

# **CHAPTER I**

## **INTRODUCTION**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Asian Games is the largest sports event in the Asian continent which was first organized by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA). This sporting event is held every four years with athletes from all over Asia. The Asian Games aim to unite the countries on the Asian continent after World War II and make the nations on the Asian continent have a new world order according to the aspirations and desires of each country. The first host and the Asian Games were held for the first time in 1951, which took place in India, and South Korea had hosted the Asian Games twice, namely in 2002, which took place in Busan and 2014 in Incheon, while North Korea has never hosted the Asian Game event.

The event was organized by the Asian Games Federation (AGF) from the first games in New Delhi, India, from 1951 to 1978. Since 1982 the organization shifted to OCA after the AGF disbanded. The Asian Games are recognized by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) and are described as the second multi-sport event after the Olympics. The symbol of the Asian Games is the sixteen-pointed sun which is the official logo of the Asian Games and is affixed to the logo of the Asian Olympic Council.

When World War II ended with the defeat of Japan, the entire Korean population wanted the formation of a unified, independent state, but instead, what happened was the division of Korea as a result of the Cold War between the Eastern and

Western blocs. The division of the Korean State into two and the establishment of separate governments in the South and North eventually led to a civil war, namely the Korean war (1950-1953). The Korean War was a by-product of the ideological conflict within the country and was considered a war that represented the conflict between the Western and Eastern Blocs.

The Korean Peninsula is an area located in Northeast Asia which has historically been an important area in the region as an area that connects Northeast Asia with the outside world. Korea's geographical position has made Korea historically crucial from a strategic point of view. The Korean Peninsula is located in the middle of three major countries, namely Japan, China, and Russia.

On June 25, 1950, a war began between South Korea supported by the United States and North Korea funded by the Soviet Union. At that time, 75,000 North Korean troops crossed the 38th parallel between the two countries. In July 1950, in the first era of the Cold War, American troops started a war on behalf of South Korea and against the forces of international communism.

After conducting several battles, anxiety arose from the American camp, which then devised a plan to carry out a kind of ceasefire with North Korea because the United States was worried that this war would get bigger and involve ruling countries such as Russia and China so that it gave the potential to become a World War III. Until July 1953, the Korean War ended in a short time, but this war had a profound impact and scars because the victims of this war were far more than in World War II.

However, the end of the arms war between the two countries has not entirely stopped the conflict because the two countries still have a high level of sensitivity to each other. The battle on the Korean Peninsula continues to experience ebb and flow to this day. The focus of this study is to explain the role of the 18th Asian Games in enhancing peace on the Korean Peninsula?

## **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

### *Sport Diplomacy*

Diplomacy is an effort to carry out an activity in the form of ways in which the state, through officially appointed representatives, conducts a dialogue in a meeting with the coordination of one actor with another actor, or more than two actors who have specific interests and strive to achieve it. These activities take the form of private talks by exchanging views, approaches, visits, and often even threats and other related activities. Diplomacy has a close relationship with foreign policy because diplomacy is the implementation of foreign policy carried out by trained official officials. In many countries, foreign policy is designed and formulated by the minister of foreign affairs and the ministry of foreign affairs staff. The implementation of bilateral diplomacy and Unilateral action is generally carried out by diplomats and representatives stationed abroad and in international organizations.

In addition, according to Barston, the definition of diplomacy is the management of relations between countries or between countries and other international relations actors. A description in which diplomacy represents political, economic,

and military pressure on countries involved in diplomatic activities, formulated in the exchange of requests and concessions between the negotiators "to achieve their national interests.

In expansion, Sports Diplomacy is additionally utilized by numerous nations as a delicate control for progressing universal relations by advancing intelligence and compromise and indeed avoiding conflict. One of them is that China and the United States joined together, which employments ping pong strategy. In December 1972, a report from the Télévision Suisse Romande, entitled "l'amitiésino-Suisse," related the visit of ten Chinese ping-pong players (men and ladies) in Switzerland. Curiously, this visit was organized one year after the celebrated visit to China by the Joined United States ping-pong (table tennis) group. The way is better known as the scene of "ping-pong diplomacy." These demonstration games made a difference in setting up contact between two nations with no conciliatory relations.

Sports Diplomacy is defined as representative and diplomatic activities carried out by sports actors through sporting events facilitated by the state to attract attention, provide information, and form an excellent image to achieve a country's foreign policy goals. Sports diplomacy is carried out with the participation of sports actors and the government, where the government of a country usually organizes international sporting events through a negotiation process. In international sports competitions, athletes who compete carry their country's name and become government representatives in the sporting event. Through sports diplomacy, a country gets the opportunity to improve its image, status, and economy at the international level, and also as a tool to spread a political

message. Also, Barry Sanders argues that Sport as Public Diplomacy is a strong and great instrument in the mission to create a good reputation in international relations, disseminate information, and be the core of public diplomacy.

On the other hand, sport is also considered the most widely used forum by many countries because it is very effective in creating positive messages behind implementing a sports competition. Sport is also used as a strategy for well-planned public diplomacy to provide significant opportunities and results to achieve the interests of the state through sports. Sports diplomacy is also a reflection of international instruments and the concept of Soft Power. Sport is considered very effective in achieving national interests because sports diplomacy uses massive, peaceful, and civilized ways.

## **RESEARCH METHOD**

A descriptive approach and a qualitative study strategy were utilized to explain the phenomenon in more elements in the case of The Role of the 18th Asian Games in the Peace of the Korean Peninsula. The descriptive method explained the phenomenon in worldwide relations by answering who, what, where, and when the phenomenon occurs. This approach described the phenomenon in an orderly, objective, and designated manner. The information had been accrued from literature studies from journals, articles, news, and most of the data is from mass media. To analyze the facts of this paper, the researcher evaluation and analyze it then force a simple explanation about the phenomenon Role of the 18th Asian Games in the Peace of the Korean Peninsula. There are not many journals discussing this topic, but several journals discuss the role of sports diplomacy in uniting North and