



UPF EUROPE & MIDDLE EAST NEWSLETTER



WORLD NEWS

BALKANS PEACE ROAD VISITS SEVEN NATIONS

By Gani Rroshi and Mateo Ziko
UPF-Albania

Bringing a message of peace to a region that is still recovering from years of bloody conflict, the 2018 Balkans Peace Road tour traveled through the nations of Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina from October 3 to 9, with the final event scheduled to take place in Greece on October 21. Events were held in 12 cities and involved over 30 partners, including the Albanian Parliament, eight municipalities, and many bicycling clubs, as shown in the Peace Road banner and brochure. A total of 25 participants—both young

and old—traveled on the Peace Road bus, representing 12 nations, including Mr. Gaqo Apostoli, the chair of UPF-Albania and Mr. Ali Lacej, the coordinator of the Albanian Peace Council.

The first event of the 2018 Balkans Peace Road took place on October 3 in the Albanian Parliament with the presence of the deputy speaker of the Parliament, Professor Vasilika Hysi; former President Alfred Moisiu; the world leader of the Bektashim Muslim order, Hajji Dede Edmond Brahimaj; the coordinator of IAPP in Albania, Professor Dr. Shezai Rrokaj; and many current and former members of Parliament, Ambassadors for Peace and young people—altogether 150 people. Right after the Parliament event, a public event took place in a main square of Tirana in cooperation with the city

government. Deputy Mayor Andi Seferi greeted the participants. At the end of the artistic program and performances, around 100 young people rode bicycles in Tirana until the Balkans Peace Road bus brought the participants to their next destination, the city of Shkodra.

With the cooperation and support of Shkodra City Hall, 70 local bicyclists—both professional and amateur—cycled for peace around the city in the late afternoon before gathering at the main square where Mayor Voltana Ademi greeted participants. By the next morning, October 4, the participants had crossed into Montenegro and had arrived in Podgorica, the capital. The city administration organized a program in the main square. where the deputy mayor, Mrs. Sladjana Vujacic, came to show her support.

LETTER FROM THE PUBLISHER Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, President, UPF Europe & Middle East



Dear Readers!

This second edition of the UPF Europe & Middle East Newsletter features activities that took place throughout our region mainly between July and October 2018.

Two large international events were held during that period, attended by Ambassadors for Peace and other leaders from our region: the Latin America Summit in Sao Paulo, Brazil, which gathered

500 participants from throughout Latin America and around the world; and the 32nd International Leadership Conference in Seoul, South Korea, commemorating the sixth anniversary of UPF founder Dr. Sun Myung Moon's ascension.

A recent project in the Balkan Peninsula pioneered a new avenue for peacebuilding: From October 1 to 11, the 2018 Balkans Peace Road brought together young people, parliamentarians, city mayors and other officials on a tour linking seven nations that share a history of conflict: Albania, Montenegro, Kosovo, Macedonia, Serbia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Greece.

Crossing borders often involves crossing barriers of minds and hearts burdened with painful memories. The Peace Road project is a global ideal envisioned by the UPF founders to connect nations beyond ethnic, religious, political or economic divides. The Balkans Peace Road project will continue annually and will make a headway for peace in this historical crossroads of cultures in the heart of Europe.

May this newsletter convey the dedication of UPF Ambassadors for Peace and volunteers who are actively involved in peacebuilding activities in this significant year of 2018.

On the morning of October 5, the next event took place in the Montenegrin city of Rozaje in cooperation with the city administration with the support of Mayor Ejup Nurkovic. In the next destination, Peja, many people gathered in the main square and artistic performances were organized by the city hall with the support of Peja Mayor Gazmend Muhaxheri. On the same day, the Peace Road delegation headed toward Pristina, the capital of Kosovo, where the delegation was welcomed by Pristina Mayor Shpend Ahmeti in the Assembly Hall.

