

UPF Asia Pacific International Leadership Conference 2020 - Executive Summary

Jacques Marion
September 13, 2020

Asia Pacific—UPF held a three-day virtual International Leadership Conference (ILC) from September 11 to 13, 2020, under the theme, “Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values.” The ILC2020 was designed to be carried out concurrently in three geographic regions: the Asia Pacific, the Americas, and Africa-Europe-Middle East. This report focuses on the Asia Pacific regional program, which was jointly organized by UPF chapters in Korea, Japan and the Asia Pacific.

The COVID-19 crisis has been deadly and destructive. However, a beacon of hope was shown amidst the darkness of the confusion and chaos currently cascading around the world. Delegates from the recently concluded ILC2020 caught a glimpse of a brighter tomorrow as crisis turned into opportunity and despair into hope.

Conference organizers targeted eight clearly defined audiences: heads of state, parliamentarians, religious leaders, first ladies and women leaders, media professionals, business entrepreneurs, academicians, and youth and students.

The keynote speaker at the Opening Session on September 11, Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, president of UPF-Korea, highlighted the importance of creating an Asia Pacific Union. This initiative was proposed by UPF co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, in Nagoya, Japan in October 2019, supported by Cambodian Prime Minister H.E. Hun Sen in Phnom Penh, Cambodia a month later, and endorsed by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon at the Rally of Hope on August 9, 2020 in front of a worldwide audience of millions. During the ILC deliberations this idea was referred to by many speakers and recognized in the ILC2020 Resolution.

Prof. Moon noted that the Atlantic civilization prospered because of its Christian foundation but lost this by becoming a culture that “takes from others and conquers.” The Pacific civilization, she explained, is more spiritual and altruistic; it is less individualistic. Prof. Moon emphasized that “The ‘Asia Pacific Union’ is based on common cultural values of the Asia-Pacific region: filial piety, family, and faith.”

There were two defining outcomes for the ILC2020 in the Asia Pacific regional group. First, and most important, was the realization that today’s global crisis, though manifested in a variety of ways, has but one origin. It comes from a lack of universal values. For example, the COVID-19 pandemic became increasingly deadly and destructive because of a dearth of international trust and cooperation stemming from conflicting or competing values systems. The chaos caused by an absence of common values can be seen everywhere in: unfair business monopolies, despotic or tyrannical leaders, a polarized media, values-free academe, self-serving religions, narcissistic public servants, wanton youth and broken families. The need for a set of universal values, as called for by UPF, has become more apparent than ever.

Secondly, the breadth and depth of UPF’s global outreach was on full display, giving rise to hope in the midst of these challenging times. Participants could easily witness the worldwide foundation of UPF. The ILC2020’s program sessions were built around the seven core associations of UPF, namely, for heads of state, parliamentarians, religious leaders, first ladies and women leaders, media professionals, business entrepreneurs, and academicians, as well as on an affiliated international initiative focused on youth and students. Nearly every field of human endeavor was covered. Equally important, the speakers within each session were highly knowledgeable, well-established professionals in their respective fields.

This prompted Amb. K.V. Rajan, former member of the Indian Foreign Service and permanent secretary in the Ministry of External Affairs, to state rather forthrightly, “UPF is possibly the one NGO which has the wish, the will, the vision, the means, and the institutional underpinnings to assist governments and international bodies like the United Nations in confronting the multiple challenges facing the world across the broad spectrum of human activity.”

ILC2020—Asia Pacific had more than 10,000 registered participants from 87 nations. There were 85 speakers from 27 countries, including: four former heads of state (Nepal, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste and Kiribati); four first ladies (Palau, Northern Mariana Islands, Fiji and Nepal); ten parliamentarians; five diplomats; and representatives from ten media houses, eight business enterprises, seven universities (including two senior fellows from Harvard University), and seven religious traditions. The proceedings were broadcasted into 10 languages allowing for over 150,000 viewers on social media. Press releases were sent to 1,539 journalists, editors, freelance writers, internet news outlets, magazines, radio and online TV shows.

The following is a summary of each session with a list of distinguished speakers.

Opening Plenary - Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: The ILC2020—Asia Pacific began with representatives of four faiths—Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu and Islam—offering prayers. Three speakers highlighted the importance of creating a union of Asian nations. The co-founder of UPF, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, first raised this concept publicly in Japan in October 2019 and referred to it as the Asia Pacific Union (APU). Since then, Cambodian Prime Minister H.E. Hun Sen has supported the notion as has former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Broadly, the APU would use the cultural, historical and geographical intersection of the Pacific Rim countries to form a common footing for larger multilateral cooperation. Specially mentioned were the values of filial piety, a dominance of moral and spiritual principles and a strong family-centered social underpinning.

Two other speakers addressed the UPF ideals of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values. This was called a “people-centric approach,” and the model used to explain this was the ancient Indian philosophical concept, *vasudaiva kutumbakam*, or “the world is one family” that requires a foundation in values and principles. This concept of universal values inevitably suggests a global ethics, a set of basic moral principles that are shared by virtually all cultures, religions and civilizations. Once again it became clear that such values originate in and emerge from family relationships since the family is the most fundamental, ubiquitous social institution in human history.

Moderator: Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, chair, UPF-Asia Pacific

Interfaith Invocation:

Buddhist: Ven. Sobitha, president, International Buddhist Education Center, Myanmar

Catholic: Father Eliseo R. Mercado Jr., OMI, PhD, director, Institute for Autonomy and Governance, Philippines

Hindu: Dr. Shivamurthy Shivacharya Mahaswamiji, current seer, Taralabalu Jagadguru Brihanmath, India

Islam: Mr. Minuarov Kuat, PhD, naib imam (deputy imam), Hazrat Sultan Mosque, Kazakhstan

Speakers:

Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, chair, UPF-Korea

Rev. Masayoshi Kajikuri, chair, UPF-Japan

Dr. Chung Sik Yong, regional group chair, Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU)-Asia Pacific

Hon. Bhubaneswar Kalita, member of parliament, India; chairman, International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP)-South Asia

Dr. Thomas G. Walsh, chair, UPF International

Session Two - ISCP: Perspectives from Heads of State and Government: Session Two featured the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP) where five dignitaries from five countries addressed the world’s critical problems focusing on the theme, “Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: Leadership and Governance.” In this time of the pandemic, they stressed that a new development model should be built and social and that economic development must go hand in hand. As the quest for peace is important, they commended UPF for giving a platform for leaders to express their respective views and work together. One dignitary notably supported how UPF can unite people and bring lasting peace as well as happiness throughout the world.

Moderator: Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, chair, UPF-Asia Pacific

Speakers:

H.E. Anote Tong, president (2003-2016), Republic of Kiribati

H.E. Parmanand Jha, vice president (2008-2015), Nepal

H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, president (2015-2019), Sri Lanka

H.E. Mari Alkatiri, prime minister (2002-2006; 2017-2018), Timor Leste

Hon. Hiroshi Kumagai, former chief cabinet secretary of Japan

Session Three - IAPP: Perspectives from Current and Former Parliamentarians: Session Three featured the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) where prominent current and former parliamentarians shared their perspectives on the theme, “Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: Leadership and Governance.” There were seven lawmakers from six countries. The speakers highlighted the important role of parliamentarians as lawmakers to find solutions and lead with the highest standards that have impact on the local, national and global level. They noted how UPF gives opportunities for world leaders to interact and have an international system where they can cooperate beyond borders. Moreover, one speaker said that a possible project of IAPP members could be the creation and development of a global pandemic early warning communication system between nations to help one another in times of crisis.

Moderator: Mr. Santosh Kumar Paudel, regional coordinator, IAPP-Asia Pacific

Speakers:

Dr. Michael Jenkins, international coordinator, IAPP; president, UPF International
Hon. Dr. Agung Laksono, former speaker, People's Representative Council, Indonesia
Hon. Samuelu P. Teo, speaker, Parliament of Tuvalu
Hon. Veena Bhatnagar, deputy speaker, Parliament of Fiji
Hon. Katsumasa Suzuki, former vice minister of internal affairs and communication, Government of Japan
Hon. Gyuhan Kim, former National Assembly member, Republic of Korea
Hon. Chitralkha Yadav, member of parliament and former deputy speaker and minister, Nepal

Session Four - IAPD: Perspectives from Religious and Spiritual Leaders: Session Four featured the Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) where religious and faith leaders gathered to engage in an interreligious dialogue and shared their insights on their roles to promote peace-building and interfaith cooperation, centering on the theme, “The 75th Anniversary of the UN: The Role of Religious Leaders.” There were 10 religious leaders representing 10 religious traditions, and in unison, they emphasized that religious leaders must work with the authorities, be an example of living for the sake of others by uniting with other religions and proactively speak about interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, despite nationality or religion. One speaker underscored that in this time of the pandemic, religious leaders need to work together to help nations find love, which is the ultimate vaccine. The speakers acknowledged the programs of UPF wherein religious leaders can have more opportunities to work together for this cause.

Moderator: Mrs. Ursula McLackland, regional coordinator, IAPD-Asia Pacific

Speakers:

Acharya Dr. Shrivatsa Goswami, head priest, Sri Radharamana Temple, India; chairman, IAPD-Asia Pacific
Rev. Hyun-young Lee, chairman, IAPD-Korea
Samdech Khy Sovanratana, acting president, Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University, Cambodia
Dr. Tong Yun Kai, president, Hong Kong Confucian Academy, China
Prof. Dr. Nasaruddin Umar, grand imam, Istiqlal Grand Mosque, Jakarta, Indonesia
Rt. Rev. Yoshinobu Miyake, chair of the board, International Shinto Studies Association, Japan
Ven. Ho Myung, general secretary, Taego Buddhist Order, Korea
Pastor Suman Kim, co-chair, Korean Clergy Leadership Conference, Korea
Rev. Jenny Chalmers, Anglican priest, New Zealand
Dr. Tageldin Hamad, vice president and director, Office of UN Relations, UPF International; international coordinator, IAPD

Session Five - A Tribute to the Universal Peace Federation (2005-2020): The second day of the conference started with Session Five, “A Tribute to the Universal Peace Federation” for its 15th anniversary, having been founded at the Lincoln Center in New York on September 12, 2005 by Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. There were six notable speakers from six countries who shared their testimonies centering on the “Contributions of UPF in Building a World of Peace.” UPF was founded to build a global community of peace, and the speakers commended that for the past years this has become evident with the different programs of UPF that advocate the value of public mindedness; stable families and marriages; interreligious, interracial and international dialogues; and mutual prosperity of communities and nations. Thus, UPF can become a cornerstone to build lasting peace around the world.

Moderator: Rev. Gregory Stone, secretary general, UPF-Oceania

Speakers:

Ambassador Chung Tae-ik, advisor, Korean Council on Foreign Relations, Korea
Gen. Terdsak Marrome, retired general, Royal Thai Army; president, UPF-Thailand
Hon. David Clarke, member, Legislative Council of the Parliament of New South Wales (2003-2019), Australia
Prof. Masahisa Hayashi, professor emeritus, Waseda University, Japan
Prof. Thomas Hwang, president, Chinese People's Federation for World Peace
Ambassador K.V. Rajan, former Indian ambassador, India

Session Six - IAFLP: Perspectives from First Ladies and Women Leaders: Session Six featured the International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP) showcasing the role of women leaders in global problem solving and peace-building. There were eight dignitaries from seven nations who shared their valuable insights on the theme, “Women Leadership at a Time of Global Crisis.” Parallel to the words of UPF co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the speakers reiterated that women can bring peace and harmony using the heart of a mother's unlimited love. One speaker recapitulated that a global

consciousness is key to educating the next generation. Moreover, as peace starts from one's heart, it expands to the family, community, country and world.

Moderator: Mrs. Merly Barlaan, international vice president, Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP)-Asia

Speakers:

Dr. Julia Moon, president, WFWP International
Mdm. Debbie Remengesau, first lady, Republic of Palau
Mdm. Diann Mendiola Tudela Torres, first lady, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Mdm. Adi Koila Mara Nailatikau, first lady (2009-2015), Fiji
Hon. Sujata Koirala, deputy prime minister (2009-2011), Nepal
Prof. Mieko Ikegame, former director, UN's Office of the Under Secretary General, Japan
Mrs. Blessie G. Dhakal, international coordinator, IAFLP
Mrs. Moriko Hori, coordinator, IAFLP-Japan

Session Seven - IMAP: Perspectives from the Media: Session Seven featured the International Media Association for Peace (IMAP). This session had eight speakers from eight countries representing eight major media outlets with the theme "Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: Role of Media." Speakers highlighted various attributes of a good leader in describing the social role of the media. They also spoke about the qualities of responsible media: building trust, creating connectivity and advocating freedom. One speaker said the role of the media is to inform, educate and enlighten, i.e., to be a good teacher. The presenters highlighted that the media needs to be a watchdog, an educator and a peace-builder, i.e., act in the role of a good parent.

Moderator: Dr. Robert S. Kittel, regional coordinator, IMAP-Asia Pacific

Speakers:

Mrs. Shova Gyawali, director, Nepal Republic Pvt. Ltd. (Publisher of the Republica daily newspaper, in association with the International New York Times)
Mr. Hee Taeg Jung, president, The Segye Times, Korea
Mr. Masahiro Kuroki, president, The Sekai Nippo, Japan
Ms. Naziah Ali, publisher & editor-in-chief, Fiji Time Magazine, Fiji
Mr. Zhu Xing Qing, former chief correspondent in Hong Kong, Radio Free Asia (USA); former deputy editor, World Economic Herald, Shanghai, China
Mr. Alok Mehta, former president, Editors Guild of India
Mr. Vasilii Fokin, founder, Eurasia News Group, Kyrgyzstan
Dr. Thomas P. McDevitt, chairman, The Washington Times; global coordinator, IMAP

Session Eight - IAAP: Perspectives from Academicians: Session Eight featured the International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP) where distinguished academicians and scholars shared their valuable perspectives and addressed the current critical issues centering on the theme, "Breaking Down the Walls: Pursuing Interdependence in a Community for Peace." There were seven speakers from six nations representing several universities and academic associations. They highlighted that human communities in this world have to live together as a global home and that the seeds of conscience for the whole purpose starts within the family. Another speaker emphasized that academicians are entrusted with the task to promote goodness to all mankind. They also challenged and stimulated the academe community to fulfill their vital role and break down the "walls" of individualism, between fields of profession and between nationalities through interdependence in order to make the best contribution to the great work of building a world community of peace.

