

## Peace Summit 2023, A Momentous Gathering Of Global Leaders

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Peace Summit 2023, a momentous gathering of global leaders, convened in Seoul, Korea, from May 2 to 6 at the esteemed Lotte Hotel in Jamsil. The event welcomed over 700 international attendees from nearly 70 nations to explore innovative approaches to leadership and action, grounded in the principles of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values. The event aimed to foster a renewed sense of hope for national unity, international cooperation, and the pursuit of lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula, transcending borders and creating a harmonious world.

Distinguished figures from diverse fields, including over 50 current and former heads of state, graced the gathering. Among them were notable leaders such as Albin Kurti, the Prime Minister of Kosovo; Hon. Mike Pompeo, the former U.S. Secretary of State; Hon. Newt Gingrich, the former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives; and Jim Rogers, the Chairman of Rogers Holdings. The participants emphasized the imperative need for collective action to address global crises stemming from conflicts such as the Ukraine War, power dynamics between the United States and China, and ideological battles witnessed worldwide.

**Opening Plenary** The opening plenary of the Summit unfolded with an enchanting performance by the Little Angels Children's Folk Ballet of Korea. Esteemed religious leaders from across the globe made a captivating entrance, engaging in a water ceremony that included prominent figures like Kalidas Dahal from India, Father Dr. Emerick Bissila Mbila representing the African Union, and Ven. Won Young Jin from Korea.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, Chair of UPF International and Co-Chair of the Organizing Committee of Peace Summit 2023, expressed heartfelt gratitude to all participants for their unwavering commitment to collaboration and their shared mission for global peace. He underscored the indispensable role of inter-religious harmony in achieving a lasting world peace, acknowledging the growing recognition of this truth over the past decades.

Dr. Yoon Young-ho, the Co-Chair of the Organizing Committee, underscored the significance of continental unity as a strategic approach to nurturing global peace. He called for bold collective efforts that transcend national and continental boundaries, aiming to manifest a unified world characterized by interdependence, shared prosperity, and universal values, all working towards the betterment of humanity.

Congratulatory remarks resonated through video messages from esteemed figures such as H.E. Donald Trump (USA), H.E. Hun Sen (Cambodia), and H.E. Macky Sall (Senegal). Honorable Newt Gingrich, the former Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, and Hon. Ajith Nishantha Rajapakse, Deputy Speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament, delivered their congratulatory speeches in person.

A spirit of peace and harmony enveloped the ceremony as keynote speeches were delivered by notable personalities, including H.E. Brigi Rafini, Secretary-General of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD); Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena, former President of Sri Lanka; and Mr. Jim Rogers, an advisor to UPF.

Former U.S. Secretary of State, Hon. Mike Pompeo, expressed his viewpoint by stating that throughout

his time as America's leading diplomat, he had firsthand experience of the importance of organizations such as UPF and the profound impact of Mother Moon's work. He urged everyone to remain steadfast in their hope and perseverance, assuring that with the guidance of the divine presence, they would ultimately attain great heights and reach their desired summit.



Former Prime Minister of Belgium, H.E. Yves Leterme, shines a spotlight on the crucial significance of interconnectedness among nations and the pivotal role of economic and interfaith openness in fostering harmony and preventing conflicts. During her poignant Founder's Address, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon bestows her heartfelt blessings upon the righteous individuals gathered, envisioning a world united as one human family under the loving embrace of the Heavenly Parent.

Marking a historic milestone, the inauguration of the Elders' Roundtable was commemorated with utmost reverence. Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon bestowed appointment certificates upon 12 distinguished council members, each representing a continent. These esteemed individuals hold the highest positions within the esteemed Elders' Council, guiding with wisdom and experience.

The resplendent opening plenary culminated in a joyous finale, graced with the presentation of appreciation plaques, resonant melodies that filled the air, and a delightful cake-cutting ceremony, joyfully celebrating the 80th birthday of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, a cherished beacon of inspiration.

Dr. Yoon Young-ho, the Co-Chair of the Organizing Committee for the Peace Summit, eloquently underscored the visionary leadership of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the esteemed co-founder and Mother of Peace, in his poignant opening statement. He emphasized her unwavering dedication to the concept of God as our Heavenly Parent and her profound vision of a harmonious and unified world known as "One Family of Humanity." Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon has been at the forefront of groundbreaking initiatives, including the World Summit on the national level and the thought-provoking 'THINK TANK 2022' series, uniting intellectual minds from across the globe in the pursuit of peace. Dr. Yoon also highlighted the previous Summit for Peace on the Korean Peninsula, which involved 157 countries that established diplomatic relations between North and South Korea, and laid the ideological groundwork for a sustainable and peaceful world.

