

## UPF USA's ILC2021 North America Executive Summary

Michael Jenkins  
July 29, 2021



**North America** -- ILC2021 (July 13 and 27-29, 2021), webcast worldwide, was the second of three to be held this summer. This ILC was focused on Track II Diplomacy, humanitarian aid, NGOs and people-to-people engagement, including Faith-Based Organizations. The topics of each session allowed for new and fresh insights into the possibilities of building a common base of collaboration between North Korea (DPRK), the United States and South Korea (ROK). Medical equipment such as CAT scan and MRI machines have been shipped all over the world by Project C.U.R.E., including 8 trips into North Korea. We learned that at this time Project C.U.R.E. only goes to nations in which the Head of State has formally invited them. UPF has an opportunity here to reach the President of the DPRK, seeking an invitation to Project C.U.R.E. and Dr. James Jackson and Dr. Doug Jackson to send urgently needed medical equipment to North Korea to alleviate the suffering of their people.



By focusing on diplomacy as "soft power," many new streams of experts have now come into the ILC family. One example is Mr. Jacco Zwetsloot, a journalist for the *DongA Ilbo* and NK News in Seoul, who has a podcast that is very popular in South Korea. His presentation shed light on information that we had not seen before, such as the statistics of what the people of South and North Korea think about reunification, according to varying ages and demographics. It was interesting that the overwhelming majority in the North and the South clearly desire reunification. However, they don't desire it now because it's too complicated. They all agree that it should be sometime in the future. One key issue that came up was the fact that the vision of unification of North and South Korea is shared by the leadership in

the South and North as well as by allies such as the United States. However, the character of that vision is starkly divided on the peninsula in that the North would desire a unified Korea with Kim Jong Un in a position similar to that of a monarch, while in the South they want a democratically elected leadership.

Other sessions, such as Peace Road, led by UPF USA Executive Vice President Rev. Zagery Oliver, gave a very unique perspective from UPF Russia that showed their trip to North Korea and the half marathon (13 miles) they sponsored in Pyongyang. In addition, Dr. Thomas Walsh presented a fascinating perspective on the International Peace Highway and the fact that the desire for connectivity has been going on for millennia. As True Father mentioned in his autobiography, the Silk Road and intercontinental roads have always been pursued by mankind. Now China is pursuing the "One Belt, One Road" which is not the same as Peace Road. Peace Road is explicitly for the promotion of international exchange through tourism and peace efforts and will not be allowed to be a transport system for military equipment. One key to the whole project is the proposed tunnel between Japan and Korea and the bridge and tunnel between Russia and Alaska through the Bering Strait.



The culture and arts session was a deep and moving experience provided by the presenters on the incredible power of performing arts and culture to establish common ground between North and South Korea. Mr. David Eaton's presentation highlighted True Mother's vision for the performing arts. He reviewed how it has been fundamental in the philosophy for thousands of years to bring nations together, and now True Parents are implementing it. Also, Maya Yamada demonstrated the power of dance and careful love and communication to help people with disabilities. Ms. Yamada has been deaf since she was five years old. However, her astonishing clarity of diction and leadership skills helped her develop the ability to overcome almost impossible odds to completely be a successful educator and leader in the university and in the arts and culture. Many participants cried during her presentation.

Dr. No Hi Pak gave a detailed report on the groundbreaking trip made by the Little Angels as the first performing arts group to go to North Korea from the ROK since the Korean War. It highlighted the vast influence and vision of True Mother and True Father of total engagement of every aspect of human interest with the objective of reaching the hearts of people. This exchange worked to keep the door of communication open between our foundation and key people in North Korea.

The religious sector was covered by IAPD, led by UPF USA Senior Vice-President Mrs. Tomiko Duggan, and was deeply relevant as Christians filled with love reported how they are taking care of refugees coming out of North Korea. There were testimonies from Archbishop Stallings and others as to their prayers at the DMZ with clergy that visibly changed the atmosphere, and with the 80,000 gathered in the World Cup Stadium for the 2017 Rally for the Reunification of Korea with True Mother, we saw that North and South Korea took down the barriers and both participated in the Seoul Winter Olympics. From that point dialogue began. Also, we do not think it's a coincidence that the lines of communication between North and South Korea were re-opened after a year of silence on the very day we were holding the ILC throughout the world.

We wish to express our gratitude to Congress