



2021 UPF ACTIVITY REPORTS

by Heavenly Korea's Special Regions

Heavenly Korea's Special Regions

The Seoul and Incheon District



Rev. Jin-tae Joo is president of subregion one, the heavenly nation of Gyeong-in.

UPF activities in the Seoul and Incheon region in 2021 can be summarized in two main ways. One is the through the launch of the Hyojeong Leader Forum, and the other is through the various activities leading to the creation of the World Family Organization.

We launched the Hyojeong Leader Forum in July 2021 in the thirty-six municipalities in the Seoul and Incheon Districts. The leader forum included fifty leaders and experts in the fields of politics, economy, religion, academia, media and culture and the arts from each region. The total number of members in thirty-six cities, counties and districts was 1,875 people. In the future, through the Hyojeong Leader Forum, we plan to share the vision of and the agenda for a heavenly unified Korea presented by Think Tank 2022 and then strive to expand it throughout the local communities.

The efforts put into establishing the World Family Organization are also considered important 2021 activities, having judged that the World Family Organization is an international organization essential to realizing the era of a heavenly unified Korea. As such, Subregion One selected it as their project and thus our members created it in Seoul. After holding a seminar at the end of 2021, we examined the need for the establishment of the World Family Organization, and we are now planning various activities for the coming year.



The Gyeonggi-Gangwon District Plans a Dream-Making Zone World Peace Park



The banner reads: The DMZ Contains the Vision of a New Unified Korea

In the face of climate crises and the COVID-19 pandemic that humanity is going through today, the gap between rich and poor and the gap between generations, rampant gender division and conflict and uncertainty that sustainable peace will ever come to be on the Korean Peninsula, the Universal Peace Federation in the Gyeonggi-Gangwon District created a strategy for a new era of peace by presenting two national schemes for a Peace and Neutrality Zone Project on the Korean Peninsula.

Establishing parks in the DMZ would be an important step toward North-South reunification. Currently, North Korea and South Korea are locked in a complex and intense confrontation. These parks should highlight Korea's world-class cultural heritage and should encourage tourism, educate people and highlight Korea's history, culture and art, with strong foci on ecology and on peace.

A second proposal is the designation of a Peace and Neutrality Zone, based on theory of limited peace. The expected effect of the Peace and Neutrality Zone Project on the Korean Peninsula is that it will build trust between the two Koreas as they work to resolve conflicts and eliminate confrontations. A Peace and Neutrality Zone will serve as a starting point for a lasting peace agreement on the Korean Peninsula through cooperation with the international community. We hope that this will be a stepping stone toward peaceful reunification on the Korean Peninsula, centered on the concepts of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values.



Daejeon, Chungcheong District, Opinion Leader Group

In order to restore heavenly Chungcheong, we established the Eight-Pillar Opinion Leader Group with the focus on Think Tank 2022 World Summit and the Heavenly Reunification Theory. We expanded organizations of peace loving citizens, focusing on the Chungcheong members to restore the community.

The Think Tank 2022 Forum and education spread through the Peace Forum for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified Korea

With the focus on the Think Tank 2022 Forum and the Peace Forum for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified Korea, we were able to draw active support from Seung-jo Yang, governor of Chungnam Province, and Shi-jong Lee, governor of Chungbuk Province. In line with the non-face-to-face era caused by the COVID-19 Pandemic, education and promotion of opinion leaders and peace petitioners expanded through various online forums.

Seminars to promote the Chungcheong Projects and Nurture Future Leaders

We continually seek to expand UPF's foundation in each province and city through online and off-line training with our focus on seminars to initiate new ambassadors for peace and engage opinion leaders in UPF's eight primary associations. Young adults, members of the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace and students from Sun Moon University (Cheon Il Guk National University) will work together to formulate various policies for the development of future leaders. As such, the heavenly nation of Chungcheong will usher in a new era of reunification.



Honam and Jeju Districts conduct activities to secure 160,000 members

In the Honam and Jeju Districts, the Universal Peace Federation successfully launched six pillar organizations, which touch on areas including politics, economy, academia, media, religion, and KCLC and on this basis, Think Tank 2022, which we also launched. In order to build a foundation to cater to and prepare an upper-level movement, leaders from each field centered on the six pillar organizations took part in a Divine Principle seminar, through which they connected to the Peace Forum for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified Korea and Think Tank 2022 Forums.

We educated 71,129 local residents of heavenly Jeolla Province on the theory of unification, and we have trained new ambassadors for peace to recruit 1,054 new ambassadors for peace and to increase the number of incumbent politicians working as ambassadors for peace. We have recruited 56,414 peace-loving citizens as well. Through our YouTube channel, we are creating an online environment through which we provide lectures and other material on various topics to educate peace loving citizens on the theory of a heavenly unified Korea.

In addition, we launched the Hyojeong Peace Volunteer Corps throughout forty-two municipalities and districts. The volunteers conduct activities locally, building trust through work cooperatively, and signing MOUs with various NGOs and volunteer organizations as a means to connect with locals. On this foundation, we successfully held a Honam-Jeju Korean Peninsula Peace Summit for a Heavenly Unification Korea in November 2021.




The Yongnam District Promotes the Korea-Japan Undersea Tunnel



The banner reads, "A symposium on the settlement of a heavenly, unified Korea and the Korea-Japan undersea tunnel "

For the sake of peace and prosperity, the Yongnam District UPF conducts projects in support of the Korean-Japan undersea tunnel, which connects to Eurasia. To promote the construction of the tunnel, FFWPU, the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) and the WFWP have been working closely with Japan to improve relations between Korea and Japan and to actively conduct research on the tunnel.

We held regional competitions, academic presentations, symposiums and forums to analyze the necessity and plausible effects of the tunnel. We provide a venue for cooperation and through surveys with the participation of experts in related fields, we were able to raise public awareness and explain the importance of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values in relation to the tunnel. In addition, as exchanges between the two countries in relation to the tunnel are actively taking place, we held three International Leadership Conferences online to emphasize the need to create a forum for peace for the Northeast Asia economic community centered on the tunnel. At the Korea-Japan Undersea Tunnel Symposium in October 2021, a group of chairmen on the Tunnel Promotion Committee gathered personnel and launched activities in seventy-two cities and counties across Korea's Yeongnam District (North Gyeongsang Province, South Gyeongsang Province and the self-governing cities of Busan, Daegu and Ulsan). They had resolved to gain public support and to participate in more practical and well-defined activities. Finally, in December 2021, the Korean Peninsula Peace Summit Launching Ceremony for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified Korea through the Promotion of the Korea-Japan Undersea Tunnel was successfully held in seventy-two cities, counties and districts. 



Heavenly Japan



At a meeting of UPF-Japan's board of directors all members of the board expressed optimism regarding 2022.

Like other UPF chapters around the world, the central theme of UPF for Japan 2021 was “Safe Settlement of a Heavenly Unified Korea.” For people around the world to receive the Mother of Peace as the Mother of Unification, we need to create a solid foundation for North–South peace and reunification on the Korean Peninsula, which is the center of the providence, before the upcoming South Korean presidential elections on March 9, 2022. With that resolution, UPF-Japan has conducted extensive activities to support the establishment of a heavenly unified Korea under the strong leadership of the FFWPU International Headquarters.