The next day, October 6, the participants crossed into Macedonia and arrived in the capital, Skopje, where a public was organized in cooperation with the government of Čair, one of Skopje's municipalities in the presence of Deputy Mayor Asif Bekteshi. The evening program

continued with a congratulatory banquet attended by the speaker of Parliament, H.E. Talat Xhaferri. On October 7, the Balkans Peace Road headed toward Belgrade, the capital of Serbia. The delegation was welcomed at a dinner attended by several Ambassadors for Peace, including Mr. Aleksandar Pekovic, the founder of the ARTERIA Creative Network; Mr. Sinisa Ruzicic, a professional football coach and journalist.

The final event took place in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Symbolically the travelers went through Croatia to include it in the Peace Road map. In Bosnia the Peace Road event was combined with a Football for Peace event in the town of Bugojno. Two additional events of the 2018 Balkans Peace Road were scheduled for October 21: in the city of Korçë in southeastern Albania and the city of Kastoria in northwestern Greece.



2



3



4

- 1 The Peace Road participants were welcomed into the Albanian Parliament by Hon. Vasilika Hysi, Deputy Speaker.
- 2 The Peace Road bus departing from Skopje, Macedonia, to travel to Belgrade, Serbia.
- 3 The Peace Road cyclists in Shkodra City, Albania
- 4 With Sladana Vujacic, Deputy Mayor of Podgorica, capital of Montenegro

AN ECONOMICALLY EFFICIENT RAILROAD PROJECT

Dr. Victor Razbegin, Director, Interdepartmental Centre for Integrated Regional Transport Projects, Russian Ministry of Economic Development.



Today's event is about the 26th Peace Road initiative in Korea and I always deeply respect people who design and build roads, especially roads to peace. The population of the earth continues to increase and, in about 40 years according to the forecasts, it will exceed 10 billion people. From

the very beginning, humanity inhabited the planet very unevenly. The uneven nature of the initial opportunities creates inequality and, at the same time, is an incentive for development. However, too much inequality causes social tensions and does not lead to peace and harmony.

Sea transport is the leading transportation mode, which is understandable given its relative cheapness, developed logistic services and the lack of need to cross the borders of many countries along the road. However, it is not always true that sea transport is cheaper, because you must take into account all of the expenses, such as the costs at the port, those to reach the port from the main industrial centres, the change in the mode of transportation at each port, and so on. Rail transportation is always faster than sea transportation and can sometimes be less expensive.

If we examine the international rail network, we can see that there are some critical points, some of which have been overcome, such as the English Channel and, in some cases, there are plans to overcome the problem, such as the Strait of Gibraltar, the Tsushima Strait, the Panama channel and, of course, my favourite project is crossing the Bering Strait. If we cross the Bering Strait by tunnel and

The following is an excerpt of his address given at a forum organized by the Peace Road Foundation in Seoul, Korea, on August 26, 2018.

build the necessary rail links on the mainland, it will become possible to travel from Paris to New York by railroad. More important, however, is that this railroad would allow hitherto untapped mineral and other resources to become available and would allow for the development of these territories. Also, the electric power connections along these roads, would allow for the development of hydroelectric and tidal power stations.

I have to underline that this is an example of a really economically efficient railroad project. For a total required investment of 60-67 billion dollars, the return on investment would be between 13 and 15 years. From the technical point of view, crossing the Bering Strait involves favourable engineering and geological conditions. The depths involved are not that great and there is almost no seismic risk. Nowadays, even more ambitious projects, such as building a tunnel under the Bohai bay, are being considered. I think that we will see this great experiment, which is the Bering Strait tunnel, become reality within the next few decades. Also, the Japan-Korea undersea tunnel is technically more complex and difficult than the Bering Strait tunnel, but I think that this could also be economically profitable.

Thus, we can say that investment in infrastructure creates opportunities for peace, for social and economic development and for commercial cooperation between countries. So, all of us involved in the leadership of countries have to create opportunities for the construction of transcontinental infrastructures and then I'm sure the world will become a better place. Thank you very much.

