

Dr. Koji Matsuda, President of YSP visits UPF Lisbon, Portugal to Discuss Youth

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Lisbon, Portugal -- On a visit to Portugal, the international president of Youth and Students for Peace (YSP) met with a longtime ally of UPF-Portugal to discuss youth programs.

Dr. Antonieta Gomes has been working together with UPF and its affiliated organization Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP) and recently was nominated by WFWP to be an Ambassador for Peace.

Dr. Gomes was born in Guinea-Bissau, where she was minister of foreign affairs and also minister of justice. She earned her law degree in Brazil and currently lives in Portugal, working as a city councilor near Lisbon.

She was present during UPF's hearing in the presidency of the republic last September, where she made a very valuable contribution. While hearing our testimony there, she learned about the Africa Summit which UPF held in São Tomé and Príncipe in early September.

She was particularly enthusiastic about the UPF character education program and other activities with local youth.

So, on the afternoon of November 10, 2019, at the UPF Peace Embassy in Lisbon, she gladly met Dr. Koji Matsuda, the international president of Youth and Service for Peace, another organization that is affiliated with UPF.

Dr. Matsuda gave her a detailed explanation about the YSP program that has been implemented in São Tomé and Príncipe. He underlined the importance of having government support in order to move faster and more efficiently.

He showed her a PowerPoint presentation about YSP activities around the world, explaining that the projects are designed according to the culture and social reality of each nation.

Dr. Gomes said that after being nominated as an Ambassador for Peace, she feels a much greater responsibility to work for peace, namely in her country, Guinea-Bissau. She understood how powerful the UPF character education program can be in preparing future leaders and solving family issues.

Dr. Gomes briefed us on the current political situation of Guinea-Bissau, explaining that after the upcoming elections later in November, she plans to invite Dr. Matsuda to Guinea-Bissau and, with his help, to introduce the YSP program to her government and implement there the same model that is being used in São Tomé and Príncipe.

Through this meeting, a step forward was made for the realization of an expanded Heavenly Africa.