The International Leadership Conference (ILC) online webinar, which we first held on February 24 last year, aired the viewpoints of Japanese intellectuals on “The Situation on the Korean Peninsula and its Future Prospects—and Russia’s Perspective.” Dr. Igor Tolstocrakov expressed Russia’s point of view.

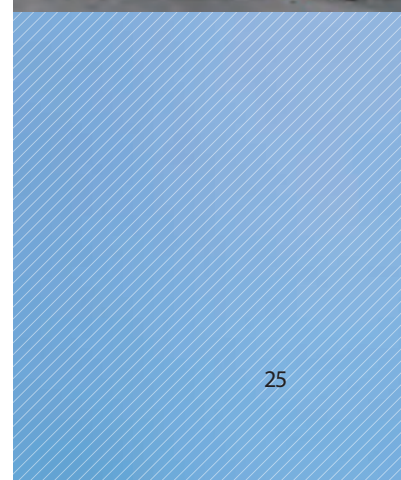
On March 18, the Peace Ambassadors Council in Japan’s Kanto Region held an ILC on the theme “The Korean War and Japan.” For around seventy years after the outbreak of the Korean War in 1950, Japan has had a rear-support military bases for US and UN forces. Various information was presented that showed Japan’s involvement in the Korean War, much of which, up to now, had never been revealed, such as the transportation of reinforcements and materials by Japanese cargo ships to Korea. This meeting was an excellent opportunity for the peace-loving people of South Korea and Japan to think about the future of their friendship.

Starting in late April, before the sixth Rally of Hope, UPF-Japan organized eight projects under UPF’s primary associations holding ILCs that brought religious leaders together. On April 19, we held an IAPD session, and we prayed for North–South reunification as we held a session under the theme “Praying for Peace, Reunification on the Korean Peninsula and Peace in the Asia-Pacific Region.”

The IAAP session (April 20) brought together scholars and journalists who discussed Korean politics and Japan–Korea relations based on the Seoul and Busan mayoral elections. At the ISCP session, we welcomed the former vice-president of Taiwan, Lu Hsiu-lien (2000–2008) as a guest. In her keynote address, she said, “We can realize peace and soft power success in Northeast Asia by strengthening the solidarity between Japan and Taiwan.”

Looking from a new perspective

The Korean Peninsula issue is often addressed politically, militarily and ideologically. As an IAFLP event, we planned a session centered on woman leaders who are ethnic Korean citizens of Japan. We called the session, “The National Identity of Koreans in Japan and the Future on the Korean Peninsula.” During this session, young women spoke of the 38th Parallel



and the future of the Korean Peninsula as they see it. We have around 480,000 Korean residents in Japan.

The IAED held a session with the theme the Korea–Japan Undersea Tunnel at the International Highway Foundation and the HJ Magnolia Foundation. In the IAPP, incumbent lawmakers met as a group, and the IMAP was discussed by media officials and political critics from the U.S. UK and Albania, centering on the *Segye Ilbo* of Japan.

Following these sessions, the participants, experts and intellectuals from all walks of life, signed UPF’s ILC2021 resolution, expressing Japan’s support for peaceful reunification on the Korean Peninsula and commemorating the sixth Rally of Hope to launch Think Tank 2022, a wonderful event which took place on May 9.

From June to August, we held three ILCs “For the peaceful reunification on the Korean Peninsula,” with a total of twenty-five sessions with the central theme, “Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity and Universal Values.”

At the September 12 Think Tank2022 Rally of Hope, which featured a heated discussion, former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and former U.S. President Trump sent a message expressing their support for the efforts to reunify North Korea and South Korea peacefully, centered on Think Tank 2022. They expressed their support for True Parents’ vision of peace.

At the ThinkTank2022 forums, which we held after the September event, we had a three-way broadcast between the United States and Japan, with high-level experts from the world, including (first) former U.S. secretary of state Mike Pompeo, (second) former vice-president Mike Pence, and (third) global investor Jim Rogers. Japan also brought VIPs attending as keynote speakers. Some of whom spoke of the need for solidarity between the South Korea and Japan in the creation of the undersea tunnel.


As such, UPF Japan has been actively promoting support for the establishment of a heavily unified Korea as directed by the FFWPU International Headquarters, while also conducting a wide range of activities for the foundation of peace ambassadors in our country. We also promoted the launch of IAPP Japan, centered on legislators, to hold the World Peace Council. In the future, concrete projects will connect countries worldwide, and UPF will arrange dialogues between important public figures and incumbent politicians. First, on July 21, the U.S.-Japan Assembly Conference was held to discuss areas of common interest with Taiwan.

In UPF Japan, we organized the Peace Ambassador Council nationwide as a network of ambassadors for peace, conducting the National Security Movement, the Korea–Japan Tunnel Construction Promotion, and the People’s Movement to Restore Families.

In the security field, an executive at the “National Forum for Peace and Security in Asia and Japan” conducted seventy-six activities across the country with land and sea experts from the Self-Defense Forces and former self-defense officers.

In the Korean Tunnel Promotion National Movement, a general meeting of executives met for the first time in four years. While commemorating forty years since the announcement of True Father’s “Korean–Japan Tunnel plan,” UPF hold forty-one conferences, lectures, and development activities nationwide, expressing True Parent’s ideas on “interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values.”

The People’s Movement to Make People, Make Families and Make the Country was a national movement to restore families. Members conducted various enlightenment activities on the value of families and marriage through a total of fifty-nine lectures and Family Vision Seminars.

In addition, UPF carried out Peace Road activities to promote peace-building and harmony between Korea and Japan, and peace-unification between the two Koreas through the Korea–Japan Tunnel project. Despite the COVID-19 situation, UPF carried out these activities nationwide in forty-three provinces, prefectures, and regions. The dynamic appearance of young people stirred positive emotions, and this has been extensively reported via around forty-eight broadcasting outlets, newspapers and the Internet. 

Heavenly North America

On the Front Line for Korean Reunification and Family Values

By Michael Jenkins



From left: Dr. Alexandre Mansourov, a North Korean expert; Ambassador Joseph DeTrani, former U.S. special envoy to the Six-Party Talks; Newt Gingrich, former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives and Thomas McDevitt, chairman of The Washington Times

Universal Peace Federation-North America includes the work of UPF in the United States and Canada. Our overall mission is to pursue peace on all fronts, to mitigate disagreement and conflict between people. We place special emphasis on the equal partnership of women and men and on raising the next generation of leaders.

Universal Peace Federation conducts activities and promotes dialogue to provide national and grassroots leadership in promoting education, peace and community service initiatives affecting family and community renewal. We frequently engage in co-sponsorships with altruistic-minded NGOs and non-profit organizations internationally to maximize outreach with the goal of engaging and involving one-third of the world within the next five years. We advance our work through numerous projects, activities and interactions in public meetings, through think tank development, providing education on peace and public-mindedness and on communication skills development in marriage and family as well as interfaith prayer and dialogue.

