

Peace Road 2016 Switzerland

Heiner Handschin - July 16, 2016

version française :

<https://www.dropbox.com/s/fep138iwpkf107b/Peace%20Road%202016%20Switzerland%20FR.pdf?dl=0>

The Peace Road event in Switzerland took this year place in the Western part of the country centring on Geneva, in contrast to the last year's event that took place in the East and centring on Zurich.



There were several locations from where efforts were made in support of the Peace Road 2016 project in Switzerland. Peace Road cyclists in a symbolic effort gathered in the city of Biel at the Central Square. In the capital city of Bern cyclists and supporters gathered in front of the Federal Parliament building, connecting their location to the main arrival location, Geneva, "Place des Nations", in front of the UN Offices.

(pictures from Biel / Bern)



The main Peace Road tour in Switzerland this year began at 10h00 am at the UPF Peace Embassy in Belmont, outside of Lausanne, and the cyclists followed the main road alongside lake Geneva all the way to the “Place des Nations” in front of the UN Offices in Geneva.



The cyclists had to challenge a distance of 75 km passing through the cities of Rolle, Nyon and Versoix and were supposed to arrive in the afternoon at 4h00 pm in front of the UN compound.



The experienced cyclist, Mr. Jonah Gindroz, a young Unificationist, took on the job of leader of the team of cyclists and coach, making sure that all the participants arrived well at the final destination.





For the last 10 km from Versoix to Geneva, the cyclists were joined by a team of cyclists from Geneva under the leadership of the local UPF/FFWPU leader Mr. Michel Reymond. They passed the last part in a very fast pace and arrived 30 minutes before the expected time at the Place des Nations.



They were well received by a gathering of supporters and the whole group gathered for a picture and some refreshments in front of the UN Offices.

At 16h00 in front of the Palais des Nations in Geneva, a short presentation introduced the Peace Road project that this year in Switzerland emphasized the International Peace Highway that can bring unity and harmony beyond cultures, races religions and nationalities. The International Peace Highway was launched by the founders of UPF and FFWPU Dr. & Mrs. Moon in 1982 at an annual conference on the Unity of Sciences (ICUS) and has ever since gained more and more interest in vast parts of the world.



The idea of challenging the divisions particularly in Asia through the establishment of a 5th UN Office in the DMZ on the Korean Peninsula was another important topic emphasized this year. The gathering displayed a large banner promoting the creation of the 5th UN Office in the DMZ as well as a strengthening of efforts for the re-unification and reconciliation between the 2 Koreas, putting an end to the painful history of division for over 70 years.



In support of the small rally in front of the UN Offices, various religious Leaders and Peace Activists gathered, amongst them Mr. Hafid Ouairi of the "Fondation de l'Entre-connaissance" who paid tribute to the great ideals of Peace Road 2016. The event at the Place des Nations came to a close after 17h00.



Links:

official website of the international tour across 120 countries: www.peaceroad.net

PeaceRoad2016 Switzerland Photo Galery:

https://www.dropbox.com/sh/igrpt4fz82t51n7/AAB3KnuPc6AMINjhDvAHGv_Wa?dl=0

Video clip from Michel Reymond : <https://vimeo.com/174977472>

Contact: Heiner Handschin

President, Universal Peace Federation (UPF Suisse)

www.switzerland.upf.org

han@swissonline.ch