways. Working in ASEAN would be most effective with quiet diplomacy and hard work.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen has extensive ASEAN experience, and he is currently working to resolve Myanmar's crisis through ASEAN channels. They should devote more time to listening to ASEAN's needs and concerns in order to resolve the crisis.

They should not force ASEAN citizens to eat bread or pizza on a daily basis because rice is the region's staple food.

They should focus on culture, tradition, norms, and needs in politics, and then discuss what local people want. There is, however, no such thing as perfection in the world. On paper, we can write number one, but in practice, we will not see number one. ■

*Dr. Seun Sam is a Policy Analyst at the Royal Academy of Cambodia. All views in this article are his own.*