UPF USA advances this mission by co-hosting and participating in conferences such as Rally of Hope events, Think Tank 2022, and the Washington Brief webcast, which is a monthly forum of experts assessing risks and opportunities on the Korean Peninsula, which I will describe in more detail below.

We hold International Leadership Conferences, National Parents' Day and Parents of the Year recognition, interfaith dialogues, Peace Road, Middle East Peace Initiative and we appoint ambassadors for peace. We also participated in observing United Nations observance days, carrying out events locally in the U.S. and Canada.

True Mother's direction to Universal Peace Federation North America has been consistent on two fronts: first, to end hostilities and create unity between the two Koreas, and second, in partnership with clergy members, to support family values and interfaith relations. In both of these areas there has been an added across-the-board emphasis on raising members of the younger generation to the point where they can assume top leadership positions. That was our focus during 2021.

It is essential to point out that Universal Peace Federation-North America has made all its

accomplishments in collaboration with every other organization founded by Father and Mother—organizations serving the needs of the clergy, women’s interests, youth, as well as every other sphere in the partnership between God and man. Sometimes UPF’s partners did the heaviest lifting for us, and always we aided the efforts of one another. Always we operated with the support and guidance of the Universal Peace Federation International and its world-wide affiliates. We worked alongside one another month in and month out, seven days a week, in our common struggle and desire to serve True Parents and God’s providence. During this process magical things happened.

The Rally of Hope and Think Tank 2022

The Rally of Hope series was born out of True Mother’s wisdom and leadership. Her appointment of Dan Burton, a former US congressman and Jose DeVenecia, a former Philippine House Speaker, to serve as international co-chairmen of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) was groundbreaking. It changed everything in our global outreach.

Over a thirty-year career in Congress, much of it spent as chairman of the House Foreign Relations Committee, Dan Burton, although a political conservative, has established cordial working relations with political leaders around the world, and has won the trust of members on both sides of the aisle in the US Congress.

So when Dick Cheney, a former US vice president and Newt Gingrich, a former House Speaker came to World Summit 2020 in February of that year, they felt comfortable and very much at home because Dan Burton was there. That experience of meeting True Mother in Korea and being impressed with the scope of our conference and discussions, led both of them to give an enthusiastic “yes” to recording videos for our Rally of Hope and Think Tank 2022 events and other programs since then.

A huge spiritual breakthrough happened at the beginning of 2020, when the COVID-19 pandemic was going global. This wave of blessings that coincided with the virus outbreak and has lasted through today, saw the cooperation and participation of world-renowned leaders such as Bishop Noel Jones of the City of Refuge Church in Los Angeles, and David Beasley, a former South Carolina governor who heads the Nobel Peace Prize-winning United Nations World Food Program.

Korea-focused webinars and the Washington Brief

UPF-North America has been conducting a professional quality television-style program on North Korea and South Korea reunification called the Washington Brief. Christopher Hill, a former ambassador, helped us create it. Mrs. Kaeleigh Moffitt, congressional liaison for UPF, and Ms. Sunhwa Reiner produce it. It has run every Tuesday for more than a year. More than 150 Korea experts from the leading think tanks, policy institutes and universities worldwide have participated in webinars that have covered diplomacy, denuclearization, humanitarian aid (food and medical), scholarly views, religious leaders’ input and culture and the arts. Every webinar brings new experts forward. The Washington Times Foundation and UPF sponsor it. The Washington Times is highly respected in US geopolitical circles, and this enables us to attract Korea and Northeast Asia experts who are the most in demand.

Each edition of the Washington Brief features a special guest, surrounded by a “host panel” of three distinguished experts who are the same each time. In addition to Christopher Hill, a



former US ambassador to Korea and former leader of the US delegation to the Six-Party Talks, we have Joseph Detrani, also a former special envoy to the Six-Party Talks and a former CIA director for Asia. Our third host panelist was Dr. Alexandre Mansourov, originally from Russia. He attended graduate school at Kim Il Sung University in Pyongyang and today is a professor at the Center for Strategic Studies at Georgetown University and a consultant to the US Defense Department and US State Department. The Washington Brief is increasingly attracting the interest of the US State Department, White House and Pentagon. The Washington Times has covered it along with Yonhap News Agency, KBS (Korea), *Segye Ilbo*, MSN-Korea and others.

Special guests on the Washington Brief have included Mr. Guy Taylor, national security team leader at the *Washington Times*; Mr. Markus Garlauskas, senior fellow at the Atlantic Council's Scowcroft Center for Strategy and Security; Newt Gingrich former US Speaker of the House; Kathleen Stephens, former US ambassador to Korea and Mr. Syd Seiler, the national intelligence officer for North Korea in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, who is the highest US official directly responsible for intelligence on North Korea. He reports directly to the US president.

IAPD peace forums on people-to-people engagement on the Korea Peninsula

In 2021, the virtual Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD) Peace Forum was part of a larger UPF effort to understand the challenges and present the hopes for and opportunities for creating peace and unity where there is strife and adversaries in the world. Interfaith leaders, through a total of twelve sessions of the IAPD Peace Forum, presented their insight and wisdom regarding peacemaking as it applies to healing the suffering and corrosive division caused by the separation of the peoples of North Korea and South Korea.

The inspirational focus of these monthly sessions was "An Approach through People-to-People Engagement toward Peace and Re-unification on the Korean Peninsula." This was to encourage faith-based organizations to work together in recognition that we are all members of one family under God. This principle applies in awakening concern even for a people and country we may not necessarily directly know, which opens a path to resolving significant problems in our world.

The November 1991 meeting of Reverend Sun Myung Moon and Dr Hak Ja Han Moon, co-founders of the UPF, with North Korea's Great Leader, Kim Il Sung, was shown as an example of how substantial and meaningful reconciliation between long standing enemies can be achieved.


IAPD is UPF North America's longest-running continual program, with nearly a hundred weekly presentations. Tomiko Duggan, senior vice-president of UPF-USA, Mrs. Yuriko Kitagawa and Archbishop George Augustus Stallings, Jr. have been vigilant in bringing together three members of the clergy each week—Christian, Jewish or Muslim. The program has created many breakthroughs in the hearts of the US clergy members. Most notable has been the increase in Jewish rabbis who have become involved.

Black and White tribes bridging the gap between the separated brothers

"Beyond Politics: Black Leaders Taking a Principled Stance; Crossing the Aisle and Why." This is a discussion created by Rev. Zagery Oliver, a UPF executive director, born out of his passion to bridge the gap between the Black Tribe and the White Tribe in America.

We are in a time of great turmoil in the US. The elimination of the divide between black and white is in progress. As a black brother raised in America, Rev. Oliver knows this separation better than most, and he feels called by God to be part of the healing process. He has developed and conducted a series of roundtable discussions, seminars and programs to address how to heal the divide so that America can be in a position to speak to the world about other divisions.

