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Meaning of DMZ as a Peace and Ecological Zone

by

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1. The German reunification and its impact on the development of the former inner German border area

Germany has been separated for about 40 years while its inhabitants were drifting apart. Since the political change ('Die Wende', 1989) respectively the accession of the former German Democratic Republic (GDR, 1990) there is now one single German state named Federal Republic of Germany (FRG). This national event initiated a broad pan-European integration process. As a result, the breakup of the two European power blocks can be mentioned, which caused the current liberalization tendencies in the East-European countries.

Before the reunification of Germany the border regions of the GDR have been called 'Zonenrandgebiet' (eng: marginal area of the inner border zone). This term can be traced back to the four zones of occupation in the nineteen-forties. The 'Zonenrandgebiet' is a 50 kilometer wide strip along the border between the GDR (former Soviet zone of occupation) and Czechoslovakia. Markedly negative was the locked character of this border, which has been strictly guarded. That is to say the population of both German States could only enter or leave the country with a visa. However, cogent reasons were necessary for it (e.g. illness of relatives, job-related activities) furthermore there were strict border controls. It was prohibited to visit the border areas.

Against the background of the outlined problems the governmental aid of the former FRG for the eastern border regions was by all means positive. This applies on the one hand to tax benefits for the settlement of companies, and furthermore to the subsidization of public infrastructure (e.g. swimming baths). The aim was to allow an equality of living conditions in all parts of the country, particularly in the border areas.

The German reunification happened unexpectedly. Formally, the former GDR accessed to the "former" FRG, five new federal states emerged in East Germany. Barely anybody reckoned with the reunification, nobody was really prepared for it. First of all, the people on both sides of the border were full of joy. Unknown persons embraced each other and celebrated this millennium event. Inhabitants of the former border region visited each other and had a sight on the living space of the neighbor. The East German visitors obtained 'welcome money' and were able to acquire long-standing desired West German products. With a certain temporal delay, the economized fortunes were exchanged by a ratio of 1:1, alike the private property was returned to the original owners. Afterwards the euphoria slowed down and the everyday

live returned. Then, against the background of a general economical depression in the new Federal Republic of Germany new prejudices between East and West Germany have emerged by now. Furthermore the respective population is still shaped partly by considerable mental differences.

1.1 Population

Directly after the political change there was a demographic increase *in the western part of Germany* due to migration of East Germans who got jobs in various branches (e.g. building industry, cleaning company, nursery [for plants]). These jobs were normally of such a kind that locals (because of the substandard wages) did not want to do. Later on, many of the temporary residents migrated further to the urban agglomerations to find better jobs and metropolitan living conditions. This is amongst others a reason for the stagnating population.

In the eastern part of Germany the personal freedom was acclaimed with all associated consequences. Firstly, a new car and western products were bought. But in the course of time problems like the loss of the job due to the privatization of the economy, increasing bureaucracy or the adjustment pressure arose. One part of the locals emigrated to the West, another one became commuters and their birth rate decreased rapidly. Consequently, there is a considerable decrease in population that might cause serious problems in the long term (e.g. underutilized infrastructural facilities).

Infrastructure (traffic)

On the western regions along the former inner German border roads linking the numerous federal state boundaries were created on short notice. Further, the existing means of communication had to be enlarged to receive the enormously increased number of East German visitors. Soon after that the plans for the long-distance traffic were fostered. While the construction of the highway in east-west direction was accelerated that of rapid transit railways – due to financial as well as to ecological reasons – left a lot to be desired. The latter will certainly be more disadvantageous for the border region since it is mainly used as transit area with very little stops. In recent years it can be stated that the infrastructural facilities there became obsolete and that only little investments are made in order to modernize the technical infrastructure (e.g. baths, sewage treatment plants).

In the eastern regions along the former inner German border the regional road network was modernized with considerable effort and new road signs for orientation were installed. Furthermore the railways there were – with some delay – extended and new trains were provided. A special challenge was the modernization of the water supply, the effluent and waste disposal. The establishment of free market system businesses generally based upon a private sector structure (e.g. limited company: ‘GmbH’) was also new.