Moderator: Dr. Thomas Selover, president, Sun Hak UP Graduate University

Speakers:

Dr. Sung Bae Jin, chairman, HJ Academy of Arts and Science, Korea; international coordinator, IAAP
Dr. Heung-soon Park, vice president, United Nations Association-Republic of Korea; former dean, Graduate School, Sun Moon University
Amb. Nobuyasu Abe, former UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs, Japan
Dr. Modadugu Vijay Gupta, biologist and fisheries scientist, Sun Hak Peace Prize laureate; recipient of the World Food Prize in 2005, India
Dr. Raymundo Arcega, chancellor, Lyceum of the Philippines University; chairman of the National Network of Quality Assurance Agencies (NNQAA), Philippines
Dr. Kriengsak Chareonwongsak, senior fellow, Harvard University; president, Institute of Future Studies for Development, Thailand
Prof. Dr. M. Shamsher Ali, former president, Bangladesh Academy of Sciences; founding vice chancellor, Bangladesh Open University, Bangladesh

Session Nine - IAED: Perspectives from Business Leaders: The third day of the conference started with Session Nine featuring the International Association for Peace and Economic Development (IAED). The eight speakers from eight nations representing eight business enterprises addressed the current global economic crisis, centering on the theme, “The Role of Business Leaders in the Post-Covid Era.” A new type of leadership is one in which business leaders would never neglect their corporate social responsibility. One speaker called for key economic countries to strengthen cooperation with one another and dialogue with small nations to bring about prosperity and sustainability in the world. Thus, all stakeholders need to give importance to global cooperation based on mutual trust, mutual support and mutual assistance.

Moderator: Rev. Masatate Kajikuri, regional coordinator, IAED-Asia Pacific

Speakers:

Mr. Thomas P. McDevitt, chairman, HJ Magnolia Global Foundation and The Washington Times
Mr. Seog Byung Kim, chairman, HJ Magnolia Foundation, Korea
Mr. Hirofumi Sato, chairman, International Highway Foundation, Japan
Mr. Henry Lee, honorary consul, Consulate of Malaysia in Toronto, Canada
Hon. Danai Ishemkulov, secretary general, Eurasian Council for International Cooperation and Security, Kyrgyzstan
Dr. GP Doraisamy Govindasamy, senior board advisor, International Business Academy of Switzerland; senior education business consultant, Bright Newstar, Malaysia
Mr. Jim Philipppo, acting general manager, Tobolar Copra Processing Authority, Republic of the Marshall Islands
Dr. Tan Monivann, vice-chairman, Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, Cambodia

Session Ten - Closing Session and Call to Action: Session Ten featured two parts: i) the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP), and ii) the Closing Session. There were four speakers for the IAYSP session who delivered presentations on programs and projects, under the theme, “Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: Role of Youth and Students.” Speakers gave a call to action for young people that can transcend beyond individualism and nationalism to create hope in this global crisis.

Subsequently, for the Closing Session, the ILC Resolution was introduced and explained. It aimed to affirm the deliberation of the conference and be a road map for the future. The Drafting Committee was composed of eight UPF chairs, seven coordinators from UPF associations and nine dignitaries from the Asia Pacific regional group.

Moderator: Mr. Koji Matsuda, international president, IAYSP

Speakers:

Mr. Kim Dong Youn, regional president, IAYSP Korea
Mr. Hiroaki Takeuchi, regional president, IAYSP Japan
Mr. Richell Jalipa, regional president, IAYSP Asia Pacific

Presentation of ILC2020 Resolution:

Moderator: Dr. Robert S. Kittel, international chair, IAYSP

Special Recognition:

Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, chair, UPF-Korea
Rev. Lee Gi Seong, president, FFWPU Korea
Dr. Julia Moon, president, WFWP International
Dr. Eiji Tokuno, president, FFWPU Japan
Rev. Masayoshi Kajikuri, chair, UPF-Japan
Dr. Chung Sik Yong, regional group chair, FFWPU Asia Pacific

Resolution Drafting Committee:

Dr. Robert S Kittel (Chair), Amb. K.V. Rajan (India), Dr. Lek Thaveetermsakul (Thailand), Mr. Gregory Stone (Australia), H.E. Ek Tha (Cambodia), Dr. Venus Agustin (Philippines), Prof. Masahisa Hayashi, (Japan), Dr. Milan Ratna Shakya (Nepal), Dr. Jin Choon Kim (Korea)

Resolution Reader: Dr. Eiji Tokuno, president, FFWPU Japan; president, International Highway Foundation

Closing Statement: Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, chair, UPF-Asia Pacific

Individual reports for each session:

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[OCT 15: The 15th Annual Session of Global Forum on Human Settlements & Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements Awards Ceremony \(GFHS 2020\)](#)

[OCT 17: Social Harm of Organized Crime on Communities](#)

[OCT 24: United Nations Day](#)

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ASIA PACIFIC ILC2020 OPENS WITH FOCUS ON REGIONAL COOPERATION INITIATIVE

Written by UPF-Asia Pacific
Friday, September 11, 2020

Asia Pacific—The Opening Plenary of the ILC2020—Asia Pacific program was held on September 11, 2020, under the theme, “Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis,” and began with representatives of four faith traditions, Buddhist, Catholic, Hindu and Islam, offering prayers. Three speakers highlighted the importance of creating a union of Asian nations. The co-founder of UPF, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, first raised this concept publicly in Japan in October 2019 and referred to it as the Asia Pacific Union (APU). Since then the Cambodian Prime Minister H.E. Hun Sen has supported the notion as has former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon. Broadly, the APU would use the cultural, historical and geographical intersection of the Pacific rim countries to form a common footing for larger multilateral cooperation. Specially mentioned were the values of filial piety, a dominance of moral and spiritual principles and a strong family-centered social underpinning.

Two other speakers addressed UPF’s values of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values. This was called a “people-centric approach,” and the model used to explain this was the ancient Indian philosophical concept *vashudaiva kutumbakam* or “the world is one family.” This concept of universal values inevitably suggests a global ethics, a set of basic moral principles that are shared by virtually all cultures, religions and civilizations. Once again it became clear that such values originate in and emerge from family relationships since it is the family that is the most fundamental, ubiquitous social institution in human history.

Abbreviated remarks of speakers:

Prof. Yeon Ah Moon, chair of UPF-Korea: The UPF co-founders, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, had predicted that all civilizations will come to fruition in the era of the Pacific civilization. The Atlantic civilization, which was developed around the Christian foundation, has lost its original values and has become a culture that takes from others. Therefore, the co-founders have emphasized that the Pacific civilization should not exploit and dominate others. Instead, it should become an “altruistic civilization” whose motivation comes from Heavenly Parent’s love that gives to humankind continuously.

After the passing of Rev. Moon in 2012, Dr. Moon has been reinforcing cooperation through the formation of alliances in the fields of religion, politics, academia, media and the economy through global Rallies of Hope, World Summits and International Leadership Conferences in each continent. She has also led continuous peace movements for the realization of peace and the Pacific civilization.

Furthermore, in 2019, she proposed the formation of the Asia Pacific Union, which will come to play a central role in the realization of world peace, during the Japan Summit and Leadership Conference in Nagoya, Japan. The proposal has been further developed through the Phnom Penh Declaration, which was drafted at the Asia-Pacific Summit in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, and resolved the launching of the Asia-Pacific Union.

The Asia Pacific Union is based on the common cultural values of the Asia-Pacific region: filial piety, family and faith. And it will provide an opportunity for countries to come together, cooperate and unite in order to resolve the global difficulties we all face together.

Rev. Masayoshi Kajikuri, chair of UPF-Japan: The focus of the founders’ vision has been the realization of one human family under God, the common true parent of mankind, while everlasting peace would be built by practicing the true love of living for the sake of others.

Dr. Moon has been carrying on the legacy of her husband, enlarging the network of leaders dedicated to building a worldwide community of peace. At the Japan Summit and Leadership Conference held in Nagoya, Japan last year, Mrs. Moon presented the idea of forming an Asia Pacific Union that will foster lasting peace among the community of Asia Pacific nations, including Japan and Korea.

Rev. Kajikuri also said: “On the 15th anniversary of UPF’s founding, I find it very meaningful that all of us, from Japan, Korea and other countries in Asia, have gathered together in response to the founders’ vision of peace and to deliberate on the post-COVID-19 global system, and are dedicating our thoughts and wisdom towards realizing the vision of the Asia Pacific Union.”

Dr. Chung Sik Yong, regional group chair of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU)-Asia Pacific: UPF is one of the most active peace organizations in the Asia Pacific region. It supported Nepal’s successful peace process through a series of South Asia Peace Initiatives, initiated an interfaith council in Thailand and started a peace initiative in the southern provinces of the Philippines. Furthermore, UPF encourages Pacific island nations in their efforts to protect the environment and conducts effective character education programs in India, Indonesia, the Philippines and many other Asian nations. In addition to this, it works collaboratively with the governments of Cambodia, Thailand, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Palau and more.

One of Dr. Moon’s main projects for UPF in the region is the establishment of an Asia Pacific Union. She first mentioned it in Nagoya, Japan in October 2019. A month later in Phnom Penh, Cambodia at the Asia Pacific Summit, Cambodian Prime Minister H.E. Hun Sen expressed his support for this initiative. Most recently, at the virtual Rally of Hope on August 9, former Secretary-General of the United Nations Ban Ki-moon acknowledged Dr. Moon’s efforts to further the cause of peace, specifically noting the Asia Pacific Union.

The purpose of this Union is to find common ground among nations in this region and set a standard for world peace. Traditionally, Asian Pacific cultures promote the virtue of filial piety, support the centrality of the family and foster the freedom of faith. We need to restore these universal values, because monetary and military power alone cannot be the foundation for lasting peace and development.

Excessive individualism is destructive because it violates the most fundamental principle of living for the sake of others. Only when we learn to live for others and

practice a life of altruism, can we develop institutions, societies, nations and a world that is peaceful, prosperous and sustainable.

This is the reason the family is so essential. It is called our first school precisely because this universal principle is taught here. The family is where character is developed, loves are learned, life is conceived and lineages are handed down to the next generation. These moral and ethical values need to be at the heart of the Asia Pacific Union.

Hon. Bhubaneswar Kalita, *member of parliament, India; chairman of IAPP-South Asia:* Had we been in the old, normal situation, we would have gathered in Korea during this time for the commemoration of the 8th anniversary of the holy ascension of the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon and the commemoration of the 15th anniversary of the founding of UPF. Even though we are not able to meet each other at this time, it's great a blessing of modern technology that we can hold these great events virtually.

Indian Prime Minister H.E. Narendra Modi said: "The definition of self-reliance is changing in today's world. Today, it is about self-centered approach rather than a people-centric approach. But this is not India's philosophy. India's culture is about becoming self-reliant whose soul is 'world is one family.'"

Yes, the soul of India is the "world is one family," cited as *vashudaiva kutumbakam* in the oldest scripture of the world. It gives me immense pleasure to see UPF advocating the same philosophy through its enormous efforts around the world. All the problems and crises in the world can be settled through dialogue centering on the ideals of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values.

We have no option other than interdependence for achieving mutual prosperity. For this we need to find the common values and ideals applicable to all, the universal shared values. This is the idea whose time has come.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, *chair of UPF International:* Our goal with this ILC2020 is to explore our way forward. We will consider how we might turn tragic circumstances into opportunities to correct some of our collective deformities and dysfunctions as humanity—extreme inequality, injustice, failures to take responsibility, corruption, disrespect for each other and for the environment. How can we build a better world, working together in a spirit of multilateral cooperation?

How can we rediscover the common ground, the core values that bind us together as one family of humanity, in such a way that our particular identities, ethnicity, nationality, race, gender, religion and worldview, as important as they are, do not divide and separate us; do not undermine that greater solidarity that will be essential if we are to solve our most serious problems.

UPF underscores the values of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values. Interdependence indicates that we are bound together as one people, and that what affects any of us in some ways affects us all. Interdependence suggests the need for cooperation over competition, collaboration over hegemony, common cause over quests to divide and conquer. Interdependence affirms mutual respect, and the universal dignity of every person. In an interdependent world, nations seek peaceful resolution of conflict and they seek multilateral agreements that benefit the entire world.

The idea of mutual prosperity proposes that the fruits of human endeavor and human labor can be equitably shared, with systems in place that help assure wide distribution of benefits; not through coercive measures that suppress human freedom and voluntarism, but by means of a higher moral sensibility and vision. If all people live and act responsibly, neither taking excessively nor failing in their duties to contribute to the common good, then prosperity will rise, for all people.

Both interdependence and mutual prosperity require a foundation in values and principles. To some extent the concept of universal values suggests a global ethics that is a set of basic moral principles that are shared by virtually all cultures, religions and civilizations. Valuing all human life, mutual respect, avoiding violence, commitment to peaceful resolution of conflict, responsible care of the natural world, the environment. We are moral and spiritual beings. When we lose sight of this fact, we decline, even when it appears that we are strong and powerful; without a moral or spiritual foundation, that strength, that power will decline. In this sense, religion is extremely important, serving as the well spring for many, if not all of our world's core moral principles.

