

UPF Europe and the Middle East ILC July-August 2022: Berlin Session 1

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July 26, 2022



Berlin, Germany - The Europe-Middle East International Leadership Conference ILC2022 opened in the city that symbolizes the hope of reunification.

"From Swords to Ploughshares - Prospects for Peace on the Korean Peninsula and in Europe" was one of two sessions of ILC2022 that were held in Berlin on July 26, 2022.

Three more sessions were held in London on August 4, and the final two were held in Larnaca, Cyprus, and Tirana, Albania, both on August 5.

The Europe-Middle East (EUME) ILC was one of many, with an International Leadership Conference being held in every region of the world in the summer of 2022, with the overall theme "Towards Peace and Security on the Korean Peninsula: Building a Global Culture of Peace."



[Mr. Jacques Marion, Co-chair, UPF Europe and Middle East, France](#)

Mr. Jacques Marion, the co-chair of UPF for Europe and the Middle East, said in his welcoming speech that Berlin was chosen for the conference as it once was a symbol of division and then became a symbol of peaceful reunification when the Berlin Wall came down.

Due to the war in Ukraine, there is a threat that new walls may be erected in Europe again, Mr. Marion said. Berlin therefore was chosen as the site of a giant Peace Road event that was held on the following day, July 27, with the motto "No new walls in Europe."



[Dr. Dieter Schmidt, Medical doctor, Chairman of UPF Central Europe](#)

Dr. Dieter Schmidt, the president of UPF for Central Europe, said that, as a student at the Berlin Free University, he participated in campaigns against communism. In 1987, World CARP (College Association for the Research of the Principle), an organization affiliated with UPF, held its convention in Berlin, calling for the Berlin Wall to be brought down.

Even though nobody at that time believed that the reunification of East and West Germany was possible, UPF co-founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon was the driving force behind the World CARP convention. Two years later the wall did come down. Dr. Schmidt reminded the audience of the ILC2022 goal of finding prospects for peace on the Korean Peninsula, which, despite an armistice signed in 1953, is still divided today.

A video about the World Summit for Peace on the Korean Peninsula, which UPF held in Seoul, South Korea, in February 2022, then was shown.



[Dr. Michael Balcomb, Regional President, FFWPU Europe and the Middle East, United Kingdom](#)

Dr. Michael and Fumiko Balcomb, the EUME presidents of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU), another organization affiliated with UPF, spoke about their participation in the summer of 2021 in a Peace Road walk across England, from the west coast to the east coast, following the ancient Hadrian's Wall. Little did they realize at that time that one year later there would be a hot war in Europe.

Mrs. Balcomb, who is Japanese, spoke about former Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe and the shock wave that his assassination on July 8 has sent throughout Japan. Mr. Abe was very sympathetic to the suffering of people and always ready to provide help, she said. He encouraged people of all walks of life to support efforts for peace.

One minute of silence was observed to honor all those who have sacrificed their lives for the sake of peace.



[Mr. Karl-Christian Hausman, Chairman, UPF Germany](#)

As the moderator, Mr. Karl-Christian Hausmann, the Chairman of UPF-Germany, explained why the title of Session I contains the words of the prophet Isaiah - "from swords to ploughshares." History is not an endless sequence of tragedies, he said, but has a clear and unchanging goal: a peaceful world predestined by God. For this to come to fruition, human beings have to take the portion of responsibility that God has given us. God creates opportunities, and we have to act accordingly. We need to strengthen ourselves to cope with the obstacles encountered on the way, he said.



[Dr. Gwangseuk Song, Executive Chairman, Korea Peace Road Foundation](#)

Dr. Gwang-seuk Song, the president of Peace Road Korea, recalled that 35 years ago he also came to Berlin to attend the World CARP Convention and its rally at the Berlin Wall - the largest ever held in West Germany for the unification of Germany, with over 3,000 participants from 70 countries. The rally was led by Rev. Moon's son Hyo Jin Moon, who urged Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev to bring down the Berlin Wall immediately. The fall of the Wall in 1989, Dr. Song said, was largely due to Secretary Gorbachev's reform policy and the strong desire of the East Germans for reunification.

Dr. Song reminded the audience that in 1992, the 10th anniversary of The Washington Times, the daily newspaper founded by Reverend and Mrs. Moon, former U.S. President Ronald Reagan said: "At the most important time of the century we fought together and won the Cold War. It was The Washington Times that told the truth to American citizens. The founders of The Washington Times, which contributed to the end of the Cold War, were Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Mrs. Hak Ja Han Moon."

