

## Introducing the Second International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences

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Every day it is more widely accepted within the academic and scientific worlds that the increased specialization and consequent division between the various disciplines are precipitating our world into a critical life and death situation. New prophecies of doom are published regularly by both pure scientists and social scientists. Each discipline has now defined the problems it sees quite fully and most are working toward solutions, but no solution transcending disciplinary limitations has yet appeared.

It is to this end that The International Cultural Foundation, begun in 1968 in Japan and recent incorporated in New York, organized the Second International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences in Tokyo, Japan.

The general theme of the Conference, "Modern Science and Moral Values," reflects the broad orientation among scientists which the foundation hopes to foster through this series of conferences, initiated last year in New York and continuing next year in London. The founder of ICF, Reverend Sun Myung Moon, expressed his appreciation to the scientists and his hope for an increased moral concern and unity among scientists in his closing address.

Sixty scientists and philosophers participated in the three day Conference: 40 from abroad and 20 from Japan. They met in plenary sessions and committee sessions. The plenary sessions united all the participants for the presentation and discussion of special lectures delivered by eminent scholars. The committee sessions divided the participants into two smaller groups.

Under the themes Science and Philosophy Committee I discussed:

1. the unity of science;
2. science and value; and
3. the nature of man.

Committee II, on Science, Technology, and Society, discussed:

1. social development;
2. the social impacts of science-technology; and
3. the human implications of life science.

Each participant delivered a 20- minute lecture, which the committee then discussed.

These regular sessions were highlighted by two evenings of special dinners with commemorative lectures. These evenings were open by invitation to distinguished members of the public. Gordon Rattray Taylor (England) warned an audience of over 700 of the critical energy shortages we may expect in the near future. Joseph Coates (USA) stressed to an audience of over 300 the necessity of resolving the "mismatch ~ between the existing institutions in our society and the potential brought about by our contemporary technologies.

The Conference accommodations were at the Imperial Hotel, the most famous hotel in Japan. Its location is across from the Ancient Imperial Palace and at the edge of the famous Ginza theater and shopping district provided many cultural opportunities within easy reach, for the free moments of the busy Conference schedule. The Conference secretariat offered participants an extra day in Japan with hotel and meals provided so that the participants could also come to know some of the Japanese culture. Many visited Kyoto, Nara, and other historical cities at their own expense.

All participants, including two Nobel Prize winners, were greatly impressed by the Conference. They expressed interest in this kind of conference, which offered hope for unifying the fragmented disciplines by gathering merit of each field. They further expressed great admiration for the staff and facilities, saying it was the best organized and most hospitable conference they had ever attended.