

Revisiting the hearts of Korean War veterans

To find out a ground for collaboration for peace

Title: Turkey-Korea: Opportunities for Cooperation

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Reported from Istanbul, Turkey

By: Yoshihiro Yamazaki

70 years ago around this time of the year, thousands of young Turkish soldiers found themselves in North Korea fighting as part of the UN Forces, which had already reached deep across the 38th parallel and were expecting to finish off the communist forces. The tables were turned, however, by a sudden attack by a massive force of Chinese soldiers. Caught in an unexpected trap, the Turkish soldiers refused to retreat against overwhelming odds and turned the military tide around, even rescuing an American unit from its total collapse.

Mindful of such a history, Dr. Park Young Bae, President of UPF Korea Region 5, expressed his appreciation for the 14,936 Turkish veterans, saying: “Thanks to their sacrifices, we, on this peninsula, now enjoy a confident and happy republic.” He urged all of those present “to deepen the friendly relations in order to achieve Korea’s unification, which must be the veterans’ wishes, as well”.

Recounting one of the most crucial battlefield successes by the Turkish units in the Korean War, Dr. Ali Denizli, a professor of the Rumeli University, Istanbul, and writer of 18 books on that war, described about the advancement of the Turkish brigade from Seoul, through Pyongyang and Anju, then reaching Kunuri region. He raised his proud voice, referring to the commendations of American Generals and war correspondents involved in the Kunuri fighting.

He was speaking on February 20th at the online forum: ‘Turkey-Korea: Opportunities for Cooperation’, organized by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF)’s chapters of Turkey and Korea Region 5 (in and around Busan City).

A retired army officer and the proud son of a Turkish veteran of the Korean War, Dr. Denizli repeated his belief that in order to enhance mutual cooperation, two peoples should revisit the bonds forged by their common history. He did not shy away from insisting that the people of South Korea need to clearly recognize the precious sacrifices made by the Turkish young soldiers to defend freedom and democracy, the very

democracy which formed the basis for the powerful nation of Korea which has emerged in the past decades.

The 70-minute forum was attended by about 190 people including Koreans, Turks, Japanese, Europeans, Ambassador for Peace, Korean War Veteran, Civil society. who all share an interest in developing a more favorable environment for peaceful settlement on the Korean Peninsula. According to Dr. Katsumi Otsuka, Chair of UPF Europe and the Middle East, “UPF has been organizing quite a few events around the world” with similar objectives. He noted that this year, 2021, will commemorate a Pyongyang visit by the Co-Founders of UPF, late Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon in 1991.

Representing Korea, Professor Choi Ok-Ju, who explores Korea’s intangible resources, spoke movingly of her intuition at the UN Memorial Cemetery in her city of Busan. As she laid a bunch of flowers at the Turkish altar in front of tombs dedicated to 462 Turkish soldiers, she felt as if their spirits were unable to come home because their war mission had not been finished.

In order to fulfill their unfulfilled desire for a peaceful Korea, Prof. Choi proposed a solution in the field that she termed “culture-nomics”: based on her years of research on cinema arts, she sees the potential for a movie that could inspire the world: jointly produced by the two countries, it could feature peace building on the peninsula and a love story between Koreans and Turks.

Endorsing a similar soft power approach, Mr. Umberto Angelucci, UPF Middle East Regional Chair, testified to a 2010 initiative by UPF’s co-founders to sponsor a tour of the Little Angels Folk Ballet Troupe to the 16 nations, including Turkey, which had dispatched soldiers to the Korean War under the UN flag”.

A video of the Little Angels visit to Turkey was shown, in which then Turkish President, Mr. Abdullah Gul, warmly received their delegation at his palace, listening to their singing of the Turkey’s national anthem. Also, their visit to the Korean War Memorial Park in Ankara, capital of Turkey, was also shown together with the surviving Korean War veterans.

Mr. Angelucci also pointed out: “Unless we heal the hearts of those who have sacrificed themselves for a higher purpose, peace will never come.” Based on this conviction, Mr. Angelucci confirmed that this Turkey-Korea series will continue so as to explore genuine opportunities for the two countries located at the east and west ends of the Asian continent. Mr. David Fraser Harris, Secretary General, UPF Middle East, Moderate the Online Conference.

