

37th Peace Forum: The Significance and Role of Sports for a World of Peace

Young Ho Yoon

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In his welcoming message, FFWPU International Headquarters Director-General Yoon Young-ho remarked, "It is timely to think about the meaning and role of sports festivals for a peaceful world since the 2022 World Cup is now being held in Qatar." He emphasized, "We should be thinking about the original meaning and purpose of sports to realize the value of peace in a world that is on a track of competition led by hegemony.

Through sports, we can move one step closer to creating a world of peace." Later, he shared, "If sports can take us beyond our own individual lives and be a way in which all human beings can share the ideal of being one brotherhood and one family, and attend Heavenly Parent, sports can be seen as a festival for all mankind and a festival centered on Heavenly Parent. Therefore, sports have a close connection to the possibility of bringing us together in family-like festivals and creating a sense of community."



Following this, Jin Seong-bae, chairman of the Hyojeong World Peace Foundation, then gave a lecture on the theme of "Vision of the Young Generation of Korea: Cultural Revolution and True Parents' Thought" relating his lecture on a heavenly unified Korea to the theme of festivals. Chairman Jin said, "Liberal democracy, Juche socialism, and communist revolution are often defined as three cultural revolutions.

We will create a new revolutionary frenzy by inciting an enthusiastic response from young people. A Cultural Revolution should never result from a specific individual's will or an individual or any accidental events. The oppression, persecution, and hatred of religion behind the most recent incarnation of religious persecution that is occurring repeatedly in Japan are fundamentally based on false prejudices and preconceptions and connected to Marx's atheistic system of thought. However, we can see that the value of individual human rights is more important than the value of the state in that individual freedom is not endowed by the governments of nations but is endowed by the divine; a natural human right bestowed by God. If you look at it, modern civilization is the era of scientific civilization. The scientific foundation of modern civilization is based on atheism. Three key philosophers, Marx, Nietzsche, and Freud, who were atheists, ended up exerting a major influence on the foundation of modern civilization.

On the other hand, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification together with Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon have created a new Godly culture based on Godism, True Familyism, and Unification Thought. These are grounded in the Unification Principle, affection, and righteous patterns of behavior, reason, emotion, and will. These are the things that human beings need to grow in a

balanced way; and when they achieve balanced development through the heart of Heavenly Parent, they develop as righteous ethical people," he explained.



Son Byung-ho, chairman of the Korea Multicultural Peace Federation, who gave the first special lecture at the forum, spoke on "The Providential Significance of the Peace Cup," saying, "The Peace Cup aims to realize world peace through soccer, which is the most popular and widely known sport among all others.

A rolling ball has the power to create a field of harmony that transcends countries, races, religions and cultures. The Peace Cup is an international club football tournament that pursues the value of peace, and is different from the current World Cup, which is stained with nationalism and capitalism."

Chairman Son continued, "Since the first tournament in 2003, the Peace Cup has evolved into the Peace Queen Cup, the Peace Star Cup, the Peace Korean Cup, and the Wongu (Round Globe) Peace Cup. The 2007 Peace Korean Cup was held in western Japan on December 2 and in eastern Japan on December 8th of that year. According to True Parents' words 'the unification of South and North Korea begins with the unity of the Mindan and Chongryon associations of Koreans living in Japan'. In 2009, the Sorokaba soccer team (Wongu Peace Cup winners) played a match with the North Korean national team in Pyongyang, marking a milestone in inter-Korean cultural exchange through sports." With those words, he explained the history of the Peace Cup.

Chairman Son also explained, "The Peace Cup and the Wongu Peace Cup, which are peace movements centered on Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, are peace festivals of sports to overcome conflicts between new and old and among regional ideologies. In the future, the Wongu Peace Cup should be operated on a global scale as a strategic asset for the safe settlement of a heavenly unified Korea by promoting the providential significance of True Parents."



Park Jung Jin, director of the THINK TANK 2022 Policy Research Institute, gave a lecture with the theme "Why do sports festivals bring peace?" in his lecture, he shared: "Humanity has written a new history of peace through festivals. Even during the Russia-Ukraine war, a sports festival called the 2022 World Cup in Qatar is taking place. In sports festivals, there are always competitions and games. Although teams compete for victory through sports, sports festivals show the power to unite participants in a festive mood, going beyond historical relationships of domination."

Director Park then explained, "From this point of view, the 1988 Seoul Olympics was an Olympic games that healed Western civilization, which had been divided into liberalism, socialism, capitalism, and communism, through the true spirit of the festival, that is, the spirit of peace." He also said, "During the 2002 Korea-Japan World Cup, everyone in Korea became a red devil to support the team, which expanded the power of the Korean people, expressing their cultural confidence and heralded the age of the Pacific Rim. From this point of view, the Peace Cup can be seen as an excellent example of a private movement that has declared peace, and showed the purpose of sports festivals."

Cho Hyung-guk of the THINK TANK 2022 Policy Research Institute was the moderator for the Peace Madang (Peace Discussion) for this Peace Forum, which included Nam In-seok, Secretary General of the Sunhak Peace Prize, and Lee Taek-yong, a professor at the Graduate School of Confucian Studies at Sungkyunkwan University. The Peace Madang was included as a venue for wide-ranging discussions on the historical meaning of the Peace Cup, which aims to realize a world of peace through sports, specifically soccer, and the meaning and role of sports for humankind, as well as its festive nature.

In addition, the anthropological point of view of festivals dealing with the peaceful nature of sports festivals was discussed in relation to the 1988 Seoul Olympics, the 2002 Korea-Japan World Cup, and the Peace Cup, each of which has a historic national significance. The 37th Peace Forum on the Heavenly Unified Korea came to a conclusion after a Q and A session with on-site attendees.