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ASIA PACIFIC HEADS OF STATE AND GOVERNMENT ADDRESS ILC2020

Written by UPF-Asia Pacific
 Friday, September 11, 2020

Asia Pacific—Five former heads of state (Kiribati, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste) and a cabinet minister from Japan shared their perspectives on the theme, “Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: Leadership and Governance,” during Session Two of the ILC2020—Asia Pacific program, which was held on September 11, 2020 and hosted by the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP).

The ISCP is an international network of current and former heads of state and government who through dialogue and collaboration, explore solutions and offer recommendations to address the world’s critical problems, including climate change and environmental issues, religious conflicts, poverty, war, corruption and family breakdown.

The speaker’s messages of hope inspired 5,000 registered participants from almost 75 nations around the world.

Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, *chairman of UPF-Asia Pacific*, was the moderator of this session. He welcomed all the Excellencies, dignitaries and participants, and briefly introduced the speakers.

H.E. Anote Tong is a former president of the Republic of Kiribati (2003-2016), *Sunhak Peace Prize laureate and a world-renowned leader in the battle against climate change for ocean conservation*. He emphasized three issues that need to be addressed at the present time. First, the COVID-19 crisis which is causing great disruption to the way of life and in different parts of the world. Second, climate change, which he said should never be put aside; it remains the greatest challenge and may lead to a cataclysmic disaster to human civilization. Third, another major challenge is the growing militarization in the South China Sea which has intensified since the emergence of the pandemic and is at its highest at the moment. He pointed out that any outbreak of conflict could escalate into a nuclear conflict with disastrous consequences for all of humanity. In conclusion, he emphasized the human factor—the ability of people to do something about it, the ability of people who are now actually responsible for escalating it to deescalate if they wish to do so.

H.E. Parmanand Jha, *former first vice president of Nepal (2008-2015)*, said that he was fully aware of what UPF co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, repeatedly emphasized in summits and conferences: “Interdependence, mutual prosperity and universally shared values are building blocks to world peace.” He commended the virtual Rally of Hope on August 9, 2020, where he addressed an audience of almost 1 million, together with current and other former heads of state and leaders. His remarks amplified the urgent message to place high importance on the global interest and he encouraged everyone to be globally-minded citizens. He also affirmed his solidarity and support to the Rally of Hope. And he applauded UPF co-founders, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Moon, for their relentless efforts and invaluable contribution to peace. The former vice president also expressed his belief that UPF will unite people and bring lasting peace as well as happiness throughout the world.

H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, *former president (2015-2019) of Sri Lanka*, said that he believes that universal peace is an essential requirement for yesterday, today and tomorrow. “Government and non-government organizations nationally and internationally have committed to world peace over centuries. Today, when we talk about peace we have to understand the challenges, the attitudes and behaviors of rich and powerful countries and terrorist activities that are hindering [the achievement of] world peace.” He added that being rich and powerful will not be a controlling or key factor for global pandemics and disasters. We all are now forced to understand that humanity and ecological balance plays spiritually into controlling these kind of situations. H.E. Sirisena continued: “The commitment and dedication of the Universal Peace Federation to achieving world peace is highly commendable. It is noted that the violation of human rights as well as other activities affecting world peace are readily addressed by UPF. As a democratic nation we should appreciate the role of the Universal Peace Federation in global peace. I take this opportunity to thank the founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, for the initiative and commitment towards world peace.”

H.E. Mari Alkatari, *former prime minister of Timor Leste (2002-2006, 2017-2018)*, said: “As the first multiplier, we have the pandemic. The second great effect caused by COVID-19 is that, with the development of science and technology, the world itself has become very small [and has] converted into a village. The third effect has come to demonstrate that, after all, the world has also become flat. Fourth, the virus has also shown that, against the web of the pyramid organization of human society, this, in fact, in its natural existence, is horizontal.” He further explained: “These realities have had immediate consequences such as deaths; have had effects on social life, political life, and economic life; have affected the global strategic balance of power and [have led to] the new arrangements in the organization of the power of the most powerful. The former prime minister concluded by saying, “Society must be structured in a more horizontal and inclusive way. A new development model should

be built based on the synthesis of models [that have existed] to this day. Social and economic development must go hand in hand, for this, and science and technology must be the heritage of all and be placed at the service of humanity.”

Hon. Hiroshi Kumagai is a former chief cabinet secretary as well as minister of international trade and industries of Japan. He mentioned that the world is in a turbulent era, which comes once every 100 or 200 years, and asked how Japan and the world can survive the coronavirus crisis. Then he said that countries should look to how Europe has been dealing with the crisis, as a model. He continued: “They announced to unite and manage monetary and fiscal policies together. They believe that innovative technological development will be the key to survive. They are about to work on a completely new technological development, which may be sustainable in the next era and create a brand-new value system. And they will prepare [groundbreaking] projects in various fields such as the environment, health and energy.” He added that quest for peace is importance. “No matter what we do, things will never work if nations fight with, interfere with and shoot guns at each other.” In closing, Hon. Kumagai thanked UPF for inviting him to speak and said that he is convinced that UPF’s efforts to advance peace will be a great support.

To go back to the executive summary for the Asia Pacific ILC, [click here](#).

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ASIA PACIFIC PARLIAMENTARIANS ADDRESS ILC2020

Written by UPF-Asia Pacific
 Friday, September 11, 2020

Asia Pacific—The International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) hosted Session Three of the ILC2020—Asia Pacific, held on September 11, 2020. Five current and former parliamentarians from five nations (Indonesia, Korea, Nepal, Fiji, Tuvalu) and a former government minister from Japan shared their perspectives on the theme, “Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: Role of Parliamentarians.”

The moderator of the session, **Mr. Santosh Kumar Paudel**, *chairman of UPF and the IAPP in the Asia Pacific*, welcomed all the participants and introduced the speakers. Opening remarks were given by **Dr. Michael Jenkins**, *president of UPF International and international coordinator of the IAPP*.

Hon. Dr. Agung Laksono, *former speaker of the People's Representative Council, Indonesia*, spoke about the importance of parliamentarians and government leaders in these difficult times. He commended UPF co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Moon, for her wisdom to convene a virtual summit at this juncture in history. To bring world leaders, not only from government but also from all different sectors of society is an ingenious idea. He highlighted Indonesia's role as a mediator in domestic as well as in regional and international conflicts. As Indonesia's state ideology of Pancasila is similar to UPF's Principles of Peace, the framework has allowed Indonesia, a diverse nation with a population just over 267 million, to overcome sectarian and divisive efforts. The former speaker commended the idea to form an Asia Pacific Union, which will be a broad-based body that draws together like-minded individuals and organizations from among the community of Asian nations to address common challenges facing the region.

Hon. Samuël P. Teo, *speaker of the Parliament of Tuvalu*, shared that while Tuvalu remains free of COVID-19 infections, when a positive case was confirmed in Fiji, which is the main point for Tuvalu's flights and boats, Tuvalu's interconnectedness with neighboring nations and the affect that could have on the country came to fore. Hon. Teo mentioned that as of April 3, 2020, there had been no COVID-19 cases in the country and that the possibility that Tuvalu will remain free of the pandemic is very favorable. He also said that parliamentarians need to maintain and enforce the rules while remaining focused, steady, patient and fair and need to help others to learn and to keep learning. Importantly, he found favor in the conference theme's three values with corresponding Bible verses.

Interdependence is two or more working together, which reminds me of Matthew 18:20 (KJV), “For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.” Interdependence provides support to individuals allowing them the strength to support others and to focus on their own personal growth. Individuals who are interdependent will reap the rewards immediately. Anyone will achieve more success and happiness when they are connected to those around them.

Mutual prosperity is the means by which everyone grows and prospers together, a win-win outcome which reminds me of Jeremiah 29:11 (NIV), “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.”

A value is a universal value if it has the same value or worth for all, and this reminds me of 1 John 4:8 (NKJV), “He who does not love does not know God, for God is love.” With parents and students spending more time at home, they are participating in activities such as fishing and farming together that strengthen the family bonds of love. The family is the cornerstone of our society. So with happy families, we have a happy Tuvalu.

Hon. Veena Bhatnagar, *deputy speaker of the Parliament of Fiji*, emphasized fortifying the vision of “One Family Under God” at this crucial time. In gaining wisdom from the great faith and moral traditions, we can use the basic values that we universally share to find solutions. The deputy speaker also mentioned that parliamentarians are also front liners in the pandemic and that if they uphold the highest standards of leadership, it will have a positive impact on the local, national and global level. “Compassion at a time of crisis is a very important manifestation of this leadership,” she said, and added that the virus “does not differentiate between rich and poor, strong and weak, developed and developing nations.” She cited that many rich, powerful, developed nations have been impacted by the virus more than many poor and less powerful nations. She also commended the country's prime minister for his wise leadership in dealing with the pandemic and to focus on their objective for this, which is to save lives.

Hon. Katsumasa Suzuki, *former vice minister of internal affairs and communication, government of Japan*, highlighted that “stronger unity than before is required” to overcome the crisis. He encouraged parliamentarians to interact across countries and pursue a new philosophy that transcends borders. He said that there should be an international system that can allow nations to cooperate beyond borders at the same time maintain their national sovereignty. He applauded Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's philosophy of pursuing harmonious relationships and resolving relationships.

Hon. Gyuhan Kim, former National Assembly member, Republic of Korea, highlighted that while people are avoiding personal contact, in the online world, people have an opportunity to express their opinions widely and to unite and speak in one voice, transcending time and space. He cited three things lawmakers can contribute to for creating a peaceful global community: 1.) Strengthen the role of the United Nations in the new world order in this new era and support the IAPP to become a global partner that can contribute to building trust between countries. 2.) Seek opinions from lawmakers in the region that can contribute to the peaceful reunification of Korea, which is the only divided country in the world today. Hon. Kim said that he is greatly supportive of the efforts of the Peace Road for the reunification of North and South Korea. 3.) Support the launch of a campaign that urges lawmakers to solve global problems such as climate change, global warming and environmental pollution. Hon. Kim hopes that fellow lawmakers will educate and lead the people with a vision of co-prosperity for the entire Asia Pacific region which now has the largest population in the world.

Hon. Chitralekha Yadav, member of parliament and former deputy speaker and minister, Nepal, spoke about the current situation in her country and said public awareness and knowledge initiatives about preventing the pandemic are needed. Hon. Yadav highlighted that another problem, aside from the pandemic, is climate change. As the Himalayan glaciers melt due to global warming, the South Asia region is at risk of a catastrophe. She urged decision makers to change their fundamental beliefs and urgently educate people to safeguard the natural environment. In this current situation, there is potential for a wide range of opportunities to produce innovative ideas and policies for sustainable human development. She commended UPF's willingness to address such issues to promote realistic solutions and nations to join together to safeguard human lives and civilization.

Dr. Michael Jenkins, president of UPF International and international coordinator of the IAPP, conveyed greetings on behalf of IAPP international co-chairmen, former U.S. congressman, Hon. Dan Burton from the U.S., and former speaker of the House of the Philippines, Hon. Jose de Venecia, Jr. He said that "they both believe that the parliamentarians, when united in cooperation, can become a very powerful voice because they represent the people."

He said that through collaboration, parliamentarians will have influence in resolving conflicts in the Middle East and ending the conflict in Korea. He also discussed that one possible project of IAPP members could be the creation, through their informal network, of a global pandemic early-warning communication system to detect and call attention to the earliest observances of illnesses that have the potential to spread globally. When COVID-19 was first reported to the World Health Organization on December 31, 2019, it took them more than a month to declare it a pandemic, which they did on March 11, 2020.

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ASIA PACIFIC RELIGIOUS LEADERS DISCUSS PEACEBUILDING, INTERFAITH COOPERATION AT ILC2020

Written by UPF-Asia Pacific
Friday, September 11, 2020

Asia Pacific—The Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) hosted Session Four of the ILC2020—Asia Pacific, which was held on September 11, 2020, under the theme, “The 75th Anniversary of the UN: The Role of Religious Leaders.” Ten distinguished speakers shared their perspectives on their roles to promote peacebuilding and interfaith cooperation across both national borders and religious traditions.

Acharya Dr. Shrivatsa Goswami, *head priest of the Sri Radharamana Temple, India, and chairman of the IAPD-Asia Pacific*, gave the welcome remarks. He said that the biggest challenge faced by this global pandemic is the fear that comes along with it. He underscored that COVID-19 has taught us that in human affairs, divisions and isolation do not work, and that this is all the more reason humanity should unite. He said that the world is one human family and as family members we need to talk rather than fight with each other, and emphasized more cooperation between government and civil society. He said that this joint effort must be interreligious in nature as advocated by the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon, co-founder of UPF.

Rev. Hyun-young Lee, *president of the Korea Religious Association, chairman of the IAPD-Asia and senior vice-chairman of the Korean Clergy Leadership Conference (KCLC)*, also gave the welcome remarks. He quoted Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of UPF, who said that, regulations and barriers at a time like this makes us unable to create hope for the future. He said that Dr. Moon has underscored that this time of crisis should be thought of as a time to build up strength and spirituality for the future. Rev. Lee emphasized that religious believers need to strengthen their spirituality and march into the future by teaching the world about the principle of living for the sake of others, as taught by the late Rev. Moon. He said that the great law of human development lies not in the survival of the fittest through competition, but rather in altruism.

Dr. Tong Yun Kai, *president of the Hong Kong Confucian Academy, China*, who dedicated his life to promoting the teachings of Confucianism, shared his insights on its relevance in solving the current crisis. He said that benevolence, faithfulness, compassion and harmony can be fundamental to building a harmonious world, as one of the biggest challenges today is the diminishing moral consciousness and the chaotic behavior of humanity. He said benevolence and kind-heartedness should be our primary motive for our actions and conduct. This is the practice of putting ourselves in the place of others. He said that this is the key to better citizenry; economic stability; a better government with no corruption; a better moral standard in business, economics, finance; and all other areas. He ended by saying that if every group applies the rule of seeking consensus while accepting differences, we can live together in harmony.

