

IAPP inaugurated in Mexico at the Legislative Palace of Parliamentarians

Chang Shik Yang
November 28, 2017



On November 28th, 2017, the IAPP (International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace) was inaugurated in Mexico at the Building E of Legislative Palace of Parliamentarians Chamber in San Lazaro, focused on the theme: "The Role of Parliamentarians in Creating a Culture of Peace".

Representatives of the PRI, PAN and PRD political parties attended the constitution of the Mexico Chapter of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), a movement that seeks to overcome divisions by race, religion and nationality, with the promotion of programs of dialogue, reconciliation and strengthening of values and institutions.

Among the participants we had members of the México Congress: Hon Juan Antonio Ixtlahuac Orihuela, Hon Waldo Fernández Gonzalez, Hon Baltazar Martínez Montemayor, Hon Laura Paula López Martínez among others from different political parties, Hon Lorelly Trejos President of IAPP-Costa Rica, Hon Jose Alberto Alfaro Jiménez the former Vice President of Costa Rica National Assembly and President of IAPP for Central America and the Caribbean, Ambassadors for Peace, presidents of NGOs and religious leaders and more than 150 Civil Society Leaders and Media.

The president of the Bicameral National Security Commission, Deputy Waldo Fernandez Gonzalez (PRD), stressed that social peace must be built among all of society, "Mexicans women, Mexicans men and politicians working in harmony, to keep up with the circumstances".

In the inauguration of the Mexico chapter of this association, he said that in the Chamber of Deputies there is no legislative and parliamentary work whose final product does not seek harmony. "The political performance in the Legislative Power – of moral quality, respecting the values of each nation – equals peace".

He considered that when preparing and dictating each initiative, in each discussion, before the different visions of the country, "the legislative result of our function will have a vital and important sub-product, which is social peace".

He recognized that among the legislators there are different visions, but they always try to overcome the interests of the nation, of people and peace.

He expressed his hope that this effort "Contributes to Mexico, with security problems, reaching peace as soon as possible".

At the launch of the IAPP in Mexico, the deputy Baltazar Martínez Montemayor (PAN) pointed out that lasting peace must start from the family, sowing in each child the culture of concord. "They see us as an

example and inspiration and that is where our responsibility to instill peace begins, which for ideological, religious, political and power reasons has not been able to be built."



Martínez Montemayor, organizer of the event, explained that the IAPP movement, sponsored by the Federation for Universal Peace (UPF), seeks to put an end to these ideologies and put peace above the interests of groups, terrorists, and mercenaries that sell weapons and those who fight for politics, religion and territory.

He said that it is necessary to go to work, school and social clubs, putting peace first, without shame or modesty, "in this world where we have seen so many attacks, so much aggression and so many deaths, without reason, of innocents".

Regional President of the UPF Central America and the Caribbean, Dr. Charles S. Yang, said that "the world no longer has barriers or borders. The internet knocked them down. We all live under the same sky and we must help bring social peace".

He pointed out that because of social, political and religious differences, world harmony is constantly affected by wars; hence the need for parliamentarians to join forces, regardless of parties or creeds, "to bring peace to all humanity."

Hon Juan Antonio Ixtlahuac Orihuela, Federal Deputy of México Said: "Mexico is going through serious moments in its fight against crime, and at least 56 people die each day for intentional crimes. "This figure is against the development and stability of society and challenges the State institutions".

The country is waging a battle against crime, corruption and drug trafficking; That is why, he said, it is important to make the greatest effort to strengthen democracy and justice, which are "fundamental to achieving peace".

He said that almost a hundred years ago the Treaty of Versailles was established to discuss Universal Peace "and today, at such a distance, with so much evolution, with so much political capacity and development, we keep the problems of violence and crime alive. That is why it is important to discuss what we have to do at the international level".

"Peace is not a matter of borders, of sovereign States or nation States, but of universal size and dimensions; therefore, the commitment of all countries must be to work for it".

He added that Mexico must recover leadership in culture, traditions and production, and be a country that promote internationally for peace and the unity of nations.

From the Congress of Costa Rica, Deputy Lorelly Trejos Salas (and Costa Rica IAPP president) said that as long as a country conducts itself under a democratic framework that guarantees the exercise of

fundamental rights, optimal environments for peace, respect, tranquility and the reduction of violence will be created.

She pronounced herself to strengthen the family, which plays a fundamental role, but has been affected by social des-structuring, causing violent nucleus; also, to promote educational systems for the integral development of individuals and an inclusive economic growth. "Otherwise, he warned, legislators will be jointly responsible for poverty, inequality and discrimination".



When participating, Dr. Othón Pérez Hernández del Castillo, president of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in Mexico, recognized the role of parliamentarians in representing the people, the state of law and the defense of human rights.

"They work to build a safe and stable society, to live; they know the importance of cooperation and collaboration in search of innovative solutions to some critical issues that they face locally, nationally, regionally and globally such as climate change, the rise of extremist ideologies, humanitarian disasters and conflicts, among others".

The international president of the UPF, Dr. Thomas S. Walsh, said that Mexico's inclusion in the IAPP movement is part of a "world-class program, as it is a strategic country for the region and the continents."

He expressed that a strong, healthy, stable family structure is necessary, conscious that he works for peace; in addition, to establish conditions that allow to reach the goals of sustainable development and to establish the Way or Route of the Peace that has seeks to accelerate the process of commercialization and exchange for all the countries of the world.

The crucial point is dialogue and cooperation, maintaining contact, meeting even with different visions and perspectives, listening to each other and consolidating a common vision, he emphasized.

In his turn, the former vice president of the Legislative Assembly of Costa Rica, Hon José Alberto Alfaro (and current IAPP president of Latin America and the Caribbean), indicated that parliamentarians must have a true vocation with common interest and sensitivity to think about others.

Given the problem of corruption, if you do not have the moral and the firm values, you could never represent the people with true vocation of general interest, he said. "The parliamentarian has a commitment to the people and peace. If we fail, the nations will not achieve it in a lasting way".

The Director of Social Studies, on the Position and Status of Women and Gender Equity, at the Center for Studies for the Advancement of Women and Gender Equity (CEAMEG), Hon Judith Díaz Delgado, indicated that this sector should be present in the construction of a new culture of peace, and be recognized as an integral part of the solution, since they (woman) have been the first victims in armed conflicts, and face them in a different and more vulnerable way.

Therefore, "we must inherit a different world from the new generation; we who have been participants, modifying the legislation so that women have a different world, we must build a better world that comes from prevention, work with new generations from an educational environment, promote values and respect."