

Address to World Summit 2013

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It gives me immense pleasure to say few words to this august gathering. The Asia-Pacific region is the world's most populous and fastest growing economy. It is also the home the world's major faiths and traditions. As we know, the emergence of Asia-Pacific era is changing the power balance globally. This new world economic and security order provides both challenges and opportunities.

The "Challenges of Peace, Security and Human Development" are common issues we all face, nevertheless, nations have different perspectives in order to address these issues. Therefore, forging a common alliance and building a universal perspective is critical to creating a sustainable future.

The change in the economic balance of power between America and China is leading, inevitably, to the emergence of a new order in Asia and the Pacific as well as worldwide. Little more than half a decade ago, the major trading partners of every East Asian economy, including Australia, was either the US or Japan. Today, however, China is the major trading partner of all these economies except for the Philippines. According to the IMF, China is set to overtake the US as the largest economy in the world in real terms within little more than half a decade. This large and rapid shift in the structure of regional and global economic power is accompanied by shifts correlated to the structure of an Asian-Pacific political and military power and influence.

It is not that the US has lost, or will soon lose its pre-eminent global military capability or political influence. Rather, the shift in economic weight and relative military capabilities now means that the projection of US marine power in the Asian neighborhood is subject to contest and control in a way that was not the case up to this point.

China and the whole region have benefited from the peace and stability delivered for nearly 50 years by the unchallenged pre-eminence of the US military. But when China, already the world's second-largest economy, overtakes the US its wealth and dignity will compel it to acquire a military capacity worthy of a great power, even though it presently spends less than 2 per cent of its GDP on defense compared to the US's almost 5 per cent.

China is America's only rival for global leadership and yet as the rivalry increases so does their interdependency. As China seeks to play a role in the region corresponding with its new status as a great power, the US faces a few choices. It can pack up and pull out, which it considers neither desirable nor likely. Or, secondly, it can seek to confront and contain China, which would likely lead to conflict. The third option, however, is for the US and China to come to a win-win agreement which ensures peaceful competition.

To bring about a happy and peaceful outcome as well as stability in the region requires China and America to recognize each other's legitimate roles and work together for the global well-being.

The People's Republic of China receives continual coverage in the popular press due to its emerging superpower status and has been identified as a rising economic and military dominance. In fact, the "Rise of China" has been named the top news story of the 21st century by the Global Language Monitor as measured by number of appearances in the global print and electronic media, on the internet, on the blogosphere, and in social media.

Balancing this, India has an excellent chance to become a superpower. It needs to be pointed out that India's young population coupled with the second largest English speaking population in the world could give her a big advantage over China.

In Nepal, my country, we are learning to build peaceful, economic ties between India and China, for our own survival.

The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is a geo-political and economic organization of ten countries located in Southeast Asia consisting of Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Brunei, Burma (Myanmar) Cambodia, Laos, and Vietnam. If it were a single nation-state, it would be the tenth largest economy in the world.

We can see that there is in need to respect for sovereignty, territorial integrity, political equality and independence of all members states. Non-interference of internal matters and mutual cooperation for the sake of global peace and development is essential.

To further this, there needs to be an innovative strategy for steady economic growth and this must be based on an inclusive, cooperative mindset. The zero-sum mentality is outdated. It must be a win-win situation. Cooperation is the only way out of the current economic and political crisis. When we do this, then both the Asia-Pacific and world economies can achieve robust, sustainable, and balanced growth. I believe UPF has been playing this role.

A strong global partnership not only among the government institutions but also people-to-people is necessary to develop awareness and commitment for peace and security.

Democracy should not be limited only within the rule of majority but should be on the basis of human virtues, freedom and human rights.

Being a Government Minister in charge of Poverty Alleviation, I do not have peace of mind because 25 percent of the total population of my country is living under the poverty line. How can I sleep peacefully under this situation?

Another common concern is terrorism. Extremism, violent crimes against women, and corruption have no religion, race or nationality. We have to work together to fight against human evils that are eroding our core values.

The pluralism, co-existence, co-prosperity and the universally shared values of democracy and human rights are the basis of peace, security and human development. But these are not enough. We also need religious harmony, strong family values and public-mindedness. Where can we find these values?

Please look around you. In this conference we have 14 Heads of State, 16 former Heads of State. There are 355 participants in this summit and they come from 80 nations. There are religious leaders from all the faith-traditions in the world. Separate from this World Summit there is a Women's global assembly and a world student convention. This is the reason the Universal Peace Federation has prospered in every culture and country of the world is precisely because Father Moon has discovered and taught these universal principles. They have touched the hearts of people worldwide, irrespective of castes, creed, or culture.

Please understand that this federation this is a model, a paradigm, for creating a culture of peace. It is scalable and replicable anywhere in the world. One of the most important things we can do is to please support the work of UPF in your own nation. Let us us work together and we can build a world of peace.