

## ILC Concludes with Look at Thorny Global Issues

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**Washington, D.C., United States** -- The International Leadership Conference concluded with a focus on global terrorism, instability in Northeast Asia, and foreign policy priorities in the changing world political picture.

The theme of the four-day conference, which was held from November 28 to December 1, 2016, was “Addressing the Critical Challenges of Our Time: The Role of Government, Civil Society and Faith-Based Organizations.”

More than 200 leaders from 56 nations attended the assembly in the J.W. Marriott hotel, which was organized jointly by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and The Washington Times Foundation (TWTF).

The panel discussions during the third day of the conference, November 30, focused on national and global security, foreign policy, solutions to terrorism, and global collaboration.



### **Session VI: Northeast Asia Issues and Solutions**

A diverse range of views were expressed at this session, in which speakers addressed the issue of extremism and offered their expertise on the political landscape of Northeast Asia.

**Mr. Hitoshi Tanaka**, a senior fellow at the Japan Center for International Exchange and chair of the Institute for International Strategy at the Japan Research Institute, spoke of endeavors to discourage “North Korea’s nuclear ambition” and China’s activities to “revise the status quo” through a union between Japan, the United States, and South Korea. He observed that the “importance of the Japan-U.S. alliance has been increasing” and said he hopes the new U.S. administration “will solidify our partnership.”

**Ambassador Joseph Robert De Trani**, former special envoy to the Six Party Talks and president of the Intelligence and National Security Alliance, spoke about his work as a special envoy Ambassador for negotiations with North Korea and described that nation’s “extensive nuclear program,” an issue that “has to and can be resolved peacefully.” De Trani encouraged perseverance in addressing this growing threat as well as the human rights issue in North Korea.

**Hon. Matt Salmon**, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Arizona, described his experience living in and visiting Northeast Asia, and his recent involvement in hearings regarding the North Korean regime. He emphasized the importance of developing a “foreign policy consistent with our values and interests” in this new administration, particularly regarding the U.S. policy for Asia. He called for a “focus on strong leadership” and “strategic clarity” as the “basis for our goals abroad,” and also prescribed a “proactive approach” when it comes to addressing aggressors and building strong allies. Not only do we need to support like-minded allies, he said, but also we need to “encourage them to overcome historical obstacles to strengthen relationships with each other.”

**Hon. Jong-seong Lim**, a member of the National Assembly of South Korea, addressed the implications of the new Trump administration on the U.S.-Korean alliance, stating his hope that “we can have clear ideas of [incoming U.S. President Donald] Trump’s policies regarding the Northeast Asia region.” Over the past six years, South Korea and the United States have “forged an unbreakable bond,” he said, but

there is a certain concern that “American interests will be placed ahead of other nations.” Hon. Lim urged that the U.S.-Korean alliance be strengthened, and implored the ILC participants to partner with UPF to encourage this trend.



### **Session VII: Global and Local Responses to Terrorism**

**Mr. Bill Gertz**, senior editor of the conservative Web site The Washington Free Beacon, moderated this panel. Speakers offered visions and practical steps toward unity on this issue.

**Hon. Robert Pittenger**, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from North Carolina, spoke on the importance of courage and clarity when facing terrorism. “It’s easy to be complacent,” he said, “because we don’t know where we’ll be tomorrow.” He named practical components of an anti-terror strategy, including “stopping the flow of money,” developing “good intelligence on the ground,” and hosting forums around the world for “information sharing.” He concluded that “what we must do is collaborate together.”

**Hon. Madhav Kumar Nepal**, a former prime minister of Nepal, described the reality of the “disruption and damage of war” and stated that, fortunately, Nepal has “ended its state of insurgence by peaceful means” through a “comprehensive peace process.”

**Hon. Dana Rohrabacher**, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from California, recalled his experience fighting communism, the “threat to civilization” of his generation. Because the United States is made up of every race, religion and ethnic group and is united by a love of liberty, he said, “America understands that God gave us the job of leading the way in destroying enemies of civilization.” He noted that today’s primary threat to the peace and security of civilization is terrorism, and that again America is central to defending the safety of the world. “It’s up to the people of the United States, the government, to lead the way, because we represent humankind.”

**Hon. Issawi Frej**, an Israeli Arab member of Israel’s Knesset from the Meretz party, admitted that, as a Muslim, it’s “not easy” and “not comfortable” to hear talk pairing terrorism and Islam. “Terrorism is the enemy of all of us,” he said. “In order to be a terrorist, you can be Muslim, Christian, Jewish, any religion.” He called on everyone to imagine if each Muslim had to “prove that he is not a terrorist,” and he encouraged everyone to “join each other to fight terrorism” and not to “fight hate with hate.”

