

## Launching the *International Elders Roundtable for a Heavenly Unified World*

Yoon Young-ho  
February 24, 2023



- Keynote speech : Hon. Newt Gingrich, 50th speaker of the US House of Representatives
- Keynote speech : H.E. Yusuf Raza Gilani, former Prime Minister of Pakistan
- Congratulatory Remarks: Maithripala Sirisena, the 6th Executive President of Sri Lanka
- Keynote speech : H.E. Parmanand Jha, 1st Vice-President of Nepal
- Keynote speech : Lee Sang-hoon, 27th Minister of the Ministry of National Defense Republic of Korea
- Keynote speech : Kim Ho-il, President of The Korea Senior Citizens Association
- Keynote speech : Cho Man-woong, co-chair of the Senior's Association for a Heavenly Unified Korea

*The Elders Roundtable, an initiative to share the wisdom of elders for a peaceful world, is set to launch in May.*



On February 24, the "Elders' Roundtable' Meeting for a Heavenly Unified World for the Realization of Peaceful Reunification" was held in Korea. The meeting was co-hosted by the International Summit Council for Peace (ISCP) and THINK TANK 2022 and was attended by over 100 elder leaders from around the world, both in-person and online.

Notable attendees included Yusuf Raza Gilani, the 18th Prime Minister of Pakistan, Mahinda Rajapaksa, former President of Sri Lanka, and Parmanand Jha, the first Vice President of Nepal.

The main purpose of the meeting was to establish the "Elders' Roundtable" in May of this year. The

roundtable aims to promote the solidarity of elder leaders worldwide, sharing, collaborating, and practicing their wisdom and insight for the construction of a peaceful world. During the conference, Dr. Yoon Young-ho, the chair of THINK TANK 2022, gave a welcoming speech, proposing that "the fundamental solution to the global issues of low birth rates and aging population is to present a vision and policies for the role of elders in families, societies, nations, and the world."

Various foreign leaders gave congratulatory video messages during the conference, including Luc Adolphe Tiao, prime minister of Burkina Faso (2011-2014) and member of the ISCP-Africa; Nevers Mumba, the 8th Vice President of Zambia; Dame Pearlette Louisy, the 5th Governor-General of Saint Lucia; Paul Biyoghé Mba, the 7th Prime Minister of Gabon; Dan Burton, the co-chairman of the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP); Bishop Don Meares, Chair, IAPD North America, and Jim Rogers, a consultant for the Universal Peace Federation. There was also a peace performance by Namsadangpae Hanul.



Dr. Yoon also mentioned that the founders of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, presented an understanding of human beings as one human family under God. They emphasized that if the elderly, as grandparents in families, pass on their life wisdom and love, a true community of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, Universally Shared Values based on a true understanding between generations can be created. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon plans to launch the "Elders' Roundtable" in May of this year with the participation of top-level leaders responsible for the role of elders in countries and around the world, who are affiliated with THINK TANK 2022.



On this day, Maithripala Sirisena, the 6th President of Sri Lanka, who visited Korea for the event, said in a welcome speech "...Statistically, the population of elderly individuals are gradually rising in last decade and recent studies have clearly shown that this group of population will have impact on the both geographical and cultural politic of the world. Hence, for eternal peace and prosperity joint venture of elder, adults and youth of our society will play a vital role. Thereby, I have strong believed that "Elders Roundtable" will have a huge impact on peace process in the world periphery and the Korean peninsula with a positive impact on world political scenario."

Alfred Moisiu, the chairman of ISCP (International Summit Council for Peace) on the Balkan Peninsula, said "...respecting elders means to respect and honor the past, inherit the wisdom accumulated through experience, and build a strong foundation for the future. I am happy that UPF is pioneering the way in raising the awareness regarding the need to involve more and use the experience of elders in solving world problems."



In a congratulatory video, Cho Kyu-hong, the Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea, emphasized that with the development of medical technology and an increase in life expectancy, aging populations have become a major issue worldwide. Korea is no exception and faces an urgent need to prepare for the era of 10 million elderly people in 2023 and the entry into a super-aged society in 2025. Cho stressed the importance of protecting and promoting the human rights of the elderly, which he believes is no longer a global challenge that can be postponed.

Through the event, he hopes that everyone's wisdom can be gathered to ensure a dignified old age free from poverty, disease, discrimination, prejudice, isolation, and loneliness.

The Ministry of Health and Welfare of the Republic of Korea will also listen to the discussions during the event.

Session 1, titled "The Role of Elders in Achieving Sustainable Peaceful World," featured keynote speeches from Yusuf Raza Gilani, the 18th Prime Minister of Pakistan, Newt Gingrich, the 50th Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, Parmanand Jha, the first Vice President of Nepal, and Sang-hoon Lee, the 27th Minister of National Defense of South Korea, who is also the permanent

chairman of the National Elderly Council. The event also included a peace performance by the Korean traditional music band, Choi Ye-rim Band, and congratulatory messages from various elder leaders in Korea. The session aimed to address the crucial role of the elderly in promoting peaceful coexistence and sustainable development in society. The speakers shared their insights and experiences, discussing how the elderly can play an essential role in promoting peace, resolving conflicts, and achieving sustainable development.



