

2024 International Leadership Conference on Religious Harmony and Peaceful Unification of the Korean Peninsula

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April 22, 2024



The Role of Religion in Mutual Prosperity and Peaceful Unification of the Korean Peninsula

The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) hosted the 2024 International Leadership Conference (ILC) on the theme "Religious Harmony and Korean Peninsula Peaceful Unification" April 22, in the Year 12 of Cheon IL Guk, at the Cheongshim International Youth Training Center in Gapyeong, Gyeonggi Province.

The ILC 2024 was attended by approximately 700 leaders, including Yang Chang-shik, Chairman of UPF International and UPF-Korea, Bishop Edward Barnett, Archbishop Johannes Ndanga of the Apostolic Christian Council of Zimbabwe (ACCZ), General Secretary Sangjin of the Korean Buddhist Taego Order, Moon Yeon-ah, Chairman of the Sunhak Educational Foundation, Song Yong-cheon, President of FFWPU International, Hwang Sun-jo, Chairman of the Citizens Federation for Unification of Korea, Ek Nath Dhakal, elected parliament member from Nepal Pariwar Dal (Nepal Family Party), along with Korean religious leaders, American Christian clergy. Additionally, approximately 700 leaders from various countries including Asia, Africa, and South America attended the event.



The event was conducted in sequence with an opening declaration, welcome speeches, congratulatory remarks, a peace performance, keynote speeches, and the Song of Unification, moderated by Moon Sang-pil, Director of the UPF Heavenly Unification Policy Research Institute.

Yang Chang-shik, Chairman of UPF International, emphasized in his welcome speech, "Since 2006, Reverend Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon have hosted the 'World Summit' and 'International

Leadership Conference (ILC)' as forums where global leaders and opinion leaders pursue the vision of one human family under Heavenly Parent, advocating for interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universally shared values. These gatherings have ensured that national and continental projects will solidify the foundation for achieving a heavenly unified Korea and a new unified world where these principles are realized."

Bishop Edward Barnett, in his congratulatory message, stated, "We have gathered here as spiritual leaders to address crises. Reverend Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Jan Moon showed us true love and provided a path to success. We will continue to spread the message of peace."



General Secretary Sangjin of the Korean Buddhist Taego Order remarked, "Reverend Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Jan Moon devoted their lives to digging deep into peace and unification. Although this path is long and difficult, we, the religious leaders, will walk it together and illuminate the future of the Korean Peninsula."

Song Yong-cheon, President of FFWPU- International, stated, "I ask for your experiences, insights, and profound advice to help pave the way for a better, peaceful future and the unification of the Korean Peninsula. May this conference serve as a beacon and salt, offering a vision towards a peaceful world that all humanity desires."

The theme of ILC 2024, "Religious Harmony and Korean Peninsula Peaceful Unification," aims to share the vision of a unified Korea globally and gather the will and capabilities of world leaders through international discussions and cooperation, offering a pathway of religious harmony and national integration for peace and unification of the Korean Peninsula.

Archbishop Johannes Ndanga, in his keynote address, highlighted, "Although religions may worship God under different names and practices, the central being of all religions is one God, whose purpose is always the salvation of the whole world. We must acknowledge that religious harmony is essential for world peace and work together to build a sustainable world of peace for all humanity."

Hwang Sun-jo, Chairman of the Citizens Federation for Unification of Korea, added in his keynote speech, "Sustainable world peace is possible if we rely on the Creator, God, rather than human power. Our specific strategies should include adopting God-centered values, sustainable peaceful coexistence with nature, partnerships between humans and machines in the era of artificial intelligence, building a Heavenly Unified Korea through North-South unification, and creating a global governance system for a peaceful and happy human community."

The International Leadership Conference (ILC), is held annually, as part of Reverend Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Jan Moon's peace and unification movement, providing a platform for global leaders and experts to discuss unification of the Korean Peninsula and world peace. Over the years, the presence of numerous world-class leaders like Donald Trump, the 45th President of the United States, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, and the 8th UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon demonstrating the potential of the peace and unification movement.