

Undersea Tunnel Connecting Japan and Korea - Lessons from the Eurotunnel

Robin Marsh
April 12, 2021



Toward An Undersea Tunnel Connecting Japan and Korea: Lessons from the Eurotunnel and the Marmaray Tunnel
International Highway Project
Universal Peace Federation's (UPF) International Association for Peace and Economic Development
Zoom Webinar: 8:00 am (BST), Monday, April 26th, 2021

Register [here](#) and we will send you the zoom link shortly.

Draft Programme:

Moderator: Robin Marsh, Secretary-General, UPF - UK

Welcome Remarks: Mr. Masayoshi Kajikuri, Chairman, International Highway Project, UPF Japan

Korean Representative of the Tunnel Project in Busan

Prof. Yoshimitsu Nishikawa Professor, Toyo University

Ms. Gözde Dizdar Vice President, Centrist Asia Pacific Democrats International, Turkey

Prof. Rodger Vickerman, Emeritus Professor, School of Economics, University of Kent and Visiting Professor and Chair, Transport Strategy Centre, Department of Environmental and Civil Engineering, Imperial College London

Q and A Session

Concluding Remarks: Jacques Marion, Co-Chairman of Europe and the Middle East UPF

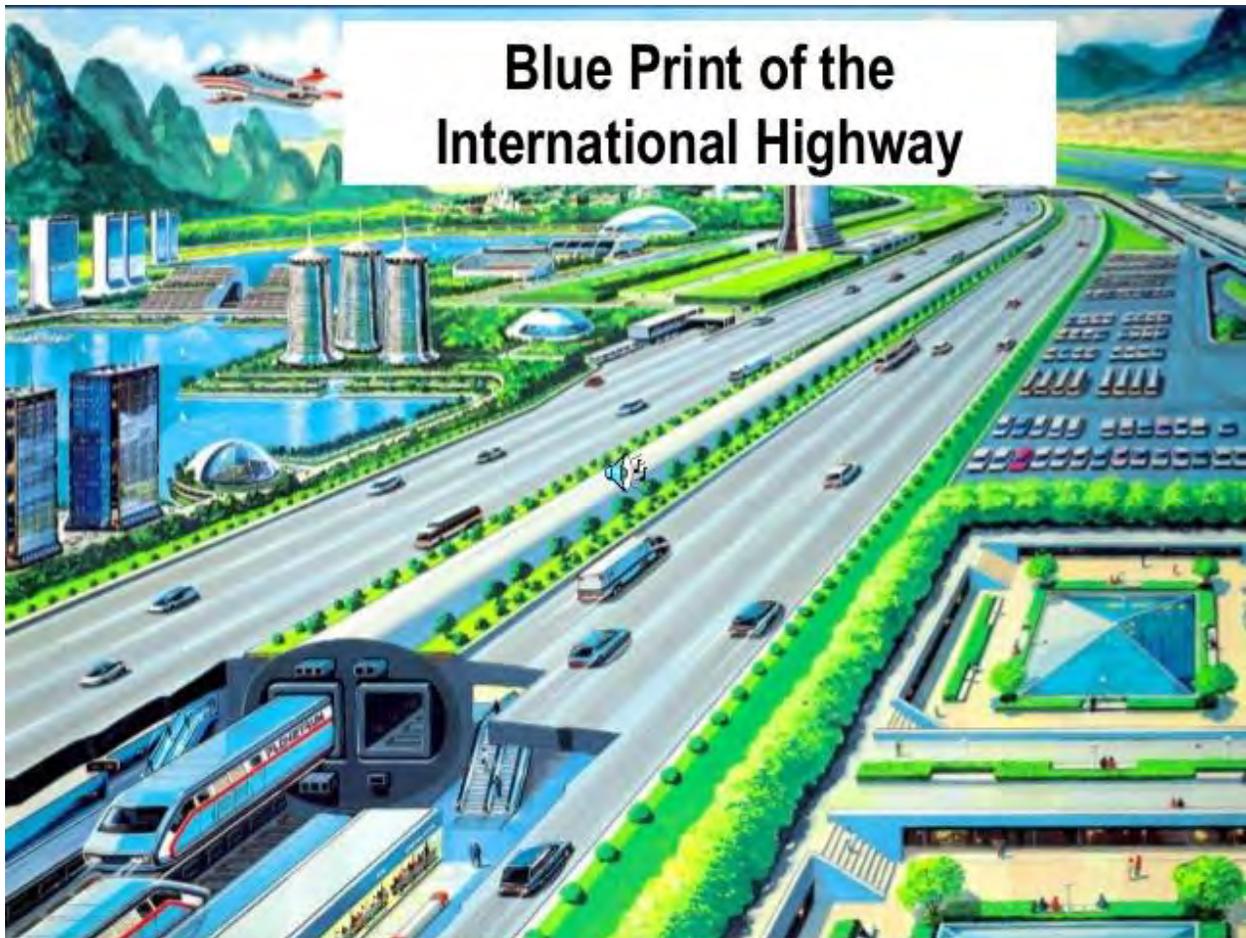
Background

In a mayoral election campaign in South Korea's second largest and southern city, Busan, a futuristic project for an undersea tunnel linking Korea and Japan was heatedly debated against the backdrop of the sour relations between the two most democratic and free economies in the Far East.

The project idea was proposed four decades ago, as a part of an international highway vision, by the co-founders of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. As world-renowned peace makers, their proposal is beyond worldly politics. It aims at harmonious bilateral relations across the strait, enhancing a possible reunification of the divided peninsula, and eventually contributing to a wider free economic zone throughout East Asia and beyond. As the election heat has now cooled, the project may now receive the calmer contemplation it deserves as it may offer one of the ingredients for the peace, stability and prosperity for the nations of East Asia.

In this webinar we would like to consider if a tunnel project can contribute to that end? In fact, the extent to which the prospects for peace, stability and prosperity can be enhanced by means of an undersea tunnel can be examined in two cases. The first is the Marmaray Tunnel (as well as the later Eurasian tunnel)

across the Bosphorus Strait dividing Asia and Europe in Istanbul (Turkey). It connects the two continents thanks to significant technical and economic support from Japan.



The second is the Strait of Dover where the Eurotunnel had to overcome formidable historical and political hurdles between Britain and France. Once completed, however, the tunnel transformed the area's geographic features. Even after Brexit, Britain is bound with continental Europe in every way other than the European Union's systems.

The webinar, being prepared by the UPF's International Association for Peace and Economic Development in Japan and Europe and the Middle East, will listen to experiences and lessons from Turkey, Britain and France as well as to Japan's views on the tunnel project.