Visit www.europe.upf.org for the complete transcription.

The Universal Peace Federation is an
Official Supporting Partner of the



القمة العالمية للتسامح
World Tolerance Summit

Under the Patronage of
**H.H. Sheikh Mohammed Bin Rashid
Al Maktoum**, UAE Vice President, Prime
Minister and Ruler of Dubai

UPCOMING EVENTS

**"PROSPERING FROM PLURALISM:
EMBRACING DIVERSITY THROUGH
INNOVATION AND COLLABORATION"**

15-16 November 2018, Dubai, United Arab Emirates

This 2-day interactive summit will engage international thought leaders, decision-makers and influencers in thought-provoking discussions on how tolerance brings about real positive change in people's lives. WTS 2018 will take place in Dubai, a melting pot of many expatriates from around the world, and is held in line with the International Day for Tolerance in November as declared by the United Nations and in conjunction with the National Festival of Tolerance.

www.worldtolerancesummit.com

WORLD NEWS

LATIN AMERICA SUMMIT

From a report by Dr. William Selig,
UPF International

The Portugal chapters of UPF and WFWP sent a delegation representing Europe to the first Latin America Summit 2018 organized by the Universal Peace Federation in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on August 2-5, 2018. Held at the Renaissance Sao Paulo Hotel, the event gathered 400 participants including former heads of state and first ladies from six Latin American nations; parliamentarians and party leaders; religious leaders from various confessions and denominations, including Roman Catholic Cardinal Kelvin Felix from Dominica and Saint Lucia; etc.

The Summit featured presentations on current projects developed by UPF and affiliate organizations throughout the world, such as the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD), the Peace Road project, character education programs, etc.

UPF chairman Dr Thomas Walsh spoke about the vision underlying UPF activities in our changing world: "In many ways we are witnessing the emergence of a new global paradigm, he said [...] a shift from an Atlantic-



centered world to an Asia Pacific world [...] from a Northern-centered world to an emerging Southern hemisphere [...] Rev. and Mrs. Moon anticipated these changes and understood that it is essential for these changes to occur peacefully. The principles they have taught underscore the need for dialogue, understanding, mutual respect and cooperation. These are the principles that underlie the work of UPF.”

Introduced by H.E. Julio Maria Sanguinetti, the former president of Uruguay, UPF Co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon told the assembly about her vision for the future of the American continent, the need for cooperation between South and North America. She encouraged religious leaders to acknowledge both the accomplishments and failings in Christian history and ended with a

call for women and mothers to take the lead in peace-making today.

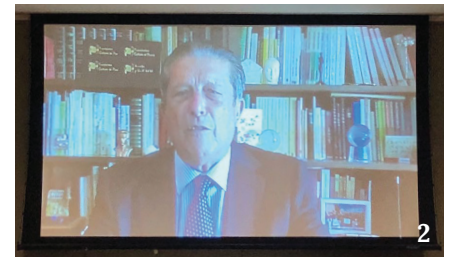
On August 4, the participants were invited as guests of honor to a “Rally of Hope for Latin America” attended by 30,000 participants at the Stadium Allianz Parque, where Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon also addressed the crowd.

The Portuguese delegation, led by UPF Portugal President Dr. Sérgio Vieira, included Prof. Delmar Gonçalves, a writer from the Mozambican Writers Circle in the Diaspora (CEMD) and UPF Ambassador for Peace; Dr. Isabel Leitão, a well-known singer, coordinator for cultural activities at the Business Confederation of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CE-CPLP); and Dr. Gonçalo Terenas, Chair of the Africa Cluster Group, a multisectoral Luso-African consortium.

Each of the delegates testified to the scope of the meeting that gathered high level leaders from all over Latin America and expressed their intention to cooperate with UPF in their various fields of activities.



