

Toward a New Paradigm for Peace and Human Development

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Seoul, Korea - "Toward a New Paradigm for Peace and Human Development" was the theme of an International Leadership Conference that drew people from 60 nations to Seoul, Korea, from Feb. 9 to 13, 2014. Distinguished diplomats, scholars and peace activists offered insights into current events on the Korean Peninsula and in the Middle East to an audience of about 400 people. Religious leaders, educators, journalists and women leaders described their work to build understanding and improve relations among diverse people in Africa, the Americas, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.



The Universal Peace Federation, as the conference organizer and primary sponsor, was pleased to have the support of four partnering organizations: the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, Segye Times, The Washington Times Foundation and the Women's Federation for World Peace.



In introducing the basic concept of the conference theme, Dr. Thomas Walsh, president of UPF International, identified a variety of characteristics of a “new paradigm for peace and human development,” including the increasing inclusion of the marginalized, the resurgence of religion, the growing importance and relevance of civil society and non-state actors, and the digital communications revolution. Dr. Jeung Rho Yoon, chair of UPF-Korea, described the grass-roots outreach of Korean Ambassadors for Peace who keep alive hopes for the reunification of their divided peninsula.



A roadmap for peace in Northeast Asia

The session on peacebuilding issues of North and South Korea featured Ambassador Christopher Hill, former US ambassador to Korea and head of the US delegation at the Six-Party Talks. He emphasized that North Korea does not need nuclear weapons to defend itself and that if North Korea would abandon this ambition the United States would offer energy resources and business development in order to help it rejoin the community of nations. His speech later that day at the Korean National Assembly was covered by national news media.



Other speakers traced the varying interests of Japan, China and Russia in Korean Peninsula issues. Dr. Hyunik Hong, senior research fellow in the Security Strategy Studies Department at the Sejong Institute in Seoul, called for freezing of North Korea's nuclear weapons program and expressed hopes that talks could resume, at least among four nations if not six, as before. Dr. Alexander Zhebin, director of the Center for Korean Studies at the Russian Academy of Sciences' Institute of Far Eastern Studies, expressed hope for positive outcomes from Russian proposals for economic cooperation with North Korea. Mr. Hiroshi Yamada, a lecturer on international relations at Kaetsu University in Tokyo, described some of the diplomatic stalemates in the region and the restrictions on Japan's role in promoting security.



Dr. Chang Shik Yang, chair of UPF and The Washington Times Foundation, opened the session by describing the vision of the organizations' founders, Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, for the Northeast Asia Peace Initiative and their efforts to ease tensions between the two nations. The session was chaired by Dr. Alexandre Mansourov, one of the leading experts on North Korea in the United States.



Peace and human development

Keynote speakers at the conference included Mrs. Margareta Timofti, first lady of Moldova, who described the former Soviet republic's challenges of preserving traditional values while seeking greater links with the European Union. She paid tribute to UPF-Moldova for helping children with autism. Mme. Mintou Doucouré Traore, the first lady of Mali from 2012 to 2013, talked about the suffering and displacement of the people in her West African country caused by separatist forces and expressed hope that UPF will implement a peace initiative in Africa.



A former Japanese minister of defense, Hon. Yoshinori Ohno, referred to Japan's dilemma of being restricted in its use of military force and then described some opportunities for Japan to make a positive impact in conflict areas, such as providing medical services.

The Founder's Address was delivered on behalf of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon by Mrs. Julia H. Moon, general director of the Universal Ballet in Korea. She referred to Rev. Sun Myung Moon's teachings about peace as a profoundly spiritual concept: "Whenever he spoke, he shared an inspiring vision of the human family

rising up together in love and overcoming the barriers of nationality, race and religion. He taught that peace describes a state of spiritual and physical harmony; an ideal state of being for the individual, the family, the society, the nation and the world.”



