

Inauguration of International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace in India

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From April 6 to 8, the UPF in collaboration with the North- East MPs Forum, Parliament of India organized a special peace conference to inaugurate the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace in India. On April 7, a special session of this inaugural conference was held in the Main Committee Room of Parliament House Annex at the Parliament of India. Prof. P. J. Kurian, deputy chairman of the Rajya Sabha (Council of States) the upper house of India's bicameral legislature delivered the inaugural address on behalf of Indian Vice-President Ansari who is also the chairman of the Rajya Sabha. Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, president of WFWP-International delivered the founders' address on True Mother's behalf.

In the program, the welcoming address was delivered by chairman of UPF-India K. V. Rajan, the IAPP introduction was delivered by UPF-International President Dr. Thomas G. Walsh. Special introductory speech to the founder of IAPP was delivered by chairman of UPF-Asia, Dr. Yong Chung-sik. Among the other speakers, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Prime Minister's Office was represented by R. Ramakrishna, Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha) from the ruling party of India and similarly IAPP-International Co-Chair and Five Times Speaker of the House of Representatives of Philippines. Jose de Venecia, Jr., Shiv Raj Patil, Former Speaker, Union Minister and Governor of India, Ek Nath Dhakal, Former Minister of Nepal and IAPP-Asia Co-Chair spoke during the inaugural session. During the inaugural conference IAPP India Board Members were conferred the Certificate of Appointment by the UPF International President and IAPP-International co-chair. At the end of inaugural session Bhubaneswar Kalita as the chairman of IAPP-India delivered the closing remarks and Vijay Holly, Ex-Assembly Member of Delhi delivered the vote of thanks and Mr. Krishna Adhikari, Secretary General of UPF India served as the Master of the Ceremony of the inaugural conference.



Following the inaugural session as special session was held on the theme of the conference "Addressing the Critical Challenges of our Time: The Role of Governments, Civil Society, and Faith-Based Organizations". This special session was moderated by Mrs. Ursula McLackland, secretary general of UPF-Asia and speakers were Dr. Robert S. Kittel, president, International Association of Youth and Students for Peace, Jayant Chand, Member of Parliament, India, Dr. Mohd Hatta Bin Md Ramli, Member of Parliament, Malaysia, Leopoldo Nalupa Bataoil, congressman, House of Representatives, Philippines, Farouk Muhammad, vice-chairman, Regional Representatives Council, Indonesian, Sanjay Jaiswal, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) Geetha Kothapali, Member of Parliament Lok Sabha).

Executive Summary

We reported, at an April 8 victory celebration the numbers of prominent societal figures attending the various programs. These are the figures:

MPs from Asia: twenty, from eighteen nations MPs from India attending the Opening Banquet (April 6) more than forty MPs from India attending the IAPP inauguration at the Parliament House Annex, more than seventy Ex-MPs from India attending the IAPP inauguration, seven Foreign Missions (Diplomatic Missions) attending, twenty (including the Democratic People's Republic of Korea) Many diplomats and state legislators did not have proper identification and were barred from entering. MPs from India attending the closing banquet, fourteen

The highlight of the inaugural conference of IAPP India was a courtesy call by invitation from Indian President Mukherjee at the Presidential Palace, where we held a special session with the IAPP India delegation. After the successful inauguration, IAPP-India a special Review Meeting was held at the residence of Bhubaneswar Kalita, MP and chairman of IAPP-India. All present in the meeting shared their experiences at the conference. Kalita said that in his thirty years in Parliament he had no experiences of such event taking place in the parliament of India through the effort of an NGO. The chief guest, deputy chairman of the Upper House agreed in his speech at the meeting where he represented Vice-President Ansari to inaugurate the IAPP-India.



All the five Members of Parliament of India as the IAPP-India Board Member, UPF-Chairman, FFWPU-India National Leader and Organizers unanimously applauded and deeply appreciated the great support from Mother Moon, Founder of UPF and IAPP for giving us this great vision of the establishment of IAPP and for her unconditional support to organize the IAPP-India Inaugural Conference. Meeting also jointly thanked Dr. Walsh, Dr. Yong and all Asia Staffs for their whole-hearted support to organize this conference in India. At last, meeting resolved the followings:

1. UPF will design a special page of IAPP in the website of UPF India (but unfortunately I don't have UPF-India webpage itself and hope we will be able to have one soon.)
2. IAPP-India will drive the campaign for enrolling the membership of only most interested MPs to become the IAPP Member and will be educated about their responsibilities for fulfilling the vision of IAPP.
3. Meeting also decided not plan big and do just a little instead it is agreed that we plan small and achieve big. So, as the continuation of the IAPP activities in India, MPs decided that they will engage in planning and organizing at least one peace program every month or in every two month. Programs such as: interaction program, seminars or workshop type educational program to promote awareness for world peace.