

The first winners of the Sunhak Peace Prize

Man Ho Kim

June 8, 2015

National Press Club, Washington DC



The Sunhak Peace Prize press conference

The Sunhak Peace Prize Foundation announced the first winners of the Sunhak Peace Prize on June 8 at the National Press Club in the US capital, Washington DC. The winners were Dr. Modadugu Gupta for standing at the forefront of bringing relief to impoverished people by developing a simple means of doing aquaculture, which could help divert a possible future food crisis; and President Anote Tong of Kiribati for spreading awareness of the severity of climate change. The awards ceremony will occur on August 28 at the Seoul Grand Intercontinental Hotel among the events coinciding with the commemoration of the third anniversary of True Father's ascension to heaven.



Dr. Thomas Walsh, Dr. Il Shik Hong and Dr. Man Ho Kim

Especially in the twentieth century, human conflicts threatened peace on earth. As we have come into the twenty-first century, disasters due to the changes of the earth's environment such as climate change, food shortages and resource exhaustion are threatening humanity's survival. In order to prepare for these threats, we need to rely on our collective wisdom.

The Sunhak Peace Prize represents a hope to achieve peace together for the sake of future generations. Its creation was meant to promote the continuous peaceful coexistence of future generations and environmental protection.



The Sunhak Peace Prize Committee

Under the awareness that we are a community of love that carries on from one generation to the next, we can dispel non-peaceful causes that threaten future generations and propose a vision for the future. True Parents, who founded the Sunhak Peace Prize, have proposed a vision: “World peace is achieved when all human beings practice true love.”

Under this vision, True Parents have initiated peaceful practices that transcend borders, peoples, religions and cultures. We will achieve the correct future of humanity when we have torn down the boundaries between us and our neighbors.



Chairman Hong announced the laureates

The Sunhak Peace Prize Committee, which comprises eminent individuals from various countries and with various religious backgrounds, started its work in August 2014. Notably, during that initial stage, the government of East Timor created a sensation by contributing funds based on affinity members of the government felt between the basic outlook of their nation and the Sunhak Peace Prize vision. The first winners were nominated through a fair evaluation of 182 candidates from sixty-six countries. More than thousand people had been chosen from all areas of the world to recommend candidates for the prize.

The Sunhak Peace Prize focuses on achieving peace for future generations. It will pay attention to peace-related activities that transcend borders as well as religious, political and economic environments and that expand a sustainable culture of peace while not depriving future generations of opportunities.

Ceaseless natural disasters, food problems, climate change and destruction of the ecosystem are threatening our future survival. Climate change is the worst disaster in all of history. Even now, eight thousand of the world’s children are dying from starvation. We must take seriously the challenge of feeding an ever-increasing global population. We can look with hope toward the ocean, which is the origin of all life and controls the environment that helps all lifeforms to co-exist. The ocean is a vast repository of food and thus a bastion against starvation that may arise on a wide scale as well as being the origin of infinite clean energy. True Father had special interest in the ocean as a place to look for solutions to crises that arise among people on land. True Father pushed forward with a vision that the ocean will play an indispensable role in assisting human being to coexist peacefully.

The first Sunhak Peace Prize has the ocean as its theme. Through the ocean, we believe that we can prepare for peace for future generations and begin working toward peace in our world today. Those who are living now are building the future. The Sunhak Peace Prize represents a dream of the earth and all human beings beautifully coexisting. The Sunhak Peace Prize will achieve a beautiful future with a culture of peace.



Television and print media covered the announcement