- 1 Catholic Cardinal Kelvin Felix receives good governance award from Dr. Hak Ja Han and Dr. Sun Jin Moon
- 2 From left to right: Prof. Delmar Gonçalves, Dr. Michael Balcomb, Dr. Sérgio Vieira, Dr. Gonçalo Terenas and Dr. Isabel Leitão



WORLD NEWS

SUMMIT OF PARLIAMENTARIANS AT THE U.N.

New York, United States—UPF Vice President Dr. Tageldin Hamad chaired a high-level roundtable at the United Nations during a Summit of Parliamentarians.

The summit, “On the Role of Parliaments for Promoting the Culture of Peace and Implementing the SDGs,” was held on September 4, 2018.

The Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Global Ethics (IPCGE) organized the event, which was co-sponsored by the Permanent Missions of Sri Lanka and Benin as well as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO).

The Inter-Parliamentary Coalition for Global Ethics promotes the alignment of national legislation with the implementation of U.N. resolutions on the culture of peace, environmental ethics and social justice. Its primary aim is to motivate parliamentarians to adopt legislation for mandatory education on the culture of peace and the U.N. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as a fundamental measure to prevent terrorism and violent extremism.

IPCGE wants religious, academic, media and civil society leaders to implement the proposed legislation with the support of U.N. institutions as envisaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Plan of Action to Prevent Radical Violence.

The September 4 program began with welcoming remarks from two ambassadors to the United Nations: H.E. Dr. A. Rohan Perera from Sri Lanka and H.E. Jean-Claude Felix do Rego from Benin.

The keynote speakers were Hon. Eric Houndete, deputy speaker of the Parliament of Benin; Hon. Dr. Wijeyedasa Rajapakshe, minister of higher education and cultural affairs of Sri Lanka; and Hon. Jean Max Rakotomamonjy, president of the National Assembly of Madagascar.

High-level speakers—including French Senator Samia Ghali; Hon. Jordi Xuclà, a member of Spain’s Council of Deputies; and Nigerian Senator Ibrahim Mantu—addressed the global, legislative and national frameworks for the education for the culture of peace and the SDGs.

UNESCO liaison officer Ms. Lily Gray and Mr. Matthew Hodes, director of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, also offered remarks. H.E. Federico Mayor Zaragoza, a former director-general of UNESCO, spoke to the audience through a video message.

Participants represented the fields of religion, civil society and the private sector.



- 1 UPF Vice President Dr. Tageldin Hamad (middle) chairs a roundtable. To his right are Hon. Erick Houndete, deputy speaker of the Parliament of Benin, and H.E. Jean-Claude Felix do Rego, Benin’s ambassador to the United Nations. To his left are H.E. Dr. A. Rohan Perera, Sri Lanka’s ambassador to the United Nations, and Hon. Dr. Wijeyedasa Rajapakshe, Sri Lankan minister of higher education and cultural affairs.
- 2 H.E. Federico Mayor Zaragoza, a former director-general of UNESCO, sends a video greeting to the summit.
- 3 The summit “On the Role of Parliaments for Promoting the Culture of Peace and Implementing the SDGs” is held in a conference room of the United Nations in New York.



WORLD NEWS

THE NELSON MANDELA CENTENARY CELEBRATION

By Patrick Jouan, Vice President, UPF France

At the UPF International Leadership Conference in Korea in February, 2018, Nelson Mandela’s grandson, Chief Mandla Zwelivelile Mandela, who had previously attended the UPF Africa Summit in Dakar, Senegal on January 18 and 19, 2018, committed to help organize the 2nd Africa Summit in South Africa in late 2018.

Chief Mandela had been impressed by this event and wanted to organize such a meeting for his country, which despite its development needs a vision, hope for its citizens: a nation of peace. At the same time, Reverend Moon, the founder of UPF, had previously spoken of the creation of a highway of peace starting from the Cape of Good Hope.

In preparation for this event, a celebration of the centenary of Nelson Mandela’s birth was planned in his native village of Mvezo komkhulu, located about 50 km from Umtata (Mthatha), which is itself about 900 km from Johannesburg.