At the event, Yusuf Raza Gilani, the 18th Prime Minister of Pakistan, emphasized that "...I have no doubt that ideas which would emerge from the deliberations of this Conference will go a long way in addressing our respective concerns and beneficial for all regions afflicted with conflicts. At a time when internecine conflicts continuing in different parts of the world threaten global order, peace, security and development, our challenge lies in delicately balancing the critical equation between peace and development. The rapidly changing and increasingly interlinked peace and security environment calls for effective and mutually reinforcing regional and subregional partnerships flexible and responsive to the complex realities on the ground. We, must collectively work towards building synergies, and promoting inter-parliamentary dialogues and cooperation for fostering and lasting peace."



Newt Gingrich, the 50th Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, expressed his gratitude in a keynote speech video, stating, "...First, I want to thank Dr. Moon for her leadership for Peace and her focus on faith, marriage, and family and now for emphasizing the centrally important role of the Elders sharing their wisdom to guide the future generations. We are now forming an International Elders' Roundtable within the UPF Associations : Heads of State and Parliamentarians, Faith leaders and academicians, media and the arts, all disciplines from all the world to join with you in helping Korea and the World achieve strong families and peace. The qualities of faith, family traditions and our fundamental values come from our Elders. Therefore, we are calling upon the precious Elders of Korea to come together at a most important time in history to teach the generations that follow. We emphasize that the most essential cornerstone of a good nation is strong families and that have faith in God our Heavenly Parent. Today, my wife Ambassador Callista are joining with Mother Moon to affirm the creation of the International Elders Roundtable. From Korea to America to the whole world."



Parmanand Jha, the first Vice President of Nepal, who attended the event, stated in his keynote speech that "...Elders traditionally hold crucial roles in supporting both formal and informal education in society. They impart tradition, knowledge, culture, values, and lessons using orality and role modeling traditional practices and sustain it by the respect and trust they gain and the practical value of their experience. Respecting elders shows that we are civilized and cultured and that will contribute to promote a harmonious World. Teachings of True Parents, Father and Mother Moon emphasized about the importance of three generation of family living together harmoniously. The model of three generations like elders as grandparents, adults as parents and youth as children, working together to build a world of peace and peace on the Korean Peninsula would bring promising outcomes. I believe that the leadership of today's world should be handed over to the young generations".



Lee Sang-hoon, 27th Minister of National Defense (Chairman of the National Council of Elders), said: "Recently, the world, including the Republic of Korea, has been affected by the COVID-19 pandemic and climate change, Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the damage caused by the Turkey earthquake, the hegemonic competition between the United States and China, and North Korea's development of missiles and nuclear weapons. In terms of security, as well as threats, Europe has experienced the most dangerous period since the Second World War. We, who are living in a security crisis, must consider the fundamental path of peace and harmony, across national, ethnic, religious and ideological boundaries. Although it has overcome the ruins of war and achieved rapid growth unprecedented in the world, Korea remains the only divided country in the world, which is the key to the US-China competition for hegemony, and is in a very serious and tense situation due to North Korea's

nuclear and missile threats. Therefore, stability in Northeast Asia will be the path to peace and prosperity in the whole world, beyond the Pacific Rim civilization. Now is the time for the elders of the world must rally around the universal value of global peace and stability and pass on the value of coexistence and co-prosperity to future generations.

During the event, Kim Ho-il, president of the Senior Citizens Association of Korea, Cho Man-woong and Yun Jeong-ro, co-presidents of the Heavenly Unified Korean National Elders Association, delivered keynote speeches on the theme of "The Vision and Activities of the Senior Citizens Association for a Heavenly Unified Korea."

Kim Ho-il stressed the mission of the elderly generation to create a global village where seniors can resolve conflicts and wars and pursue harmony, peace, and happiness.



Cho Man-woong, co-chairman of the Elders Association, called for the unification of the world's elders' organizations to present a vision of a Heavenly unified Korea and a Heavenly unified world centered on the principles of Interdependence, Mutual Prosperity, and Universally Shared Values.

Several prominent individuals sent congratulatory messages including Koh Gwang-seon, president of the Seoul Federation of the Korean Senior Citizens Association, Lee Jong-han, president of the Gyeonggi-do Federation, Kim Du-bong, president of the Jeollabuk-do Federation, Yang Jae-kyung, president of the Gyeongsangbuk-do Federation, and Lee Cheol-yeon, president of the Daejeon City Federation, sent video congratulatory messages for the World Council of Elders Promotion Organization, Thomas Walsh, the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) World Chair, explained the background and significance of 'The Elders Round Table' launching in May through a video.

The event concluded with the appointment of the Korean Promotion Committee member of 'The Elders Round Table' and the awarding of medals. Lee Sang-hoon, chairman of the Korean Council of Elders, Kim Ho-il, president of the Korean Elderly Association, and Cho Man-woong and Yoon Jeong-ro were appointed as the Korean promotion committee members.

THINK TANK 2022, a group of 1,011 Koreans and 1,011 people from around the world, was launched on May 9, 2021, to propose policies covering each field, with a total of 2,022 members from around the world.