

## Celebrating Hak Ja Han's 80th Birthday and the 2023 Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing Festival

Young Ho Yoon  
May 7, 2023



### Celebrating True Mother's 80th Birthday

*A grand event, celebrating the 80th birthday of Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, the True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind, illuminated the HJ Global Art Center on May 7, 2023. Themed 'The Light of Filial Piety as Hope for the World,' the event was graced by approximately 30,000 attendees, including eminent leaders from various fields across the globe.*

This festive commemoration of Dr. Moon's 80th birthday presented an array of activities, such as a special cultural performance embodying filial piety, presentation of flower baskets from former ASEAN Chairman and current Prime Minister of Cambodia Hun Sen, former African Union Chairman and President of Senegal Macky Sall. The ceremony also included cake cutting, delivery of gifts and plaques of appreciation, and congratulatory messages from Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia and Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena of Sri Lanka. The festival was further enhanced by the melodic voices of the 800-member Peace Choir United Chorus.



In his heartfelt opening speech, Dr. Yun Young-ho of IHQ paid tribute to "True Mother," Dr. Moon. He praised her lifelong dedication to manifesting the ideal world of peace envisioned by the Heavenly Parent alongside "True Father". He expressed gratitude and offered congratulations on the occasion of the 103rd anniversary of True Father's birth and the 80th birthday of True Mother, noting their vast influence and

their remarkable accomplishment in establishing a substantive and sustainable system.

Former Niger Prime Minister and Secretary-General of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), Brigi Rafini, expressed his admiration for Dr. Moon's phenomenal achievements and her tireless work to foster peace over eight decades. He regarded the establishment of the World Peace Center, known as Cheon Won Gung, as an innovative institution that promotes interfaith harmony and pursues the ideals of peace and development, thereby reflecting the divine vision of the Creator. Rafini presented a plaque of appreciation to the True Parents to mark this special occasion.



In a heartfelt letter, Prime Minister Hun Sen of Cambodia extended his and his nation's support to Dr. Moon, expressing his commitment to participate in efforts towards world peace.

Echoing these sentiments, Prime Minister Dinesh Gunawardena of Sri Lanka described the title 'Mother of Peace' as an accurate reflection of Dr. Moon's devoted life towards achieving happiness, peace, and harmony in a world fraught with grave issues. He added that Dr. Moon's lifelong endeavor for the realization of a permanently peaceful world serves as a significant inspiration for the citizens of Sri Lanka and the world at large.



### **2023 Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing Festival**

*In the aftermath of the grand 80th-anniversary celebrations, the '2023 True Parents of Heaven, Earth, and Humankind, Hyojeong Cosmic Blessing Festival' unfolded spectacularly. This heartfelt event, brimming with love and unity, warmly welcomed 8,000 couples from 150 countries who participated both in-person and virtually.*

The True Parents conveyed their divine blessings at the event, reflecting upon the historic significance of the occasion: "Today represents an unprecedented moment, not only in providential history but also in human history. Our Heavenly Parent presides directly over the Blessing of more than 8,000 couples -- honorable men and women and blessed couples -- here at the Peace World Center and across 150 countries. Considering this as a day of Blessing that You, Heavenly Parent, are directly presiding over, we extend our deepest gratitude to You."

Transcending national boundaries, races, cultures, and languages, the festival reinforced eternal marital bonds through a series of memorable activities. The agenda encompassed a special cultural performance

demonstrating filial piety, the entrance of the master of ceremonies and officiant, a holy water ceremony, a Q and A for the holy matrimony, congratulatory words from Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, an exchange of gifts between the bride and groom, a formal declaration of the marriages, and a presentation of bouquets and gifts, culminating with greetings from the newlyweds. The festivities were further uplifted by the 'Dream of Filial Piety' gala show, performances by opera singer Kim Dong-kyu and trot singer Hong Jin-young, a recitation of poet Shim Soon-deok's 'I thought it was okay for mom,' a love chorus, and jubilant triple cheers.



The Blessing Marriage Ceremony, promoting the peaceful ideal of 'One Family under God,' has been a cherished tradition since its first ceremony in 1961, officiated by Rev. Dr. Moon Sun-myung (1920-2012) and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. This ceremony continues to broaden its scope, radiating love and unity across the globe year after year.