The idea and proposal of Chief M. Mandela was that with the cooperation of the Royal House of Mandela, the Traditional Council of Mvézo and the Universal Peace Federation would organize an event at the birthplace of his grandfather on the anniversary of his 100th birthday,

July 18, 2018. This would be the springboard for a national summit proposed for November 2018.

Among the first to arrive for this event was the current President of South Africa, Cyril Ramaphosa, followed by former South African Presidents Jacob Zuma and Kgalema Motlanthe, and former Kenyan prime minister and presidential candidate, Raila Odinga.

The whole program went very well. The speeches of President Ramaphosa, the two former presidents and the video message from former president Frederik De Clerk were of high quality. Especially, the introduction made by Chief Mandela explained well the context, speaking of the heritage of the international icon that was his grandfather.

At the end of the event, Chief Mandela obtained the tacit agreement of President Ramaphosa to hold the 2nd African Summit in November in Cape Town.

- 1 The Nelson Mandela Centenary Celebration
- 2 The author in front of the statue of Nelson Mandela
- 3 Front Center left to right: former President of South Africa Jacob Zuma, current President Cyril Ramaphosa and former prime minister of Kenya, Raila Odinga, arriving for the centenary event.
- 4 The museum in Nelson Mandela’s native village of Mvezo komkhulu.



FOUNDER'S MESSAGE

TUNNELS AND BRIDGES FOR PEACE

Dr. Sun Myung Moon, 10/11/1981, 10th International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences, Sejong Cultural Center, Seoul, Korea

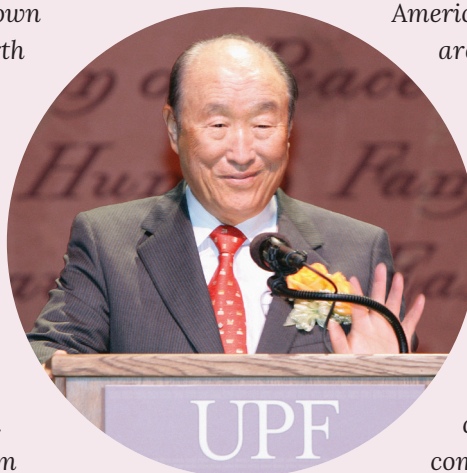
In conclusion, I would like to make a proposal. It is to construct a Great Asian Highway zone that would run through China, Korea and Japan and eventually link the world by constructing a Great Free World Highway zone to connect the whole world. This would be a great international highway, around which freedom would be guaranteed. The highway would go through Mainland China, down the Korean Peninsula from north to south, through a tunnel or over a bridge to Japan, and north through the four main Japanese islands.

If this highway were constructed, the three Asian countries would be linked through the highway and become one. The economic and cultural exchange between them would be so robust that it would enable them to form an Asian Common Community. China also would agree to this, as would Korea and Japan, without a second thought. Then the United States and Germany would come to take part in it automatically.

If this plan were carried out according to the framework suggested here, free exchanges would become the norm among all the people of the East. I sincerely hope that all of you distinguished participants, coming from more than one hundred countries to this memorable International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences in Korea, will gain deep insight into these matters and offer your concrete cooperation.

Dr. Sun Myung Moon, Inaugural Address of the Universal Peace Federation, 12/9/2005

Let me take the opportunity provided by today's distinguished forum to reiterate my proposal for a truly providential and revolutionary project. For the sake of peace and human welfare, I propose that we build a passage for transit across the Bering Strait, where Satan has historically divided east and west, and north and south, and where the North American and Russian land masses are separated. This passage, which I call the "World Peace King Bridge Tunnel," will link an International Highway System that will allow people to travel on land from Africa's Cape of Good Hope to Santiago, Chile, and from London to New York, across the Bering Strait, connecting the world as a single community.



