

International Leadership Conference (ILC) Cambodia: Peace and Democracy Observation of Cambodia's General Election 2023

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July 22, 2023



On July 22nd, Cambodia's Sokha Phnom Penh Hotel played host to the International Leadership Conference (ILC) centered around "Peace and Democracy". This prestigious event, co-organized by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) and the Cambodia Asia Vision Institute, was graced by over 250 international participants, including seven notable heads of state. The Cambodian government-backed opening ceremony was broadcasted in four languages: English, Korean, Spanish, and French.

Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, UPF's co-founder, shared a powerful message: "At 2019's Nagoya conference, we introduced the Asia-Pacific Union vision. I urge Asian nations to join hands, transcend national interests, and collaboratively pursue a peaceful, heavenly world. It's time we lead the dawn of the Asia-Pacific civilization era."

Established in 2005 by Reverend Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the UPF has been steadfast in its mission to foster global peace. Recognized by the UN's Economic and Social Council, UPF stands out among thousands of NGOs, bearing a distinguished consultative status. Today, with branches across 194 nations, UPF annually convenes the World Summit and ILC, shaping peace-centric global endeavors. Their work also emphasizes interfaith harmony and international collaboration, championing a future of mutual prosperity.

The recent Cambodia ILC, following the tracks of May's "Peace Summit 2023", embraced a promising theme -- the "Heavenly Asia-Pacific Civilization Era". It's a step forward in shaping a global peace blueprint, grounded in the core principles of the "Asia-Pacific Union".

SESSION 1

NB: The following are paraphrased highlights, not direct quotations, from the speakers' remarks.

Welcome Remarks

Co-chairs of Organizing Committee



Hon. Ek Nath Dhakal, Chair, UPF/IAPP Asia Pacific; Member of Parliament, Federal Parliament of Nepal

Through the Cambodia ILC event, which aims for reconciliation and healing beyond past pains, we are confident in fostering mutual trust, respect, and camaraderie. We anticipate creating a global platform for discussions that can instigate positive changes, reflecting diverse perspectives on peace and democracy.



H.E. Sok Siphana, Chairman, Asian Vision Institute, Senior Advisor of Royal Government of Cambodia

We sincerely thank UPF for taking the lead in endeavors for global peace and for facilitating the involvement of the Asian Vision Institute in supporting peace initiatives. Over recent years, Cambodia has proudly contributed to world peace through hosting international events like the Asia Summit and various international sports events. Under Prime Minister Hun Sen's leadership, Cambodia has partaken in numerous international events and aims for further global development. What's certain is our commitment to ensuring various activities, including the

general elections, proceed peacefully. We express our heartfelt gratitude to everyone participating in this ILC for their contributions to peace beyond Asia.

Opening Remarks



Dr. Charles S. Yang, Chairman, UPF International

Currently, conflicts and civil wars occur in at least 27 places throughout the world, according to the Council on Foreign Relations' Global Conflict Tracker. Even with UN involvement, these problems cannot be resolved. A prime example is the war between Russia and Ukraine, which the UN has been unable to stop. Almost 10 million people have left their homes and are suffering due to this war. The same can be said for Syria and Venezuela. Globally, as many as 95 million people have lost their homes and are wandering as refugees. Conflicts between religions, ideologies, and races are the main causes of civil wars and regional conflicts. As UPF Co-Founders Rev. and Dr. Moon teach that conflict and evil started at the very beginning of human history. Our first human ancestors violated the fundamental principle of goodness. Instead of living for the sake of others, they created selfishness within individuals, families, races, and nations. Knowing the Creator, our Heavenly Parent, is the beginning of peace, Father and Mother Moon have advocated three guidelines that educational institutions should establish to nurture future leaders. These are: love God, love humanity, and love your country. First, to "love God" starts with honoring your parents. This creates a heart of filial piety in children and they naturally develop a character of goodness. Second, "love humanity" means to love people by loving your neighbors as your own brothers or sisters. When we all love each other like this, there will be more compassion and less conflict or war. Third, "love your country" means to live for something greater than self-serving material interests. Individuals live for families; families for the well-being of the nation; and nations for global peace. This is the world of goodness we all desire. The Universal Peace Federation advocates believes that the path to a peaceful world in our time is based on the principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values.

Keynote Address



Hon. Dan Burton, Member of the US Congress (1983-2013); Co-Chair, IAPP International:

Today, the world is faced with conflicts of varying magnitudes. This underscores the importance of our collective efforts towards achieving world peace. Han Hak Ja, co-founder of UPF, spent her life addressing these issues and consistently emphasized the need for a peaceful world. I urge all attendees of the Cambodia ILC to internalize her deep insights and commitment. By aligning with this noble cause, we can work effectively to resolve conflicts and promote global peace.



H.E. Tep Ngorn, Second Vice-President of the Senate of Cambodia:

Through innovative peace talks and a win-win policy, Prime Minister Hun Sen provided a groundbreaking political solution to end Cambodia's prolonged civil war. While the journey to peace may present challenges, with collaborative effort and steadfast determination, we can achieve it promptly. The ILC is a beacon for global peace initiatives. I fervently hope this conference sets the stage for a future brimming with authentic peace and growth.

European Delegation:



H.E. Dr. Werner Fasslabend, Former Speaker and Former Defense Minister, Austria

The war in Ukraine has profoundly changed the security landscape of Europe, a framework that remained consistent for over three decades. In light of this, UN member countries are now collaboratively assessing and deciding on the continent's strategic and political direction. This model of cooperation holds promise for other global regions, including ASEAN. Cambodia is poised to play a crucial role in ensuring the security, stability, and growth of Southeast Asia, as well as the sovereignty and independence of current and future ASEAN nations. Peace and stability are foundational for global welfare, making our united efforts for peace a universal priority.