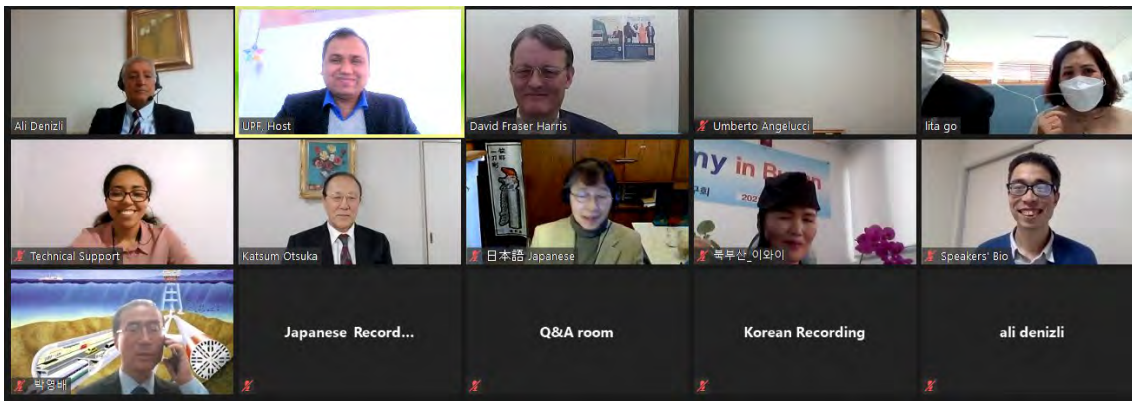
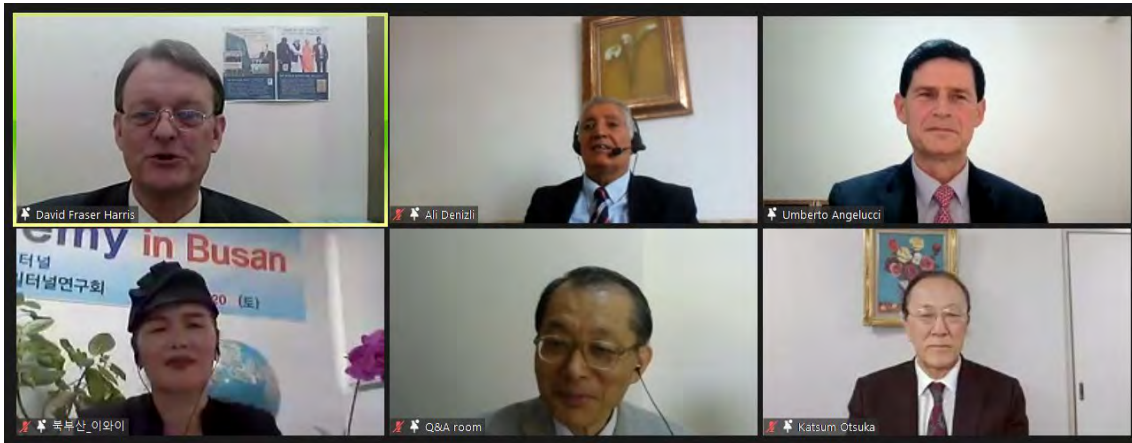
Conference resource:<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/10MeSAj1QF-i6LpBAJGIu9pi0nWSn3PZW?usp=sharing>



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Separated North And South Koreans Me...
 South Korea Formally Declares End to...
 Korean families divided by war reunite...
 North Koreans leave #...







KORE SAVAŞINDA TÜRK ASKERİNİN KORE HALKINA YARDIMLARI VE

ANKARA OKULU'NUN AÇILMASI (1950-1953)



MY BOOK ANKARA SCHOOL ABOUT KOREAN ORPHAN GIRL AYLA BECAME MOVIE

8/103

KUZEY KORE TAARRUZU



COMMUNIST RUSSIA AND

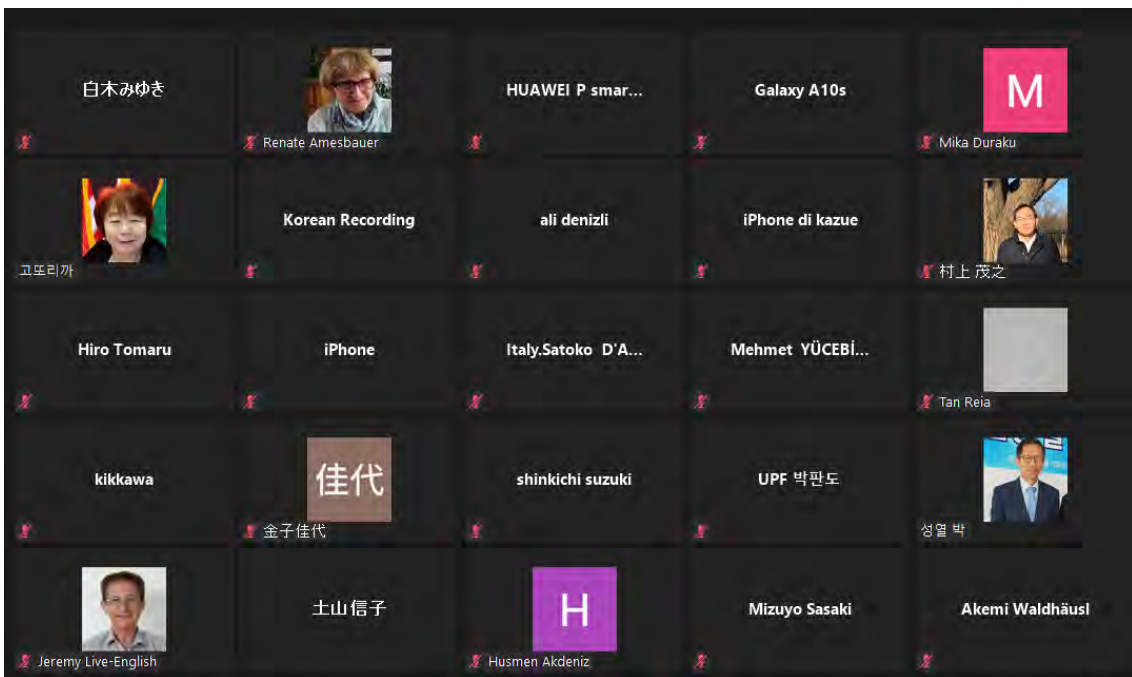
BY CHINA

SUPPORTED COMINIST
NORTH KOREA

WHICH WANTED ALL
KOREA COMBINE
UNDER
A COMMUNIST REGIME

ATTACKED SOUTH
KOREA ON JUNE 25, 1950

18/103





NOVEMBER 22, 1950 FOR THE GENERAL OFFENSE

TURKISH BRIDGE WAS ORDERED TO MOVE TO KUNURI REGION BY THE AMERICAN 9 TH CORPS