

Korean Association of Peace and Religions Studies Spring Academic Conference

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The 2023 Korean Association of Peace and Religion Studies (KAPRS) Spring Academic Conference was jointly organized by KAPRS and the Sunhak Institute of Peace Studies at Sun Moon University, with the support of the Professors World Peace Academy (PWPA). The conference took place on April 7th both online and offline at Sun Moon University, under the theme "Peace and Religion in the Era of Great Transition."

The academic conference featured presentations, reviews, and comprehensive discussions by experts who study peace and religion in an integrative manner. The opening ceremony, moderated by Professor Gang Hwamyong (Sunhak Peace Studies Institute), began with a welcoming address by Hwang Sunjo, President of Sun Moon University, who encouraged and welcomed the research and exchanges among the attending scholars.

During the conference, Professor Shin Kwang-Cheol (Hanshin University) delivered the keynote speech on "The Direction of the Religious World Seen Through Two Keywords ('Endemic' and 'Chat GPT')." He examined the direction of the religious community during the transition from the pandemic to the endemic and discussed the present and future directions of the religious community.

In the first presentation, Dr. Yoon Seok-Jung (National Diplomatic Academy) discussed the topic of "Post-war Korea-Japan Relations Surrounding the Forced Mobilization Issue," explaining that our society needs to accurately assess the changes in Korea-Japan relations surrounding the issue of forced mobilization at each major period to be able to take a stance through insights.

In the second presentation, Professor Kim Young-Joon (Gyeongsang National University) examined the historical context of US-China relations and pivotal events between the two countries under the topic of "US-China Relations and the Reverse Thucydides Trap", proposing realistic and rational solutions in the power game of great powers.

In the final presentation, Professor Kim Min-Ji (Sun Moon University) addressed the topic of "The Great Transition and the Paradigm Shift in Religion," conveying that as religions face the great transition brought about by the pandemic, their concerns about maintaining their identity are replaced with concerns about what they must do for a society undergoing the great transition.

Following the presentations, a comprehensive discussion session took place, featuring free-flowing comments and Q and A sessions with Dr. Kim Il-Gi (National Security Strategy Research Institute), Professor Kim Sang-Gyu (Hanyang University), and President Do Hyun-Sub (Sunhak UP Graduate School).

Meanwhile, the academic conference saw various diverse discussions on religious studies unfold with the participation of 20 on-site attendees and over 100 online Zoom participants.