Clarification of the identity and role of black Americans is a central task in finding the path to achieving lasting racial harmony in our country. Black Africans, who came to North America initially as slaves, have been in this country from its beginning. They are no less fundamental to the identity and history of the United States than are white European immigrants.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave guidance to black America, saying, "If you will protest courageously, and yet with dignity and Christian love, when the history books are written in the future generations, the historians will have to pause and say, there lived a great people, a black people who injected new meaning and dignity into the veins of civilization. This is a challenge and our overwhelming responsibility." 

Dr. Jenkins is president of UPF International.

Heavenly Asia Pacific

By Ek Nath Dhakal



Cambodian staff members pose for a photograph with Dr. Yun and his entourage

T rue Parents, co-founders of the Universal Peace Federation, have laid a solid foundation in the Asia Pacific region through their repeated visits and countless investments. The past three successful summits in the Asia Pacific region combined (in Nepal, Cambodia and Palau) attracted forty-two heads of state or former ones, as well as first ladies and government officials. True Mother displayed dignity and honor at the highest level. We will continue to add more bricks to complete the construction of a heavenly unified region under its architect, our True Mother.

The Asia Pacific region is home to sixty percent of the world's population. Some 4.5 billion people live here. The region consists of forty nations; we have 12,245 ambassadors for peace representing diverse Asian societies. UPF-Asia Pacific has eight subregions (South Asia, India, Southeast Asia, Mekong, China, Central Asia, Oceania and the Central Pacific). In each of these subregions, we have assigned directors who oversee UPF's activities.

The vision of UPF Asia-Pacific is to become the leading peace organization in the Asia Pacific, as envisioned by our True Parents. Our activities aim to contribute to peace building, leadership development, national prosperity and good families. Our team's absolute unity with True Mother and the international headquarters provides the needed strength to accomplish our regional goals. UPF- Asia Pacific has already proposed co-chairs and regional coordinators for its eight primary associations (ISCP, IAFLP, IAPP, IAPD, IAAP, IAED, IMAP, IAACP).

During 2021, UPF-Asia Pacific organized four series of International Leadership Conferences (ILCs) focused on peaceful reunification on the Korean Peninsula. These ILCs attracted 13,200 registered online participants from forty-five countries including 208 experts and eighteen heads of state or government or former ones as well as first ladies and over a million Internet viewers.

The April ILC series hosted by UPF's various associations contributed to raising awareness of the need for Korean reunification. It brought experts together and recommended appropriate policies for Korean reunification. The ILC series also empowered non-state actors and civil society to focus on peace and reconciliation. Participants discussed various aspects of Korean unification and submitted counter-proposals based on True Parent's peaceful Head-Wing Ideology.

During the first half of 2021, we organized eight events (four physical, four virtual) in Nepal, India, South Asia, Southeast Asia and Oceania. Sixty experts took part in the eight programs. During the pandemic, UPF also honored health workers in Nepal and India as courageous and sacrificial front-line soldiers in the battle against Covid-19 and presented Ambassador for Peace certificates to them on behalf of True Mother. One of the highlights of our webinars was



featuring experts from the People's Republic of China in addition to speakers from G-20 nations such as Australia, India and Indonesia. Participants were educated about True Parents' contributions to the peaceful reunification on the Korean Peninsula.

Five hundred million viewers

The best way to create an environment for a heavenly unified Korea is through True Parents' teachings. During 2021, we organized ten Asia Pacific Leadership Conferences (APLC) with five hundred graduates from thirty-seven countries. Peace educators, such as Dr. Robert Kittel and Mrs. Ursula McLackland, were the primary teachers. FFWPU regional presidents, Demian Dunkley and Mashaichi Hori, also contributed.

We have been maintaining dialogue with the DPRK (North Korea) through their diplomatic missions in Nepal and Cambodia. The prime ministers of Cambodia and Sri Lanka and four former heads of state, including ones from India and Pakistan, delivered keynote speeches during the Rally of Hope series. In addition to this, the highest level religious leaders, such as Sri Sri Ravi Shankar, founder of the Art of Living from India, Dr. K. H. Nasaruddin Umar, Grand Imam of the Istiqlal National Mosque in Jakarta, Indonesia; Samdech Dr. Khy Sovanratana, a prominent Buddhist leader from Cambodia were among others who spoke at UPF's Rally of Hope. An estimated five hundred million people viewed the Rally of Hope from Asia Pacific countries through live-broadcast by a dozen television stations.

A meeting held between the Cambodian prime minister and Dr. Young-ho Yun resulted in many activities in the Mekong Region for the peaceful reunification on the Korean Peninsula. UPF Asia Pacific also focused on expanding the Think Tank 2022 network by signing MOUs and forging partnerships with various like-minded highly regarded think tanks. We coordinated the signing of an MOU with the Asian Vision Institute, based in Cambodia as well as with the Indian Institute of Public Policy (IIPP) in Chennai. We are currently discussing a partnership with the G7+ secretariat and possibly an MOU to further advance the work of Think Tank 2022 to contribute to the peaceful reunification on the Korean Peninsula and world peace. We are in contact with ten other think tanks in various countries including Australia, China, Indonesia, Thailand and the Philippines. We hope to break through in fostering partnerships with them in 2022.

UPF-Asia Pacific organized a virtual program called "Honoring the Legacy of Peace" to honor and remember exemplary ambassadors for peace who have passed away. Governments and civil society organizations in the Asia Pacific region are increasingly recognizing UPF. Last year UPF-IAPP was invited to attend the Asia-Europe Parliamentary Cooperation meeting. UPF was also invited by the India Foundation (India's premier think tank) and Nalanda University (the world's second oldest university) to address their important forums. We are in the forefront, reaching out to the most eminent figures to introduce True Mother's latest activities such as Think Tank 2022.

UPF's Central Asia Forum coordinated an important intergovernmental meeting between Kyrgyzstan's minister of the environment and a member of the Japanese Diet. In addition to this, UPF Central Asia hosted an online conference with the theme "Eurasian Security—The Path to Mutual Understanding and Shared Prosperity."

Hot spots

UPF Philippines is one of the most active chapters in the region and has successfully conducted diverse peace activities in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. Some of the major UPF activities in the Philippines in 2021 were the Philippine One Million Rally of Hope, an Interfaith Dialogue Event, the Professors World Peace Academy National Convention, a webinar on COVID-19 Vaccine Hesitancy Among Filipinos, a PWPA Collaborative Research Colloquium, a Barangay Councilors Conference and a Llanera Leadership Conference for Peace, among others. In Myanmar, UPF works with the International Buddhist Education Center (IBEC) to provide humanitarian support. UPF Malaysia organized interfaith programs and a Married Couples' Festival to promote healthy families.

UPF has been increasingly present in India, the world's largest democracy. UPF's Think Tank 2022 Indian series was launched in partnership with the Indian Institute of Public Policy (IIPP). Three exemplary government ministers from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's cabinet were presented with the UPF's Ambassador for Peace certificates.

