

FFWPU Europe and Middle East: IAYSP International - Youth Rally of Hope

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Part I: Youth Concert of Hope

"Youth means fire. Without the youth there can be no hope for the future"

Now more than ever, hope for the future is what is keeping us all going. Empowering the youth of today is key to ensuring society's success tomorrow. With this in mind, IAYSP International hosted a global rally of hope!



The event started off with performances and words of advice from several Korean celebrities. The first being singer So-Jung Lee, member of K-pop band "Ladies' Code". When asked: "What does youth mean to you?" She responded that being young means to make mistakes and be okay with it. She stressed that your youth is the best time to make mistakes and how fear of failure can hold you back from the best learning experiences.



Our second guest was celebrity chef, Mr. Yeon-Bok Lee. Despite partially losing his sense of taste after surgery he still worked hard to become a well renowned chef. He stressed that talent is only 20% of success, the other 80% is effort. Therefore effort is more valuable than natural talent, we should focus on the things we can control rather than feel sorry for the things that we cannot.



Our last celebrity guest was Korean singer Se-jiin Lee. Reflecting on advice she would give to her younger self, she said: "Rather than comparing yourself to others, try to see how you can improve yourself and cooperate with others". Success is about mutual prosperity rather than competition, it's only when we can work together in this way that we will be truly happy. We really appreciated the advice given from all our special guests as well as their wonderful performances!

We also took this time to award the YSP Peace Prize, created to support innovative peace projects from young people. The prize was awarded to Cambodian singer and actor Oun Batham. Known widely by the nickname "Sai", he started the project "Run With Sai". The aim of his project was to raise money to build a hospital. Through running 2408km in 99 days, he raised \$500,000. He gained a lot of public support as well as collaborating with Unicef, a brilliant achievement!

Part II: S!nergy International

The final part of the programme was deciding the winner of this year's S!nergy competition. As well as having a panel of judges, the audience also had the opportunity to vote for their favourite finalists who all presented at the event.

First to present was Ms. Tatiana from Russia representing the Good Food project, an initiative that arose from one of our peace designer workshops, that combats the issue of food waste. Then Ms. Eunji Kim from Korea spoke on the UniUs Project that aims to aid the reunification of South and North Korea. She wants to challenge the negative stigma of reunification. Similarly, the Together for Tomorrow Peace Project was presented by two half Korean, half Japanese girls. Their aim is to improve relations between the two countries by coordinating more events for young people of both nationalities.

Second place was awarded to place Mr. Oscar Ruiz from Nicaragua, presenting his Arsenic Degrading Bacteria project. He explained that for him, the most pressing issue is the pollution of heavy metals, in which we can find this Arsenic degrading bacteria. He explains how this pollution has dangerous effects on our bodies and how we should do our best to clean our planet.

Finally, first place was awarded to Ms. Rica B Marfil from the Philippines. She founded NCT (Nurturing Children's Talents) to reduce inequalities associated with disabled children. She explains: "I see hope in their disabilities, just as someone has seen hope in my vulnerabilities". All finalists were awarded financial support towards their projects.

We hope that through seeing these innovative solutions to today's problems, young people around the world can feel inspired to take initiative to fight for the issues they are passionate about!