God is warning that He will no longer tolerate separation and division. Carrying out this project will bind the world together as one village. It will tear down the man-made walls of race, culture, religion and country, and establish the world of peace that has been God's cherished desire.

The United States and Russia can become as one. The European continent, China, India, Japan, Brazil and all nations, and also all the world's religions, can combine their energies to succeed in this project. The success of this project will be decisive in establishing a Peace Kingdom where people will no longer make war with each other.

REGIONAL NEWS

PEACE ROAD REPORTS

The Peace Road and the World Peace Road Foundation are global goodwill projects of UPF. The founding vision of an international highway that physically connects all people of the world together was proposed by the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon in 1981. The Peace Road exemplifies a message of hope and the belief that if people can meet each other in daily life through culture, trade and travel, they will come to break down the barriers of nationality, ethnicity and religion that have historically divided us from our closest neighbors.

The participants with the mayor of Eidskog village at the peace pagoda, a gift from the Korean city of Hwacheon.



Peace Road Hamburg in Hitzacker on the banks of the Elbe overlooking the former East German border



Peace Road in the Netherlands was conducted in two cities, Nijmegen and The Hague, in conjunction with the Council of World Views and Religions and the Hindu society in The Hague, respectively.



At Oldbridge Estate at the site of the Battle of the Boyne at County Meath, Ireland.



Peace Road Düsseldorf visits three different faith communities on their march for peace.



The cyclists started with a rally at Neupfarrplatz in the historic center of Regensburg.



Peace Road participants in front of the Ohel Jakob synagogue.



Peace Road Spain travelled to the Sanctuary of Nuria in the Pyrenees.



Bicyclists from Italy, Slovenia and Austria took part in the Peace Road event that visited all three nations.



Peace Road Upper Austria on the Peace Bridge in front of the Forestry Museum in Reichraming



The Peace Road event was held with the support of the Mayor of Capici and several associations.



Connecting the World through PEACE
PEACE ROAD



The Peace Road participants - bicyclists and walkers alike - by the Brandenburg Gate



Finnish Member of Parliament Mika Niikko greets the participants after the event.



The Peace Road flag is unfurled inside Moscow's Luzhniki Stadium before the final match of the 2018 World Cup.



The final stage of the round-the-world bicycle tour "Peace Road" was celebrated in Kazan, Russia.



Ildus Yanyshv (center) with fellow global bicyclist Vladimir Kovalenko and supporters from UPF-Novosibirsk in front of Novosibirsk's National Public Library for Science and Technology.



The participants visit the Strategic Missile Forces Museum to view an SS-18 intercontinental ballistic missile.



Peace Road Turkey participants at Sile on the Black Sea coast.



Peace Road bikers in front of Hammana Municipality 1200m above sea-level with welcoming remarks by the mayor.



The first stage of the Balkans Peace Road concluded with a Football for Peace tournament in Bosnia Herzegovina.



Peace Road participants at the Hammana Sporting City.

REGIONAL NEWS

LAKE BAIKAL SERVICE PROJECT DRAWS INTERNATIONAL TEAMS

By Yevgeny Skvortsov, UPF-Urals

Kultuk, Russia—Adults and children spent several weeks improving an area near Lake Baikal as part of an annual service project organized by UPF.

Between July 2 and August 24, four different groups came to the largest freshwater lake in the world, located in southern Siberia, to take part in the 2018 Baikal Project.

In the mountainous terrain near the lake they built a half-kilometer bicycle path and equipped two observation platforms. They also rebuilt two pedestrian bridges across a mountain river near the town of Slyudyanka and laid a corridor for a new sightseeing trail at the Sobolinaya Mountain ski resort near the town of Baikalsk.

The total number of participants was 64 adults and 13 children. Ten adults and five children joined additional projects. Along with Russians, the participants included representatives of Vietnam, China, Japan, Kazakhstan, Georgia, France, Belgium and Bulgaria.