Peace in the Middle East was an issue close to the heart of a number of conference speakers. Dr. Michael Jenkins, a member of UPF’s Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI) steering committee, gave an overview of ten years of interfaith peacebuilding in Israel, Palestine and Jordan. “We are challenged to transcend the barriers of our religions and believe that God inspired religions other than our own,” he said. But those who try to bring people together are viewed with suspicion and sometimes hostility, he reported, and the work of trust-building requires much patience and persistence. H.E. Dr. Mohammed R. Al Hussaini Al Sharif, ambassador of the League of Arab States to the United States, gave an overview of the political and diplomatic stalemates in the region and called for implementation of the Arab Peace Initiative that was agreed upon at a 2002 summit in Beirut.



A session devoted to the principles of peacebuilding was opened by Dr. Michael Balcomb, US president of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification. Mrs. Eugenia Kagawa, director of UPF

International's Executive Office, and Mr. Ricardo de Sena, director of UPF International's Office of Latin American and Caribbean Affairs, contributed insights into the founders' peace principles, followed by Dr. Thomas Selover of Cheongshim Theological Seminary in Korea, who offered reflections from the context of East Asian culture.



Songs by a North Korean women's group introduced a session on women in leadership that explored themes of peace, partnership and development. Dr. Lan Young Moon, president of the Women's Federation for World Peace International, talked about being moved by the suffering she witnessed during her 20 trips on charitable missions to her native North Korea, from which she had escaped as a young girl, but still not being allowed to visit her hometown.



Two other women talked about their humanitarian work. A native Syrian living in the United States, Dr. Rehab Bitar, president of Cultural Bridge, Syria, gave faces to the growing numbers of displaced and suffering people by showing images of women she met while on a recent high-risk journey to Damascus. Ms. Cynthia Turner, executive vice president of Medical Services Corporation, described her work to

improve the economic status and stability of communities where people are recovering and rebuilding after conflict.



Additional speakers challenged women to aim high. Dr. Meena Upadhyaya, a professor of medical genetics at Cardiff University in Wales, UK, talked about her life journey as an immigrant from India to her current position as an innovator in cancer research and treatment. Dr. Shigeko Fukai, visiting professor at Chiba National University in Japan, called on women in developed countries to lead a "paradigm shift toward a more sustainable world" both by pressuring their governments to move toward greater sustainability and by changing wasteful lifestyles.



New paradigms

Speakers examined various facets of the term “paradigm” in the conference title, drawing inspiration from art, music and scripture[does this mean literature or does it mean Scripture, as holy texts?] as well as life experience.



With Europe's increasingly diverse population, education has an important role in promoting better understanding. Mr. Bart ten Broek, secretary of the steering committee of United Religions Initiative in the Netherlands, reported about religious education in schools, where Christian and Muslim students learn about their own religious teachings, rituals and stories and then teach them to each other in a mutual discovery of similarities and differences. Ven. Dr. Michel Thao Chan, president of Reflection of Nations Circle in France, described the graduate programs in peace administration and international governance that he developed, drawing on his grounding in three religious traditions as a Vedantist, Sufi and Buddhist monk.



Addressing the session on the Middle East, Sheikh Dr. Hojjat Ramzy, director of the Muslim Council of Britain, pointed out the diversities of peoples and faiths in the region and recommended “cultural diplomacy” and efforts to mend “the torn fabric of ancient societies” with care and understanding. A former deputy mayor of Jerusalem, Hon. Naomi Sarah Tsur, described eight kilometers of an abandoned railway line that had been used as a dump by nearby neighborhoods. As evidence of the mending power of a compelling larger vision, she said that joint clean-up efforts stimulated diverse people to start talking to each other.



By the end of this century, 90 percent of the world's peoples will be living in cities, stated Dr. Shoichi Ito, a professor in the Faculty of Agriculture at Kyushu National University in Japan. He believes that concern about food security will be a compelling motive for urban officials to establish and maintain good relations with surrounding areas and nations.