Prof. Dr. Nasaruddin Umar *is the grand imam of Istiqlal Grand Mosque in Jakarta, Indonesia; a renowned Muslim scholar; and founder of the Indonesian interfaith organization Masyarakat Dialog antar Umat Beragama (Community for Interfaith Dialogue)*. He pointed out several factors during this time of the pandemic that indicate religiosity is rising and that there is a misconception of religious rhetoric. This demonstrates the urgent need of religious and spiritual leaders to appropriately inform people of the new policies by translating messages about these policies in such a way that it can be understood by the people, while also correcting people's understanding of religious rhetoric and logic in dealing with the pandemic. Therefore, it is vital that they master the language and expressions of their own religion with great understanding to be able to translate the messages into language that can help people transition to the “new normal.”

Prof. Umar concluded by saying that authorities, at any level, must work together with religious and spiritual leaders to be able to guarantee the success of any new policy.

Rt. Rev Yoshinobu Miyake, *chair of the board of the International Shinto Studies Association, Japan, and director general of the Kansai U.N. Association*, started his speech by looking at the 75-year history of the United Nations since its founding in 1945. He analyzed the theme of the conference, interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, from three perspectives: international-political, economic-social and religious-cultural. His analysis concluded that interdependence and mutual prosperity cannot exist without human-to-human ties, and that the UN could not have been established and sustained without nation-to-nation ties. “Therefore,” he said, “religious leaders must proactively speak about interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, regardless of their nationality or religion, in order to show people opportunity and hope in times of global crisis.” He added that for those whose universal values, such as human rights and freedoms, are hindered by the state, they must commit to addressing that situation even more thoroughly.

Ven. Ho Myung, *general secretary of the Taego Buddhist Order, Korea*, began his speech by remembering the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon as a religious leader whose life should be the role model for all religious leaders around the world. Ven. Myung said

that human beings have the capacity for selflessness and can be awakened to the true truth of religion only when they practice it. He said that it is saddening that a lot of conflicts around the world are caused by religion when the role of religion is to help people overcome their selfishness and widen their narrow perception. He stressed that religious believers need to be the first to understand other religions and set an example by uniting as one. They need to teach people how to resolve conflicts and show them the value of codependence. "When we believe in each other and work together" can we overcome this pandemic crisis.

He concluded by saying that for the efforts of the UN to foster world peace to be successful, the spiritual wisdom and support of religious believers are absolutely necessary. He called on the religious believers of Asia to be the first to work together in solidarity and make it possible for religion to play a role of helping to lead the UN.

Pastor Stephen Kim, *co-chair of the Korean Clergy Leadership Conference, Korea*, also commended the great works of Dr. Moon's life which have contributed to religious life and peace. Pastor Kim said that the essence of our religious life is to reach out to the world to give hope and strength, and bring peace back into our lives, even during the pandemic. He stressed that although our natural human instincts might want us to go back to where we were before COVID-19, we can't go back to the past. In this pandemic, religious leaders must give new hope to mankind, set an example of peace and take on the challenge to face a new world. He said that prayers, courage and religious peace is needed now more than ever before.

Rev. Jenny Chalmers, *vicar of St. Andrew's Taupō and vicar general of the Diocese of Waiapu, New Zealand*, said that the spiritual cannot be divorced from the physical. Our spirituality will depend on whether we develop it or let it lie dormant. She spoke about past terrorist acts and killings that resulted from religious wars and extremism. She said that if COVID-19 and the recent Christchurch mosque shootings have taught us anything, "it [is] that we are interrelated, that we depend on each other for everything, even life itself."

She concluded by underscoring the importance of the role of religious leaders to practice what they preach and that it is time for the UN to recognize and acknowledge the importance of the spiritual in our world.

Samdech Khy Sovanratana, *acting president of Preah Sihanouk Raja Buddhist University, Cambodia*, emphasized the important role of religious leaders in guiding people regardless of their religious background or race. They know the heart of their followers and people, and their followers regard them as second parents. Samdech Sovanratana also said that since religious leaders play a central role in gathering their followers to help any objective or goal they have to be equipped with the wisdom of and expertise in their religion and other religions, and speak benevolently to avoid religious conflict and discrimination. He said that through UPF's programs religious leaders can have more opportunities to work together towards this.

Dr. Tageldin Hamad is the vice president of UPF International and international coordinator of the IAPD, director of UPF's Office of UN and International Relations, and the chairman of the World Association of Non-Governmental Organizations (WANGO). He underlined the importance of the culture of living for the sake of others, and said that interreligious dialogue works if we see each other as partners and collaborators, not as competitors; therefore, the IAPD is needed now more than ever before. "While nations are racing to find a vaccine, we need to help them find love, which is the ultimate vaccine," Dr. Hamad said. "By connecting and working together, can we overcome COVID-19. The wisdom of religions is needed in all multilateral institutions," he remarked as he commended the initiatives of Dr. and Mrs. Moon, co-founders of UPF.

Mrs. Ursula McLackland, *secretary general of UPF-Asia Pacific*, was the moderator of the session.

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ASIA PACIFIC CELEBRATES 15TH ANNIVERSARY OF UPF AT ILC2020

Written by UPF-Asia Pacific
 Saturday, September 12, 2020

Bangkok, Thailand—In Session Five, “A Tribute to the Universal Peace Federation (2005-2020): Contributions of UPF in Building a World of Peace,” a distinguished panel of speakers from Korea, Japan and the Asia Pacific region shared their experiences, insights and reflections about UPF, on the exact day of its founding by Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon 15 years ago, on September 12, 2005, at the Lincoln Center in New York.

Amb. Chung Tae-ik, *advisor of the Korean Council on Foreign Relations, Korea*, highlighted that this is a very special year for several reasons. It is the 15th anniversary of UPF and the 100th anniversary of the birth of UPF founder, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon. His wife and co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who established the Sunhak Peace Prize, presented the prize in this 100th anniversary year to former UN secretary-general, Ban Ki-moon.

He stated that UPF was founded to build a global peace community and recently launched seven pillar associations, including the ISCP, IAPP, IAFLP, IAPD, IAAP, IMAP, and IAED.

Amb. Chung, who is also an advisor to the World Peace Road Foundation, noted that in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the outbreak of the Korean War this year, about 70 young people from all over the world participated in the “Peace Road” event on the Korean Peninsula, the United States, Japan and Russia.

Gen. Terdsak Marrome, *retired general of the Royal Thai Army and president of UPF-Thailand*, expressed his admiration of the work and accomplishments of UPF.

Gen. Marrome explained that although the work of the military may seem contradictory, he chose it as his career because of his desire for peace. He has seen firsthand the devastation of war, and from experience could recognize that freedom is not free.

When he retired from the army, Gen. Marrome met UPF and became the chairman of its Thailand chapter in 2010. For the past decade he has taken part in UPF’s activities in the country as well as in several Asia Pacific nations and beyond.

Gen. Marrome identified that a central teaching of the UPF founders is that every citizen needs to be a patriot. He underlined that we need to create one global family of peace-loving citizens, and as public-minded people, with hearts of love, be willing to sacrifice to create a better future for generations to come.

He also reflected that teaching people to be unselfish, live for the sake of others is a core value of UPF, which is dedicated to advancing peace in the lives of individuals, in families, in communities, in societies and throughout the world. Youth from enemy countries are taught to forgive one another and work together to promote peace and unity. The teachings of UPF have healed broken families and given young people a clear vision of their responsibility to build lasting, loving marriages; stable families; and prosperous communities and nations. UPF’s global foundation is extensive and as a non-governmental organization, especially amazing.

He concluded, “I believe that UPF can open the doors to a world of peace, harmony and happiness for all people.”

Hon. David Clarke, *former member of the Legislative Council of the Parliament of New South Wales (2003-2019), Australia*, shared that UPF’s vision is for “One Family Under God” and that it promotes peace and harmony between people from different ethnicities, nations and religions. He underscored that it is the only organization to successfully bring together under one umbrella all levels of society.

UPF Founder Rev. Moon understood that such an undertaking would fail if it was not God-centered. He recognized the destructiveness of secularism and atheism against the natural order, and the need to instill good values.

While UPF has been trail-blazing for 15 years, its groundwork was laid over decades by the vision and hard work of Rev. Moon and his wife Dr. Moon, through a great multitude of programs: thousands of religious, political, national and international conferences; great newspapers (such as The Washington Times); numerous magazines and books; extensive use of films, television and the internet; education programs, including those that promote marriage and family life and combat HIV/AIDS, drug addiction and terrorism; cultural enrichment such as the creation and financing of symphony orchestras, music festivals, and ballet companies; promoting sporting festivals; founding education institutions including universities and hospitals to expand medical research, bringing together groups such as scientists and business leaders to find solutions to pressing issues.

Hon. Clarke also spoke of the tens of thousands of UPF Ambassadors for Peace, who are each like a pebble, which when thrown into a lake, produces ripples in all directions.

All these initiatives didn’t happen haphazardly but were brought to fruition by Rev.

Moon and his wife Dr. Moon. What a great work and wonder the UPF worldwide movement is, Hon. Clarke remarked.

He added, in conclusion, "What a wonderful thing it is that in the middle of this pandemic which has unleashed such havoc, the UPF presses ahead to work for a better world as 'One Family Under God.'"

Prof. Thomas Hwang, *president of the Chinese People's Federation for World Peace*, spoke about "China and the UPF Mission." He surmised that those attending the ILC2020 are positive thinkers, like himself, because the conference is about opportunity and hope in a time of crisis.

Although it has been a challenging time with the COVID-19 pandemic, which has disrupted many people's lives, one positive impact of it is that it has forced people to shift their priorities. More specifically, it has caused people to recognize the value of faith and family, and of their relationships with friends and colleagues. Being isolated has caused us to value our connectedness more than ever, Prof. Hwang noted.

UPF has earned the support of the international community through its efforts to connect peoples beyond nationality, ideology, race and religion throughout its 15-year history. Another impact of COVID-19 is that it has exacerbated tensions between the United States and China.

He also shared his thoughts and observations on the two conflicting perspectives regarding how this might play out. He noted the challenge of shifting both countries' emphasis on national interest towards cooperation and peaceful co-existence for a global purpose. He also commented on the internal instability and "danger of losing soul" of these two countries as a mutual weakness.

In his conclusion, Prof. Hwang stated: "This is where UPF, and our newly founded organization, the Chinese People's Federation for World Peace, come in ... The mission of CPFWP is to remind Chinese people, both inside and outside of China, of their ancient culture, which is deeply rooted in faith and family, and inspire them to reconnect with their roots. Their Chinese ancestors revered Heaven, practiced family ethics based on filial piety, and advocated a universal moral order. They believed in harmony as a way of life....The purpose of all the organizations inspired by Rev. and Mrs. Moon is to address this problem, to offer new spiritual insights that give clear vision, purpose and direction to human life and allow us to live in peace and harmony. We in the UPF and CPFWP families need to strengthen our voices, expand our networks, and stand together for the sake of our one human family"

Amb. K.V. Rajan, *former Indian Ambassador, India*, shared that he had the privilege of participating in the meeting in New York in September 2005 where a huge international gathering of political and civil society leaders from around the world unanimously endorsed the call of Rev. Sun Myung Moon to establish the UPF.

Since that hopeful beginning, it has been a truly wonderful and uplifting experience to see the UPF grow from strength to strength, year after year.

Today, UPF's activities cover the entire globe, and a whole spectrum of activities. The UPF alone has institutions with leaders from every specialization working together, inspired by a common overarching vision of building a peaceful, inclusively prosperous and morally responsible world order.

It has separate primary associations devoted respectively to heads of state and government (ISCP), parliamentarians (IAPP), interfaith consultation (IAPD), media (IAPP), academia (IAAP), business (IAED) and first ladies (IAFLP).

Thus, UPF is possibly the one NGO with the wish, the will, the vision, the means and the institutional underpinnings to assist governments and international bodies like the United Nations in confronting the multiple challenges facing the world across the broad spectrum of human activity, Amb. Rajan remarked.

The UPF message is that a world of inclusive prosperity and sustainable peace, can, must and will be achieved because "living for the sake of others" is the only way to achieve a better world for all.

In conclusion, Amb. Rajan expressed his belief that the UPF "will become a cornerstone to building lasting peace around the world".

Prof. Masahisa Hayashi is *professor emeritus of Yokohama City University and Waseda University, Japan*. In July 2001, Prof. Hayashi was appointed as one of the first three Ambassadors for Peace in Japan in a seminar that was held in Bangkok, Thailand. Since then he has attended countless UPF events. An academician, he was involved mainly in UPF activities that were related to the academic field. He has been a member of the Professors World Peace Academy since its inception in 1973. In 2011, UPF-Japan established a think-tank, and Prof. Hayashi became the representative director of it.

He explained that UPF-Japan's activities can be classified into three broad areas: (1) Security – the security situation surrounding Japan has recently been getting more tense due to the fast rise of China and also the North Korean nuclear missile threat. (2) Promoting friendly relations between Japan and Korea through initiatives such as the Japan-Korea Undersea Tunnel project. (3) Strengthening the family.

Prof. Hayashi also noted that UPF-Japan has sent many women volunteers to countries throughout the world. Without their dedicated efforts and the enormous contributions they made, perhaps UPF-Japan would have never developed into what it is today.

Rev. Gregory Stone, *secretary general of UPF-Oceania*, was the moderator of the session.

Before the session concluded, there was a brief time for questions and answers, especially about UPF's role in the future.

The presenters expressed their positive and optimistic view that UPF will continue to

be a unique and world-leading peace organization well into the future.

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ASIA PACIFIC FIRST LADIES, WOMEN LEADERS ADDRESS ILC2020

Written by UPF-Asia Pacific

Saturday, September 12, 2020

Asia Pacific—Three current and former first ladies (Palau, Northern Mariana Islands, Fiji) and a former deputy prime minister of Nepal shared their unique perspectives and insights on the theme, “Women Leadership at a Time of Global Crisis,” during Session Six of the ILC2020—Asia Pacific program, which was held on September 12, 2020 and hosted by the International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP).

