

FFWPU and UPF host “2015 Asian Summit Conference” in Manila, Philippines

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[Newsis] Family Federation for World Peace and Unification and UPF Summit Conference Turns Asia’s Attention towards the Philippines

The “2015 Asian Summit Conference,” hosted by the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification and the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), was held on January 31st at the Manila Hotel in De La Salle Park in Manila, Philippines.

About 500 leaders from 15 countries attended this Asian Summit, which was carried out under the motto “Toward a New Paradigm for Sustainable Peace and Development in the Asia Pacific Region,” continued until February 2nd.



The event was attended by Joseph Estrada, the Mayor of Manila (formerly the President of the Philippines), Former Prime Minister Madhav Kumar of Nepal, Former Deputy Prime Minister Sujata Koirala of Nepal, Former Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines Jose de Venecia, Jr., Member of the House of Representatives of the Philippines Hon. Roy Señeres, Member of the Nepal House of Representatives Ek Nath Dhakal, UPF International Thomas Walsh and political leaders, women leaders, religious leaders, professors and businessmen. The participants gathered to discuss various topics, such as “Heading towards a New Paradigm of Continuous Peace in Asia and the Pacific Region,” “Building a Roadmap towards Continuous Peace in Asia and the Pacific Region,” “The Influence of Interreligious Cooperation and Harmony in Building Peace in Asia and the World,” “The Role of the Media and Education in Building Peace and Development,” “World Peace through the

Heritage and True Love of our Founder” and “The Strengthening of the Family, Reconstruction of the Nation and the Construction of Permanent World Peace.”

“Nine years ago, in December, 2005, Rev. Moon (of the Family Federation) came to Manila and established the Philippine chapter of UPF in this place. That visit to Manila was one stop on their 120 nation tour, which the couple embarked upon after establishing UPF on September 12th that same year. The strict schedule was difficult for Rev. Moon, who was 85 years old at the time, but he armed himself with the vision of the fulfillment of the long-cherished hope of God and humankind for the realization of true peace, and invested all of his heart and strength into completing the tour. Rev. Moon said that “on this day, I proclaimed the establishment of UPF, which will bring the providence of God into full blossom in heaven and on earth. Now UPF, in the era after the coming of heaven, will complete the role of the Abel UN. We will mobilize the countless peace ambassadors who have inherited the philosophy of true love and true families, and surely complete Heaven’s will of bringing about humankind as one family under God,” said Asian UPF Continental Director Chung-Shik Yong.

“UPF was built upon a foundation spanning over 50 years, over bridges of harmony and understanding built between diverse faiths and religions, upon the universal standard and foundation of educating young people in the values of morality and family values and upon the foundation of the education of basic principles of good governance to leaders around the world. When we look at the unparalleled events which are taking place around the world, it becomes more and more clear that we are in the most crucial period in the history of humankind. The world says that we are in an axial period, in which we may observe even greater conflict, but this period also presents a vital opportunity to usher in an era of peace. Recall the saying “opportunity arises from crisis.” The need to gain public support in the pursuit of the noble goal of bringing about understanding, moderation and a peaceful world becomes both more relevant and more pressing day by day. This Asia Summit, hosted today by UPF in Manila, is surely an historic event,” he continued.



Director Yong then quoted Rev. Moon. “The problem of the cultural development of mankind becomes more crucial from this moment. The development of civilization has spanned throughout the entire globe, and has finally arrived in the Pacific Region. The history of humankind will now be centered in the Pacific Rim, and we have arrived at a providential point which we must see to completion. When peace and security can be established in the Pacific Rim, peace for all of mankind will be guaranteed. The time has come for all of the island nations to band together to bring about the new civilization of the homeland of God, which He has longed for. We must protect the Pacific Rim, which will guarantee the peace and security of all of mankind. We are living in the age of globalization, and the distance between us and the nations of the world who fail to recognize us is growing smaller. We can feel that we are entering into an unprecedented era in which nations cooperate on technological, economic, geopolitical and cultural levels. We cannot argue with the fact that the Asian region has embraced friendship and partnership in the era of peace and in eras of war and suffering. In the 1950’s, when North Korea threatened the freedom and democracy of South Korea during its invasion, the Philippines and 15 other nations banded together to protect our freedom. Many people sacrificed their lives for our citizens and our nation. Whenever I think of this immense sacrifice for suffering nations in need, my heart fills to the point of bursting. This is the noblest model of love and genuine sacrifice that transcends national borders.”

He also quoted some of UPF founder Rev. Moon’s principles. “The principle entails living for the sake of others, which clearly leads to the path of reconciliation. Loving one’s enemies begins with living for the sake of others. A life lived for the sake of others will bring about the solution of the problems of the

families of humankind.”