Economy

On the western side along the former inner German border local enterprises absorbed several East German companies; either because they were family property before World War II or they could be bought at a bargain price and were used as local branch from then on. But the production was rarely relocated in East Germany but in the bordering CEECS (Central and East European Countries like the Czech Republic, Poland) – a popular corporate strategy in the 1990s – in order to benefit from the low costs there. In recent years the number of business enterprises – predominantly SME – and of employment decreased constantly so that the rate of unemployment increased above-average (more than 10 percent).

This traces back to the globalization of the economy, the reduction of funds for the headquarters and to the granted higher subsidies for East Germany – that means only some kilometers eastwards. At the end a certain obsolescence of the manufacturing plants on the side of the remaining enterprises can be observed.

The economic situation *on the eastern side along the former inner German border* is geared towards the principles of the so-called Unification Treaty. One of the most important points was the introduction of the free market economy, which started ample and long privatization processes. In the East German border region nearby the old FRG primarily small and medium-sized companies emerged. The number of the thereby created jobs was insufficient to employ the resident labor forces. That is why a part of them emigrated or became commuters to the other side of the border respectively to the agglomeration areas. Moreover there is an above-average rate of unemployment (approx. 20 percent) to be deplored, which is mostly higher than in West Germany, but because of the commuting inhabitants to the Western part it is still lower compared to the central parts of East Germany.

Interim Result

All in all it seems to be likely that *the western regions along the former inner German border* became less important. At least the promotion for the marginal region of the inner border zone ceased to exist, which guaranteed a secured aid for the border regions of the former GDR. Thus mainly the economical development suffers, which leads to noteworthy stagnation occurrences. This in turn promotes migration tendencies of the resident population. In contrast to this the advantages in everyday life dominate. After approximately 40 years of isolation there are again permissive possibilities of communication with East Germany which intensifies among other things the trip and visitation intercourse.

On the east side of the former inner German border the recovery of the personal freedom belongs to the most important positive factors concerning the German reunification. This process involves also the opening of the cruising radius to the west combined with permissive interactions on a small and a large scale. Furthermore the modern infrastructural facilities have to be mentioned, which could be reestablished with the help of extensive investments. Nevertheless the cost of living of the local population is – even against the background of lower incomes – below the national average. Predominant advantages are entailed through the introduced free market economy whereby new competitive companies have been established and thus, there or through commuting additional jobs are available. This, however, compasses that there is insufficient employment due to complex measures of restructuring. Besides that, it has to be stated that in this peripheral situated region free development opportunities are available, but at the national level the mentioned region is still characterized by its marginal location and its substandard development.

The border between West and East Germany is still perceivable in a physiognomic way. This concerns the former border strip between the ‘ancient’ Federal Republic of Germany and the former German Democratic Republic. Today’s name of this border strip is: the “Green Belt” which is about 1.400 kilometers long and about 200 meters wide. At the moment, the “Green Belt” represents the largest habitat association within Germany with about 600 endangered species and comprising approximately 150 nature reserves.

The “Green Belt” should be preserved in the future and this is realized with the help of model projects (e.g. landscape conservation, protection of species, ‘gentle’ sports, historical workshops, work camps, etc) that are financed by governmental aids.

The main objective is a nature reserving development of the former inner Germany border strip based on a long-term securing of the “Green Belt” as habitat association.