The IAFLP, a project of UPF’s International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP), was inaugurated at the World Summit 2020, held in Seoul, Korea from February 3 to 7. IAFLP, in collaboration with the Women’s Federation for World Peace (WFWP), brings together current and former first ladies from throughout the world, drawing upon their experience and wisdom as women leaders and as role models who serve their countries and their societies in very essential and significant ways.

There is a growing awareness among people around the world of the urgent need for the innovative vision and bold feminine leadership that is embodied by the leaders who spoke at the session.

Summary of keynote speeches:

Dr. Julia Moon is the *president of WFWP International*. In her opening remarks, Dr. Moon expressed how honored WFWP International and she are to be working with UPF to develop the International Association of First Ladies for Peace. The IAFLP initiative, led by first ladies, proposes that women leaders from all national, racial and religious backgrounds, and all sectors of society, unite in solidarity to respond to today’s challenges for the sake of providing a life of dignity for all people and for creating a world of lasting peace.

We are now experiencing a global crisis due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The coronavirus is teaching us that we are not separate from each other. Never before has it been more evident and clear that interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, as articulated in the founding vision of UPF, are no longer a choice, but the only way forward.

Especially, in such trying times, cooperation between government and civil society is indispensable for creating social harmony and economic sustainability. This is why UPF co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, is proposing the establishment of the Asia Pacific Union as a broad-based, independent, non-political body that draws together like-minded individuals and organizations from among the community of Asia Pacific nations. This union will draw on the region’s common cultural values of filial piety, family and faith to seek answers to critical challenges within the region.

As women of influence, let us follow Dr. Moon’s leadership. Let us each find our internal compass, our True North, our vertical connection to God, and by doing so, let’s heal our hearts and the hearts of others; celebrate our strengths; and work together with our brothers, husbands and sons to build a better world. This time of the pandemic and quarantine provides us with a silver lining: the opportunity to reevaluate old habits and focus on what is truly essential in life.

I would like to share a quote from Dr. Moon’s recently published memoir: “Upon the foundation of women’s maternal love and affection, the world of the future can be a world of reconciliation and peace. The time has come for the power of women to save the world.”

Mdm. Debbie Remengeseau is the *first lady of the Republic of Palau*. In her address, Mdm. Remengeseau reflected upon the life of UPF co-founder, Dr. Sun Myung Moon, and urged everyone to continue working together to achieve what he long envisioned for the world. The best ways to celebrate his legacy on the 8th anniversary of his passing is by promoting peace and prosperity in our communities. COVID-19 has shown how fragile and interconnected our world is. Even though our global health systems and economies are facing enormous challenges, there have been some positives from the pandemic: with less human activity, our precious environment has started to show signs of recovery. Our environment connects us all. The environmental risks posed to our planet are the biggest risks to peace, unity and prosperity in our time.

As the world takes a pause during lockdown, Palau is urging governments and people to use this time to reassess how we do things and to care for our oceans and our environment. We need to put our minds together to create a new future. We have that opportunity now, and we need to take it.

Mdm. Diann Mendiola Tudela Torres is the *first lady of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI)*. Mdm. Torres asked, “How do we find opportunities during such dark days? How can we change the tide that continues to test humanity?” We have to take a steady approach in encouraging hope and continue guiding our loved ones, neighbors and members of our community to use this time as a chance and an opportunity to strengthen our weaknesses. That is, to find gains in our losses, to seek virtues in our shortcomings, and to find ways to rise from this fall.

My mission as first lady is to spread hope. Through the Lady Diann Torres Foundation, I have taken the initiative to work collaboratively with members of our community and other nonprofits to reach out and build goodwill and support for those most in need. The Canvas of Hope project encourages our local artists to use our once fallen power poles to create art, which now spreads hope and love throughout our islands. My foundation donates to nonprofits to help keep their programs running, as we all have unique ways to reach out to build goodwill and support for those most in need. Mdm. Torres expressed that she will not stop, and will not allow the current crisis to crush the dreams of a thriving Northern Mariana Islands.

She quoted Isaiah 40:31 from the Bible: "But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint," We can count on hope during our most challenging times, so never stop hoping and believe that we will come out of this stronger and better.

Mdm. Adi Koila Mara Nailatikau is a former first lady of the Republic of Fiji (2009-2015). In her address, Mdm. Nailatikau began by saying that the devastating indirect consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic—loss of freedoms, work, connectivity and interaction—will continue even after an antiviral has been found. Minority groups, and in particular, women and children, are left more vulnerable in these times. In the Pacific region, the majority of our island nations rely on aid and tourism to support our national economies. Since the closing down of borders, as early as March, hundreds of thousands of jobs have been lost in Fiji and across the Pacific, resulting in a revival of communal interdependency and Pacific Islanders living a more sustainable way of life with one another and the environment.

The wisdom of our ancient systems of sustainable environmental resource management has always promoted harmony between mankind and between man and the environment. Moreover, the community-driven initiatives that have been developed in response to families spending more time together has been a light at the end of the tunnel. With the abundance of innovation that has come out of our lockdowns, I am truly optimistic and betting on our future generations to lead us to a better and more peaceful world.

The teachings of Rev. and Mrs. Moon focus on interdependence, mutual prosperity and universally shared values. This year, more than any other, is a time to embrace these teachings. The smallest acts of kindness to a brother, sister or stranger will go further in these stressful times. Quoting from Hebrews 11.1 of the Bible, Mdm. Nailatikau said, "Faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen." Faith is the ability to see beyond the high tides, rapids and rough waters and know that beyond them breaks a sea of calmness and serenity.

Hon. Sujata Koirala is the former deputy prime minister of Nepal (2009-2011). As Hon. Koirala began her remarks, she noted that while the entire world sweats profusely to contain the spread of the coronavirus, the role of effective leadership has been brought into razor-sharp focus around the globe. I applaud Dr. Moon and the Universal Peace Federation for bringing this topic for discussion at such a relevant time. The world did not need a pandemic to realize that people are generally better off when their leaders are smart, honest and modest.

Now that we are head-on with this global crisis, it is apparent that the challenges of the 21st century call for a new type of leadership, different from that based on command and control. This new type of leadership primarily involves resilience, courage, flexibility, listening, empathizing, collaboration, caring and recognition of collective contribution.

Through this esteemed forum, I urge world leaders and decision-makers to ensure gender is integrated into national and sub-national COVID-19 response plans, not only to achieve better outcomes for women and girls but also to achieve better outcomes for the whole of humanity.

Prof. Mieko Ikegame is the former director of the UN's Office of the Under Secretary General, Japan. The leadership and participation of women in decision-making processes is essential for coping with critical issues affecting people's lives, Prof. Ikegame said as she opened her remarks. There is a need for solidarity among women and for women to support one another as leaders. If a woman is educated, it has widespread benefits: for herself, her children and her community. In Prof. Ikegame's view, women have a much more holistic view of society due to child bearing and their concern for the well-being of the family and community. Peace starts from one's heart and then expands to the family, community, nation and world. Most peace movements have been initiated by women. It is women who experience the most suffering during times of war and difficulty.

Being a global citizen and having a cosmopolitan mindset does not mean stopping to be Japanese or Indonesian. World peace requires mutual understanding and solidarity. It starts with understanding who you are and then developing the skills to explain to others who you are and what you stand for. Global consciousness is the key. Peace is the central concept in this challenging world, where current short term ambitions tend to dominate the need for long term and lasting sustainable development and peace.

World leaders play a critical role in shaping the next generation's consciousness to take responsibility as global citizens, now and in the future. All in all, the future depends on how we shape the world today. Leadership is critical. The education of the next generation is vital for the survival of humankind; we must act together now.

Mrs. Blessie G. Dhakal, international coordinator of the IAFLP, gave special remarks on the topic, "Paving a Way for the Asia Pacific Union." She expressed that an Asia Pacific Union is vitally important and has the potential to become a platform of interregional cooperation for mutual well-being, security and safety and where policies are created to protect the interests of the Union and its member nations for generations. Such a union would enable discussion and the exchange of ideas

related to coping better with crises and situations, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

"Just imagine how much more prosperous and peaceful we would be [if were collaborating] together," she shared. Working together as a region will help create healthier partnerships among nations within the region, which in turn will contribute to the growth of tourism and trade.

At times of natural catastrophe, Union nations can support each other with urgently needed resources and human expertise, and aid would become accessible and the delivery of it, more efficient. Countries that are performing better can share their methods and solutions with other member nations to help them recover and prosper.

The IAFLP creates camaraderie among first ladies, which in turn enables better reach and a wider scope of support for the work they and other women leaders do. When empowered women come together, great ideas emerge. The IAFLP initiative is timely and needed now more than ever before. There's a brighter day ahead of us. Mrs. Dhakal urged the IAFLP to continue to expand its network. "Using the heart of a mother's unlimited love, it is imperative that we find solutions to today's problems in order to protect our future generations," she said.

Mrs. Moriko Hori is the coordinator of the IAFLP-Japan. In her closing remarks, Mrs. Hori expressed her gratitude to the speaker's for their dedication to their countries and for bringing hope to people who are suffering from the pandemic. She shared that WFWP conducts humanitarian projects in 50 developing countries. These projects aim to empower women and children to become independent through education. More than anything, WFWP's projects give hope for the future.

WFWP's founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, often expressed to WFWP members that as a mother's organization, WFWP needs to conduct activities with a mother's unconditional love. WFWP strongly believes that a person who has experienced true love can share it with others. In this way, we can bring peace to our communities, nation and world.

Now is the time for women leaders to show what needs to be done for the world. Let us turn this opportunity into an actual movement.

Mrs. Merly Barlaan is the international vice president of WFWP-Asia. Mrs. Barlaan shared that now is the time to strengthen our resolve, powered by the heart of a mother, to work in collaboration to build a unified Asia Pacific region centered on God. On behalf of the organization committee, Mrs. Barlaan extended her deep gratitude to everyone for joining the IAFLP session.

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ASIA PACIFIC JOURNALISTS DISCUSS MEDIA'S ROLE AT ILC2020

Written by UPF-Asia Pacific

Saturday, September 12, 2020

Asia Pacific—The International Media Association for Peace (IMAP) hosted Session Seven of the ILC2020—Asia Pacific program, held on September 12, 2020, with the theme “Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: Role of Media.” Eight speakers from eight countries representing eight major media outlets presented.

Without being aware of it, they highlighted various attributes of a good leader in describing the social role of the media. They said the media needs to be the watchdog, educator and peace-builder, that is, to act in the role of a good parent. One speaker said that the role of the media is to inform, educate and enlighten, that is, to be a good teacher. The presenters also spoke about the qualities of responsible media: building trust, creating connectivity and advocating freedom. A vivid example of the importance of an independent and responsible media was recently referred to in an article published in an April issue of the international scientific journal “Nature” which reportedly said that if the dangers of COVID-19 were conveyed honestly and in a timely manner, then global losses could have been reduced by as much as 95 percent. Indeed, an independent media is essential for a healthy, free and safe society.

The International Media Association for Peace (IMAP), an initiative of UPF, represents a worldwide professional network of journalists who support a socially responsible and moral media to convey accurate content, address the challenges of our time based on the highest principles of ethical journalism, and understanding that universal values are key elements of a world of peace.

Abbreviated remarks of speakers:

Mrs. Shova Gyawali, *director of the Nepal Republic Pvt. Ltd. (publisher of the Republica daily newspaper in association with the International New York Times):* To begin with, I would like to talk briefly about the role of the media during any crisis. The media plays the role to bridge the gap between people from different walks of life. It helps provide people hope and gives them the belief that a positive future will surely come along.

During any pandemic or difficulty, it is easy to lose sight of the future and become discouraged.

This is where the media plays a critical role. It needs to assure people that there will be better times ahead. It should uplift and inspire people with stories of optimism from around the globe. It needs to reach out to people at the most desperate times and give them a sense of unity and belonging.

They are mothers leading their family and they make up the majority of first responders. The important role of women in society is the belief that UPF co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, has held so dearly all her life.

Nevertheless, COVID-19 is a global issue that demands a common response in which all countries express solidarity for and support of one another in alleviating the devastating impact the crisis has had on their people. It is only with a sense of shared responsibility and common destiny that a final victory against this malicious foe will be achieved.

Let me conclude this short address by expressing my warm regards to Dr. Moon and the Universal Peace Federation.

Mr. Hee Taeg Jung, *president of The Segye Times, Korea:* Since the novel coronavirus was discovered in Wuhan, China last December, more than 27 million people have been infected with and 880,000 people have died from it. National borders have closed. We are experiencing hardships resulting from the economy grinding to a halt and job layoffs. Worse yet, nobody knows when the COVID-19 pandemic will come to an end.

What is essential for overcoming this global crisis is leadership that promotes interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, which, at the inaugural ceremony of the IMAP at the World Summit 2020, the association pledged it will do. The media's role is paramount in pooling the wisdom necessary for surmounting this global crisis. Already, nationalism is rearing its head in the struggle to secure COVID-19 vaccines. Cooperation and solidarity among nations are eroding. The media must encourage and lead discussions so that religious and spiritual leaders along with political leaders may find a solution based on interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values.

According to the World Meteorological Organization's recent regular briefing, temperatures in the North Pole are rising twice as fast as the global average.

For the sake of future generations, I believe it is up to the media to ask the fundamental questions and reflect on the answers to these questions.

The Segye Times has been reporting on climate change and environmental problems every year since 2014. It is also focused on providing in-depth coverage of COVID-19.

A major concern during this emergency is that social conflict and distrust are growing.

Opinions have become polarized according to differences in political beliefs, generations, gender, or even location. Blame is shifted, and accusations run amok. Conflict is stirred up and proliferated through "fake news," generated through social media.