In 2018, the Baikal Project established “a cooperative relationship with the organization Great Baikal Trail—Buryatia, which provided some tools and volunteers.

Each of the main shifts included an educational program on volunteerism, family values, and peacebuilding as well as a one-week mountain trip. Although most of the participants were young adults, one of the shifts was designed for families with children as young as 5 years.

At the end of the season, the project organizing committee met with representatives of the administration and the mayor of Slyudyanka to assess the summer’s results and to make plans for the future.

REGIONAL NEWS

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE



The peace concert in Düsseldorf featured performances by professional musicians Ryosuke Sato (tenor), Erika Kamura (piano) and Yurie Kamura (piano) and artwork by Hirooki Hatori.



Participants of the IDP celebration in Georgia, including main guest Mrs. Dalila, head of the non-governmental organization Georgia for Refugees (front row, second from right) and UPF-Georgia Chair Maka Abugbaia (front row, third from right).



On September 20, 2018, UPF-Ukraine held its fifth Junior Ambassadors for Peace Congress dedicated to the UN International Day of Peace, featuring a performance by the “Angels Over Ukraine”.



The celebration in Denmark was held in the former Upper Chamber of the Danish Parliament in Christiansborg Palace hosted by Hon. Yildiz Akdogan MP.



Participants of the 2018 International Day of Peace celebration held at the UPF Peace Embassy in Moscow.



At the event in Vladivostok, UPF, represented by the Sergienko family, held a master class on making “Peace Flowers.”



The event in Munich featured speakers from various religions including Gottfried Hutter, a Roman Catholic theologian.

REGIONAL NEWS

PEACE DAY LAUNCH FOR IAPD GENEVA/SWISS CHAPTER

The Geneva, Swiss chapter of the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) was inaugurated in the Ecumenical Center of Geneva at a conference held on September 21, 2018, the International Day of Peace, by UPF in close partnership with Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), as well as the Geneva Interfaith Intercultural Alliance (GIIA) and the Fribourg Peace Forum.

In his welcoming remarks, Mr. Heiner Handschin, the president of UPF-Switzerland, reminded the audience that on this 37th International Day of Peace, one could equally celebrate the 70 years of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 70 years of the World Council of Churches.

Dr. Peniel Jesudason Rufus Rajkumar, an Anglican cleric and theological scholar who is the executive director of WCC's program for interreligious dialogue and co-operation, extended the greetings and best wishes of WCC's general secretary, the Rev. Dr. Olaf Fykse Tveit. Dr. Rajkumar spoke of the need for greater interreligious harmony in tackling the key issues of the world.

Building on a series of nine Model UN Interfaith Youth Council conferences in cooperation with the Geneva Interfaith Intercultural Alliance, a debate was held among youth representatives of major religions based on the proposal that UPF founder Dr. Sun Myung Moon made in 2000 at the UN in New York to create a high-level interreligious council at the heart of the United Nations. The council was presided by the newly appointed Rabbi Kevin De-Carli of the Jewish community of Baden, Switzerland.

The conference also featured sessions on "Transforming Conflicts and Creating Lasting Peace", "Religious Leaders and Parliamentarians as Peacemakers" and "Interreligious Cooperation as a Major Factor for Sustainable Peace in the World". Among the speakers were Hon. Patricia Lalonde, a member of the European Parliament of the Group Alliance of Liberals and Democrats of Europe, Dr. William A. McComish, dean emeritus of the Geneva St. Peter's Cathedral, as well as Dr. Rifa'at Lenzin, President of IRAS COTIS, Switzerland.

Other prominent speakers were Dr. Iqbal Alimohamed, a former senior official at the Office of the High Commissioner for Refugees, Dr. Adrian Holderegger, professor emeritus of moral theology and ethics and president of the Fribourg Peace Forum, Dr. Elmar Kuhn, the dean of world religions at the European Academy of Science and Arts, Dr. Wissam al-Saliby, representing the World Evangelical Alliance, Mr. Ivo Sasek, founder and president of the OCG, Dr. Astrid Stuckelberger, a professor and researcher at UNIL and UNIGE, Dr. Arun Pabari, the president of the National Council of the Sathya Sa Switzerland and Dr. Amiira Neff, former member of the city council of Montreux.

