

FFWPU USA: S!NERGY - Global Peace Park in Korean DMZ, resolving conflict

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"Our mission is to build a platform for righteous professors and youth to initiate the development of a global peace park in the Demilitarized Zone as a solution for resolving the conflict on the Korean Peninsula," said M. Tsuchiya.

Unificationists Tsuchiya and her teammate K. Kawa won first place with their proposal during IAYSP's recent national [S!NERGY](#) competition. The pair were among three top contenders in the online competition streamed live Dec. 29, presenting their ideas and solutions addressing the theme "Bridging the Divide Between Nations and Communities."

"We see divorce becoming more socially acceptable, and a rise in suicide rates, too," said Kawa. "We see cosmetic surgery as a common graduation gift to children, and this isn't only happening in South Korea, it's happening in the U.S. and other places as well."

"True Parents addressed this issue of a Godless society by going to North Korea and risking their lives in the hope to bring reunification between North and South Korea," he said. "They also understood how significant America is in the success of achieving this, as the southern half of the DMZ is controlled by America."

The duo said turning the DMZ into a peace park could ultimately unite the two Koreas, with peace further strengthened by the United Nations establishing a fifth office there.

"The youth are most impacted by this conflict," said Tsuchiya, "and we know that important changes in history have been made by young people - so now is the time to stand up and make a change... We need the knowledge and support of professors as well to resolve this conflict."

Founded in 2017 by True Mother, [IAYSP](#) seeks to advance world peace by empowering youth and students to become global citizens through character education and peace projects supporting the UN's

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The recurring S!NERGY competition has different themes to tackle various problems facing the world and enables students to present their ideas and projects to better society.

Tiffany Gao, who placed second, shared a presentation on "environmental racism" as she explained its effect on people and the need for increased awareness.

"Toxic waste facilities are often built in minority communities and we find environmental injustice in areas that were previously segregated," she said. "This contributes to leading causes of death among minority communities, affecting their mental and physical health."

Gao shared examples of air and river pollution in the Bronx, and how minorities are disproportionately exposed to more environmental toxins than is caused by their consumption, according to a 2019 [report](#) from the Proceedings of the National Academy of the Sciences (PNAS) USA. She proposed an action plan using social media, events, and networking to increase environmental and social awareness of the issue.

"By communicating with others and furthering their knowledge about this issue, from there we can seek to address the problem and implement solutions by lobbying policy makers or hosting community events and activities to reduce this inequality and climate effects," said Gao. "In turn, this creates a rippled domino effect... from a task force of local activism to drawing attention worldwide."

Ricardo De Sena placed third, addressing the issue of corruption in Latin America. Examining Uruguay in a case study, his proposed solution was a dual approach of building integrity and corruption prevention by focusing on young people and youth empowerment.

"Building an organization or think tank made up of the most promising leaders in Latin America could challenge the status quo and educate fellow youth and students on the state of corruption in their country," he said.

Three guest judges evaluated the presentations, including Unification Theological Seminary (UTS) President Dr. Thomas Ward; Dr. Lisa M. Brady, professor and department chair of history at Boise State University; and IAYSP North America President Miilhan Stephens. Live viewers also casted their vote.

"What I love about this platform is it embodies one of our greatest values, which I think is unique to IAYSP, and that is something we call 'hyojeong' (a culture of heart)," said IAYSP President Stephens.

Winners Tsuchiya and Kawa will receive a grant toward implementing their idea and continue on to the upcoming IAYSP regional competition.

You can watch the full S!NERGY national competition [here](#).



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IAYSP promotes projects supporting the United Nations in two ways. First, service projects are directly linked to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. This connection is both by design and in the project reports. Secondly, many international days, such as the International Youth Day, the International Day of Peace, and the World Interfaith Harmony Week, are celebrated by our chapters throughout the world.

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Why is the family a cornerstone of society? (Austria and Germany)

2021/11/10



On Wednesday, 10th of November, IAYSP Austria and Germany held an online **event on the family as the cornerstone of society as topic**. Around 30 people participated from Austria and Germany. **IAYSP believes that families are the basic building blocks of society**. We experience family as the first thing in our lives. Unfortunately, today the role of the family is not emphasized enough. The first speaker, **Hilde Wiemann**, originally from Austria, has lived for forty years in the USA and **works as a relationship coach and Real Love Coach**. **She highlighted that we have a core desire to belong to someone and that people love us, talk to us, and how we yearn for connection**.

Family is the school of love where we experience our parents who love us; Then we experience love with our siblings. Afterward, conjugal love and we become parents ourselves and, in the end, grandparents. All of this happens with love.

We should learn trust, values, responsibility, and problem-solving. Mistakes can be made into learning experiences, and in the family, it is ok to make mistakes. Time, touch, and talk are what we

seek, which we can experience in the family. Nowadays, parents stop touching their children many times, do not hug them, and do not pat their shoulders because they believe the kids “don’t want that anymore.” **She highlighted that a healthy family needs traditions and rituals as well. They also need a safe environment to learn to manage anger. It is essential that instead of talking, we learn to listen.** The focus should be restoring the families by keeping these points in mind.

The second speaker, **Umair Ahmad**, is a **Young Muslim student (Culture and social anthropology) from Germany**, now living in Zürich. Already as a small child, he was interested in the family topic. **He mentioned that the family is the first institution and social unit (according to social sciences).** He quoted from the Qur’an: Between man and woman must be love. The responsibility of people is to fulfill duties and rights, especially in the family. In the Qur’an, the people are called a big family. And it has several places where it mentions that men and women should respect each other, also focusing on the respect between parents and children.



The third and last speaker, **Janine Förster, Managing Director of Das Relationship**, has worked **with families in crisis for about ten years.** No matter what culture or beliefs the families have, parents truly love their children. However, many families have a lot of struggles. They try to work on their issues and have often tried many things, but they still need support. Through consistency and with love, even attachment-related problems can be solved. **It is important to remember that there are no perfect families – there are always issues to solve, but a lot depends on how those issues are handled and whether they are handled at all.** People think to themselves: “How am I going to raise my child? I can’t hit them, I can’t yell anymore, so what can I do?.” It is also crucial to analyze the role of husband and wife in the family. She mentioned that the main problem is that many people are disoriented.

Afterward, the MC asked questions to the participant, which they2 discussed in small groups: *Are you satisfied with the role of the families in our society today?*

The panelists later replied that it would be a great help if the topic would be addressed early on when the children are still small or middle school-aged. Sometimes there is also a tendency to blame others for one’s problems, and many are not open to new points of view; one only tries to “protect” themselves. **The speakers mentioned that we live in a time where rules are seen more and more as restrictions, and every restriction is seen badly.** If a child feels, for instance, that the parents’ career is more important than he/she is, then they notice it very strongly and look for this love somewhere else.

After a lively group discussion, the results were presented.

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