The media must step in and take charge. During a crisis, such as this pandemic, trust, as the preeminent social capital, is a proverbial vaccine. To this end, The Segye Times is doing all it can to provide accurate and unbiased news coverage. It is committed to social responsibility and following ethics, consistent with the IMAP Resolution.

In order for the era of a Heavenly Unified Korea and a one-family community centered around our Heavenly Parent to be brought about, our journalists must aim to create a free, responsible and moral press, and lead the way in creating world peace through active cross-border interchange and solidarity.

Mr. Masahiro Kuroki, *president of The Sekai Nippo, Japan*: The world is now facing a global scale crisis, which is a focus of the main theme of this conference. Needless to say, this crisis has brought confusion to all areas of society, including politics, the economy, medical care and transportation. At the same time, the pandemic has brought to light the problems that human beings have in common.

This crisis can be said to be a global warning to all mankind.

One of the most notable issues that have developed during the COVID-19 crisis is the intensifying confrontation between the United States and China. This is not just a balance-of-power struggle between the world's first and second greatest powers, but it is also a clash of values for humanity, between liberal democracy and communism. The question is how can the suppression of ideology, religion, freedom and human rights by communism, represented by the Chinese Communist Party, be stopped? What is important is how we can overcome this battle of thought and values.

UPF co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, has repeatedly stressed that "human wisdom and power cannot solve the problem." Foreign politicians and we, journalists, must listen seriously to the providence.

The direction for the region is indicated by the Asia-Pacific Union initiative, which Dr. Moon declared in Nagoya, Japan last October. Gross domestic product (GDP) in the region is remarkable and is expected to account for about 60 percent of the world's growth in 2030. It is hoped that Pacific Rim countries, led by South Korea, Japan and the United States, will take the lead based on the providence.

Otto von Bismarck, a 19th-century Prussian politician, said: "A statesman cannot create anything himself. He must wait and listen until he hears the steps of God sounding through events, then leap up and grasp the hem of His garment." I think journalists need to have the attitude of catching "the hem of His garment."

Ms. Naziah Ali, *publisher and editor-in-chief of Fiji Time Magazine, Fiji*: The need for our leaders to come together, exchange ideas and experiences and find a way forward has become more important today than ever before.

While Fiji has had to close its borders to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, this has inevitably led to economic suffering. The collapse of the global tourism industry has hit our small economy hard, and there is no real forecast of when we can go back to how things were. We are bracing for a new normal, and this new normal brings with it doubts and fears.

In times of crisis when there is a threat to public health on the scale like that of the COVID-19 pandemic, governments take more restrictive measures than they would in normal times. Fiji shut down cities to contain the spread of the virus and imposed a 14-day quarantine for citizens returning to the island. It also imposed a curfew and limited the size of public gatherings.

Amid the pandemic, the free flow of news and information is essential, ensuring open dialogue and the exchange of vital information.

The local media in Fiji is fully committed to its responsibility as a watchdog, educator and peace builder during this crisis, despite setbacks that occurred earlier when the first coronavirus case was found in Fiji.

During those early days, the media was accused of scaremongering and inciting online hostility. From the start, the media published information to inform people about the coronavirus. There was a flood of information and the public was struggling to sieve through what was credible and what was not.

Social media, in particular Facebook, has become the hub of virtual conversation sometimes rife with misinformation. The World Health Organization (WHO) introduced its COVID-19 information center which works with fact checkers around the world to handle misinformation on Facebook. Most media companies are finding that social media has transformed itself into a key channel for reading perspectives that it might not get otherwise. However, there are concerning signs of stigma of and misinformation about the virus.

Local media can provide more reliable information because they actually have reporters on the ground in communities and therefore have more factual data and information. The media is finding itself in a paradox of sorts. With audiences reaching record numbers and revenue shrinking, media companies are finding it difficult to stay afloat. But one thing that is clear is that COVID-19 is reawakening people to the vital role of independent media in society. This time is an opportunity for the media to rebuild bridges of trust with the community to become a reliable source of information.

Mr. Zhu Xing Qing, former chief correspondent in Hong Kong of Radio Free Asia (USA) and former deputy editor of the World Economic Herald, Shanghai, China: Over the past year or so, there have been social disputes over the extradition laws, then COVID-19, and finally, more recently, fierce battles over national security laws. Many Hong Kong residents say they are no longer familiar with and are even afraid of the city where they were born and grew up. Some young people want to flee abroad, while more people in general are eager to emigrate.

Data from international banks indicate that the number of rich immigrants in 2018 increased by 50 percent over the previous year, and ranked the number one in the world.

As for COVID-19, we can learn more details from the social media posts of Chinese mainlanders. According to an issue of the international scientific journal, "Nature," published in April of this year, if COVID-19 had been reported in a timely way, losses could have been reduced by 95 percent. In other words, if there was an independent media that could report on the coronavirus when it first emerged, hundreds of thousands of lives could have been saved.

However, since the middle of this year, the global media has been paying more attention to the border conflict between China and India. Following the deaths of dozens of soldiers, this week, both countries exchanged the first gunshot in 45 years. I believe that mankind is facing a crucial crossroads today. And making a wise choice is unprecedentedly important.

The international community should learn lessons and formulate new regulations that are more rigorous, operable and verifiable. The media of all countries, big or small, should strive to report the truth as quickly as possible. Let the belief that human health is most important spread all over the world.

The theme of our conference tries to give us the answer on how these dilemmas and crises can be addressed: interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values. We must re-emphasize the traditional values of freedom, democracy, equality and fraternity

In Chinese, crisis 危机 means danger plus opportunity. I believe that we still have reasons to be optimistic about the rest of this century and the destiny of mankind.

Mr. Alok Mehta, former president of the Editors Guild of India: UPF has been working in the more than past decade with a great vision of world peace and the welfare of human society. UPF co-founder Rev. Sun Myung Moon also inspired the media world to work for peace and prosperity for human beings. I still remember when the World Media Association held conferences in 1997 and 1998 in Washington, D.C. with blessings of Rev. Moon to promote peace, prosperity and universal values for global family. Now, during the COVID-19 crisis, we have to work more for that mission to save the world.

It is an undisputed fact that journalism, in today's world, is challenging and requires concerted efforts from a journalist to succeed. Journalism is the fourth estate of government.

The core purpose of journalism is to inform, educate and enlighten the masses on various issues.

The media has to maintain the principles of truthfulness, accuracy, objectivity, impartiality, fairness and public accountability. Therefore, I feel the media should be more responsible and follow ethics to promote social values, and IMAP can create better understanding among journalists and media professionals of different countries.

India has over 800 million youth and they know that their future will be secured not just by the scale of the country's economy, but also by the depth of the country's global engagement.

The coronavirus crisis has created enormous challenges for the world. It has shaken the foundations of the global order, and the future looks less certain. For all the progress we have made, we now live on the edge of uncertainty, with unsettled questions and unresolved disputes; contests and claims; and clashing visions and competing models.

We see growing mutual insecurity and rising military expenditure, internal dislocations turning into external tensions, and new fault lines in trade and competition in the global commons. Above all, we see assertion of power over recourse to international norms. In the midst of all this, there are challenges that touch us all, including the continuous threat of terrorism and extremism. This is a world of interdependent fortunes and failures. And, no nation can shape and secure it on its own.

Connectivity is vital. It does more than enhance trade and prosperity; it unites a region. India has been at the crossroads for centuries. We understand the benefits of connectivity. There are many connectivity initiatives in the region, and if these are to succeed, we must not only build infrastructure, but also bridges of trust.

So, each nation must ask itself: Are its choices building a more united world, or creating new divisions? It is a responsibility that both existing and rising powers have. Competition is normal, but contests must not turn into conflict and differences must not be allowed to become disputes. We choose the side of principles and values, of peace and progress—not one side of a divide or the other.

Mr. Vasilii Fokin, founder of the Eurasia News Group, Kyrgyzstan: There is no easy route through the crisis. Today, I would like to speak on what we may have learned from the pandemic, in order to usher in the post-COVID era, especially in the Asia Pacific region.

There is a popular English proverb that says "cometh the hour, cometh the man." The idea is that the right leaders will come to the fore during times of crisis.

South Korea's rapid response to the coronavirus may be an exemplary demonstration of the principles of effective crisis management.

Civil trust in the government of a nation is crucial to overcoming such calamities. A wrong move could erode trust and unleash unrest that exacerbates existing threats. But, it remains to be seen whether our leaders will rise to the occasion with the appropriate response. Without that openness, the public can quickly sense deception, reducing the credibility of the government and trust in their policies.

When it comes to taking action, a leader needs to evaluate exactly how much they can rely on individual cooperation through persuasion, and when they need to cross over into more rigid "command and control," a choice that can quickly backfire if it is not taken with suitable caution. All of this will determine how a leader limits the damage of an emergency.

Ladies and gentleman, effective crisis leadership cannot be brought about by simply doing the right thing on the ground. Instead, leaders need to craft a good narrative that helps clarify the problem and unite the population if they are to attain the permissive consensus that is essential to make decisions and formulate policies.

The narrative would offer a credible explanation of what happened and guidance, instill hope, show empathy and suggest that leaders are in control. If you fail on any one of those, you will begin to lose the public's confidence.

Dr. Thomas P. McDevitt, *chairman of The Washington Times and global coordinator of IMAP*: It does seem that our era is overcome with multidimensional critical challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has wreaked havoc and suffering throughout the world. Social norms have been disrupted. As you all know, there are numerous other significant challenges facing every nation. There are big changes occurring in the shift from the dominant Atlantic-centered civilization to the Asia Pacific civilization.

How we view these challenges is so important. As journalists it is vital that we seek information that is most essential in order to report the news with accuracy, fairness and relevance.

And we should seek to understand the grand currents that are driving our time, this changing era.

In 2016, before 80 members of the U.S. Congress attending the launch of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) on Capitol Hill, UPF co-founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, said: "We look at this world and see unspeakable, inarticulate misery happening all around the globe. This is impossible to solve with mere human power. What should we do from here on forward? We should start a movement that once again attends God as the original owner of the universe in our families, countries and world. However, the reality is that, although our hearts are eager to attend God, it's hard to practice in real life."

As the evangelical historian philosopher, Os Guinness, likes to say, "Contrast is the mother of clarity." When the world seems so dark, the emerging light of a new view of life—centered on the highest ideals of true love that transcend the barriers of race, religion, culture and national boundaries—is now becoming more evident with each passing day.

The media must be free. And, a free press must also be a responsible press, and a responsible press is a moral press. What do I mean by a moral media? A moral media is society's conscience.

The IMAP will encourage the development of a responsible global media industry that is highly trusted, independent and prosperous, and accessible to all people. And, as the "peace" in IMAP's name suggests, there is also a strong desire to encourage news media to shine a light on dialogue, collaboration, conflict resolution and most of all, solutions—as a way to promote human development, God-given human rights, social well-being, freedom and prosperity.

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ACADEMICIANS DISCUSS 'PURSUING INTERDEPENDENCE' AT ILC2020—ASIA PACIFIC

Written by UPF-Asia Pacific
 Saturday, September 12, 2020

Asia Pacific—The International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP) hosted Session Eight of the ILC2020—Asia Pacific program, which took place on September 12, 2020. Eight distinguished academicians shared their valuable perspectives on the theme, "Breaking Down the Walls: Pursuing Interdependence in A Community for Peace." Around 1,000 participants joined the webinar.

Dr. Sung Bae Jin is the chairman of HJ Academy of Arts and Science, Korea, and the international coordinator of the IAAP. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the importance of planting within the family the seeds of "conscience for the whole purpose," or *hyo jeong*, as Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, UPF co-founder, calls it, that can become the basis for creating new values and culture based on interdependence.

Dr. Heung-soon Park, vice president of the United Nations Association-Republic of Korea and the former dean of the Graduate School, Sun Moon University, also gave the opening remarks. He highlighted the role of member states of the United Nations, world leaders and UPF to promote multilateral cooperation to resolve common global threats and to persuade the UN to return to a spirit of multilateral cooperation.

Amb. Nobuyasu Abe, former UN under-secretary-general for disarmament affairs (2003-06), Japan, stressed that in this pandemic, "safety should not be sacrificed for the sake of competition" among nations. As world attention has focused on the pandemic, the issues of climate change and nuclear threat must still be solved. Moreover, Amb. Abe proposed to establish an international emergency fund for pandemic situations.

Dr. Modadugu Vijay Gupta is a biologist and fisheries scientist, a Sun Hak Peace Prize laureate (2015) and recipient of the World Food Prize (2005). In his remarks, he emphasized that lasting peace can be achieved by addressing underlying issues that impede sustainable development, such as food insecurity, poverty and lack of human development. Also, he gave prominence to the role of the academe and educators in building sustainable peace.

Dr. Raymundo Arcega is the chancellor of the Lyceum of the Philippines University and chairman of the National Network of Quality Assurance Agencies (NNQAA), Philippines. He emphasized that academicians are entrusted with the task to promote goodness to all mankind by educating youth from the perspective of universal values. He reechoed the need to have an educational system that promotes mutual prosperity, interdependence and universal values.

Dr. Kriengsak Chareonwongsak is a senior fellow at Harvard University and president of the Institute of Future Studies for Development in Thailand. He reminded everyone that no human can live alone, thus, "human communities in this world have to live together as a global home." Also, he encouraged everyone to work together as "peace requires effort" and carefully strategize the building of a global community towards peace.

Prof. Dr. M. Shamsher Ali is the president of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences (2004-12) and founding vice chancellor of Bangladesh Open University. He highlighted how the coronavirus is improving issues that world leaders have not been able to solve or significantly improve for decades such as biodiversity, global warming and climate change. In conclusion, he said that the "wall" that man created between him and other members of the community will break down when "man lives not only for himself but for others as well."

Dr. Thomas Selover, president of Sun Hak UP Graduate University and international co-coordinator of the IAAP, was the moderator of the session. He is the.