SESSION 2

NB: The following are paraphrased highlights, not direct quotations, from the speakers' remarks.

Keynote Address

African Delegation:



H.E. Goodluck Jonathan, President of Nigeria (2010-2015); Chair, International Summit Council for Peace-Africa

The fact that the ILC is being held in Cambodia demonstrates the dedication and passion of Asian leaders and the UPF towards the peaceful resolution of global issues and the advancement of the world. We have gathered here for the ILC, which is a potential turning point and transformative moment for the world. I would like to emphasize the ideals of the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP), which are mutual prosperity, mutual respect, and justice. Democracy grounded in justice, fairness, and rule of law is the most assured way for a nation to rise peacefully and experience rapid economic growth. The African ISCP, which I chair, will continuously encourage leaders to adopt these concepts and transform them into models for conflict management and resolution within their jurisdictions.

Latin American Delegation:



H.E. Jimmy Morales, President of Guatemala (2016-2020)

Peace is not merely the absence of war. It means coexisting harmoniously with others, their beliefs, and their institutions. Additionally, democracy signifies active participation by everyone in shaping and maintaining the society they belong to. Peace and democracy are daily practices that need constant reinforcement. I extend my deepest respect and gratitude to Han Hak Ja, the cofounder of UPF, for paving the way for world peace, democracy, and harmony among nations.

Pakistani Delegation:



H.E. Yusuf Raza Gillani, Prime Minister of Pakistan (2008-2012)

Pakistan's recent progress is attributed to the establishment of a democracy based government. The principles of democracy, security, and freedom, in my opinion, serve as the fundamental pillars for maintaining peace, stability, and prosperity in the Asia-Pacific region and beyond. I'm genuinely grateful for Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the cofounder of UPF, for organizing this significant gathering under her esteemed guidance.

Nepalese Delegation:



H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister of Nepal (2015-2016; 2018-2021)

Democracy and peace are deeply connected. As we refine our democratic practices, our institutions grow stronger, fostering overall development. This journey draws us nearer to our goal of comprehensive peace. This growth fuels worldwide hope, dreams, and aspirations for a better future. I thank the organizers and am eager to collaborate with global nations, learning collectively in our quest for democracy and peace.

Special Address

Sri Lankan Delegation:



H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President of Sri Lanka (2015-2019)

To achieve UPF's vision of a peaceful, prosperous society, innovative approaches and strategic changes are essential. A robust nation fosters strong citizens, and the rule of law shapes responsible citizens. Peace and democracy are pivotal in bolstering public trust in governance. While divisions may arise, uniting a nation isn't insurmountable. It's imperative to courageously pursue lasting solutions in peace, democracy, and sustainable development.

South American Delegation:

H.E. Andres Pastrana Arango, President of Colombia (1998-2002)

The path to peace, democracy, quality governance, and development continues. While the attainment of peace, democracy, and development challenges us, their value is undeniable. Together, we must tackle the daunting challenges and push for a world defined by peace, democracy, and justice.

FFWPU Delegation:



Dr. Song Yong-Cheol, International President, FFWPU

We are confronting unparalleled challenges. Disputes across religions and races, economic disparities, and drastic environmental shifts demand our joint attention. Even scientific advancements, intended for our well-being, now pose new survival threats. The Cambodia ILC, grounded in Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's teachings, the UPF co-founder, holds great importance. It seeks to nurture global cooperation and appreciation of human diversity through continuous dialogue. I trust the Cambodia ILC to guide us to a peaceful horizon and value the insights from leaders and scholars globally. May today shine as a guiding light, projecting a vision of a peaceful world, echoing humanity's shared aspiration.

SESSION 3

'Peace Initiative Declaration' and 'Presidency Handover Ceremony for the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace' (IPTP)

The third session began with Dr. Michael Jenkins, Chairman of UPF USA, presenting a 'Peace Initiative.' This led into a series of focused talks by other experts. Dr. Chheang Vannarith, President of the Asia Vision Institute (AVI), spoke about the 'Universal Peace Charter,' while Dr. Cheng Kimlong, Executive Vice-President of AVI, discussed 'Cambodian Peace and Reconciliation.' Other notable speakers included Hon. Ross Robertson, former Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of New Zealand; Hon. Patricia Lalonde, a former Member of the European Parliament from France (2017-2019); and Rev. Masaichi Hori, the Regional President of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) in the Asia-Pacific region.

The session concluded with the 'Presidency Handover Ceremony' for the International Parliament for Tolerance and Peace (IPTP). This event was chaired by Hon. Khuon Sudary, who is the Chairperson of the Asian Culture Council (ACC) and also serves as the Vice-President of the National Assembly of Cambodia. Ahmed bin Mohamed Al Jarwan, President of the Global Council for Tolerance and Peace (GCTP), stepped down as President of IPTP. He was succeeded by Suos Yara, who is the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee in the Cambodian Parliament.

The International Leadership Conference (ILC) in Cambodia ended on a positive note. It successfully gathered global leaders to openly discuss various subjects, including the defense of democracy and the advancement of peace. The conference operated under the visionary guidance of Mother Moon, aiming to usher in a new era for Asia-Pacific civilization. It garnered active involvement, strong support, and committed actions from all participants, marking the event as a resounding success.