1. What is the current relationship between North Korea and South Korea? Particularly after the last meeting of inter-Korean Summit last year?

   It has been a year since the Panmunjeom Declaration was announced. The agreements in the Panmunjeom Declaration are being implemented one by one. Both South and North Korea withdrew guard posts in the Demilitarized Zone and are working to unearth the remains of soldiers killed during the Korean War. West Sea fishing grounds have been further opened up and made safe. South and North Korea remain in regular contact through the joint liaison office in Kaesong and have completed preparations to reconnect railroads and roads. This is a new path, and as such, we all must take it together. Sometimes, we need to wait for those moving slower to catch up. As years go by following the Panmunjeom Declaration, we will encounter an irreversible peace on the Korean Peninsula in which everyone prospers together.

2. Just before the April 2018, inter-Korea summit, North Korea has threatened East Asia region after their rocket fell near the territory of US and Japan. Did the inter-Korean Summit then just happen to ease the tension in the region?

   On July 6, 2017, President Moon Jae-in took the podium at the Altes Stadthaus, the old city hall of Berlin, upon the invitation of the Korber Foundation of Germany, and proposed that the North resume dialogue and cooperate with the South for peace regime on the Korean Peninsula. This is the so-called “Berlin Initiative.” President Moon remained committed to the realization of the Berlin initiative after officially outlining this plan for lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. He consistently communicated to North Korea his will to achieve peace on the Korean Peninsula on every possible occasion. Thus, the first historic inter-Korean Summit of 2018 was held on April 27 and the Panmunjeom Declaration came into being.

   The 2018 inter-Korean Summit Pyeongyang is the fifth inter-Korean summit since the national division and the third during the Moon Jae-in Administration. It is also the third meeting of the two leaders over the course of only six months. Many remember the scene of the leaders of the South and North hand in hand crossing over the Military Demarcation Line on April 27, 2018. Their embrace at the May 2018 Inter-Korea Summit, coming only one month after the April Inter-Korean Summit, also made history. At the third meeting in Pyeongyang,
the two leaders discussed all pending issues facing the two Koreas in a candid manner and
decisively open up a new chapter of co-prosperity for inter-Korean relations

3. What challenges and difficulties the country faced during the inter-Korean Summit?

President Moon mentioned in his speech after May 26 Inter-Korean Summit that we are now changing the course of history. We made the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics of peace and paved a new way of peace and prosperity at Panmunjeom, which used to be a symbol of tension and confrontation in the past. North Korea showed its determination by voluntarily suspending nuclear tests and dismantling the nuclear test site in Punggyeri. This is only a start. The road to complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula will never be easy.

4. If inter-Korean does succeed, what will happened between North and South? Will it still be separated of will it reunited under a superior government?

Reunification of Korea is a complex issue, and there are many possible scenarios. Unification is a process where both sides seek coexistence, co-prosperity and a restored sense of national community. When peace is established, unification will be realized naturally someday through an agreement between the South and the North. With eventual reunification in mind, the ROK government will carry on the legacies of existing inter-Korean agreement and elevate them to new heights. We will hold inter-Korean talks on a regular basis, and resume exchanges and cooperation across diverse areas to recover trust between the two sides.

5. There is also a negotiation between North and US. If that negotiation fail, will South Korea maintain a good relationship with North Korea?

Our First goal is to peacefully resolve the pending North Korean nuclear issue, and establish permanent peace on the Korean Peninsula. To this end, we will focus on achieving strong security to protect ourselves and closely communicate with related countries including the US.

As President Moon mentioned during the press interview this week, the US and North Korea is engaged in behind-the-scene-talks for a possible third summit. There will be substantive progress if the two sides continue to negotiations based on what was discussed in Singapore and Hanoi.
6. What is the process of formulating Panmunjeom Declaration?

On April 2018, the leaders of the two Koreas proclaimed before the entire world that spring had come once again to thaw inter-Korean relations. The leaders of the two Koreas sat down at the dialogue table for the first time in 11 years and engaged in candid conversations. In particular, the moments they spend alone on the foot bridge are being lauded as testament of the elevation of inter-Korean ties to new heights. The Panmunjeom Declaration for Peace, Prosperity and Unification of the Korean Peninsula is the result of open-minded dialogue between the two leaders. In the declaration, they proclaimed the beginning of a new era of peace and no war on the Korean Peninsula and pledged to achieve the full scale significant development of inter-Korean relations to ease military tensions and guarantee non-aggression, to advance denuclearization and to establish a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula. The South Korean Government, building upon the Panmunjeom Declaration, will take a new path going forward. Leaving dark days of war and conflict behind, we will write a new chapter of peace and cooperation. This is just a beginning and there may be many difficulties ahead but we will never go back to the past again and never give up on this bold journey.

