

Peace Summit 2023: International Association of Youth Students for Peace (IAYSP) Conference

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On May 4, the International Association of Youth Students for Peace (IAYSP) held an illuminating conference as part of PEACE SUMMIT 2023 at the Lotte Hotel World, Jamsil, Songpa-gu, Seoul. Themed "The Role of Future Generations in Solving the Climate Crisis and Reducing Educational Disparities," the conference drew a diverse and dynamic group of participants.

This congregation of forward-thinking minds included the former President of the Republic of Kiribati, H.E. Anote Tong, esteemed Afghan refugee education activist Dr. Sakena Yacoobi, domestic activists, and over 100 young leaders from various fields, including the Minister for Youth.

During his welcoming speech, IAYSP President Matsuda Koji expressed his hope that the conference would ignite earnest contemplation on practical solutions to the climate crisis and the promotion of equitable education.

Highlighting the stark realities of climate change, H.E. Anote Tong described the distressing disappearance of multiple islands underwater, leading to mass migration to neighboring countries such as Fiji. He drove home the point that failing to address the current climate crisis could result in a world populated by climate refugees.

Echoing this sentiment, Kim Hyun-tae, a young environmental activist and CEO of ECO, suggested that IAYSP host an international climate youth conference. Sharing his experience of meeting H.E. Anote Tong at the Paris Climate Agreement where he represented Korea, Kim urged immediate action to safeguard our planet.

Dr. Sakena Yacoobi spoke passionately about the alarming illiteracy rate among Afghan women, currently at 87%. She highlighted her unwavering dedication to advancing education within refugee camps, serving over 13 million refugees and reinforcing the understanding that education is an inherent human right.

Choi Jeong-eun, who heads the Borderless Study Room, a project aimed at reducing educational disparity in Korea, expressed her deep admiration for Dr. Yacoobi's efforts in Afghanistan. She committed to persist in her quest to ensure equal educational opportunities for multicultural families and individuals.

Expressing his support, Kim Dong-yeon, the Korean IAYSP President, pledged donations to the Afghan Institute of Learning, founded by Dr. Yacoobi. He also voiced his support for H.E. Anote Tong, demonstrating the organization's ongoing interest and cooperation in these global causes.