In his congratulatory address, Hon. Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the U.S. House, humbly acknowledged the profound significance of endeavors centered around God and world peace. He lauded the awe-inspiring dream and vision of both Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, recognizing the substantial evidence that attests to the feasibility of this extraordinary dream. Hon. Gingrich expressed his unyielding optimism that by engaging North Korea in meaningful dialogue and working towards the reunification of the Korean Peninsula while ensuring the freedom and well-being of the North Korean people, they will be able to witness the transformative presence of God.

H.E. Brigi Rafini, the Secretary-General of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and former Prime Minister of Niger, passionately shared the fruitful collaboration between his esteemed organization and the Universal Peace Federation in implementing character education projects targeted at the youth. Their joint efforts aim to safeguard vulnerable young minds from the influence of terrorist groups while instilling hope and nurturing dreams for African youth who face challenges in accessing employment opportunities. H.E. Rafini emphasized that investing in the education of the youth is of paramount importance for Africa's future, as it holds the potential to become a fertile ground for lasting peace and the prosperity of future generations.

Hon. Maithreepala Sirisena, the esteemed former President of Sri Lanka, eloquently highlighted the

profound significance of pursuing peace as the cornerstone of economic development, particularly in countries facing economic challenges. He emphasized that such nations often grapple with instability, and internal conflicts arise as individuals confront economic hardships.

Jim Rogers, the esteemed Chairman of Rogers Holdings, expressed his steadfast belief that the 38th parallel will soon dissolve, and the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) will cease to exist within his lifetime. Also he credited the Universal Peace Federation for its unwavering efforts in the pursuit of genuine and lasting peace.' A multitude of world leaders in attendance at the event passionately voiced their commitment to engaging in the Continental Unity Project, one after another, showcasing their unwavering dedication to the cause.

During the Continental Peace Launch Ceremony, H.E. Brigi Rafini, the distinguished Secretary-General of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), representing the African continent, together with Hon. Ajith Nishantha Rajapakse, the Deputy Speaker of the Sri Lankan Parliament, and Hon. Suos Yara, the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Cambodian Parliament, representing the Asia-Pacific Union, unveiled continental peace projects that presented a visionary outlook of a unified world and enduring peace.

In a heartfelt congratulatory video message, H.E. Samdech Hun Sen, the esteemed Prime Minister of Cambodia, pledged full support from the Cambodian Royal Family and the Cambodian people to True Parents and their tireless efforts in realizing global peace. H.E. Macky Sall, the esteemed President of Senegal, expressed heartfelt gratitude for Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon's unwavering dedication in upholding universal values and promoting the well-being of humanity.

The 'PEACE SUMMIT 2023,' based on the 'Seoul Declaration' and the 'Universal Peace Charter,' both adopted by world leaders during the 'WORLD SUMMIT 2022,' encompassed a wide array of sessions.

These included thought-provoking discussions in the 'THINK TANK 2022,' where policies for a unified Korea and a unified world rooted in universal human rights were explored across various fields, such as religion, politics, media, and ideology. The summit also featured the 'THINK TANK 2022 FORUM,' 'The Sunhak Peace Price Conference,' 'International Association Youth and Student for Peace Conference,' 'International Association for Academicians for Peace Symposium and 'The Elders' Roundtable Conference.' It served as a dynamic platform for presenting visionary outlooks and practical initiatives for the 'Asia-Pacific Union,' an alliance aimed at addressing the pressing issues of the Asian region as we usher in the era of the 'Asia-Pacific Civilization.'



### **True Mother's 80th Birthday Celebration**

A magnificent celebration took place to honor the 80th Anniversary of the Holy Birth of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the True Parent of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind. The event was filled with special cultural performances, a ceremonial cake cutting, and the presentation of exquisite flower bouquets. Notable personalities such as Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia, represented by the esteemed Honorable Suos Yara, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Cambodian Parliament, joined in the presentation of these beautiful bouquets. Additionally, heartfelt tributes were offered by distinguished individuals including Honorable Newt Gingrich, former Speaker of the United States House of Representatives; Honorable Dan Burton, former member of the United States House of Representatives; and Dr. Yoon Young-ho, Co-Chairman of the Peace Summit. The occasion was further graced by the presentation of plaques of appreciation by Salvador Nasralla, Vice President of Honduras, and his wife, as well as Petros Mavimbela from Eswatini, Speaker of the House for the Eswatini Parliament, and his wife.

On this momentous occasion, True Mother expressed profound gratitude for the heartfelt congratulations she received from esteemed guests on her 80th birthday. She also shared her intention to make a humble donation as a meaningful contribution towards the betterment of the world.

In addition to this, True Mother had previously extended her support to Gangneung City in the wake of a devastating mountain fire. Through this act of compassion, she aimed to provide solace and strength to the affected residents. The donation was made to Mayor Kim Hong-gyu of Gangneung City through Chairman Moon Yeon-ah of the Universal Peace Federation (UPF). The Family Federation for World Peace and Unification has consistently upheld the practice of sharing to overcome economic challenges, support those affected by disasters, and promote inclusive growth in marginalized communities within the local area.