In summary, the speakers challenged and stimulated everyone to break down the "walls" of individualism, fields of profession and nationalities through interdependence in order to make the best contribution to the great work of building a world community of peace.

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ASIA PACIFIC ILC2020 CONCLUDES WITH CALL TO ACTION

Written by UPF-Asia Pacific
Sunday, September 13, 2020

Asia Pacific—The Closing Session and Call to Action of the ILC2020—Asia Pacific program was held on September 13, 2020, under the theme, “Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: Role of Youth and Students.”

The session started with a video clip introducing the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP), a recently established organization affiliated with UPF. Then, an opening statement was given by the moderator, Mr. Koji Matsuda, international president of the IAYSP. The session speakers were Mr. Dong Yun Kim, regional president of IAYSP Korea; Mr. Hiroki Takeuchi, regional president of IAYSP Japan; and Mr. Richell Jalipa, regional president of IAYSP in the Asia-Pacific region. All the speakers gave energizing presentations on the programs and projects youth and students are carrying out in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The second part of the program was led by the global chairman of the IAYSP, Dr. Robert Kittel, who introduced the members of the ILC Resolution Drafting Committee and explained the process and background in drafting the comprehensive and historic resolution from Korea, Japan and Asia Pacific. The ILC Resolution was presented by the president of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU)-Japan, Rev. Dr. Eiji Tokuno. The closing statement was given by Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, chairman of UPF in the Asia Pacific. On behalf of the ILC Organizing Committee, he expressed his thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the three-day virtual conference.

Mr. Koji Matsuda, *international president of the IAYSP*, was moderator of the session. He remarked: “Young people have an important and unique responsibility to create hope and opportunity in this global crisis because young people have the time, energy and will to build a better environment for the future. The United Nations has long recognized that young people are a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, economic growth, and technological innovation.”

Abbreviated remarks of speakers:

Mr. Dong Youn Kim, *regional president of the IAYSP-Korea*: “Young people are already early adaptors of emerging technologies in the fourth industrial revolution, such as 3D virtual reality games, internet shopping recommended by AI... Therefore, young people already play an especially important role in overcoming this crisis. YSP Korea is trying to provide alternative solutions during this time of crisis. During this past summer, about 1,000 college students were dispatched around Korea, [as part of a project called the Peace Designers Assemble]. Over a 40-day time period, teams of three to four students [carried out] environmental projects and education support programs, volunteered to assist farmers in rural areas, and more.”

Mr. Hiroaki Takeuchi, *regional president of the IAYSP-Japan*: “YSP-Japan will continue to develop activities to solve challenges that Japan and the world is facing today! We would also like to mention that we have an event called SINERGY, which is driven by our Peace Designers. It holds seminars and forums in various areas of our country. Various efforts carried out and research done by youth are presented, and we promote the Peace Project to solve social issues.

In this time of crisis, through the YSP international network, we will raise “Peace Designers” among our youth who can transcend beyond individualism and nationalism with a heart to embrace [one another] and forgive past differences in order to realize the vision of One Global Family.”

Mr. Richell Jalipa, *regional president of the IAYSP Asia-Pacific*: “In the Asia-Pacific, the IAYSP was inaugurated in the UN ESCAP Hall and Impact Arena in Bangkok with 13,000 youths and students in attendance. After that, the IAYSP was inaugurated in the Philippines, Nepal, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Mongolia, Australia, New Zealand, and Palau. More nations are in the queue to have the YSP inaugurated in their country... We believe that the establishment of the Asia Pacific Union will usher in a new era of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, as well as will become the catalyst for resolving the many complex regional and global issues.”

The background of the ILC Resolution was given **Dr. Robert S. Kittel**, *chairman of the IAYSP and regional coordinator of the International Media Association for Peace (IMAP) in the Asia-Pacific*.

The ILC Resolution was presented by **Rev. Dr. Eiji Tokuno**, *president of the International Highway Foundation and FFWPU-Japan*. He said, “We ask that these proposals be given serious consideration, including [your] feedback and suggestions. We conclude with words of gratitude to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation, and congratulations to the Universal Peace Federation on its 15th Anniversary.”

In his closing statement, **Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal**, *chairman of UPF-Asia Pacific, a former member of parliament and two-time minister of the government of Nepal*, said: “Around 10,000 people from 75 different countries registered for this conference. This is

double the turnout compared to our original plan.

This three-day conference had 85 panelists from 27 nations and seven different religious traditions. Among them were four former heads of state and government; four first ladies; 10 lawmakers, including speakers of parliament; five diplomats, one of whom served as an ambassador to the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations; several university presidents; representatives from nine prominent media houses; and eight business enterprises.”

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BUSINESS LEADERS ADDRESS COVID-19 IMPACT AT ILC2020—ASIA PACIFIC

Written by UPF-Asia Pacific
Sunday, September 13, 2020

Asia Pacific—The International Association for Peace and Economic Development (IAED) hosted Session Nine of the ILC2020—Asia Pacific program, which took place on September 13, 2020. Eight speakers from different economic sectors of the United States, South Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Cambodia, Hong Kong, Kyrgyzstan and the Marshall Islands presented their perspectives on the theme, “The Role of Business Leaders in the Post-Covid Era.” Specifically, the speakers discussed the economic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and offered recommendations

Mr. Thomas P. McDevitt is the chairman of *The Washington Times*. He described the IAED as a new innovative global effort to leverage the strengths of business leadership to pursue lasting peace, prosperity and human flourishing. At the World Summit 2020 in South Korea, which was attended by more than 6,000 delegates, UPF co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, launched six initiatives, including the IAED. Mr. McDevitt also spoke about the mission and vision of the IAED as it moves forward.

Mr. Seog Byung Kim is the chairman of the *HJ Magnolia Global Foundation, Korea*. He said the pandemic has accelerated interactions between consumers and the providers of goods and services. Businesses are developing a more customer-centered approach to their operations, which requires establishing trust with customers. He also noted that “[UPF’s] founder has called on us to act as parents in our work...Parents would never neglect their corporate social responsibility for employees, partners or the world.” In closing, he encouraged business leaders to take this crisis as an opportunity to strengthen relationships of trust with their business partners and customers.

Mr. Jim Philippo, acting general manager of *Tobolar Copra Processing Authority*, a government-owned enterprise in the Marshall Islands, expressed his concern that although the island is COVID-19-free, due to the pandemic, it is experiencing economic instability because it is economically dependent on large and rich donor nations. He urged the major economies to strengthen cooperation with one another and involve small nations in dialogues to bring about prosperity and sustainability.

Mr. Henry Lee is the honorary consul of *Malaysia in Toronto, Canada*. He emphasized that a new leadership type that promotes corporate social responsibility ideals is essential in today’s environment. He spoke about Chinese traditional values, especially the concept of harmony, and how some of these values could be relevant in the current crisis. Leaders should be aware that harmony promotes co-existence and co-prosperity by complementing and supporting each other. Current leaders should pursue co-development by seeking commonalities while preserving their differences. Mr. Lee concluded by sharing that he thinks the world may face another crisis in the future, due to climate change or another epidemic, which could threaten the very existence of the human race. But, if people treat each other as members of one big family, as brothers and sisters, and unite and work together, the world will overcome it.

Mr. Hirofumi Sato, chairman of the *International Highway Foundation, Japan*, agreed on the need for a new philosophy of civilization centered on interdependence, which he defined as an economic philosophy; mutual prosperity, as a political philosophy; and universal values, as a religious philosophy. In addition, he introduced the International Highway Project (IHP) as a project to realize a world of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values. The IHP, which would be formed by high-standard, high-speed transportation networks, embodies the possibilities to realize economic, political, religious, ideological and cultural unification. He further explained that its “synergetic effects” will be expansive and help foster the formation of regional economic zones which can spur rapid economic growth, achieving equalization as a result.

Hon. Danai Ishemkulov is the head of the legal department of *UTI International LLC*, secretary-general for the *Eurasian Council for International Cooperation and Security*, and the plenipotentiary representative of legal support of the *Kyrgyz Republic*. He emphasized that the consequences of the coronavirus pandemic demonstrate the importance of global cooperation, a world order based on mutual trust, mutual support and mutual assistance. It also demonstrates the need to create institutions that can mobilize all forces in times of crisis and take the necessary measures before national governments come to their senses. He also believes that for the first time since the 1998 financial crisis, the social agenda has become, today, more important than the economic one. Isolation, the closure of hundreds of thousands of enterprises and the rise in unemployment has led to a focus on the social dimension and reassessment of moral values.

Prof. Dato Dr. GP Doraisamy Govindasamy is a senior board advisor of the *International Business Academy of Switzerland* and a senior education business consultant of *Bright Newstar, Malaysia*. He said the pandemic has strained relations between countries. He suggested that business partners and rivals cooperate rather than compete and added that technology plays a vital role in a business’s survival in this new millennium era. He then mentioned the urgent need to reinvent and renovate

facilities and amenities for demand to meet the supply of products and services. He concluded his remarks by encouraging business leaders to adopt, adapt and modulate suitable training for their workforce and digitize business concepts to have a successful business in this post-COVID era.

Dr. Tan Monivann is the vice-chairman of the Cambodia Chamber of Commerce, Cambodia. He called on governments to effectively implement recommendations by the private sector. Based on his observation, other forums or conferences have produced resourceful outcomes, but some of these outcomes have not been thoroughly put into effect. He also encouraged all stakeholders to share best practices on overcoming the COVID-19 crisis and called on countries capable of responding to the pandemic to provide support to those countries in need.

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ASIA PACIFIC ILC2020 CONCLUDES WITH CALL TO ACTION

Written by UPF-Asia Pacific
 Sunday, September 13, 2020

Asia Pacific—The Closing Session and Call to Action of the ILC2020—Asia Pacific program was held on September 13, 2020, under the theme, “Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: Role of Youth and Students.”

The session started with a video clip introducing the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP), a recently established organization affiliated with UPF. Then, an opening statement was given by the moderator, Mr. Koji Matsuda, international president of the IAYSP. The session speakers were Mr. Dong Yun Kim, regional president of IAYSP Korea; Mr. Hiroki Takeuchi, regional president of IAYSP Japan; and Mr. Richell Jalipa, regional president of IAYSP in the Asia-Pacific region. All the speakers gave energizing presentations on the programs and projects youth and students are carrying out in support of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The second part of the program was led by the global chairman of the IAYSP, Dr. Robert Kittel, who introduced the members of the ILC Resolution Drafting Committee and explained the process and background in drafting the comprehensive and historic resolution from Korea, Japan and Asia Pacific. The ILC Resolution was presented by the president of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU)-Japan, Rev. Dr. Eiji Tokuno. The closing statement was given by Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, chairman of UPF in the Asia Pacific. On behalf of the ILC Organizing Committee, he expressed his thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of the three-day virtual conference.

Mr. Koji Matsuda, *international president of the IAYSP*, was moderator of the session. He remarked: “Young people have an important and unique responsibility to create hope and opportunity in this global crisis because young people have the time, energy and will to build a better environment for the future. The United Nations has long recognized that young people are a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, economic growth, and technological innovation.”

Abbreviated remarks of speakers:

Mr. Dong Youn Kim, *regional president of the IAYSP-Korea*: “Young people are already early adaptors of emerging technologies in the fourth industrial revolution, such as 3D virtual reality games, internet shopping recommended by AI... Therefore, young people already play an especially important role in overcoming this crisis. YSP Korea is trying to provide alternative solutions during this time of crisis. During this past summer, about 1,000 college students were dispatched around Korea, [as part of a project called the Peace Designers Assemble]. Over a 40-day time period, teams of three to four students [carried out] environmental projects and education support programs, volunteered to assist farmers in rural areas, and more.”

Mr. Hiroaki Takeuchi, *regional president of the IAYSP-Japan*: “YSP-Japan will continue to develop activities to solve challenges that Japan and the world is facing today! We would also like to mention that we have an event called SINERGY, which is driven by our Peace Designers. It holds seminars and forums in various areas of our country. Various efforts carried out and research done by youth are presented, and we promote the Peace Project to solve social issues.

In this time of crisis, through the YSP international network, we will raise “Peace Designers” among our youth who can transcend beyond individualism and nationalism with a heart to embrace [one another] and forgive past differences in order to realize the vision of One Global Family.”

Mr. Richell Jalipa, *regional president of the IAYSP Asia-Pacific*: “In the Asia-Pacific, the IAYSP was inaugurated in the UN ESCAP Hall and Impact Arena in Bangkok with 13,000 youths and students in attendance. After that, the IAYSP was inaugurated in the Philippines, Nepal, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, India, Solomon Islands, Fiji, Mongolia, Australia, New Zealand, and Palau. More nations are in the queue to have the YSP inaugurated in their country... We believe that the establishment of the Asia Pacific Union will usher in a new era of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, as well as will become the catalyst for resolving the many complex regional and global issues.”

The background of the ILC Resolution was given **Dr. Robert S. Kittel**, *chairman of the IAYSP and regional coordinator of the International Media Association for Peace (IMAP) in the Asia-Pacific*.

The ILC Resolution was presented by **Rev. Dr. Eiji Tokuno**, *president of the International Highway Foundation and FFWPU-Japan*. He said, “We ask that these proposals be given serious consideration, including [your] feedback and suggestions. We conclude with words of gratitude to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founder of the Universal Peace Federation, and congratulations to the Universal Peace Federation on its 15th Anniversary.”

In his closing statement, **Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal**, *chairman of UPF-Asia Pacific, a former member of parliament and two-time minister of the government of Nepal*, said: “Around 10,000 people from 75 different countries registered for this conference. This is

double the turnout compared to our original plan.

This three-day conference had 85 panelists from 27 nations and seven different religious traditions. Among them were four former heads of state and government; four first ladies; 10 lawmakers, including speakers of parliament; five diplomats, one of whom served as an ambassador to the Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations; several university presidents; representatives from nine prominent media houses; and eight business enterprises.”

