

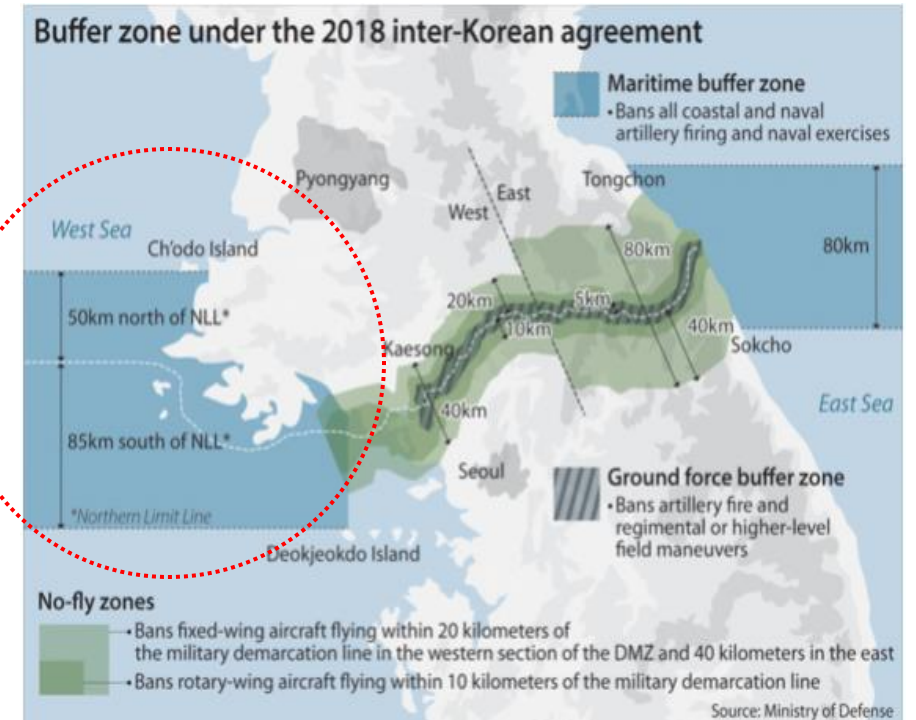
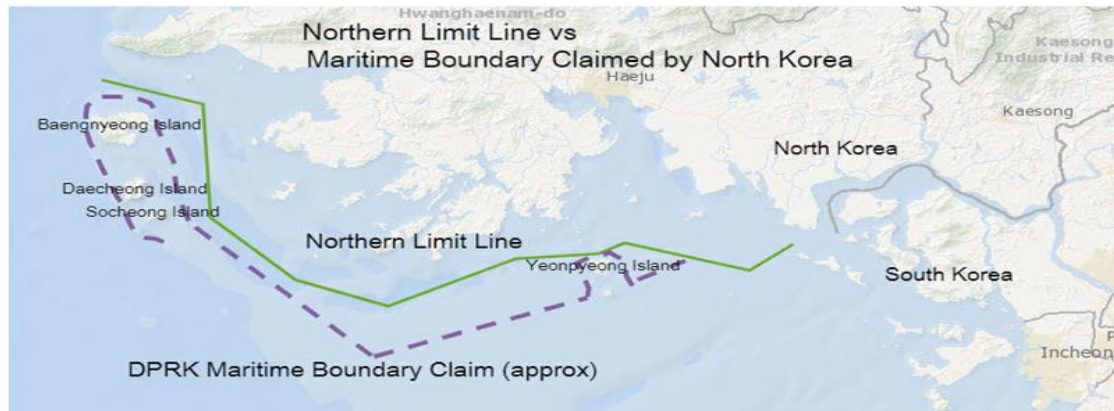


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# **Finding a Way Forward: Exploring Possible Areas of Cooperation Amidst Competing Claims**

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# Two Korea's efforts and progress to overcome conflicts on the west sea



dot → line → surface



**Two Korea's efforts and progress to overcome conflicts on the west sea, but in vain**

Can functionalist cooperation  
ensure political and military  
security?

# Things we know but have not achieved

## 1. Possible Ways to Diffuse Tensions and Foster Cooperation

- **Diplomatic Engagement & Multilateral Dialogue:** Encourage confidence-building measures (CBMs) through regular dialogues among claimant and non-claimant states, using ASEAN-led platforms like the East Asia Summit (EAS) and the ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF).
- **Code of Conduct (COC) Agreement:** Strengthen negotiations for a legally binding Code of Conduct between ASEAN and China to regulate activities and prevent conflicts.
- **Joint Development & Resource Sharing:** Promote agreements for joint exploration of oil, gas, and fisheries in disputed waters, following models like the Malaysia-Thailand Joint Development Area (JDA).
- **Demilitarization & Military Transparency:** Encourage transparency in military activities, such as mutual naval exercises for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
- **Legal and Arbitration Mechanisms:** Promote adherence to the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and respect for the 2016 Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA) ruling.

# Things we know but have not achieved

## 2. Role of Non-Claimant States and ASEAN

- **ASEAN's Role:** ASEAN should act as a mediator by maintaining unity in negotiations, pushing for a binding COC, and utilizing its diplomatic influence to prevent unilateral actions.
- **Non-Claimant States' Role:** Countries like the U.S., Japan, Australia, and the EU can support maritime security by advocating for freedom of navigation and providing capacity-building assistance to ASEAN nations.
- **Capacity Building:** Non-claimant states can assist ASEAN nations in strengthening coast guards, surveillance, and legal expertise to assert maritime rights peacefully.
- **Economic Incentives for Cooperation:** Encourage economic partnerships that reduce dependency on unilateral actions, such as ASEAN-wide trade and investment incentives in the region.



# Things we know but have not achieved

## 3. Short-Term, Medium-Term, and Long-Term Measures

### Short-Term (1–3 years)

- **Cease provocative actions** (e.g., land reclamation, militarization, and aggressive naval activities).
- **Strengthen crisis communication mechanisms** between claimants to prevent escalation.
- **Expand Track II diplomacy** (informal dialogues between scholars, NGOs, and former officials).
- **Enhance ASEAN-led maritime security cooperation** through increased coast guard coordination.

### Medium-Term (3–10 years)

- **Finalization and enforcement of the ASEAN-China COC.**
- **Develop joint resource-sharing agreements** on fisheries and energy exploration.
- **Strengthen legal and institutional frameworks** to ensure adherence to international law (e.g., UNCLOS).
- **Encourage third-party mediation** through neutral international bodies like the UN.

### Long-Term (10+ years)

- **Institutionalize multilateral dispute resolution mechanisms** within ASEAN and the broader Indo-Pacific region.
- **Develop a South China Sea regional framework for peace and stability**, similar to the Arctic Council.
- **Promote regional economic integration** to reduce reliance on unilateral territorial claims as an economic strategy.
- **Foster people-to-people exchanges** and academic cooperation to build mutual trust among claimant states.





Step by Step vs.  
Gradual

Bilateral vs. Multilateral

Under U.S./PRC-led vs.  
ASEAN-led





	<b>Step by Step</b>	<b>Gradual</b>
<b>Bilateral</b>	<b>ROP-PRC</b>	<b>US-PRC</b> <b>Claimant-Claimant</b> <b>Claimant-Non Claimant</b>
<b>Multilateral</b>	<b>ASEAN COC</b>	<b>Diplomacy</b> <b>Security</b> <b>Capacity Building</b>

# Solidarity and Creating Sharing Benefit



"Shenlan No. 1" platform installed in the Korea-China Provisional Measures Zone captured from the People's Daily Online. [SCREEN CAPTURE]



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