The Closing Session featured the launching of IAPD in Geneva. Dr. Michael Balcomb, the regional chair of FFWPU for Europe and the Middle East, conveyed the vision and the greetings of the founder of IAPD, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, emphasizing the very important location in Geneva as one of the historical centers of Protestantism and home of the WCC.



1 Participants and speakers in the Ecumenical Center after the end of the conference



2 Dr. Peniel Jesudason Rufus Rajkumar, executive director of the World Council of Churches' program for interreligious dialogue and cooperation.



3 Hon. Patricia Lalonde, a member of the European Parliament



- 1 The 32nd International Leadership Conference organized by UPF brought together more than 300 leaders from over 80 nations
- 2 Chief Mandla Zwelivelile Mandela, chief of the Mvezo Traditional Council and grandson of Nelson Mandela, addresses the ILC
- 3 Session IV on the role of religious leaders included a number of important speakers from Europe and the Middle East

WORLD NEWS

PARLIAMENTARIANS, FAITH LEADERS ADDRESS CHALLENGES OF OUR TIME

Based on a report by Dr. William Selig

Seoul, Korea—The 32nd International Leadership Conference organized by UPF brought together more than 300 leaders from over 80 nations. The ILC was held at the Lotte Hotel World from August 26 to 29, 2018, under the theme “Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: The Responsibility of Parliamentarians and Religious Leaders.” The select group of international participants, including many from Europe, Eurasia and the Middle East, comprised many current parliamentarians, along with religious leaders and civil society leaders.

In the search for innovative solutions to the world’s problems, and with an aim to exploring and underscoring the role and responsibility of parliamentarians and religious leaders, experts and discussants shared their wisdom and experience on topics related to the general theme.

Beginning with the reunification of the Korean Peninsula, issues included extremist ideologies and terrorism, religious conflicts, violence against women and children, human trafficking, drug trade, human rights violations,

climate change, Middle East and the South China Sea. To deal with these and other serious challenges, the parliamentarians and religious leaders agreed to work together and build a global network of individuals and organizations dedicated to world peace.

UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon invited the ILC participants to be guests of honor at a World Peace Blessing and a special commemoration of the sixth anniversary of the passing of her husband, the Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon.

In addition to the many distinguished guests from around the world, this ILC had the participation of Chief Mandla Mandela, chief of the Mvezo Traditional Council and a member of the Parliament of South Africa, who spoke about the next Africa Summit, to be co-hosted jointly by the Royal House of Mandela and UPF later this year in Cape Town, South Africa. The South African president has been invited to be the keynote speaker at the opening ceremony, along with other heads of state.

UPF Europe & Middle East Newsletter

Published by Universal Peace Federation Europe,
43 Lancaster Gate, London, England, W2 3NA, UK
Printed by PBTisk a.s., Dělostřelecká 344, 261 01 Příbram, CZ
contact@europe.upf.org · www.europe.upf.org

Copyright © 2018, Universal Peace Federation.
All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part
prohibited except by written permission.

UPCOMING EVENTS IN 2018

- IAPP inauguration in Morocco, Houses of Parliament*
Nov. 7, Rabat, Morocco
 - World Tolerance Summit (see pg. 3)*
Nov. 15–16, Dubai, United Arab Emirates
 - 2nd African Summit on Peace, Security and Development*
Nov. 21–25, Cape Town, South Africa
 - Asia Pacific Summit 2018*
Nov. 30 – Dec. 3, Kathmandu, Nepal,
 - Conference on Europe and the Future of Human Rights*
Dec. 12, EU Parliament, Strasbourg, France
- More events at www.europe.upf.org/agenda/events