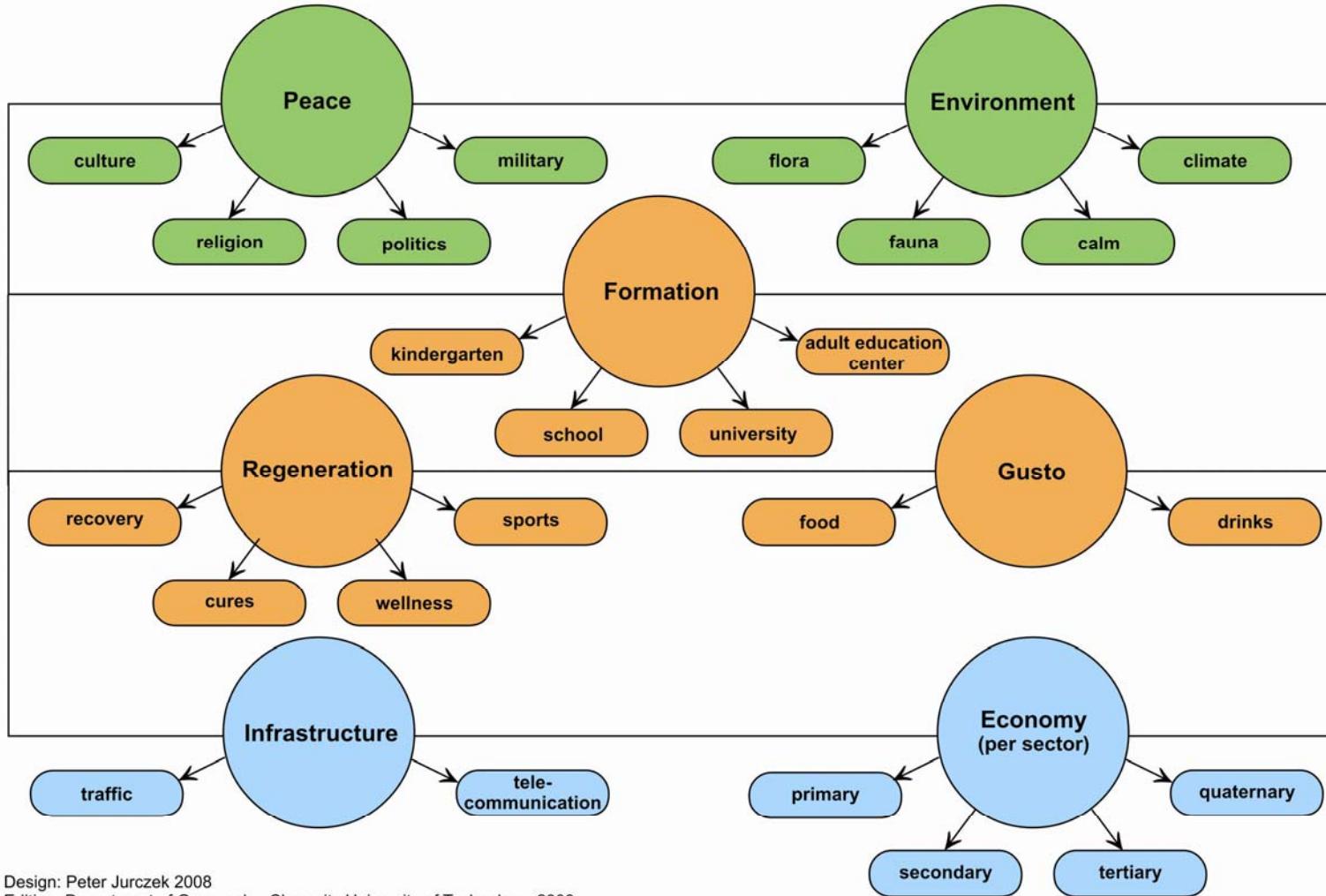
2. The Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) in Korea

The DMZ is about 250 kilometers long and about four kilometers wide. It seals off hermetically the “Republic of Korea” (South Korea) and the “Democratic People’s Republic of Korea (DPR)” (North Korea). However, recently, some relaxations concerning the border crossings of South Korean visitors can be stated. Here, either short-term tourists, who would like to visit the Geumgangsan Mountains, or day-trippers to the special economic zone Kaseong are concerned. Despite these few, by the ‘DPR’ tolerated border crossings primarily because of financial reasons, there is no concrete evidence for there being soon a stronger rapprochement between South and North Korea. Nevertheless, there are numerous speculations on how a closer collaboration in the future may look like and on how a possible unification may take place.

Thereby various factors on the informational (politics, economy, society, culture, etc) and the regional level have to be taken into consideration. Especially significant is the “Demilitarized Zone” (DMZ), which was developed in 1953. Since while anticipatory considerations concerning the probable or required development of the DMZ in the case of a liberalization of the border formalities or a possible reunification of Korea are made. A consensus consists in the fact that besides the political and the economic (including infrastructural) aspects numerous basic functions of human life should play an important role. In this context concepts like “peace” and “environment” are often attributed to the DMZ. That means that in the future corresponding uses within the inner Korean border strip might have a chance to be considered as being development impulses. In addition to that various activities of “formation” appear to be important to guarantee a broad acceptance within the population. Eventually, sections such as “regeneration” or “gusto” might play a role in order to provide offers of relaxation and wellness to modern citizens in the “free” DMZ.