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REFLECTIONS ON THE ILC2020—ASIA PACIFIC, SEPT. 11-13, 2020

Written by UPF-Asia Pacific
 Sunday, September 13, 2020

Wow, that was great. I saw the opening; it was pretty impressive. Right now, I can only say: Bravo to the organizers. The theme is so relevant to today's world. Excellent!

- Mr. Henry Lee, honorary consul, Consulate of Malaysia in Toronto, Canada

It was an enriching experience throughout the three-day conference. Not only was it inspiring to see so many distinguished leaders in the world who are working together with UPF towards a common vision—peace, but it also was encouraging to hear the constructive, specific advice they gave that we can put into action for the realization of world peace.

The first session that I participated in, the IAPD session, had quite a profound impact on me. I was moved by the speakers' sincere heart of wanting to assist the UN, and their call for all religious leaders in the world to take ownership as peace-loving global citizens. Furthermore, seeing the speakers' clear awareness of the destructiveness of religious conflicts, I also was touched by their love for all humankind and determination to resolve such conflicts by reaching out to other religions. I strongly feel that the UN needs spirituality and religious support, so that it can truly fulfill its mission in achieving peace under Heavenly Parent.

- Simon Pang, Hong Kong

Reflections from Indonesia

The opening remarks of Dr. Julia Moon's speech inspired me: "The time has come for women to save the world," as did these remarks the first lady from Palau made in her speech: "Together, we can make a positive change."

- Mrs. Herawaty R. Paeran, Ambassador for Peace, Indonesia

Greetings of peace. UPF is very interesting and amazing. This movement co-founded by Dr. Sun Myung Moon really needs to be implemented around the world. The Rally of Hope programs and the ILC2020 are great and very inspiring. I am the executive director of the Ate Keleng Foundation, a social institution that belongs to the GBKP (Gereja Batak Karo Protestan), a church, but it provides services to all people, without any boundaries. I will promote [the work of] UPF in our good governance system and in our organization's culture, as well as in community's organization we assist. I am very blessed [to be a part of] this program.

- Rev. Yusuf Tarigan, executive director, Ate Keleng Foundation, GBKP church, Indonesia

I am so glad knowing how important the role of leadership is in peace and in education. All of UPF's activities are very useful in understanding issues in societies and solving them peacefully.

- Dr. Meisuri, head of English Literature Study Program, State University of Medan

The sharing of information through this UPF [conference] truly enhanced our insights, and I hope that UPF can conduct another similar event again with different topics.

- Ummah Karimah, M. PD, Muhammadiyah University, Jakarta

All the panelists gave positive reasons for interdependence among people around the world in order to vanquish COVID-19. I totally agree with what Dr. Sung Bae Jin said during the IAAP session: "The Family is the center of moral values, and becomes the epicenter of national development and peace-building in the world. ... The family is the starting point and source of cultural practice. The family is where we study." I also strongly support what Prof. Shamsher Ali, former president of the Bangladesh Academy of Sciences, and the founding vice chancellor of Bangladesh Open University, said: "We must work together to fight the war against the coronavirus, which, although small, kills human lives, so that gradually it does not shut down and deplete humans on the earth. We hope that a vaccine will appear soon, so that we can prevent additional loss of lives in this world."

- Dr. Osep Hijuzaman, head of Academic Division, Wastukencana Institute of Technology

Reflections from India

Warm congratulations on the highly successful ILC with clear outcomes and roadmaps for future action. Please count on me for any support. I am particularly keen on seeing movement on the Asia Pacific Union, as regional integration has been my specialization and first love since joining the Indian diplomatic service. We must give serious consideration and top priority to further advance the Asia Pacific Union as it is revealed from Dr. Moon's heavenly inspiration. As always, my wife and I are proud to be a part of UPF's bigger family.

- Ambassador K.V. Rajan, former Indian ambassador

Reflections from Nepal

I have been invited by my friend Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal to participate in the ILCs in Korea, but was not able to do so. ... Fortunately, this time, I was able to attend most of the sessions of the ILC. UPF's video presentation was very impressive. Unbelievable work has been done by UPF in the past 15 years. All the sessions were perfectly managed, and the speakers and moderators were brilliant. As a current member of parliament, I found UPF's message to be very comprehensive and useful. Surely, I will join its future activities too.

- Hon. Ram Narayan Bidari, chairman of the Parliament Committee, Nepal

Reflections from Fiji

I am so happy and sincerely overwhelmed with the ILC, and thankful for having the opportunity to deliver my speech. Please convey my big *vinaka vakalevu, kamsahamida* ("thank you very much") to all involved.

- Mdm. Adi Koila Mara Nailatikau, former First Lady, Fiji

Reflections from the Philippines

First and foremost, I would like to say congratulations to UPF, the International Leadership Conference and other branches of UPF for the successful three-day worldwide online assembly. I am truly amazed by the participants—religious leaders, political leaders and people of goodwill—building bridges of hope in the midst of the pandemic. This [is happening] on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of UPF but particularly as a token of gratitude to and remembrance of Rev. Moon's pioneering initiative to bridge people, religions, institutions and political ideologies of all kinds, and to build bridges of hope, because we constitute one humanity and we live on the same planet. It is an attempt to break down the walls of separation and individualism and affirm that we belong to one family, the family of humanity. And we can be one in our work for justice, work for peace. We can also be one in our care for each other and care for the planet, particularly in this time of the pandemic. A formidable crisis humanity is now facing, COVID-19 is affecting all people. Also, climate change, which many say can affect the continuity of humanity and life on the planet itself. It is for this reason that I really congratulate UPF for reaching out to all people, regardless of differences, and to face this pandemic with great hope, hope that we will not only be able to overcome the crisis but hope for a brighter future when we stand together in the face of crisis and establish our unity and [come to] understanding of our differences. While these differences are important, there are universal values that are greater than us and our institutions; these are family, love, equity, justice and peace. I think the foundation [laid] by Rev. Moon and his wife 15 years ago will bear fruit. Some fruit will be 30-fold, 60-fold, and others, 100-fold. So, I am with all the people of goodwill, with all the religious and political leaders in having a firm faith and hope not only for the future of humanity but also for the future of cooperation and partnership for the greater good of humanity and the planet.

Thank you very much and God bless you all.

- Father Eliseo Mercado, director of the Institute for Autonomy and Governance and president of Notre Dame University, Philippines (1992-2002)

The International Leadership Conferences give participants opportunities to prepare themselves for bigger leadership for the greater good. [Through the] words of wisdom that [were shared] from past and present [leaders in the] religious, business, government, non-government and academic sectors around the world, we could learn about advanced leadership opportunities. ... We realized how we could develop programs that could answer issues, develop more advanced solutions to global issues, and be receptive to the suggestions of others for use in wise recovery and [in going in the] right direction. Sustainable development may be achieved through cooperation, research, planning and collaboration. Thus, our desired goal of mutual interdependence, sovereignty, peace, mutual prosperity can easily be achieved.

Academia-education and its system is the source of hope that builds the character of a nation. The goal of Professors World Peace Academy (PWPA)-Philippines is to see a sustainable tomorrow by sharing and proactively living for our family, neighbors, especially the children, who are the future of every nation. A call to PWPA-Philippines [to carry out] its commitment of providing "provisionary teachers and professionals" who can complement each other in the pursuit of quality education is now on. Through the constant meeting of minds, giving importance to all, and collaboration, interdependence can be achieved, mutual prosperity and values can be attained, and international leadership can be realized. I am honored to have been invited to attend the ILC2020. Thank you.

- Dr. Rebecca Andrade, secretary general, PWPA-Philippines

First, I would like to thank UPF for inviting me to join the first virtual International Leadership Conference. The insights from [leaders] from many different countries is very important, and their expertise is very much appreciated. About the action that we are about to take, I support the resolution UPF made. Again, thank you very much and God bless us all.

- Rev. Leonilo A. Aguja, vice president for Luzon, National Auxiliary Chaplaincy Philippines (NACPHIL)

What struck me most [were the remarks from and experiences shared by]:

1. Yoshinabu Miyake, chair of the board of International Shinto Studies, who shared a historical framework from the founding of the UN to the present year, 2020. The [framework] provided me with a perspective and context for understanding the economic, political, religious and health events and upheavals that occurred throughout the years. Indeed, it is a strategic and holistic view of the world that can better prepare us for what is yet to come during and after COVID-19; thereby, [it enables] nation-states and religions to better see "the forest first before the trees."

2. Ho Myung, general secretary of the Taego Buddhist Order in Korea, who said that the hope out of this pandemic relies on religious leaders forgetting their differences, trusting each other and working together. Peace within families, peace among religions will contribute to world peace and freedom from the sickness and pain that we are experiencing now.
3. Jenny Chalmers, Anglican priest from New Zealand, who shared her faith experience witnessing violence and terrorism.

- *Jaime T. Cempron, Ph.D.*

Reflections on the IAFLP Session

Kudos! As women, we could build a channel of responsibilities and opportunities for others and create a greater impact in our society and the world.

- *Mary Grace Andoy Pozon, instructor, Bohol Island State University*

All the speakers' presentations and messages were inspiring, and I am so happy to know that there is such a group as the IAFLP, which is so eager to make the lives of people hopeful and wonderful.

- *Eleonor Brosas Garcia, chief human resource specialist, Civil Service Commission RO8*

Thanks for your invitation to attend this International Leadership Conference. It was indeed a very successful event with very interesting topics from different renowned international speakers ... We hope and pray that this event will have a big impact on the attainment of global peace.

- *Cecile Dy, vice chairman, Regional Development Council Region 02*

I was inspired by the creativity and commitment of the first ladies and women leaders to continue improving their communities and nations. May the opportunity for them to increase their network and exchange best practices continue and develop. Thank you for the opportunity to attend this well-organized and coordinated event. God bless you all in the Asia-Oceania region.

- *Friederike E. Buczyk, member of the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP)*

It was a very productive and informative conference. The speakers were excellent. True, women can be agents of change. Targeting the family, as the basic unit of society, and the grassroots makes a lot of difference in achieving the desired goal for the community. In these trying times, we can unite as one solid rock and contribute for the betterment [of society]. We must work to be resilient and strong in our battle against the unseen enemy and strong in our endeavor to the "new normal." We should also put emphasis on the importance of our mental health in order to be sane at this difficult time of the pandemic ... Some best practices were mentioned, however, we expect a more vivid picture on how to go on during a pandemic. I would like to thank the organizers; this [conference] became an avenue to prove that women leaders, and girls can make a difference. I am grateful for the opportunity [to have been able to participate]; I learned a lot.

- *Lourdes Abello Juan-Alzate, assistant chief (director II), Senate of the Philippines*

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UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION

International Leadership Conference 2020

September 11–13, 2020

ILC2020 Resolution

At a time of serious global challenges, and on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Universal Peace Federation by the late Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, UPF convened its first virtual International Leadership Conference (ILC) on September 11–13, 2020. Dedicated to the theme of “Opportunity and Hope at a Time of Global Crisis: Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values,” our purpose was to seek solutions to current problems while also exploring new ways of envisioning our common life together as one global family. Tens of thousands of participants attended ILC2020.

The ILC2020 program was designed to be carried out concurrently in three regions: the Asia Pacific, the Americas, and Africa–Europe–Middle East. The program themes were built around the core Associations of UPF: **International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP)**, an international network of current and former heads of state and government; **International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP)**; **Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD)**; **International Association of First Ladies for Peace (IAFLP)**, coordinated in partnership with the Women’s Federation for World Peace); **International Media Association for Peace (IMAP)**; **International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP)**; **International Association for Peace and Economic Development**; and **International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP)**.

The deliberations of ILC2020 were guided by the ideals of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values. As an outgrowth of the sessions, a variety of recommendations and proposals were advocated in hopes of overcoming critical challenges of our time, such as poverty, conflict, and environmental degradation.

We hereby summarize the core recommendations for consideration by our global UPF network, as well as by governments, NGOs, faith-based organizations, and the people of the world. These recommendations have been put forward by the UPF Regions that convened sessions of ILC2020 and by UPF Associations:

- Asia Pacific: We propose the formation of a working committee to explore prospects for the formation of a formal association or league of Asia Pacific nations, including research on the structure of the EU or the African Union;
- Africa–Europe–Middle East: We propose the formation of a working committee to explore ways of greater communication, trade and mutual benefit between Africa and its European neighbors;

- Americas: We propose the cultivation of greater partnerships of the UPF with existing multilateral institutions in the Americas to advance greater hemispheric cooperation and mutual interests in security and human development;
- ISCP: We propose the formation of three ISCP working committees for the Asia Pacific, for the Americas and for the Africa–Europe–Middle East to support and cultivate partnerships with multilateral institutions, including the United Nations in honor of its 75th anniversary;
- IAPP: We propose the formation of a working committee of parliamentarians to promote the establishment of a worldwide communication system that will act as an early-warning system for pandemics and to bring resolutions forward that allow a unified voice of parliamentarians for peace;
- IAFLP: We propose the formation of an IAFLP working committee on education to improve the quality of life of all people;
- IAPD: We propose the formation of an IAPD interfaith working committee of elders who serve as advisors, counselors and facilitators in venues of conflict, social unrest, and humanitarian disasters;
- IMAP: We propose the establishment of an IMAP working committee dedicated to creating standards of excellence and a code of ethics for journalists, publishers and social media influencers;
- IAAP: We propose the formation of an IAAP working committee to explore ways to apply principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values to specific critical problems affecting our world;
- IAED: We propose the establishment of an IAED working committee of business leaders in each of the great regions to identify opportunities for trade, investment and service to improve the quality of life of the people;
- IAYSP: We propose the development of an IAYSP educational program dedicated to the moral and social development of youth.

We ask that these proposals be given serious consideration, including feedback and suggestions. We conclude with words of gratitude to Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, Co-Founder of the Universal Peace Federation, and congratulations to the Universal Peace Federation on the occasion of its 15th Anniversary.