PANEL

Dr. Yoshimitsu NISHIKAWA, Professor, Toyo University



Born in Osaka in 1955. He graduated from School of Law, Osaka University in 1978 and joined the Defense Agency (present Ministry of Defense). He served in various capacities, including Assistant to the Director of Cabinet Security Council, Senior Coordinator for Director-General's Secretariat of Defense Agency and Chief of Research Office at the National Institute for Defense Studies. During that time, he earned his Masters' degree in international relations from University of Leeds in England, as well as Ph.D. from Graduate School of Law, Osaka University. His interests focus upon international politics, political and diplomatic history and security studies.

He authored numerous books, including International Politics and Military Power, Modern History of International Relations I-IV, International Relations and Japan's National Strategy in Post-Cold War Era, The Rise and Fall of Hegemonic States, among many others. Dr. Nishikawa is a professor at the Faculty of Regional Development Studies, Toyo University, since 2002.

Ms. Gözde Dizdar



Vice President for Strategic Partnerships for the Centrist Asia Pacific Democrats International as well as the Founder and Managing Director of Governance and Development Global. She is also Chairwoman of the Youth Committee of the Global Parties Climate and Ecological Alliance (GPCEA), which supports joint efforts to fight against climate change and the ecological crisis, encouraging green governance and further realizing the sustainable development of economy, society and environment. Previously, in 2009, she was the Ankara Representative to the International Republic Institute advancing freedom and democracy, and Consultant to the World Bank with regard to youth policies.

Professor Roger Vickerman FAcSS FRSA FCILT FeRSA



Roger Vickerman is Emeritus Professor of European Economics at the University of Kent, and Visiting Professor and Chair of the Transport Strategy Centre, Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering, Imperial College London. He has published widely on many aspects of transport and is the author of 6 books, over 200 papers and editor of 6 editions. He was Editor in Chief of the journal *Transport Policy* from 2010-2016 and is Editor in Chief of Elsevier's *International Encyclopaedia of Transportation* to be published in May 2021. His recent research has focussed on the wider economic impacts of transport infrastructure investments, particularly high-speed rail. He has

served as an advisor to Parliamentary Committees in the UK and as a consultant to the European Commission, various government departments and regional and local government authorities in the UK and worldwide. He was awarded the Jules Dupuit Prize of the World Conference on Transport Research Society in 2016.

Please join us for this informative look at the proposal of the Japan - Korea Undersea Tunnel. Register [here](#) and we will send you the zoom link shortly.

Yours sincerely,

Robin Marsh

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