The attached scheme contains some important functions and possibilities for the usage of the DMZ, which seem to be probable after the unification of Korea. In the following, they are presented in detail and their importance will be interpreted:

Diagram of selected functional areas within or at the DMZ after the abolition or the liberalization of the inner Korean border



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2.1 The thinkable usage of the DMZ and its surroundings in a unified Korea

2.1.1 The DMZ: An area of peace

In the case of the reunification of Korea respectively of a liberalization of the border formalities the DMZ should be regarded and communicated as a symbol of peace. This is true at the national level as well as in the international context. This means that the DMZ could be developed to be a nationwide centre of attraction in the country. National and international visitors should, at a given moment, be motivated to travel to the DMZ and its surroundings. That again means that this destination of symbolic importance has to be interesting for diverse age-groups, nationalities, etc. The last point regards a user friendly design both of the DMZ and the neighboring regions.

Basically important is that spatial planning specialists determine carefully the land use within the DMZ and make sure that it endures. It is assumed that differently used subparts will be outsourced from the actual border corridor. As far as it is known the “Korean Research Institute for Human Settlements” (KRIHS) has done valuable preparatory work, which needs to be realized on a small scale (in cooperation with regional planning institutions). By all means the DMZ should be designed as an area of contemplation and relaxation in order to avoid vociferous usage. To prohibit intensive cultivation in general would be the most consequent way. A high significance gains the optimal organization of large-scale travel connections and of a small-scale path and road network. The latter should to a large extend – besides some few mainlines – renounce transit traffic (see chapter 2.1.2 and 2.1.5).

Instead it is necessary to offer plenty of ‘gentle’ activities that honor the idea of peace and the accompanying cultural, religious, military, political and other references. This includes, for instance, cultural events like poet readings, representations in theatres, and concerts with a more serious background. When the weather is nice, they could take place open air and that might be a convenient reason for the construction of simple venues.

Further it can be taken into consideration whether larger leisure resorts might be installed in the surroundings of the DMZ – for example in the north of Seoul – in order to center cultural big events at locations with good traffic connections.

Religious motivated events may also contribute to render the DMZ more valuable. In this case again open air events are convenient, which could be offered by all confessions in appropriately declared areas. Such actions would, on the one hand, symbolize the

commitment concerning a free development of the life in this country realized by the temples and the monks as well as by the Christian and other churches. On the other hand, this would be a valuable contribution to a peaceful co-existence of the citizens of all Korean parts. Eventually, it is also about the religiously motivated consciousness and the active practice of religion at this traditional place.

For the military forces the DMZ may become a kind of “Mecca” in order to claim constant peace. Actions of various groups of interest who demonstrate for a worldwide disarmament can be added. This regards firstly the accounting of the recent inner Korean past, which aims at an intensive exchange of ideas concerning military issues. Therefore existing military installations respectively barracks in the near of the DMZ could be used but need to be rebuilt and modernized. In this way the participants of such events would see the DMZ as direct visualization for a long lasting territorial separation and for different stages of development. Further military forces of other nations could be animated to visit the inner Korean corridor and to inform themselves on security problems and on defense issues. Finally, worldwide discussed topics with military respectively defense political focuses might be debated so that Korea might eventually play an important role concerning this issue. There may perhaps be the chance for Korea to gain the new image of being a nation of disarmament and peace.

The visits, speeches and meetings of politicians play also a significant role. This means that it is less about local or regional decision makers than about those at a national or an international level. The latter may use the DMZ as a location for enunciating their political contents. Last but not least the DMZ provides a kind of obligatory destination for foreign politicians on Korean state visits.

Hence, for such visitors it seems to be necessary to provide high quality accommodations, which should be settled at a scenically attractive location at the margin of the DMZ. Alike, for other visitors, who desire to stay for some days in the environment of the DMZ, bed and breakfast places or holiday apartments need to be available. That means that, in the future, there will possibly be an increasing demand for hotels, guesthouses, and private rooms that needs to be satisfied shortly. However, it is necessary to establish in general the biggest part of the tourist infrastructure (e.g. accommodations, large leisure resorts) outside the DMZ. That means that “gentle” forms of tourism should generally be preferred (“eco-tourism”).