Fifty participants took part in third of a series of three Values Education Summits sponsored by UPF Australia and IAAP Oceania. UPF New Zealand hosted four series of Peace and Family Blessing Seminars. In the Central Pacific, UPF is collaborating with the biggest Hindu organization in Fiji and conducted a number of outreach activities among diplomatic communities. Island nations such as the Marshall Islands, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Papua



Dr. Young-ho Yun, director-general of the FFWPU International Headquarters, meeting with Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen of the Kingdom of Cambodia in the Peace Palace.

New Guinea conducted programs with local ambassadors for peace. UPF works with the office of the vice president of the Republic of Palau to promote character education.

UPF-Hong Kong and China continued to build good relationships with politicians and key religious leaders. We involved them in our major events such as Rallies of Hope and International Leadership Conferences as speakers. We invited Chinese scholars to present their views in various conferences on unification as one Korea.

UPF Asia Pacific will work ceaselessly to create a peaceful environment in the region through Track II diplomacy and soft power approaches to peace. We will also continue Asia Pacific Leadership Conferences to educate VIPs according to True Parents' peace ideology. We will select potential countries to host continental-level Blessing Ceremonies and regional summits in partnership with the government. In addition to this, we wish to host the Ambassadors for Peace General Assembly 2022. This way, a solid environment will be laid for establishing a heavenly unified Asia Pacific.

How we operate

UPF Asia Pacific achieved its goals through education, persuasion and service. Our approach is top down. We educate a significant number of important people as model ambassadors for peace. We persuade all heads of state and government reach for a greater dream. We serve our communities following True Parents' example of living for others. By following this way, we are creating an appropriate environment in the region for renewal and restoration.

True Mother declared the establishment of the Asia Pacific Union (APU). This can be a venue to share the best practices of nations, encourage economic growth, promote tourism and impart to nations and regions a renewed hope for a unified world of peace. The APU can prepare this region to lead the 21st century. We have been continuously promoting this far-sighted vision among nation states and civil society.

We will explore ways to forge partnerships with G20 nations by inviting heads of state or government to join UPF's Summit series, Rallies of Hope and Think Tank 2022 Forums and connect them with True Mother to strengthen her efforts in building a heavenly unified Korea and a heavenly unified world.

Strategies and projects for regional renewal include further strengthening of UPF's associations and initiatives, building partnerships, online education programs and utilizing information technology for our database. Major projects of UPF Asia Pacific are the Asia Pacific Union, Think Tank 2022, the Asia Pacific Summit, Rallies of Hope, NEAPI, APLC, SAPI, Central Asia Forums, Ambassador for Peace Forums, ACLC, Peace Road, WANGO, RYS and VIP Peace Club among others.

In conclusion, UPF Asia Pacific will strategically mobilize all of its primary associations, work with its partners and contribute to realizing a heavenly unified world centering on our co-founders' lofty ideals. There is much hope as we move ahead. *TP*

Rev. Dhakal is chairman of the UPF Asia Pacific Region.

Heavenly Europe and the Middle East Region (EUME)

International Leadership Conferences

In April, June, July and August 2021, UPF and its constituent associations hosted a series of virtual conferences on peace and reunification of the Korean Peninsula, each addressing the theme from a different perspective. UPF Europe & Middle East hosted a total of thirty-four webinars, attended by thousands of participants.

The ILC in April focused on “The Foundation for a Unified World.” One of the eight webinars was organized by the International Summit Council for Peace and questioned “The Implications for Europe”. It was moderated by Dr. Werner Fasslabend, former Austrian minister of defense, and hosted as keynote speakers Kjell Magne Bondevik, former PM of Norway, Yves Leterme, former PM of Belgium, Dr. Karin Kneissl, former foreign minister of Austria, and Dr. Alexander Zhebin, Institute of Far Eastern Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences.

The first of seven webinars that took place during the June ILC focusing on “Peace and Security”, had as the keynote speaker Major General Patrick Gauchat, head of the Swiss delegation to the Neutral Nations Supervisory Commission (NNSC), who spoke of their peacekeeping mission and the role of neutral nations.

The July ILC on “Best Practices in Track II Diplomacy” consisted of eight webinars, out of which one was organized by WFWP and IAFLP, focusing on “The Emerging Power of Women’s Diplomacy,” and had as major speakers Nayla Moawad, former first lady and former minister of Social Affairs of Lebanon, and Neziha Labidi, former minister for Women, Family, Children and Senior Citizens from Tunisia. Another session hosted by IAYSP EUME questioned the role of young people in contributing to peace in Korea.

The August ILC on “Economic Development and Worldviews,” had one webinar co-hosted by UPF North America, on the topic of “Competing Worldviews Concerning Korean Reunification,” with researchers and journalists as speakers. Another session focused on the “Korea–Japan undersea tunnel” and had as one of the main speakers Prof. Jin-hee Park, from the Korean Maritime and Oceanic University in South Korea.




Balkans Leadership Conference, November 20–21, Tirana, Albania

During the November 20–21 Balkans Leadership Conference in Tirana, UPF-EUME and the Podgorica Club, an organization founded in 2019 by former presidents of the governments and states of the Southeast European region signed a Memorandum of Cooperation. Six former heads of state or government and 120 Peace Ambassadors from the Balkans Region attended the conference as did UPF representatives from 25 nations, who also attended the inauguration of the Balkans Peace Embassy.

Abraham Accords

UPF held a series of webinars on the Abraham Accords with a distinguished panel of world leaders. This recent U.S.-brokered agreement between Israel, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates, later joined by Sudan and Morocco, signifies a historic moment of hope in the Middle East.

The first webinar took place on January 14, 2021, with former heads of state from the Middle East, the United States, and Europe. The second webinar on February 25, 2021, was convened with parliamentarians to include the perspectives of all major stakeholders in the Abraham Accords. The third webinar on April 15, 2021, convened by the Europe and Middle East branches of UPF and its International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP), brought together experts from Morocco, Israel, the United States and Europe to discuss the Morocco Tripartite Agreement. The fourth webinar held on July 8, 2021, on the theme, “The Role of Religious Leaders in Track Two Peace Processes”, was organized jointly by the Europe-Middle East and North American branches of UPF and its Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD). 

Heavenly Central America and the Caribbean

By Chang-shik Yang

Our morning devotion

Every day, presidents, directors, national leaders, blessed families, other members and special guests from our region meet at 5:00 am via zoom for our morning hoondokhae devotion. More than three hundred members study, share testimonies and activities reports and make plans for the region and each nation to be victorious in our mission of offering victory to True Parents. We have read True Mother's autobiography twice and have started reading Father's autobiography.

Dominican Republic

Meeting with former president Hipolito Mejia

Last August 31, we had a private meeting with former president Hipolito Mejia Dominguez (2000–2004). He knows our work very well and agreed to support our work in raising family values. He even volunteered to record a message of peace about the family. We are waiting for a good opportunity to use that message well. Mr. Mejia received us at his private residence near the capital, Santo Domingo.

