

Dialogue on Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism in Asia with Emphasis on Counter-Narrative



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— **LEE Joo Yong** Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism(PCVE) is a new subject for the South Korean society, but it emerges as a crucial topic amid the growing threats of the extra-regional terrorism, such as the one in Manchester, after the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria(ISIS) lost its ground in the Middle East. Violent extremism is not only a matter of a certain religion or ethnic group, but exists in South Korea, so we have to pay attention to and actively deal with it.

— **IN Namsik** The most sincere approach to the threats of global terrorism is to respond to it with counter narratives.

— **David SCHARIA** The Counter-Terrorism Committee(CTED) is an institution under the wing of the United Nations Security Council. The threats of ISIS and the terrorism, such as the one by the Taliban in Kabul, Afghanistan are not confined to a certain organization or region but a global phenomenon. Terrorists can stage attacks anywhere and anytime, and the international society should come up with anti-terrorism measures. Since the 9/11 terror at-

tack, the United Nations Security Council adopted anti-terrorism resolutions on several occasions and started to seriously deal with the agitation issue following the London terror attack on July 7, 2005, in particular. Most recently, the UNSC adopted a new resolution to develop counter narratives against terrorism last week. Major points of the resolution included a ban on agitation of terrorism, participation of non-governmental sector in development of counter-terrorism narratives and the necessity to create counter narratives.

— **Ivo VEENKAMP** Under the wing of the Global Counterterrorism Forum, established by the initiative of the State Department of the United States on the tenth anniversary of the September 11 attack, Hedayah Center is the organization specializing in preventing violent extremism. Hedayah Center is based in Abu Dhabi, but not under the control of the government of United Arab Emirates. As an independent international organization with Steering Board members from 12 countries, it makes efforts to maintain neutral position. The response by the

military intelligence agencies is just a part of counter-terrorism activities, and we need to cope with the root cause of terrorism. Judging by the 10-year experience, the threat of terror attack is on the ebb now, but the preventive effort is important because a new terrorist organization might emerge at any time.

Many wonder why European people leave their homes and join the Syrian terrorist organization. It is important to find out the reason why they fall for the narratives of a terrorist organization as well as the root causes such as poverty and human rights violations. Government is not suitable for delivering anti-terrorism messages. Family members, friends and teachers can play more roles in influencing the youth. At the same time, we should go further than just responding to the agitation of terrorism and provide more productive alternative narratives. Hedayah Center is operating the Creative Minds for Social Goods program to help the youths suggest their own ideas against the violent extremism in the Middle East and Northern Africa and share them. It also established the Counter-Narrative Library by collecting the counter narratives so that the government and schools may utilize them. The counter narratives are classified by region and include the model cases of Southeast Asian region. The civil society and community leaders in Southeast Asia are encouraged to participate in production of counter narratives for all age groups.

— **Adam HADLEY** The ICT4PEACE Foundation is operating the Tech against Terrorism project by connecting industries, governments and civil societies to prevent terrorists' Information Communication Technology(ICT) use. Information and communication technologies are available anytime and anywhere, thus being able to be utilized by violent extremists. ISIS is quickly adapting to new ICT and one of the most active users of ICT. Terrorists utilize ICT for agitation, recruitment of members and terror attacks. They can scheme a terror attack through encoded messengers and collect money through Bitcoins. With the project, the ICT4PEACE Foundation provides advanced technologies of such prominent

ICT enterprises as Facebook and Google to small start-up companies as well as giving them technological assistance.

— **Jasmine JAWHAR** The narratives of Western terrorists differ from those of Southeast Asia in that they are focused on the message of discrimination against minorities, while the latter is mainly about political condition. Terrorists are seen to be developing messages tailored to specific groups. The political and religious narratives of Southeast Asian terrorists emphasize the persecution of Muslims, expiation and the last crusade. Their messages point out that the Southeast Asian laws are secular, urging obedience to Sharia law and illustrating problematic features of democracy and corrupt governments. There are many who head for Syria with good intentions, acting on the messages of the terrorists that Syria needs humanitarian aid. Many women go to Syria to marry Jihad warriors or to find the purpose of their life amid hollowness. When developing counter narratives, we should embed national and regional contexts into them, as the terrorists do, as well as incorporating cultural and religious backgrounds and gender issue in the narrative. It is also important to utilize visual components to get messages across, as ISIS effectively uses videos and pictures. As terrorists are adept in emotionally appealing to the audience, we should conduct in-depth research to develop persuasive counter narratives.

— **James LAMBRIGHT** How can we evaluate the effects of counter narratives?

— **David SCHARIA** We need to learn from other fields of study to evaluate the effects on random target audiences. It is necessary to examine how the correctional effects are measured at prisons and study the successful political and commercial campaigns. It seems that there is no right answer to how to evaluate the effects of messages. For prevention of violent extremism in South Korea, it is important to take into account not only the local environment, but the connections with its regional origin. The government might not be a suitable conveyor of the messages, but can play a role to create the environment favorable to

message delivery by others.

— **Ivo VEENKAMP** Current anti-terrorism researches and efforts are focused on the Middle East and ISIS, but the results and methodologies of them would be useful in analyzing other threats. They might be utilized in the education for prevention of violent extremism. The anti-terrorism education should consider the national and regional contexts.

Keywords

Violent Extremism, Terrorism, Counter narratives, ISIS



Policy Implications

- It is necessary to develop counter narratives corresponding to the national and regional contexts and target audience.
- The government cannot play a leading role in developing and disseminating counter narratives. Various stakeholders should participate in it, and the government needs to create an environment conducive to their activities

Korean Unification and Contribution of Global Korean Community



Chair	JU ChulKi President, Overseas Koreans Foundation
Moderator	Melissa Ji-Yun LEE Member of Parliament, New Zealand
Presenter	Balbina Y. HWANG Professor, Georgetown University, United States JIN ChangSoo President, The Sejong Institute
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— **Melissa Ji-Yun LEE** The unification of the Korean Peninsula is an international issue, so I hope this session will discuss from the perspective of a global society the ways the global Korean community can contribute to the unification of the two Koreas.

— **Balbina Y. HWANG** In the last several years, the topic of Korean Unification has once again emerged as a topic of much attention and focus. The term, unification, is itself fraught with tension. The recent South Korean focus on “unification,” particularly under the last Park Geun-hye administration, is striking, given the global trend of populist or separatist movements: from Scotland to Catalan, and Quebec to Xinjiang. Despite the fact that unification has always been a profound element of Korean identities on both sides of the peninsula for the last 70 years, the primary driver in the last year has been the precipitous revival of regional and global alarm over North Korea’s nuclear and missile development. Given the increasingly prevalent view that Pyongyang will never abandon its nuclear ambitions, or

reform its brutal system willingly, the possibility of either a forced or unavoidable collapse of the North Korean regime as an inevitable solution is reluctantly gaining traction. It was difficult to discuss unification for the last 15 years due to the suspension of the Sunshine Policy and inter-Korean cooperation projects (the Gaeseong Industrial Complex and Mt. Geumgang Tour). However, unification is being discussed more vigorously today because President Park Geun-hye purposefully revived and prioritized the topic as a grave national agenda. The Moon Jae-in government is coming up with the 2.0 version of the Sunshine Policy, a complement to the unification policies of previous governments. The government started to discuss the Korean Unification and the uncertainties about North Korea.

Any changes to the status quo on the Korean Peninsula will have immediate and profound consequences for the entire international community. The sudden collapse of the Berlin Wall in 1989 had an epochal impact on both South and North Korea,