2.1.2 The DMZ: An Area of natural environment

The demand of peace leads to another core function of the DMZ, namely the broad conservation and the permanent care of its natural environment. That is the reason why the DMZ should be made accessible in a “gentle” way (via an environmentally sustainable road and path network) but it should not be covered with buildings; least of all with high-rise buildings or large connected estates. That means that a certain infrastructural development would be necessary but it needs to be based upon a restrictive plan of land use and it needs to protect the most parts. The aim of such measures is to offer a nice stay in the frame of short-term visits to the visitors probably arriving in great quantities. Further infrastructural facilities (e.g. accommodations, leisure resorts) may be established in the surroundings of the DMZ, but they should nevertheless respect the symbolism (peace, calm, contemplation, etc) by their architecture.

In the core area of the DMZ, the rare plants should be preserved carefully and protected permanently for future generations. To realize the latter the establishment of several botanic gardens is desirable. Similarly the endangered animals living there are to be protected and looked after by specialized rangers in the wild. Additionally parks with endemic animals could be installed at some locations to make them accessible for visitors. In that way especially families and pensioners would find attractive destinations for their visits.

In view of the in the DMZ occurring and possibly endangered flora and fauna the installation of a research institution specialized in the protection of species may be considered. If necessary, even numerous research institutions should be established at various locations in order to concentrate on different research focuses (flora, fauna, etc). This regards also the settlement of one (or more) climate research station(s) in the surroundings of the DMZ to realize weather forecasts and scientific investigations concerning the climate change. Thus, the installation of numerous research institutions would produce a higher degree of efficiency: options of specialization, task specific location choices, spreading the regional advantages across the whole environment of the DMZ.

Moreover significant natural monuments are to be identified and central viewpoints – partly with rest areas – offering visitors the opportunity to have an overview on the natural monuments should be installed. This offers visitors, on the one hand, the opportunity to experience nature. On the other hand, they can be led to places where it seems to be

reasonable from an environmental point of view. Further rest areas that are free from noise and which are inviting people to relax and to feel comfortable should be systematically created. In addition to that an elaborated road and path network – as already claimed as a basic principle – reducing the visitor traffic in the core area of the DMZ to a minimum needs to be worked out. Hence preferably promenades for pedestrians – with eco-friendly materials – should be built, but they must neither affect the landscape conservation areas nor the nature reserves. Beyond that it cannot be excluded that some asphalted roads for supply purposes will be constructed which could possibly be used as bikeways. Any kind of traffic within the DMZ should be designed environment-friendly (e.g. through application of electric driven busses or narrow-gauge railways) so that the disturbance caused by noise or emissions is as low as possible.

2.1.3 The DMZ: An area of formation

The DMZ should be the content of a broad education initiative that addresses various target groups (e.g. children, pupils, students, employed persons, retired persons). Because of its outstanding national and international significance educational activities concerning the reunification of Korea should be supported by generous governmental, regional and municipal funds. Since the development to a knowledge-based society in many postindustrial countries has become an important task, the problems concerning the DMZ should obtain very strong feedback on the part of Korean educational institutions.

In this context one primary education goal would be the realization of substantiated contributions concerning Korean contemporary history. In this process the focuses should be on the development and the effects of the DMZ as well as on the diverse efforts to abolish and to remodel it. Nevertheless it has to be made sure that neither nationalistic slogans emerge nor extreme ideologies develop. That is why the compilation of appropriate didactic material fulfilling the aspired task of communicating contemporary information to various target groups is necessary. Furthermore pedagogically trained personnel are needed to meet the high standards of communicating information.

Topics of the Korean history may already be treated in the kindergarten. In this way children would be familiarized in a ludic way with the issues of the DMZ. Since the preschool care in the Republic of Korea enjoys a good reputation first dealings with questions of the historical development of the country respectively of the DMZ could already take place in early infancy

with the help of such initiatives. As a matter of course it is necessary to take care that preschool age children are neither overburdened nor inculcated.