International Day of Peace celebration

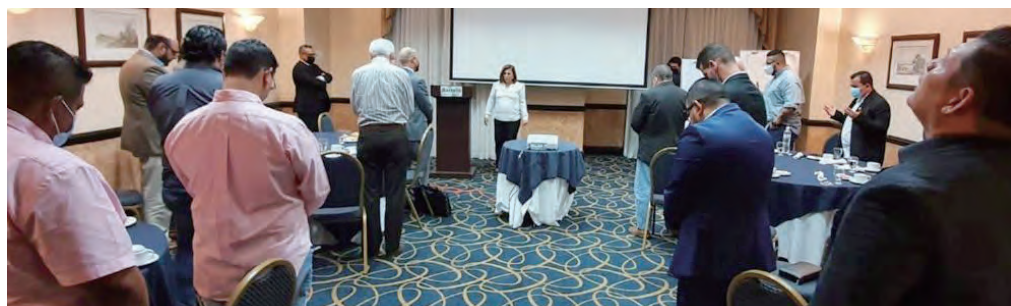
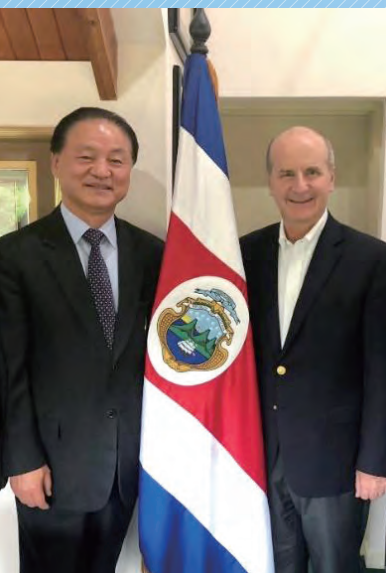
On September 29, we celebrated the International Day of Peace with thirty ambassadors for peace, who thanked Mother Moon for her efforts to unite the two Koreas and to establish world peace. Cesar Regalado, our UPF secretary general, led the event, which was attended by General Ivan Candelier, his wife and several youth ambassadors for peace.

A leadership and good character seminar

This seminar was held at the Armonia y Paz [Harmony and Peace] Farm in Bonao, November 5–7, with the participation of seventy young people and the special presence of Rev. Sang-suek Kim and Dr. Chang-shik Yang. Through this seminar we are preparing the future leaders of our region.

Peace Road 2021

Last November 7, in the towns of Juan Adrian and Piedra Blanca, Bonao, we held Peace Road, with the participation of eighty cyclists, who rode two hundred kilometers for peace, supported by the mayors, Mr. Eduardo Cruz of Juan Adrian and Mr. Radhames Contreras of Piedra Blanca, Rev. Sang-suek Kim, from our region and Dr. Chang-shik Yang from the Latin America continental headquarters. Riders were escorted by the fire department, the national police, the municipal police and other community institutions through surrounding towns. Medals of appreciation were presented to outstanding participants.



Life in CARP for seven days

This training course was held from September 3–10 at both the Santo Domingo headquarters and the central office in Santiago. It is a program through which young people who have studied the Divine Principle in depth come to live with us to learn to practice a life of service to others and spiritual devotion to heaven.

Cuba

Monthly garage sales (Fundraising)

At the Cuba headquarters center in Miami, Florida, we are holding garage sales. We raise funds to send medicine and food to the neediest residents in the Cuban villages. Members in Miami meet every two weeks to collect clothes, household goods and saleable items, which are then offered at the garage sale, thus raising funds. While fundraising in this way, members try to witness as well.

Haiti

International Literacy Day

In Haiti, every September 8, we celebrate “International Literacy Day” with a program that serves to teach reading and writing to adults who did not have the opportunity to go to school in their youth. The program is also a means to enroll young people in a language institute sponsored by WFPW as a way to prevent these young people from becoming illiterate adults. Twenty ambassadors for peace participated in the event.

Trinidad and Tobago

A cheonbo seminar

In spite of the difficulties faced by this country, the church held a cheonbo seminar for seven families on September 5. The blessed families who participated were grateful for the opportunity to bless their ancestors and thus contribute to the betterment of their country.

Mexico

Meeting government officials

September 1 was Federal Government Report Day. We visited newly elected politicians of the leftist party—congressmen and congresswomen from the Municipality of Tlalpan in Mexico City. Our Family Federation national leader, Juan Deara, presented a summary of activities that we developed within the Universal Peace Federation and offered his time to work together on future activities with families and youth with the support of government authorities and society.

A television interview

October 7, in Mexico City, Rev. Dae-hee Hong, Victor Castillo, our UPF secretary general, and Juan Deara, Mexico’s national leader, were interviewed on television. They talked about True Parents’ vision, which is the path to world peace. Rev. Hong highlighted True Parents’ efforts to bring about the unification of North Korea and South Korea.

Taking care of an ambassador for peace

Jorge Dominguez was appointed six months ago as an ambassador for peace. He set up a law office and invited the Universal Peace Federation to the opening. One of our members represented us and delivered a basket of flowers.





Nicaragua

International Leadership Conferences 2021

On August 16, our region held an ILS on “The Influence of the Peaceful Reunification of the Koreas on World Peace and Security, Diplomacy and Economic Development. On behalf of Nicaragua, Dr. José Antonio Alvarado, former Minister of Education, Culture and Sports of Nicaragua, participated.

UPF webinars

In collaboration of UPF’s regional office we inaugurated the International Association of Academics for Peace (IAAP) on October 26. Other providential organizations gave us their timely support, greatly enhancing the event. The zoom meeting was attended by a hundred guests and another twenty people watched in person.

Character education conferences

In collaboration with the rector of the University of Commercial Sciences, Ivania Toruño, we held educational Zoom conferences of a type directed at the students and professors of the university and other guests. We held a conference once a month, starting in May 2021.

Transmitting the Rally of Hope

The television channel VOS TV broadcast the Rallies of Hope. Prior to each Rally, they interviewed a UPF representative in Nicaragua. The broadcast reached 2,300,120 people. In addition to advertising the rallies through the television channel’s news broadcast, we also did so through Facebook, YouTube and Twitter.


IAYSP Activities Delivery of the “Young Hero” medal.

On September 27, IAYSP Nicaragua presented the Young Hero Medal to Oscar Ruiz, a young man trained in industrial biotechnology who created a bacterium capable of degrading deadly arsenic, which is found in water. Thanks to its creation, thousands or even millions of people in Nicaragua and the world will be able to have access to water that is perfectly suitable for human consumption.

Peace Designer and S!nergy

After allying with the Polytechnic University of Nicaragua, we held one of the largest and most recognized Peace Designer events on June 4 and 5. It attracted 146 students who developed ten projects. The workshop is a means by which IAYSP motivates young people to actively work to build peace.

Costa Rica

In March 2021, we began a project called a Community Family Festival, which we held once a month in the FFWPU-Costa Rica Center for more than a hundred participants. Following a lecture about the value of marriage, we gave holy wine to the participating couples. Afterward, we had song and dance presentations and an origami session. Entrepreneurs from the community presented their wares and we had prepared an area where children could play. On October 9, blessed families and members in general participated in a Cheonbo Festival. Thirteen blessed couples registered as cheonbo, heavenly treasures. We held a face-to-face virtual Divine Principle seminar on Sunday, November 21, from the FFWPU-Costa Rica center, which attracted twenty-two participants, nine of whom were attending for the first time. 