Mr. Michael Leonard McIntyre, former president of the Capital Region Interreligious Council in Canada, reflected about his visit to the Church of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem as a participant in the recent MEPI program. With the images of children killed in the bombing of Aleppo, Syria, still fresh in his mind, he recalled Michelangelo's sculpture "Pieta," depicting the grief of Jesus' mother, Mary, at her son's death. A Buddhist, Mr. McIntyre spoke of the need to open the inner dimension and awaken the heart of welcoming the divine.



Religious paradigms both ancient and modern inform the worldview of people in many walks of life, as evidenced by conference speakers in various sessions. Coming from the homeland of four world religions, Amb. Ashok Sajjanhar, a retired Indian diplomat, recited the ancient Hindu invocation "Om Shanti,"

expressing the ageless desire that all beings may live in happiness and peace, free from illness and suffering.



The Arabic term *Awneh* (meaning “joining hands”) was offered by Mrs. Laudy Sleiman Sfeir, president of Call of Society in Lebanon, as a metaphor for how the 18 communal groups in her nation have been trying, with varying degrees of success, to maintain cohesion. Brig. Gen. Roberto P. Santiago from the Philippines described the vicious circles of conflict in his homeland and how the government has sought to build lasting peace by calling on people of faith to take the lead in setting aside past resentments and working for reconciliation.



“Religion is the tie that binds us back to the original relationship we had with God before the human fall,” said Archbishop George Stallings Jr., president of the American Clergy Leadership Conference. He quoted from the song “Imagine” by John Lennon, which speaks of the brotherhood of humanity and envisions a world of lasting peace if people learn to live with one another.



The final session featured a spirited discussion among three media professionals about transmitting values: Mr. Humphrey Hawksley, world affairs correspondent with the BBC in London; Mr. Thomas McDevitt, chairman of The Washington Times in the United States; and Mrs. Nancy Schultze, founder of Congressional Wives Speakers, also from the United States. The day closed with a banquet celebrating 25 years of publication by the Segye Ilbo newspaper in Seoul.



The following morning, participants headed for Chung Pyung, a spiritual retreat center in the hills east of Seoul, for a celebration hosted by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and the marriage blessing of thousands of couples from around the world, a tangible expression of the expanding vision of the UPF founders of “one family under God.”

International Leadership Conference Schedule

Seoul, Korea - An International Leadership Conference on the theme "Toward a New Paradigm for Peace and Human Development" brought participants from 60 nations to Korea Feb. 9-13, 2014. Sessions addressed the challenges of building a roadmap for peace in Northeast Asia and the Middle East as well as the unique potentials of faith leaders, women, educators and the media to contribute to conflict resolution and a culture of peace.



February 9, 2014

Opening Banquet

Emcee:

Mrs. Eugenia Kagawa, Director, Executive Office, UPF International

Invocation

Pastor Dantje Mumek, President, Asian Clergy Leadership Conference-Indonesia

Welcome Remarks

Dr. Jeung Rho Yoon, Chair, UPF Korea

Dr. Lan Young Moon, President, Women's Federation for World Peace International

Remarks

Brig. Gen. Roberto P. Santiago, President, Kapatiran Sa Tanay Highlands, Philippines

Mrs. Laudy Sleiman Sfeir, President, Call of Society, Lebanon

Orientation



February 10

SESSION I: TOWARD A NEW PARADIGM FOR PEACE AND HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Chair

Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, President, UPF International

Speakers

Mrs. Margareta Timofti, First Lady, Moldova

Hon. Yoshinori Ohno, Former Minister of Defense, Japan

Mme. Mintou Doucoure Traore, First Lady (2012-2013), Mali

Founder's Address

Read by Mrs. Julia H. Moon, General Director, Universal Ballet, Korea

SESSION II: BUILDING A ROADMAP FOR PEACE IN NORTHEAST ASIA

Chair

Dr. Alexandre Y. Mansourov, President and CEO, Great Falls Solutions International LLC, USA