Further on, the historical development of the country, especially the DMZ should also be an essential part of history lessons in Korean schools. Here too, it is essential to guarantee an impartial description and interpretation and to avoid any kind of ideologization. Instead, pupils should be motivated to do a great deal for the remodeling of the DMZ in the case of the reunification of the country respectively a liberalization of the DMZ's border function.

Moreover adult education centers and research institutions are predestinated for making the DMZ's development; overall the future options of development and the associated change of functions of the DMZ a subject of discussion. For this purpose specific disciplines working on these specific fields (e.g. history, politics or geography) are useful. This regards research (e.g. topic-centered inquiries) as well as teachings (e.g. in the frame of projects or excursions). Furthermore the examination with such problems/ questions may also be realized in the frame of interdisciplinary events (e.g. summer schools).

Last but not least ilk educational establishments that impart generally intelligible information on the DMZ to a broad population embracing any age would play an important role. In Germany, there are for instance the publicly financed adult education centers, which among other things offer lectures and courses on socially relevant topics. Comparable institutions or projects in Korea should take analogical tasks and organize among others events concerning the DMZ (for retired persons or homemakers).

2.1.4 The DMZ: An area of regeneration and gusto

Physical and mental regeneration gain more and more significance in the meritocracy. Thus, the DMZ and its surroundings provide the opportunity to become a favorable area for various types of regeneration. The latter requires, on the one hand, the protection of such regions of the inner Korean border strip that offer special features (e.g. of flora and/ or fauna). In their direct proximity rest areas, which correspond in their design to the standards of physical as well as mental regeneration, should be declared. These areas need to keep their natural characteristics in order to cope with the function of being a space of relaxation and contemplation. Other parts might be remodeled conform to the scenery in order to allow "gentle" activities.

On the other hand, at other declared locations, that appear to be less valuable on the scenery perspective, rest areas should be newly established. These have to be planned and designed following modern principles of recreational planning. Thereby a large number of diverse and sustainable activities have to be provided in order to offer attractive free time activities to the post-industrial society constantly searching for relief. However, it has to do without amusement park atmosphere as well as without wide area projects within the DMZ corridor to pursue consequently the future function of the DMZ as an area of regeneration.

Finally the target group-specific marketing should canvass only those visitors who would like to stay for a short time in the DMZ to search for relaxation (without overnight stay).

Moreover, in the case of reunification, it is possible to create an infrastructure orientating to leisure in the surroundings of the DMZ to enlarge long-term tourism. The latter may require the construction of accommodations and relaxation centers that serve also regeneration. This includes sanatoriums and health establishments (e.g. thermal springs) where cures, which serve medical prevention and rehabilitation following the European model, are offered. Furthermore special wellness offers (massages, sauna, etc) evoking physical and mental fitness would certainly get positive feedback. In addition to that comfortable conference buildings may be built where decision makers (of economy, politics, etc) can realize business events as well as individual well being activities (e.g. in the frame of de-stress seminars).

This specific kind of tourism described above would have the advantage that patients at health resorts (because of their above-average long stays) and conference participants (because of their above-average high daily spending) can be regarded as the most interesting tourists from a regional economic point of view. That is why these kinds of tourism should preferably be developed in the eastern parts of the DMZ. So, the circumferential regions of Korea as well as the tourist target groups searching for attractive scenery, calm and relaxation would benefit in this way.

Last but not least the DMZ and overall its surroundings could play an important role for sport activities. But in this case it is necessary to differentiate between 'gentle' sports and those which strain natural resources more intensively. While some declared parts of the DMZ can be considered for practicing sports in a 'gentle' way (e.g. walking, biking, playing badminton, miniature golf or tennis), extreme sports (e.g. mountain biking, rafting, skiing) should, at the best, be possible in its farther environment. Despite these constraints diversified offers for

sports would signify an important location factor to animate the DMZ, whereas the corridor itself should by all means remain reserved for the practice of ‘gentle’ sports.

Finally, it is necessary to establish the DMZ and its surroundings successively as a “region of gusto” where primarily local dishes (e.g. deer) are prepared. In addition to that the consumption of preferably local drinks (e.g. red wine from Gonseong) is recommendable. All in all it should be aspired to constantly qualify for and to professionalize the gastronomic motivated tourism on a high level in the surroundings of the DMZ.