**Mr. Pinhas Inbari**, a journalist and senior Middle East analyst for the Jerusalem Center for Public Affairs, spoke about the nature of the conflict in Syria, and **Hon. Shri Bhubaneswar Kalita**, a member of Parliament in India, spoke of the different forms of terrorism around the globe. Hon. Kalita stated that “the only answer to terrorism is dialogue for lasting peace” and that a “stronghold is not a long-term solution.” Because parliamentarians represent and connect people, they can help resolve and prevent conflict, he said.

The session activated several members of the audience to line up at the subsequent question-and-answer session and give their perspectives on terrorism.



### **Session VIII: Foreign Policy Priorities for the U.S. and Global Community**

**Hon. Jose de Venecia Jr.**, a former speaker of the House of Representatives in the Philippines and chair emeritus of UPF, opened the session by naming top issues in today's world and proposing models of global synergy to address them. "We meet at the decisive juncture of American and world history," a time of transformation that "will chart history's course," he said. Hon. Venecia described the Asian Parliamentary Assembly consisting of 40 members of Parliament, and his hopes for the organization to be "the frontrunner of an eventual Asian Parliament like the European Parliament."

**Hon. Jean M. Augustine**, a former commissioner of fairness in the Canadian province of Ontario, described the nature of foreign policy in Canada. "The basis of what we do connects nicely with the work of UPF," she said of her nation's determination to work together with other nations, embrace the global community, and, currently, provide shelter and education to Syrian refugees. "Canadian participants at the ILC are happy to have this opportunity to dialogue and hear perspectives on issues," she concluded.



**Hon. Mark Meadows**, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from North Carolina, closed the session with a talk on the change of the U.S. administration and provided insight into "what we could look forward to in terms of foreign policy changes." He explained that there is a sense that the nation is becoming "isolationist in rhetoric," but there is importance in "strong alliances and daily involvement in matters of mutual interest." He added that he "[doesn't] see that changing" and that there is a "real commitment in a long-term, bipartisan way" to clarify foreign policy.

The fourth day of the ILC, December 1, had just one panel discussion before a final lunch and the departure of the participants.



### **Session IX: New Leadership and New Scenarios for Global Collaboration**

**Dr. Alexandre Mansourov**, a professor of Asian Studies at Johns Hopkins University, began the last session by speaking of the United States' transition into a new administration. He expressed his worry about the government's blind spots -- occurrences of low probability yet high impact. "These disruptive events shake and shift the international system and create a new world way," he said, adding that, though it would be nice for people to remain in their comfort zones, it's important to think about the future.

**Hon. Matt Salmon**, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Arizona, commended UPF for its unparalleled "ability to be able to really achieve meaningful peace in this world" and to "bring disparate organizations, countries, parties and religions" together along the way. He also focused on the upcoming administration shift and foreign policy, stating his belief that "solidarity with our friends and allies ... is incredibly important." He closed by calling on politicians to not ignore the threat of terrorism.

Following Hon. Salmon's talk, **Mr. Tom McDevitt**, chair of The Washington Times, read and presented a plaque to Hon. Salmon which honored him with the Excellence in Leadership Award for working to bridge the gap between Asia and the United States.

**Dr. Thomas Walsh**, president of UPF International, then remarked on his observation of "a strong tendency in a growing interfaith movement, a movement of receptivity, and a desire to learn without feeling threatened from other faith traditions." On the one hand, he said, "Some people are becoming almost hybrid in their spirituality, of being a Christian who has felt enriched by Buddhism"; on the other hand, "we also feel that in many traditions there is some erosion, dilution, or threat through secularization, as well as other forms of evangelism that are threatening our identities." He stated UPF's goal in easing these conflicts -- specifically that the ILC is moving in a direction "where we're learning from one another." He encouraged participants to engage in ongoing conversations between people of varying political standpoints, different faiths and backgrounds, and to find common ground to create harmony.

**Professor Akiko Yamanaka**, vice minister of foreign affairs in Japan, then spoke on the "trilateral alliance between the U.S., Japan, and Korea" and the key role of "preventative diplomacy" in combating "human-induced disaster." She concluded her message by quoting Aristotle, who said, "It is more important to organize peace than to win a war, but the fruit of victory will be lost soon if the peace is not well organized."

"Let's walk and work together for the better world community together," she said.

**Hon. Joe Wilson**, a member of the U.S. House of Representatives from South Carolina, then spoke on the importance of facing international terrorism. He described his military background and the collaboration of one of his units with Afghan troops to fight terrorism. "That's the kind of service that we need -- where it's not telling people what to do, but it's working with our allies around the world to make a difference," he said.

**Hon. Richard T. Schulze**, a former member of the U.S. House of Representatives from Pennsylvania, gave brief remarks, speaking of his first visit to Congress for a class trip during the Ford administration.

**Hon. Jose de Venecia Jr.**, co-chair of the ILC, then closed the session with recommendations for future collaboration, calling for "a session to see how we can advance causes of freedom and democracy, human rights, and our common battle against poverty and ISIS, and the forces of bio-level destruction."