

Peace Road 2020: The One Korea! Peace Road 2020 Worldwide Campaign

Thomas Walsh
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This Peace Road group in Korea faced torrential rain, intense traffic and other obstacles but kept fighting and prevailed.



Bolivian members carried their national flag on their Peace Road excursion.

Students from a hundred and thirty countries rode and ran together for Peace Road 2020 commemorating the seventy years since communist forces from North Korea invaded South Korea on January 25 seventy years ago, attacking non-communist troops and civilians in South Korea, beginning the Korean War, which persisted -- wreaking untold damage on South Korea and perhaps forever dividing a people that had spent thousands of years in oneness. The war persisted until July 27, 1953.

The "One Korea! Peace Road 2020 Worldwide Campaign" began on July 16. Overall, seven thousand citizens cycled in fifty major cities throughout South Korea, while urging people's support for a Peace Zone within the DMZ -- the demilitarized zone separating North Korea from South Korea. Through the One Korea Peace Road 2020 event, people from all over the world rode, ran or traveled together, wishing for reunification on the Korean Peninsula and world peace. Their peace quest is in its eighth year.

The Peace Road campaign in Korea held special significance in that it honored twenty-two still-living veterans who fought to help Korea during the Korean War seventy years ago.

The Peace Road Korea Executive Committee, and Song Kwang-seok, chairman of the National Federation for Korean Re-Unification, in spite of the coronavirus outbreak, followed the quarantine guidelines and launched the One Korea Peace Road 2020 Worldwide Campaign. In Korea it ran from July 17 to August 29. Until the end, seven thousand people nationwide, from cities and rural areas, took part in cycling for reunification and peace. On July 16, a lighting ceremony for Peace Road took place at Mt. Balwang in Yongpyeong, in Gyeonggi Province, in True Mother's presence.



Swiss members at the completion of Peace Road 2020



Russian members utilized Peace Road to help young people and gained government support.

A Race to the North in Korea

A bicycle race that traversed the nation from south to north involved three teams, including an East Coast team and two Yeongnam–Honam teams. The East Coast team departed from Busan on August 1. The seventy racers representing continents and countries went eight hundred kilometers by bicycle from the UN Forces Memorial Park in Busan to Imjingak near the North Korean border. The Unification Team, depart from Jeju Island, the southernmost part of the country, on August 20; they arrived in Mokpo on the July 21, and headed for Mungyeong Saejae, a site famous to members as the hilly area over which True Father had to carry an injured man on his back on his way from North Korea to Busan.

The Peace Team left Busan on the July 21 and headed for Mungyeong Saejae through North Gyeongsang Province and Daegu. The two teams met at Mungyeong Saejae and rushed from there to Imjingak, the end of the race. The Peace Team comprised mainly foreign students from fourteen countries.

Throughout the race and related activities, the organizers strictly regulated behavior due to the corona pandemic. Everyone thoroughly followed the quarantine guidelines and successfully completed Peace Road in more than fifty cities, counties and districts. The starting ceremonies for each section, held by each local metropolitan province, began with cyclists riding for a long distance and then coming together to listen to congratulatory remarks from people from all walks of life, reading a peace message. The mayor, provincial governor, and the chairman of the assembly attended each starting ceremony, encouraging them with congratulatory speeches. They would then cheer and wave as the riders headed north toward Imjingak.



Uruguayan YSP members in front of their National Parliament Building during their Peace Road event

Bolivia

Throughout history humanity has longed for a happier and more peaceful world, with the various problems that cause racial or religious disputes and conflicts in the world, the Peace Road March transmits a message of peace, to unite as one family, thanks to this project founded by our beloved True Parents, in Bolivia since 2015 the Peace Road traveled to different cities of our country.

In this opportunity, it gave way to the inauguration of Peace Road 2020 in the Municipality of Punata, being a municipality of the Department of Cochabamba, located in the heart of Bolivia, despite the difficult situation experienced by the pandemic, taking the measures of biosecurity, and with the support of the highest authority of the Municipality gave way to this march.

Eighteen people participated, they walked the streets, under the slogan "For the peace, the life, the unity of Bolivia and the world." Despite external limitations, challenges and opportunities are what keep us strong enough to make God's work possible. It is time to establish more sincere conditions of devotion to unite us with the heart of Our True Mother.



Even in uncertain times with the coronavirus outbreak and little public activity, Japanese members felt it was important to express the significance of Peace Road.

