

International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP) Global Symposium on Academics

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The grand Lotte Hotel in Jamsil served as the elegant venue for the International Academic Symposium on May 4, 2023. Orchestrated by the Hyojeong Academic Foundation and the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), the symposium revolved around the compelling theme "Vision of Peace Ideology and Peace Movement." The esteemed event garnered the attendance of over 150 global leaders and scholars.

Moderated by Thomas Selover, the erstwhile president of the Professors World Peace Academy (PWPA), the symposium unfolded with warm welcome remarks. These were delivered by Thomas Walsh, the chairman of UPF International, and Jin Seong Bae, the chairman of the Hyojeong Academic Foundation.

The event was further adorned by a congratulatory speech from Sakena Yacoobi, hailed as the mother of education in Afghanistan and a laureate of the Sunhak Peace Prize. Insightful presentations filled Sessions 1 and 2, followed by an interactive question-and-answer segment.

Session 1, themed "Vision of Peace Ideology and Peace Movements Across Continents: The Role of Religion in Each Continent," featured profound presentations. Nevers Mumba, the former Vice President of Zambia, spoke eloquently about the urgent tasks for a global order and fostering a culture of peace. Dr. Mohammad Habash delved into the Middle East perspective of peace ideology and the influential role of religions in shaping peace movements. Lastly, Frank Kaufmann, the president of the Professors World Peace Academy, expressed spiritual and political concerns regarding Western civilization post the iconic image of a crucifix.

Session 2 embraced the theme "Vision and Peace Ideology for Peace Movements: The Role of UN and UPF on Each Continent." Here, Mahendra Lama, a senior professor of international studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, offered an Asian perspective on soft power, public diplomacy, and alternative paradigms for constructing world peace. Dr. Rojas Aravena, the 8th Rector of the University for Peace (UPEACE), stressed the necessity for dialogue and consensus. Finally, Keisuke, the chairman of UPF, presented a vision and peace ideology specifically focusing on Europe and the Middle East and the role of UN and UPF in these regions.

After the riveting presentations, the speakers engaged in thoughtful exploration of various facets, especially the roles of religions and the UN in actualizing the peace ideology and vision of the True Parents.

This symposium provided a robust platform for exchanging academic ideas, encouraging lively discussions, and inviting questions. This unique combination of activities was aimed at fostering the academic foundation required to realize world peace, achieved through relentless research and understanding myriad perspectives and prospects.