

## PEACE ROAD at the Frankfurt Air Lift Monument, 14 August 2021



A group of about fifty participants—members of UPF Frankfurt, their friends and guests—took the opportunity of the sixty-year anniversary of the building of the Berlin Wall as a signal of bridge-building for peace in contrast to this sad symbol of German division. One aspect of this signal was a „Peace Road“ cycle and hike, and the other was that this rally took place at the Air Lift Monument in Frankfurt.

‘Peace Road’ is an international project, rooted in the goal of opening the door to reunification of the Korean peninsula. This project was initiated on 10 November 1981, when Rev. Sun Myung Moon announced in Seoul, to an audience of 800 scientists from 100 nations, his **vision of an international peace highway** stretching from Japan through South and North Korea and continuing through China into Asia. This was intended to be an opportunity to promote free trade, discourage aggression on the part of North Korea and support Korean reunification.

In 2005, when UPF (Universal Peace Federation) was established in New York, Rev. Moon expanded this proposal to an ‘International Highway’ which would enable travel from the Cape of Good Hope in Africa, to Santiago in Chile and from London to New York over the Bering Strait and thus to unify the world into one single community.



Then in 2012 his wife, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon developed the **Peace Road Initiative**, to promote in particular two projects within this greater vision; the underwater tunnel between Korea and Japan and the connection between Alaska and Siberia over the Bering Strait. And everything connects back to the reunification of Korea.

As a result, hundreds and later thousands of cyclists embarked on peace tours, initially only in Korea, but now over one hundred nations participate. At first there were only cyclists, but subsequent tours have expanded to include hikers or even marathon runners for peace.



UPF Frankfurt decided to be involved in this year's and in subsequent projects. It did not take long before twenty people were inspired by this impulse from Albert Mobo: a motto was formulated: 'build bridges-overcome divisions'; invitations were designed and distributed; the necessary permission and police approval was obtained; an increasing number of participants registered, including some from more distant places such as Gießen.

A group of about fifty participants set off on Saturday morning on three different routes to the monument; the cyclists from the underground station Frankfurt-Höchst (escorted by two police motor-cycles), the hikers from the new office district Gateway Gardens, and the older, less

mobile and very young 'short distance runners' from the nearby underground station Zeppelinhelm.



Directly under the historic 'raisin bomber', the banner displaying: „Connecting the World through Peace – One Global Family United to Realize One Dream” was unfolded. Frankfurt UPF representative Claus Dubisz recalled the history of the Peace Road and bound the memory of the airlift that connected peoples to the hope of a united Korea. And he expressed the certainty that many more participants would join in the next Peace Road action.

Je Hun Yoo, chairman of the Association of Koreans in Europe, praised the project for its encouragement of faith, hope and love, a peaceful world, and for broad international support to overcome the division of Korea.



Norbert Kandzorra from the 'Verein Luftbrücke Frankfurt-Berlin' (Frankfurt-Berlin Airlift Association) briefly explained the history of the airlift of 1948/49, which most of the participants had only heard about. And he demonstrated how a political-logistical undertaking finally became a project that brought together in heart those who had been enemies in WWII- the people of Berlin and the USA. One of the airlift pilots, Gail Halvorsen is now 100 years old, and it was he who spontaneously had the idea of throwing sweets out to the children on the approach to Berlin. Despite the misgivings of his superiors, many others went on to follow his example. Thus a bridge for cargo became a bridge of friendship and dreary green transport planes became 'raisin bombers.'



The events ended on a family note with a picnic or the unique opportunity to see the inside of the legendary DC-47.

