

2nd Conference Of Hope For The Realization Of A Heavenly Unified World

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- **Mike Pompeo, Former United States Secretary of State, "Responding to Threats to Religious Freedom"**
- **Newt Gingrich, Former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, "Anti-communist collaborators will appear"**
- **Sam Brownback, Former United States Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom "Virtually a new cold war, Let's address it before it gets bigger"**
- **National Assembly members from 157 countries adopted the 'Statement of Freedom of Religion and Thought centered on Universal Human Rights'**

The 2nd Conference of Hope for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World was held on December 17 at the Hoyojeong Cultural Center of the HJ International Cultural Foundation. The conference was co-hosted by THINK TANK 2022 and the Washington Times, with the theme of "Freedom of Thought and Religion Centered on Universal Human Rights." Parliamentarians and peace leaders from more than 160 countries around the world attended the event at the venue and online.

The conference was co-hosted by Yoon Young-ho, Chair of the Promotion Committee, Think Tank 2022 Forum and former U.S. Congressman Dan Burton (International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) who gave a welcoming address, National Assembly member Tae Young-ho offered congratulatory remarks, followed by an overseas IAPP representative. Then there was a congratulatory message from Bishop Don Mears of Evangel Cathedral. Below is a summary of the speakers for the sessions that followed.

Session I: Mike Pompeo, Former United States Secretary of State, Sam Brownback, Former United States Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, Ján Figel', EU Special Envoy for Freedom of Religion or Belief, Suzan Cook Johnson, the third U.S. Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom and Doug Bandow, senior fellow at the Cato Institute, Keynote speech by a senior researcher at the Institute.

Session II: Newt Gingrich, Former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Michael Pillsbury, Director of the Center on Chinese Strategy at the Hudson Institute in Washington, D.C, Yoshio Watanabe, Vice President of the International Federation of Martial Arts, Case presentation by Humphrey Hawksley former Asia bureau chief and foreign correspondent for the BBC, and a promotional video screening.

Session III: Massimo Introvigne director of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR); gave a special address which was followed by the adoption of a special declaration and a peace performance.



Committee Chair Yoon Young-ho presented a new approach emphasizing that human beings are emotional beings living in a community called home. Through the connections between parents and children, human beings should consider their existence not as individuals, but as families, with "family human rights," and should aim at an altruistic existence, not a self-centered one. From that point of view, the stage has been set for a new integration of religious and ideological human rights. Religious freedom is a natural freedom and the most fundamental human right to be secured in establishing "One Human Family under Heavenly Parent." He also emphasized the importance of going beyond freedom of religion and belief in God to attending God as our original Parent, with One Human Family under Heavenly Parent, emphasizing again that religions freedom is a natural freedom and the most fundamental human right.

Mike Pompeo, Former United States Secretary of State in his special speech said, "We must stand together against the clear threats to this fundamental right, and there is no greater threat today than that which is posed by communism. The Japanese Communist Party has been attacking the Unification Church. The JCP has alleged the church is engaged in corruption and is a threat to society and that it undermines Japan's interests. We should see the JCP's attack for what it is: an attempt to undermine and weaken the vital U.S.-Japan alliance, while encouraging better relations between Japan and the Chinese Communist Party. We must stand together against the threat communism poses and never waver in this commitment. The surest way we can achieve this is by being steadfast champions of religious liberty."

Newt Gingrich, Former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives stated "In addition to the IFVOC movement in Japan, a counterpart movement against communism was formed in the Americas and internationally called CAUSA. These two organizations, IFVOC and CAUSA educated leaders, students and clergy with a devastating critique and counter- proposal to Marxism-Leninism throughout the world and awakened the public to the dangers of communism. The current attacks and calls for outstanding LDP members to resign from cabinet posts are designed to hurt the Abe legacy, to weaken the LDP, to drive a wedge between the United States and Japan. All this would serve to open the door for China's encroachment in Taiwan and the continued spread of communism. There are going to be allies for those in Japan who are anti-communist and who favor a free safe Japan and who do not want to see Beijing dominate the region."

Massimo Introvigne, the director of the Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR) said: "In 1968,

Reverend Moon founded the International Federation for Victory Over Communism (IFVOC). IFVOC was also instrumental in defeating the candidate supported by the Communists in the 1978 elections for governor of Kyoto. In 2007, the Japanese Communist Party wrote that it wanted "the Unification Church to be dealt with as a criminal group." Last month, November 2022, the Japanese Communist Party Chairperson presented the post-Abe-assassination campaign as the "final war against the Unification Church." However, Communism does not win all its wars. They cannot win. Those who really love religious freedom should stand up and defend it where it is under threat. Today, it is Japan."

Sam Brownback, Former United States Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom spoke about the importance of the right to practice one's faith of choice. "Religious freedom is one of those rights that goes so deep within us because it's the right of the soul. It's your right to pick however you're going to practice that faith, or you choose not to do. This is a dignity that was given to us from God that no government has a right to interfere with."

Suzan Johnson Cook Former United States Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom stated, "Freedom of religion is freedom of thought, and is an essential foundation of democracy, alongside the freedoms of speech and assembly. We must uphold religious freedom in these countries where the State is their leader, and where they dismiss, denounce, and deny people the right to choose their faith, countries, like China, Japan, North Korea."

Doug Bandow, senior fellow at the Cato Institute gave a keynote speech in which he said, "Even democratic states can fall short, sometimes allowing political passions to overwhelm legal safeguards and basic justice. For instance, the Japanese Communist Party is perversely using the tragic assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe to attack the Unification Church for its work against communism."

Yoshio Watanabe, Vice President of the International Federation of Martial Arts spoke in more detail about the situation in Japan. "Based on the fact that the suspect in the assassination of former Prime Minister Abe stated that he had a grudge against a particular religious group and taking advantage of the Japanese people's curiosity of who this particular religious group is, the attack was launched against the Family Federation and its related organizations as if everything had been planned by them. The Communists deliberately changed the channel composition so that even the video materials prepared by the Family Federation for rebuttal were not shown to the public, as well as distorting truth so that only the victims' testimonies prepared by them were correct and the press conference held by the Family Federation was false. Karl Marx declared that 'the Communist openly declare that their ends can be attained only by the forcible overthrow of all existing social conditions.' There is a steady stream of attacks in the media and in the Parliament that can be described as violent, and it is expanding to other religious groups. Their revolutionary scheme is unfolding. I pledge that the International Federation for Victory over Communism will put its life on the line to fight until the end to stop this scheme and to defend Japan's democracy.

The last feature of the conference was the adoption by representative IAPP Members and world peace leaders from around the world of a Universal Declaration of Human Rights and Freedom of Religion based on the Peace Charter. Through their adoption of the statement, the leaders who attended both online and offline called for freedom, justice, and fairness based on the Peace Charter adopted on August 12, and offered comments regarding the suppression of religion due to biased media reports in Japan, driven by the influence of communists. They also resolved to address various threats growing from human rights violations and unjust persecution.

Meanwhile, THINK TANK 2022, an alliance of scholars and leaders from around the world was launched last year in response to the needs of the times for great unity and solidarity for peace. Inaugurated on May 9, 2021, the alliance retains top experts from the fields of politics, the economy, media, academics, religion, culture, and the arts, with the mission of proposing policies that encompass each field. THINK TANK 2022 consisted of 2,022 people; 1,011 Koreans and 1,011 people from other nations around the world.