

38th Peace Forum: The Roles and Tasks of Artists for a Heavenly Unified Korea

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In a welcoming speech, FFWPU International Headquarters Director-General Yoon Young-ho, said, "Thank you for your efforts to connect the arts with the vision of peace for a Heavenly unified Korea. As today is the day of the commemorative performance in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Little Angels, it is a most appropriate moment to think about the vision and strategy of a heavenly unified Korea with the theme of art and peace. According to the philosophy of art promoted by Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, all human cultural and artistic activities aim for Arts and Culture of Heart motivated by "shimjung." The Little Angels of Korea, founded on that philosophy of arts and culture based on heart, held a performance in Pyongyang in 1998 which was followed by a Seoul performance by the Mangyongdae Student and Children's Palace art troupe from North Korea. This was the first artistic cultural exchange between the two Koreas, and it was carried out with civilian sponsorship, not initiated by the Korean government. The power to resolve political, ideological and military confrontation and open new channels for peace lies in cultural and artistic exchanges. Therefore, artists have a crucial role and mission for the realization of a heavenly unified Korea."



Cho Hyung-guk, secretary-general of the THINK Tank 2022 Policy Research Institute gave a lecture on the theme of "The Role of Artists for a World of Peace," saying, "In an era of hegemonic competition, I would like to look at why the arts are important and highlight the role of artists. In particular, at this point, we need to be wary of the attitude of allowing our attention to remain only on the 4th industrial era, the technological revolution, and technological innovation. Klaus Schwab, founder of the Davos Forum explained, "The Fourth Industrial Revolution has shaped our lives by requiring us to think of technology as something beyond a simple tool or external element. Now that technology is an integral part of our everyday lives, we need to find ways within that reality to positively lead our families, organizations, and communities."

Innovation, creativity, empathy, and emotion are creative aspects of human beings, and related to our values. Thus the role of the arts is extensive.' In addition, the German philosopher, Martin Heidegger, said, 'The more technology and science dominate our lives, the more we think about the nature of technology, the more the mystery of art is revealed. Although the essence of technology can be said to be revealing and full of discovery, not all areas of technology and science are like that,' he explained."

Also, Secretary-General Cho shared, "The secrets of existence, the act of expressing gratitude for the abundance of nature, and the role of artists are more important than anything else. In particular, on November 22, 2020. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, who proposed the formation of the International Association of Arts and Culture for Peace, said: 'The fastest way for the world to become one lies in arts and culture of heart. Art is an attitude that reads and expresses life and the world from a different perspective than a competition for supremacy. Therefore, artists must actively take the lead in healing the world and expanding the territory of peace.'"



In the second special lecture, Bae In-Kyo, professor at the Institute of Korean Performing Arts at Gyeongin National University of Education, spoke on the history of sharing music culture between the two Koreas and the disconnection between them, under the theme of "The Development of Inter-Korean Music Exchange for a Heavenly Unified Korea," and the meeting of musicians from the two Koreas in 1985, the first such meeting after the country was divided. In 1985, when the Seoul Arts Troupe performed at the Pyongyang Grand Theater and the Pyongyang Arts Troupe performed at the National Theater in Seoul, it was an opportunity for us to come to understand that the music culture of the two Koreas was different. The Seoul Art Troupe presented performances focusing on popular works well known during the Japanese colonial period, and the Pyongyang Art Troupe's performances were structured around new folk songs shared during the Japanese colonial period and newly created works based on North Korean identity. The exchange of music culture between the two Koreas had a hiatus of about 10 years, but the renewed inter-Korean music exchange has brought about a positive change in perception for both Koreas over a 36-year history. Therefore, before urging political and economic integration, this was a channel to confirm the importance of the unity of heart. From this point of view, in the inter-Korean musical exchange for a heavenly unified Korea, and the attitude of artists should first of all move away from inwardly focused cultural supremacy and rather seek trust for mutual understanding and cooperation, giving precedence to emotional integration over physical integration."

The Peace Madang (Peace Discussion) was moderated by Moon Byung-chul of the THINK TANK 2022 Policy Research Institute, with painter Kim Joong-sik, a graduate of the Paris National School of Fine Arts, and Min Sung-sook, head of the Gangwon Global Future Education Institute.

Wide-ranging discussion was held on the role and mission of the cultural artists of the two Koreas in the quest for a heavenly unified Korea. There was also time for Q and A and discussion with presenters and field participants on how cultural artists from the two Koreas can continue cultural exchange and form a consensus for a heavenly unified Korea amid the current situation on the Korean Peninsula.