“At the beginning of human history, human beings started out as one family. Each religion has its own explanation of the tragedy that started the history of suffering at the beginning of civilization. Rev. Moon states that at the beginning of history, the ancestors of humankind lost their belief in God and the understanding that the spouse is a precious gift to be cherished. Sex was meant to be the foundation of love, life and lineage, but the most precious gift of love, inherited from God, was misused for selfish purposes. The first ancestor of humankind, instead of living for the sake of others, loved only themselves and lived only for their own glory and satisfaction. Thus, selfish love became the standard and the world was divided, bringing about a history of conflict, greed and selfishness. In order to heal the injuries of this world, and in order to band together families as one, we must learn to live for others, rather than for ourselves. If we remain in our comfort zone, families will continue to be divided, and countless conflicts will continue to arise from that historical source of division,” continued Director Yong.

“Humankind has longed for a peaceful world since the beginning. Many great saints and sages sacrificed their lives with the goal of peace in mind. However, we have never been able to fulfill this dream. What was it that gave UPF the hope of constructing genuine, lasting peace on earth?” asked UPF World Director Chang-Shik Yang.

He answered as such: “As a child, Rev. Sun Myung Moon experienced the deep suffering of the Korean people under Japanese rule. When he was 15 years old, he felt the sadness of others as though it were his own, and resolved to end the suffering of his people. In order to fulfill this noble mission, he realized that he needed to substantially end the suffering of all of humankind. However, he did not stop there. He then realized, through deep prayer, that God’s suffering is greater than the suffering of all of humankind, because God is the parent of humankind. In other words, Rev. Moon’s hope for world peace was not born out of a simple humanitarian impulse. It came from the realization that the suffering of humankind is equal to the suffering of God. A young Korean teenager dedicated his entire life toward relieving the burdens of suffering of God, and to bringing about world peace. His determination only grew throughout his life. Even though he passed away two years ago, we still carry the lofty hopes of realizing world peace. He planted the seeds of world peace on the earth before he left. Rev. Sun Myung Moon and his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, have now left us two precious fruits as gifts.”



“Rev. Moon said that there were certain principles needed to construct a peaceful world. When building a house, one needs to understand the principles of construction. In order to pilot an airplane, a pilot must first understand the principles of aerodynamics. In the same way, in order to build world peace, we must understand the principles of peace. Without these principles, peace is nothing but a distant, unattainable dream,” said Director Yang.

“Rev. Sun Myung Moon holds the world record for the number of published speeches, with over 1,200 volumes of his teachings. The essence and motto of his teachings is the phrase ‘live for the sake of others.’ He taught that if we understand and realize this truth, we can bring about a new world order,” he continued.

Director Yang made a special mention of the responsibility of religious leaders. “When Rev. Moon recommended the establishment of an interreligious conference to the UN, he said that ‘if we do not make conversation and harmony between religions a top priority, it will be impossible to bring about conversation and harmony in civilization.’ Religious leaders must support the construction process of

political peace through the attainment of genuine harmony of the heart. This is why the Middle East Peace Initiative was started by UPF: so that brothers and sisters of Judaism, Christianity and Islam could unite together to build a future, and so that the religious leaders of Abraham could embrace each other and forgive the mistakes of the past. In this same way, UPF, using its wide network of peace ambassadors, has worked tirelessly to build up trust, conversation and understanding between the citizens of North and South Korea. The Northeast Peace Initiative was prepared in order to relieve the tension of the Korean Peninsula, which in turn is threatening not only the peace of the Asian Pacific region, but the peace of the entire world,” he explained.



Philippine Vice President Jejomar Binay gave his greetings. “I am grateful to UPF for holding such an monumental event for the sake of the world’s future. I am so happy that the people of the Philippines have gathered in this place to show love to our comrades, and that we are able to come together to realize lasting peace.”

“UPF has worked hard for the development of mankind and the fulfillment of peace under the motto of ‘One Family Under God.’ If we live for the sake of others and love each other with the understanding that all of us are children of God, our Heavenly Parent, then we will be able to bring about everlasting peace and a world full of happiness,” said Family Federation for World Peace and Unification International Headquarters Director-General Sun Jin Moon.

On the first day of the Asian Summit, UPF held the Peace Awards Ceremony. Awards were given to the Asian Peace and Unity Corps, the Integrity Circles Movement and to Creativilla.

Director Chung-Shik Yong explained the meaning of the awards ceremony. “Peace is defined as the extension of interests of mankind to include the advancement of society. We would like to extend our gratitude to the Philippine press for the love they have continually shown for humankind, for their nation and for the environment. These people have truly left their comfort zones in order to bring about progress and to carry out the noble work of realizing lasting peace.” There were awards given in the categories of print media, radio, TV and social media, as well as the integrity award and the patriotism award....