This proposal includes the cultivation of specific products (e.g. specialized crop) such as their further processing and their commercialization. For instance the production of honey, the gardening of herbs or the cultivation of particular kinds of tea may be parts of it. In that way the regional economic importance of circumferential parts of the DMZ respectively of its surroundings might be increased.

2.1.5 The DMZ: An area with strategic infrastructural connection and sustainable business locations in the surroundings

As already mentioned in chapter 2.1.2 the national road network has to be redesigned and enlarged in a user-friendly way after a reunification of Korea. This activity-oriented statement refers to all user groups (persons and economy, citizens and foreigners) and embraces all means of communication (roads, railways, air routes and waterways). In this process the focus would be certainly on the North-South direction so that East-West connections need to be provided early enough.

In this context the DMZ should dispose of a good transport connection which indeed needs to be limited to a sustainable minimum of mainlines. Only in this way its arbitrary fragmentation can be avoided. Moreover central parking lots at strategic locations, outside the DMZ should be constructed in order to center the latent individual traffic. Within the border strip it should be renounced as far as possible means of transportation. Tolerable exceptions would be rides of suppliers, the adoption of electric driven narrow gauge railways or vans such as bicycles – on specially marked roads. Alike, it should be assured that any traffic within the DMZ is led and organized according to the scenery. This regards on the one hand the paths (including natural building materials) and the signs (preferably made of wood). On the other hand this claim refers to a very little number of the applied vehicles as well as to their eco-friendly properties so that no disturbance through noise or emissions occurs.

Beyond that an appropriate access to telecommunication right up to the DMZ is to provide in order to guarantee an optimum of virtual availability. But then the question arises whether supply lines within the DMZ can be avoided in order not to affect the scenery and in order to accommodate definitely the objective of calm. This may culminate in the somewhat keen appearing proposal to declare the DMZ as a “mobile free zone”. At least such a rather effective in advertising suggestion should not be excluded a priori from some especially attractive parts of the inner Korean border corridor.

In the DMZ no new business locations should be identified. That means that in future simply already existing forest areas or some extensively used agricultural areas would gain an economic appreciation. However, it can be assumed that the forest line will remain centered in the high mountains in the eastern part of the DMZ. This should be retained for climatic and economic reasons. It may be thought about the fact whether more mixed forest like in Europe would be reasonable in the future. As regards agriculture it should not play an important role after the reunification. From a contemporary point of view at the best an extensive use of several areas are imaginable; for example used as sheep-run or to pick berries.

In other respects economical – preferably eco-friendly – activities are to center at carefully chosen locations at the outside of the DMZ. Starting from the DMZ the following ideal order for land use can be suggested: agriculture, quaternary institutions (e.g. research), tertiary institutions (e.g. of tourism), and manufacturing plants (e.g. SME). In the case of a reunified Korea an early and consequent declaration of areas for service institutions and for commercial zones would be necessary. In that way solitary (instead of extensive) and premature (instead of carefully planned) determinations of locations can be avoided.

Nearby the DMZ the settlement of quaternary and tertiary building projects could be considered at first. The quaternary institutions could preferably include research institutes and educational institutes that have partly a direct connection as regards content to the inner Korean border strip. Also tertiary providers may be interested in settling down in the near of the DMZ; including probably those investors who want to establish a modern infrastructure of tourism. These investors would, on the one hand, contribute to the construction of hotels and guest houses. On the other hand, it can not be excluded that large-scale leisure resorts will be planned, but they should preferably be erected at locations that are conveniently placed as regards traffic and at an appropriate distance of the DMZ. Finally business enterprises, that should start their production neither within nor in the near of the border strip, have to be

mentioned. In this regard small and medium-sized enterprises (SME) that do not produce noise and emissions could at the utmost be taken into consideration.

2.2 Concluding evaluation of the prospective development of the entire DMZ

On a long-term basis the DMZ will probably keep its political, historical and social symbolism. That is why the particularities of its territory should, on the one hand, be preserved and designed creatively as far as possible. On the other hand, it is essential to integrate this zone in an optimal way into the whole development process the eventually reunited country. According to its national and international importance the DMZ should preferably be used in an extensive way. In doing so ‘soft’ but vitally important location factors (on the basis of peace, environment, formation, regeneration and gusto) would obtain priority for the inner Korean border strip.

