

UPF International Newsletter: Happy New Year Message

Thomas G. Walsh
December 30, 2020



UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION
A Global Network of Peacebuilders

Vol. 15, Issue 124

December 30, 2020



Happy Holiday Season from UPF International

Thank you for your continued encouragement and support for the mission and work of the Universal Peace Federation.

2020 has been a year of global challenges, driven in large part by the COVID-19 pandemic that has brought widespread suffering and disruption on a global scale. Its impact has been felt socially, politically, and economically, and across the world humanity remains vulnerable and threatened, even as vaccines give reason for hope.

Despite these challenges, the work of UPF has moved forward in full force, stronger than ever. World Summit 2020, convened in February, was a phenomenal success, remarkable in both its breadth of vision and its convening capacity. It was a showcase of world leadership from a wide range of sectors—government, religion, civil society, academia, the media, business and economics, arts and culture—each having its place within the framework of UPF's primary associations: ISCP, IAFLP, IAPP, IAPD, IMAP, IAAP, and IAED. The Sunhak Peace Prize also was featured during World Summit 2020, honoring former United Nations Secretary-General H.E. Ban Ki-moon, H.E. President Macky Sall of Senegal, and Bishop Munib Younan, bishop emeritus of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land.

By a major stroke of fortune, if not a miracle, the World Summit was not impacted by the COVID-19 crisis, which at that time was in its very early stages.

As the pandemic spread and its seriousness became evident in the weeks following World Summit 2020, making face-to-face meetings impossible, UPF ambitiously launched its "Peace Talks" webinar series in March of 2020. Since that time, more than 250 UPF webinars on a wide range of topics have been convened around the world, involving thousands of expert panelists and viewed by hundreds of thousands.

Additionally, in August of 2020 UPF sponsored the Rally of Hope program series, providing an uplifting vision that points a way forward, guided by principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values. Many of the leading experts who were part of World Summit 2020 have been featured during the Rally of Hope programs of 2020, including current and former heads of state, parliamentarians and religious leaders. Millions of people throughout the world have viewed the Rally of Hope programs with great appreciation; in fact, the enthusiastic response has exceeded all expectations.

Throughout the entire year we have benefited from the generous support and wise guidance of our co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. Without her steadfast and inspired leadership, the UPF would not be able to carry out its mission. We are also extremely grateful to the worldwide UPF community of leaders who make the work we do not only effective and productive but also a labor of love.

Thanks are due especially to the UPF regional chairs, UPF association coordinators, sub-regional chairs, regional secretaries general, and tens of thousands of volunteers who carry out so many excellent programs in every corner of the world.

As we look ahead to 2021, we expect to continue the Rally of Hope series and our Peace Talks webinars, along with our publications: the weekly *UPF E-newsletter*, the *Dialogue & Alliance* interfaith journal, and *UPF Today* magazine.

Our regional, sub-regional, national and local UPF chapters will continue to be strengthened and expanded, along with the primary associations of UPF and our ongoing programs such as the Middle East Peace Initiative, the Northeast Asia Peace Initiative, the South Asia Peace Initiative, the Peace Road programs, the Sunhak Peace Prize Foundation, and of course our partnerships with the United Nations and many other intergovernmental and nongovernmental organizations.

We look forward to our continued collaboration. Thank you so very much for your support.

From all of us at UPF International, may all the blessings of the season be yours.


Sincerely,
Thomas G. Walsh, Ph.D.
Chairman
Universal Peace Federation

Contact Us

www.upf.org | e.news@upf.org | 220 White Plains Rd. FL5, Tarrytown, NY 10591, USA

UPF is an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. We support and promote the work of the United Nations and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.



 JOIN OUR EMAIL LIST

 FORWARD THIS EMAIL