Dr. Yang is a member of the UPF Board of Directors.

Heavenly South America

By Dong-mo Shin



Rev. Shin is in the back row wearing a pink tie at the founding of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace in Bolivia, one of many UPF activities his region conducted over the last year.

After Foundation Day and through the proclamation of the victory of Vision 2020, we began the second seven-year cosmic Canaan course for the safe settlement of Cheon Il Guk. During the Special Gathering to Celebrate the Sixtieth Anniversary of True Parents' Holy Wedding, on May 8, 2020, True Mother proclaimed Vision 2027 and the Era of the Safe Settlement of a Heavenly Unified World within Heavenly Parent's Holy Community. Thus, centered on Heavenly Parent's Holy Community, FFWPU and UPF will become one, so humanity can attend our original parent, Heavenly Parent, and as one great human family, realize a world of interdependence, mutual prosperity and universal values, which is Heavenly Parent's and humanity's dream. She solemnly declared a heavenly path to successfully achieve a heavenly unified world.

With this 2027 vision at its center, UPF of heavenly South America created a peace strategy, so that all the various activities of providential organizations UPF, FFWPU, WFWP, IAYSP, Tongil Moodo, etc. can unite under one great umbrella. Those involved in the six UPF pillars have been working year round to ensure that they are well organized and established at the continental, district and national levels.

In particular, heavenly South America aims to strengthen the core VIP base by educating ambassadors for peace as one of the key elements of our UPF activities. We are teaching them the founders' core ideas. Even though we are living through a pandemic, we strive to advance by connecting them to prepared and righteous VVIPs through the continental summits.

As part of the second seven-year Canaan course for the firm establishment of Cheon Il Guk, in 2021, in cooperation with the FFWPU International Headquarters, we adopted the strategic goal of creating and carrying out activities until early 2022 in connection with building a heavenly unified Korea. To this end, UPF in heavenly South America has been particularly focused on four key agenda items.

First, we continuously held events of all sizes to commemorate and celebrate important UN international days. UPF holds a general consultative status within the UN, and is in the position of a top-tier United Nations NGO. Various UN activities not only solidified our position, but also as the "Heavenly Parent UN," we worked with a mindset of saving the world. Each country in South America continued to expand its good influence and move forward according to Heavenly Parent's will. Argentina is one of the most active countries. In addition, many countries, including Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia, who have also conducted UN events online during the COVID-19 Pandemic era, continue to work hard.

Second, we continue to develop concrete community activities, such as social services and environmental projects. Currently we have more than four thousand key ambassadors for peace in twelve South American countries. They have been developing activities, including social services and sharing best practices. They have kept going forward uninterrupted during this COVID-19 pandemic. In many countries, such as Brazil, Paraguay and Peru, they have



been working hard with ambassadors for peace to provide food assistance, medical support and a variety of volunteer activities for the socioeconomically challenged.

Third, we actively use mass media and social media and to connect people with educational programs. In the Corona era, online outreach has been embraced in lieu of face-to-face interaction or group gatherings, and such meetings and educational events are already being actively conducted throughout South America. Some countries in particular make good use of social media such as radio, local television, Facebook and YouTube. Additionally, we actively cooperate with magazines and media companies linked to ambassadors for peace as a means to naturally promote True Parents' teachings, inform others about our activities and to educate the public through the use of video materials.

In particular, the Rallies of Hope and Think Tank Forums that have been held so far have provided tremendous hope for success in media strategies across heavenly South America. Bolivia is a country with a painful history where, until recently, important church leaders were imprisoned with no evidence of guilt, simply as acts of persecution. These days, however, broadcasting stations occasionally air our programs of and events live.

Fourth, we continue to appoint ambassadors for peace through online and off-line channels. Thus, they are connected to the six pillar organizations under the UPF. We are continuously developing online and off-line educational material. In particular, as part of the movement to obtain 100,000 YSP members in each South America country, YSP and WFWP nominated youth ambassadors for peace. They proceeded to educate others both on- and off-line about True Parents' principle-oriented ideology in order to increase righteousness among the people.

In addition to these ongoing activities, from 2021 to 2022, our focus will be on the movement toward peace on the Korean Peninsula, centered on the vision of a heavenly unified Korea. Colombia was one of sixteen (among the twenty South American countries) that participated directly in the Korean War. Suriname also participated in the war as a Dutch colony. With the exception of Guyana, which was a British colony during the Korean War, surprisingly, all countries in South America participated directly or indirectly.


Working toward Korean reunification

On this foundation, in 2021, the movement for peace on the Korean Peninsula focused on the following areas: First, for THINK TANK 2022, we identified and sought to involve 120 South American experts in the areas of peace and unification. In addition, we developed a strategy for VVIPs, current and former leaders, based on each country's situation. This work has steadily progressed. Specifically, in addition we are working to have the VVIPs in South America support the declaration of a heavenly unified Korea. We are also creating strategies to restore one-third of the countries in South America. Over the long term, we are working to connect the VVIPs to the South American continental level summit.

Secondly, with the elected members of THINK TANK 2022, the FFWPU International Headquarters held a Rally of Hope with the top VVIPs on the theme "Peace on the Korean Peninsula". In the first quarter of the year, we also held an online ILC webinar on the theme of a heavenly unified Korea once in February and twice in March. We had invited top VVIPs and ambassadors for peace, who then participated in activities such as the Rallies of Hope and the Think Tank Forums.

Thirdly, from the second quarter of the year, we carried out the Peace Road project on the theme of a heavenly unified Korea. We did as much as possible during the pandemic. As the pandemic is ongoing, we organized virtual on-line Peace Road events to help establish it as an event that connects us to the Korean Peninsula, while updating people on our various activities. Argentina and Paraguay especially have been conducting exemplary activities.

In 2021, which marks the 30th anniversary of True Parents' visit to North Korea, we conducted focused activities in these three areas to bring about the safe settlement of a heavenly unified Korea. Through this, we will move forward and work hard so the 2022 Korean Peninsula Peace Summit which world leaders would attend can be a great success. We also successfully concluded events such as the THINK TANK 2022 forum, which was organized regionally, as well as events organized under different themes according to the situation in Korea.

Heavenly South America is a place where True Parents invested all their heart and love over a long period of time. With True Parents in our hearts, the many restrictions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic are only new challenges and a source of new opportunities that inspire hope. In the era of great providential changes, we will work hard with a heart of filial piety until the day when we fully receive Heaven's wisdom with a humble heart and safely offer the victory of the establishment of the cosmic Cheon Il Guk. 

Rev. Shin is the UPF chairman of the heavenly South America region.