7. Does the inter-Korean Summit become a significant support for the peace that will exists?

Yes, the inter-Korean Summit contributed significantly to reducing tensions on the Korean Peninsula and restored peace.

8. How does the implementation of the declaration so far?

The South Korean Government took actions to implement follow-up steps for the Panmunjeom Declaration after inter-Korean Summit last year. The Inter-Korean Summit Preparation Committee was realigned into the Promotion Committee for the Implementation of the Panmunjeom Declaration to establish and carry out related implementation plans. For more details, visit www.Koreasummit.kr.

9. Is there an evaluation of the implementation of the Panmunjeom Declaration?

The Inter-Korean Summit Preparation Committee was realigned into the Promotion Committee for the Implementation of the Panmunjeom Declaration to establish and carry out related implementation plans. For more details, visit www.Koreasummit.kr.
10. What kind of hope or expectations that is to be achieved through inter-Korea summit?

The Panmunjeom Declaration contains all the hope, expectations and aspirations of Korean people. It consists of three sections, with the first of these dealing with inter-Korean relations. The leaders of the two Koreas shared their determination to achieve the irreversible advancement of inter-Korean relations, thus establishing the principle of complying with all previous agreement reached between the South and North and coming up with measure to ensure such compliance. The two leaders recognized the importance of resolving problems through dialogue and negotiations and agreed to hold talks in various fields. In addition they agreed to resume the reunions of families separated in the South and North by the Korean War for the first time in almost three years.

In the Panmunjeom Declaration, the two leaders succeeded in laying the groundwork for putting an end to the 65 years of Cold War era confrontation and hostility and realizing peace, coexistence and co-prosperity by affirming their commitment to the establishment of a permanent peace regime on the Korean Peninsula. Furthermore, the two leaders contributed to the easing of military tensions and the creation of a mood of peace by agreeing to the implementation of practical measures to prevent accidental military clashes between the South and North.

The Panmunjeom Declaration is significant in that it specifically and explicitly reaffirmed the two sides’ commitment to a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula through complete denuclearization. The two leaders discussed ways to turn this unwavering commitment into reality by taking into consideration the results of previous talks on denuclearization, as well as the stance of both the US and North Korea.

11. Why does South Korea try so hard to make peace with North Korea?

South and North Korea underwent a series of conflicts throughout the years of national division but have persistently strived to heal the wounds left behind by the tragedy through talks and exchanges. With the common desire to achieve peaceful unification of the nation as early as possible by removing the misunderstanding and mistrust, the two Koreas time and again engaged in frank discussion and made notable progress towards promoting mutual understanding over the years. The 2018 inter-Korean Summits are precisely the case in point.
12. Does the South Korean government monitor Hyundai Corporation? Does MNCs become one of South Korea’s strategies in seeking peace with North Korea?

Economic cooperation has always been an essential part of inter-Korean cooperation, and has been mentioned in all previous declarations and agreements between the two Koreas. The South and North Korea, time and again, have agreed to facilitate, expand and further develop inter-Korean economic cooperation projects for balanced economic development and co-prosperity of the Korean people. The current Moon Jae-in administration also announced the New Economic Map initiative, offering the vision of contributing to the peace and prosperity of Northeast Asia through the economic integration of the Korean Peninsula. For overview of the New Economic Map Initiative, please visit www.Koreasummit.kr

13. How does the Korean government overcome the problem of separated families?

During the 2018 inter-Korean summit, the two leaders recognized the importance of resolving problems through dialogue and negotiations. They agreed to resume the reunion of separated families in the South and North by the Korean War in an effort to expand cooperation and exchanges for the promotion of mutual understanding and common interests. For more details on Korea government’s policy on separated families, visit www.uni Korea.go.kr

14. How much is the role of civil society and non-governmental organization in supporting the peace efforts?

The South Korean civil society and NGOs actively take part in policy discussions regarding the country’s North Korean policy, and also crucial supports and promoters of President Moon’s peace process on the Korean Peninsula.