Bern, Switzerland

Bicyclists rode through the Swiss countryside at a Peace Road commemoration of International Youth Day. Peace Road is an annual international UPF project in which participants walk, run or cycle to promote world unity and peace. In Switzerland, the 2020 Peace Road event also celebrated the United Nations' International Youth Day with its 2020 theme, "Youth Engagement for Global Action."

UPF, together with the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP), organized the August 23 event. Jonah Gindroz, a skilled cyclist, and Mélanie Komagata of IAYSP were the leaders. The

event had two teams bicycling to Bern, the nation's capital.

A courageous duo cycled over seventy kilometers from the Lucerne region. The second group of around twenty participants, aged between eight and sixty-two years, rode from Biel/Bienne, a distance of nearly forty kilometers.

Upon arriving in Bern, the cyclists were welcomed at the Bundesplatz (Federal Square) by waiting UPF and IAYSP staff. They then moved to the Marzili, Bern's city beach, for a celebration. The more courageous ones jumped into the cold and fast-flowing Aare River and swam along the shore. The atmosphere was lively, with people of all ages riding with enthusiasm, taking action for the establishment of a harmonious and peaceful world.

Moscow, Russia

One day before starting an eleven-hundred-kilometer marathon (close to seven hundred miles), a group of runners gathered for a kickoff meeting. The meeting took place on August 1, at the UPF Peace Embassy in Moscow. The runners, aged from nine to eighty-five years old, were preparing to take part in a relay marathon over the next two weeks, from August 2 to 16. It started in Moscow near the Kremlin and Red Square and passed through about twenty cities before returning to Moscow.

This year's marathon received funds from the Russian president's grant to cover transportation, uniforms, and accommodations. It took place under the banner of the UPF Peace Road Project and promoted a healthy lifestyle. Dmitry Samko, secretary general of UPF Moscow, ran with the marathoners and was their spokesman at public events along the way. After fifteen days and 1,100 kilometers, the 2020 Peace Road relay marathon concluded in Moscow's Victory Park. They dedicated this year's marathon, which had the theme, "I remember, I am proud," to the 75th anniversary of the end of World War II. UPF has been a co-organizer of this project for more than ten years.

The marathon started on August 2 from "Kilometer Zero" (the exact center of Moscow) next to Red Square. For two weeks, marathon participants, aged from nine to eighty-five ran through twenty-three Russian cities before returning to Moscow on August 16. National and local media outlets covered the run. by representatives of different cities' administration greeted the runners.

Congratulations are due the participants of the marathon who, despite the pandemic, followed all safety requirements and completed this important and hope-inspiring project.

Peace Road Japan

Peace Road is a friendly project for global peace-building promoted by the UN NGO Universal Peace Federation and others. In 2013, a handful of young people started to promote friendship between Japan and South Korea and reunification between the Koreans. They also wished to promote the concept of world peace throughout Japan. It began with bicycle riding, which seemed a harmonious and peaceful activity.

Since 2015, it has been linked to the vision of the international peace highway concept advocated by Sun Myung Moon and Hak Ja Han Moon, the founders of UPF, and the Peace Road movement is being developed all over the world. It has now evolved into an international project involving more than 120 countries around the world.

This year's 8th Peace Road 2020 in Japan will start nationwide from mid-June. At first, the activities themselves were in jeopardy due to the spread of the new coronavirus infection from the beginning of the year and the severe damage to the western Japan region including the Kyushu region in early July due to heavy rain. However, the people concerned took meticulous measures to reaffirm the significance of the Peace Road movement, which holds the division caused by the new corona and heavy rain disasters to the world and local communities and appeals to the hearts of people for the importance of solidarity and peace. However, he continued the movement.

As of the end of August, we are holding uphill runs and related events at 31 locations in Japan. In particular, the appearance of young people sweating to appeal for the importance of peace attracted the attention of not only movement supporters but also local government agencies and religious facilities such as shrines and temples, and sympathized with and encouraged the vision of the movement in various places. Voice went up. In addition, various media such as newspapers, television, and radio also covered the activities.

Uruguay

On Saturday, September 5, members in Uruguay held a Peace Road activity in the city of Montevideo. The YSP group was in charge of carrying out the activity. Ten people participated. The tour began at our headquarters in Montevideo and went to the Legislative Palace (Heritage of Uruguay) and returned from to the headquarters. The purpose of this event was to offer symbolic support, as a condition, to Peace Road worldwide that would normally take place on this date, but due to the pandemic, the number of people had to be limited to maintain security measures.