Heavenly Africa

Expressing True Mother's Love to African Nations

By Paterne Zinsou

I thank our True Mother for the grace and the opportunity to visit two Cheon Il Guk countries which carry the hope and true love of the only begotten daughter of our Heavenly Parent, namely, Gabon and Sao Tome and Principe. The heart of our beloved True Mother is deeply rooted in these nations to the point that the vision of the Mother of Peace has given great hope to the leaders of these nations.

Gabon, March 24–25


The one-day transit to Gabon's capital city, Libreville, allowed me to meet with the vice-president of the National Assembly who was minister of the government of Gabon and minister delegate to the current prime minister who heads the country. An IAPP conference is part of their future plans. The vice president has expressed his full attachment to and his wish participate in Rallies of Hope. He asked me to send him an invitation package for Gabon's current prime minister. This will be good for future rallies.

São Tomé and Príncipe March 25–28

I met Maria das Neves, two-time prime minister of Sao Tome and Principe on the day I arrived in Sao Tome, before she traveled early the next morning to Principe to hold a parliamentarian seminar centered on the national budget and economy. She was so happy to receive flowers and a gift from True Mother. She was amazed by the consideration and blessing from True Mother. She sends her warmest greetings and love to True Mother, as well as to Dr. Yun.

I also met Dr. Delfim Santiago das Neves, president of the National Assembly of Sao Tome and Principe since 2018. He received the bouquets of flowers and the gift with great gratitude. He thanks True Mother, Dr. Yun and UPF for that. He has renewed his attachment to UPF and is available to support the activities of Mother Moon in Sao Tome. Delfim das Neves brought in a photographer from the National Assembly to take a picture of him receiving the flowers and the gift.

I met the Commander of the Sao Tome Fire Brigade. He invited the leaders of this division of the army to welcome me and participate in discussions. The national commander, Felisberto Bragança Dias, on behalf of the group of firefighters, sincerely thanked True Mother for the donation of a fire truck. The quality and performance of the truck fully met their expectations, he said. Due to the pandemic, Korean engineers were unable to make the trip as desired. The commander said he had done several searches on the Internet to study the functionality of the Korean brand compared to several brands the company has. The truck is working properly.

He promised to write officially to express their thanks and satisfaction. Then, we went to see the fire truck. The commandant is waiting for any period suggested by Korean experts and engineers for the training and further explanations. If it is not possible in person, the training can be held virtually through Zoom. 

Dr. Zinsou is regional vice-president of UPF-Africa.

1- RALLIES OF HOPE UPF Activity Results and Support Plan for a Heavenly Unified Korea

Rallies of Hope: We focus on bringing top African leaders to the Rallies of Hope. This brings attention of the populations of their nations and also the attention of other Presidents to True Mother's activities. We have invited 12 thus far.



MEETING ON MARCH 26, 2021 WITH THE COMMAND OF THE BRIGADE OF FIRE FIGHTERS IN SAO TOME BY UPF AFRICA REPRESENTATIVE



Seeds of Love Planted in Niger

By Kathy Rigney

As we prepared to depart from Abuja, Nigeria, for Niamey, Niger, I knew that this would be a return voyage to the historical city and country that hosted God's only begotten daughter in a victorious summit and Blessing Ceremony in November 2019 in the middle of the Sahara Desert. As our airplane approached Niger's airport, memories began flooding into my consciousness of those moments in November of 2019 when True Mother's airplane began its landing in Niamey. I was overwhelmed by all those amazing memories as our plane made its approach. I was excited to come back to Niger and relive those historical moments as the nation prepared to mark the very first transition from a democratically elected president, Mahammadou Issoufou, to a newly democratically elected president, Mohamed Bazoum. The government of Niger prepared a VIP car to meet us and bring us to the Ministerial VIP lounge. From there we went to the Radisson Hotel and quickly changed our clothes to attend, at the invitation of the Niger government, the pre-event dinner offered by President Issoufou. Once again, I remembered the dinner President Issoufou offered upon True Mother's arrival in Niamey in 2019. Twelve heads of state had come for the inauguration. Eight officials came representing heads of state and eighteen former heads of state came.


The next day, we were able to travel rather smoothly in spite of the tremendous crowd because we had a government car and driver. At the entrance to the hall, government workers checked the invitation of each one and guided each delegation to their designated seats. We were being guided to the second floor of the hall with all the other NGOs. Suddenly, someone shouted, "No stop! Please come this way." It was Minister Mohamed Saidil Moctar, special advisor to President Issoufou and the government minister our UPF team worked with on a daily basis to prepare for True Mother's coming to Niger and through the entire summit and Blessing Ceremony. He took us immediately by hand and brought us to the seats he had reserved for the UPF delegation which were seats reserved for former heads of state. Sitting next to me were two-time president Olusegun Obasanjo of Nigeria and former president Nicéphore Soglo of the Republic of Benin.

I heard that Minister Moctar was key in preparing this inaugural event just as he done for our summit. The government of Niger brought in an events company from France to aid in the preparations. However, Minister Moctar told this events company that the way they were organizing was not correct, that he learned from the best of the best during True Mother's Summit in Niamey. He told them that a crew of Koreans trained by True Mother came and their organization was perfect, therefore this events company should listen to him!

The event began and it was extremely emotional. Not one head of state in Niger had ever willingly given up his position to a newly elected president. President Issoufou had announced at the beginning of his mandate that he would never stay longer than his appointed mission. He was keeping that promise. All of Niger doubted that it was true. However, he was absolutely determined. He wanted Niger to be an example to other African nations of democracy in action, denying dictatorship! All eyes in West Africa were on Niger.

The outgoing president came on stage followed by the incoming president. Mahamadou Issoufou then proceeded with his constitutional duties and went to sit in the audience while the new president was sworn in. Two traditionally dressed religious leaders with a pious and serious attitude, lovingly brought a beautiful copy of the Quran to the podium and placed it there with special care. They then called Mohamed Bazoum to the podium for the swearing in ceremony. When Bazoum stood at the podium, he raised his hand to place it on the Quran and gently put it there. At that moment, with all their hearts, the entire audience of three thousand people cried out "Allah O Ackbar!" God is great! The incoming president then took the constitutional oath. I cried as I felt the presence of our Heavenly Parent in that room as everyone stood professing their loyalty to God!

After the formalities, President Bazoum gave his inaugural address, He testified to the thirty years he had worked hand in hand with President Issoufou fighting to end violence and coup d'états, etc. in the nation to bring peace so that Niger could prosper. During his amazing speech, the enormous screen in the middle of the stage showed President Issoufou as he sat with so much dignity, tears brimming in his eyes the entire time. Every time they showed his image, everyone cheered! It was so moving. He later testified that finally his dream could be fulfilled through this peaceful transition from one head of state to another.

I wish you could have experienced directly, beloved Mother, the love which lives in Niger for you and the blossoming of the seeds that you planted there as the providence moves forward! 

Dr. Rigney is regional chair of UPF-Africa.



UPF delegation visit H.E Dr Hussein Ali Mwinyi
President of Zanzibar-Tanzania



H.E. Dr. Hussein Ali Mwinyi
President of Zanzibar-Tanzania



Dr. Kathleen Rigney
Regional Chair of UPF-Africa

