

## An Overview of ICUS, the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences

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*The fourth International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences, November 27–30, 1975 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City*

A Scottish scientist and a cofounder of the Club of Rome, the late Dr. Alexander King, described the International Conferences on the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS) as "the only world occasion where scholars from diverse disciplines can come together and discuss mutual interactions in their work as a multidisciplinary attack on global problems."

ICUS was and still is a strong expression of True Parents' desire to benefit the world.

### **A look at the early conferences**

The first ICUS took place in 1972. Naturally, True Mother was there with True Father greeting the participants as they arrived. The title of Father's speech at the first ICUS was "Moral Orientation of the Sciences." In it, he said, "As you know, man has established a highly developed, affluent society which cannot even be compared to those of ancient or medieval times, and there is no doubt that science has been the decisive factor in this development. If science had not developed, economic prosperity such as we have today could not have occurred. This fact shows that the majority of scientists have made the realization of a happy, ideal society their mission." Participants discussed subjects such as the impact of science on economics and the role of unified science in moral orientation of the world. That first ICUS attracted just twenty scientists from eight countries. In her memoir, True Mother wrote, "In 1972, my husband and I convened the first International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences (ICUS). As with any new project, we endured many obstacles and birth pangs to bring it into the world. And then, after ICUS was launched, many scholars accused us of using scientists to legitimate ourselves. Several years later, this same scholar would accept our invitation and present his or her work at the conference. This was because he or she had realized the true motivation of ICUS."

Sixty scientists attended the second ICUS in Tokyo Japan. Nobushige Sawada, who had written several books on the philosophy of science, was the chair that year. Father spoke on "Modern Science and Moral Values." In his speech, he told the roomful of scientific luminaries, "The original man should be a being of unity and harmony between his spirit and body centered on the purpose of goodness or value. I view the original character of science as embodying in unity the two sides of spirit and body, resembling man."



*The 10th International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences*

The third conference, held in London, attracted 128 scholars. Among them were eighteen Nobel Prize winners. The chairman that year was Edgar Douglas Adrian, the recipient of the 1932 Nobel Prize for physiology. Father spoke on "Science and Absolute Values." On that occasion, he said, "In the past, we have recognized the contribution of science and technology to the enrichment of human life without deep reflection. Now we begin to wonder. Some disquieting questions come to mind. Are we happier? Are we ethically more sound? Are we becoming more humane with love and concern for one another? Answers to these questions are not found simply by analyzing statistical results because the human being has many aspects which are not discretely quantifiable.

There was a difference at the thirteenth ICUS in 1984. Unjustly, True Father was in Danbury Prison. In her memoir True Mother explained, "On September 2, 1984, our International Cultural Foundation conducted the 13th ICUS in Washington, DC. More than 250 scientists attended from 42 countries. I met and greeted them one by one, and took the podium to read the Founder's Address with confident resolution. Even though its founder was absent, the conference was a success. Scientists expressed gratitude and the staff members were happy. Everyone could see that this movement is of God and does not depend upon one individual."

It seems fitting that a couple who both experienced the Korean War would have reflected on the moral versus immoral use of science. A number of weapons were invented for use in the Korean War and tested on Korean battlefields. True Parents certainly have personal knowledge of science that does not benefit humanity and they worked hard to change the world. After the ICUS event in 2000, years passed in which True Parents focused on other aspects of their salvific mission on earth.



*The 23rd International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences, took place in Seoul's Jamsil Lotte Hotel World, It had the theme Crisis and Science of the Global Environment*

The next ICUS conference was one that Mother held in February 2017, five years after True Father's ascension. ICUS events are now being conducted by HJIFIS USA. With the new organization, the conferences have a specific focus -- preserving the natural environment. Mother explained this in her remarks to the scientists who gathered at the Lotte World Hotel in Seoul's Jamsil Ward on February 4–5 2017, for ICUS XXIII.

If you ask why I am speaking about this to you scientists today, it is because you must understand this. You must know heaven's secrets. You must know God. This planet is God's. It belongs to God. Humankind must also belong to God. You have invented many things in a variety of fields so that we can enjoy abundance in the twenty-first century. However, the by-products of these inventions endanger the lives of human beings and endanger the lives of all living things in the cosmos. If there is no future for the planet, there is no future for humankind.

This is the direction we are heading. We cannot ignore this and only focus on researching things that are needed right now. Due to the selfish and incorrect thinking of people, creation is suffering and is sick. If we would have followed the direction God established at the Creation -- the principle of circulation -- no pollution would have developed. In many ways scientific civilization caused much pollution. This is the reason I am reviving ICUS. At a conference that she hosted herself, True Mother spoke quite directly to the attendees on February 4, 2017."

### **ICUS around the world**

The first ICUS was held in New York City in the US in 1972. In the following two years, they took place in Tokyo, Japan and London, UK. For the following six years, they were held in various US cities. In 1981, ICUS took place for the first time in Seoul Korea. For the following seven years, 1992–1998, they were held in the US. Seoul hosted them in 1991, 1992, 1995, 1997 and 2000 ICUS events. True Mother revived ICUS in 2017. She appointed Dr. Douglas DM Joo as chairman of HJIFUS and placed the ICUS conferences under that organization. They held ICUS in Seoul 2017– 2020. Since 2021, ICUS has been a virtual event.