Speakers

Dr. Chang Shik Yang, Chair, UPF International, and The Washington Times Foundation, USA

Amb. Christopher Hill, Dean, University of Denver, Josef Korbel School of International Studies, USA

Dr. Hyunik Hong, Senior Research Fellow in the Security Strategy Studies Department at the Sejong Institute, Korea

Mr. Hiroshi Yamada, Lecturer on International Relations and former Professor of Management and Economics, Kaetsu University, Tokyo, Japan

Dr. Alexander Zhebin, Director of the Center for Korean Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences Institute of Far Eastern Studies, Russia

SESSION III: WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP: A NEW PARADIGM FOR PEACE, PARTNERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT

Chair

Mrs. Alexa Ward, Deputy Director of the UN Office, Women's Federation for World Peace International

Performance

Pyongyang Folk Art Group

Video

“World Peace through True Love”

Welcome Remarks

Dr. Lan Young Moon, President, Women's Federation for World Peace International

Congratulatory Remarks

Mr. Sa-duk Hong, President, Korean Council for Reconciliation and Cooperation, Korea

Speakers

Dr. Rehab Bitar, President, Culture Bridge, Syria

Dr. Shigeko Fukai, Visiting Professor, Chiba National University, Japan

Ms. Cynthia Turner, Executive Vice President, Seraphim Global, USA

Dr. Meena Upadhyaya, Professor of Medical Genetics, Cardiff University, UK

SESSION IV: THE 202 VISION: PRINCIPLES FOR A NATION AND WORLD OF PEACE

Chair

Mr. Adama Doumbia, Secretary General, UPF-Africa

Speakers

Dr. Michael Balcomb, President, Family Federation for World Peace and Unification-USA

Mr. Ricardo de Sena, Director, UN Office of Latin American Affairs, UPF International

Mrs. Eugenia Kagawa, Director, Executive Office, UPF International

Dr. Thomas Selover, Cheongshim Theological Seminary, Korea



February 11

SESSION V: INTERFAITH, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND PEACEBUILDING

Chair

Mrs. Tomiko Duggan, Director, Public Affairs, UPF International

Speakers

Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, President, UPF International

Archbishop George Augustus Stallings, Jr., President, American Clergy Leadership Conference

Amb. Ashok Sajjanhar, Secretary, National Foundation for Communal Harmony, India

Mr. Albertus ten Broek, Secretary, United Religions Initiative, Netherlands

SESSION VI: CONFLICT RESOLUTION AND PEACE: FOCUS ON THE MIDDLE EAST

Chair

Dr. Michael W. Jenkins, President, TWTF, USA

Speakers

Dr. Mohammed R. Al Hussaini Al Sharif, Ambassador, League of Arab States to the USA
Mr. Michael Leonard McIntyre, Former President, Interfaith Council of the Capital District, Canada
Dr. Hojjat Ramzy, Director of Education, Moslem Council of Great Britain, UK
Mrs. Naomi Sarah Tsur, Director, Green Pilgrim Jerusalem, Israel

SESSION VII: PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT: THE ROLE OF MEDIA AND EDUCATION

Chair

Mr. Mark P. Brann, Secretary General, UPF-Europe

Speakers

Ven. Dr. Michel Thao Chan, President, Reflection of Nations Circle, France
Dr. Maria Gomez y Patino, Professor of Communication and Digital Media, University of Zaragoza, Spain
Mr. Humphrey Hawksley, World Affairs Correspondent, BBC of London, UK
Dr. Shoichi Ito, Professor, Kyushu National University, Japan
Mr. Thomas McDevitt, Chairman, The Washington Times, USA
Mrs. Nancy Schulze, Founder, Congressional Wives Speakers, USA

Dinner: Segye Ilbo Anniversary Program



February 12

COMMEMORATIVE "FOUNDATION DAY" ANNIVERSARY PROGRAM

CELEBRATION LUNCHEON

CLOSING BANQUET

February 13

Departures