

## UPF Asia-Pacific ILC 2021 (part 1): Session II: Prospects for Korean Peace

Ursula McLackland  
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**Asia Pacific** -- Session Two of the July 7-8 International Leadership Conference 2021 (ILC2021) -- Asia Pacific program took place on July 7 at 10:30 a.m. Bangkok time, under the theme, "Prospects for Korean Peace and Security in a Changing Geopolitical Landscape." Four representatives from government, civil society and the media spoke about the importance of a united Asia Pacific for Korea reunification to be realized. A total of 1,206 people from 38 nations registered for the session and 275 watched it live on Zoom while thousands did so on YouTube and Facebook Live.

**Mr. Thomas McDevitt**, chairman of *The Washington Times* in the U.S., emphasized the mindset of thinking that the world is one family; therefore, nations must act in "symphony" with each other as interdependent human beings.

The next speaker, **Dr. Hyung-suk Kim**, vice minister of the Ministry of Unification of the Republic of Korea (2016-2017), shared a comprehensive analysis of the relationship between North and South Korea and said that if North Korea becomes open and cooperates, conflicts will disappear and reunification will be possible.

**Dr. John Bellavance**, founder of *CyberValues.org*, from Australia, discussed the challenges and solutions of mutual prosperity and proposed a model of prosperity that brings about interdependent security between two nations.

The fourth speaker, **Dr. Louie Benedict R. Ignacio**, president of the *Philippine Sociological Society*, suggested considering the external factors that might affect the reunification of North and South Korea and espoused a stronger Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The event concluded with a QandA during which the participants and speakers delved into the importance of solidarity among nations to support the two Koreas to engage in dialogue on peace and reunification. **Dr. Robert S. Kittel**, director of education of UPF-Asia Pacific, served as the moderator.