That means by implication that the DMZ should remain free from ‘hard’ kinds of traffic or economic use so that its sustainability can be guaranteed. In the surroundings of the inner Korean corridor the settlement of various institutions would be imaginable respectively necessary. They would have to accomplish different functions (e.g. habitation, traffic, economy, leisure) (cf. chapter 2.1.5). Concerning the regional economic use patterns the following ideal order for economically used areas can be considered (starting from the DMZ): agriculture, quaternary institutions (e.g. research), tertiary institutions (e.g. of tourism) and manufacturing plants (e.g. SME).

However, there duly need to be numerous expert opinions in order to receive concrete evidence for a reasonable spatial order and a desirable spatial planning within the DMZ as well as objective-orientated suggestions concerning a sustainable cultivation of its surroundings. The required conceptions need to contain among other things the following functional sections:

- Population structure and development
- Settlement
- Economy (primary, secondary, tertiary sector as well as job market)
- Technical and social infrastructure
- Ecology/ environmental protection

Thereby the following ideal proceeding can be considered: inventory, rating analysis, needs for action, development principles and objectives, planning measures, and development

projects. Moreover the activity-oriented insights should be described on different scale levels. This means that the elaborated expert opinions would be required on a large scale as well as on a small scale.

Besides a planned preparation of the future land use and the resulting cultivation/ building the conception and realization of so-called immaterial measures would play an important role. This refers for instance to the realization of information evenings, to worked-out teaching materials as well as to the training and the assignment of specialized “DMZ pedagogues”. Due to the prominently social significance of the aspired reunion of the country and thus the future abolition of the inner Korean border a broad further education initiative would be very important.

The development of the DMZ and its surroundings would only be possible through coordinated commitments of numerous decision makers. This means responsible politicians, scientists, and entrepreneurs. Further representatives of other social groups (e.g. trade unionists, priests) need to be activated. Finally it seems to be indispensable to assure serious interest and disproportionately high commitment of the citizens for this unique national event.

In this context, the question arises of how the “Gangwon Development Research Institute” (GDRI) may contribute to the development of the DMZ, i.e. in order to competently accompany the development of the DMZ, to serve on a long-term basis and to influence it in a positive way. From a local point of view there are numerous tasks that – with special regard to the DMZ – can be summarized as follows:

- Offering expert consulting services for the Province Administration, for ministries, communities, unions, and for associations
- Cooperation with other responsibilities of public institutions (e.g. economy, science, trade unions, churches)
- Developing space-oriented analyses, schedules, development studies etc.
- Supporting the reception of promotion funds (realization of investigations, imparting information, completing application forms, lobbying etc.)
- Preparation, realization and follow-up on expert events, respectively the moderation or the visits
- Cooperation with foreign partners and institutions (e.g. from Japan, China as well as from the USA and from Germany)

Moreover, far-reaching reflections on more forecasts, alternative scenarios and/or on future concepts that concern the possible development of the DMZ should be made from now on. Furthermore, working out future studies which are extensive in topic and distinctive in content would be desirable. The same goes for a still higher activation of the political influence on realizing such concepts and ideas. Perhaps, the GDRI may be enlarged by a “Department for Research, Development and Planning of the DMZ”. In that way a cross regional task would evolve and – with the help of national promotion funds – might from the decentralized location Chucheon be applied on the whole inner Korean border area. Finally, it is recommended to cultivate interstate relationships as well as to expand international cooperation. In this context, the consolidation of already existing agreements (with Japan and China) is recommended; they should be complemented by further partner institutions (e.g. from the USA and from Germany).

Last but not least in the case of necessary short-term development measures it needs to be ascertained that they might be financed ad hoc. That is why it is suggested to raise a kind reunion fund – among other things with special focus on the DMZ (including donations) – in order to be prepared on time for necessary higher-than-average government purchases. Equally, it should be thought duly about which administrative level (nation state, provinces or municipality) takes on which tasks and which disbursements in the case of a reunited Korea. The most efficient way would be the division of the labor between representatives that would, according to the respective issue as regards content or space, require the application of national, regional and communal financial means.

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