

First ICUS (International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences) begins

Sun Myung Moon
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A session from the first ICUS conference

The First International Conference on Unified Science (later renamed the International Conference on the Unity of the Sciences, or ICUS) was held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York City from November 23-26, 1972. It convened twenty scientists from seven nations to discuss "Moral Orientation of the Sciences." The previous January, True Father had suggested the idea to Edward Haskell, a lecturer at Southern Connecticut State College who dedicated his life's work to the unification of human knowledge into a single discipline. Haskell, who had been contacted by the New Haven center, was enthusiastic about the proposal and helped draw up plans for the conference.

The conference itself included an opening banquet and three working days of lectures, responses, panels and open discussions. In his [closing address](#), True Father called for "a unified system of thought" and "a new standard of value" that will establish "the unified world of prosperity, happiness and goodness." The conference was successful both in the quality of participants, presentations and as a building block for future conferences. The movement published the proceedings and held the Second International Conference on Unified Science the following November in Tokyo. Expanded guest lists and formats would characterize annual ICUS meetings.