Dr. Song also said that on July 27, 2013, to mark the 60th anniversary of the armistice signed on the Korean Peninsula, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon started the Peace Road Project in 190 countries in support of her husband's earnest desire that humankind should become one family under God.

[Click here for the full intervention of Dr. Gwangseuk Song](#)



[Dr. Claude Béglé, Founder and President, Symbioswiss; former Member of Parliament, Switzerland](#)

Dr. Claude Béglé from Switzerland, the chairman and CEO of the company SymbioSwiss and a former member of Parliament, said that history tends to repeat itself. Good news often turns into bad news. For instance, the Treaty of Versailles that was signed at the end of World War I led to Hitler's rise and World War II. Likewise, the Allies won World War II, but Stalinism arose, Berlin was split and the Cold War started. More recently, the crisis in Ukraine has emerged in the wake of the collapse of the Soviet Union.

To prevent victories from turning into new problems, he said, the victors should not humiliate the defeated. Neither side in a conflict should lose face. Moreover, he said, no power vacuum should be left, as happened after the collapse of Japan at the end of World War II, which led to its former colony Korea being divided.

Warring parties need to realize there is an interest for each in having peace, Dr. Béglé said. Economic bridges should be built, as common interests and shared wealth lead to cooperation. Neutral mediators should be allowed to facilitate dialogue. Forgiveness and reconciliation are essential, he said, as we all belong to the same human family.

Many of today's tensions and conflicts illustrate a growing divide between liberal democracies and autocrats, as well as the irreversible rise of the Asian economic powerhouse and the decline of Western nations.

[Click here for the presentation of Dr. Claude Béglé](#)



[Mr. Klaus Kelle, Journalist; Editor in Chief, Online-Daily The GermanZ](#)

Mr. Klaus Kelle, a journalist and the editor in chief of the online daily TheGermanZ, spoke about witnessing the fall of the Berlin Wall. He realized then that, after 28 years of enforced separation, people still strongly wanted to live together in freedom. Proponents of a reunited Korea should know that unifying Germany and building the future together were not easy for the Germans, he said.

Because of the war in Ukraine, Europe and NATO have awakened to the realization that they have mishandled relations with Vladimir Putin's Russia, Mr. Kelle said. The West must take the Ukrainian crisis as an opportunity to build on its newfound strength in alliance with the United States and Canada, and its friends and partners in Southeast Asia, he said.

While Russia is now perceived as a major threat, we are all ignoring China, the big dragon in the room, Mr. Kelle said. Determined to overtake the US as the world's biggest superpower and to expand its power and strength, China constitutes the biggest challenge for the future. All states that advocate freedom must defend freedom anew every day, he said.

[Click here for the full intervention of Mr. Klaus Kelle](#)



[Dr. Angela Mickley, Professor for Peace Education, Conflict Resolution and Ecology, Potsdam University of Applied Sciences, Potsdam, Germany](#)

Dr. Angela Mickley, a professor of peace education, conflict resolution and ecology at Potsdam University of Applied Sciences in Germany, described her experience with peace-making over several decades.

As a small child, she lost contact with all her relatives, except her parents, when the Berlin Wall was built. When they managed to meet again after the Wall came down, they noticed how much they had grown apart by living in two entirely different systems.

When Dr. Mickley was invited to South Korea in 2000 as a mediation trainer, she was not asked which conflicts they had in Germany, but how they had dealt with them, as the Koreans wanted to learn from Germany and prepare well for the unification of the peninsula.

Dr. Mickley said that the past should not be forgotten or covered up. One cannot merely look into the future. A good example is South Africa, she said, where a Truth and Reconciliation Committee was established to allow South Africans of all races to come to terms with the past. A similar committee did not exist in Namibia, where she was working for several years after its independence from Germany. There were difficulties with the returning exiles who had studied abroad and whose differing concepts

needed to be discussed and clarified. Dr. Mickley was training people, black and white, of all strata of society, how to manage conflicts.

From experience, she advised that it is better not to wait for the politicians to make their move. It is important to define and celebrate differences, she said. When the majority prevails over the minority in making decisions, at least some of the interests of the minority group should be included.

Youth and children tend to be more flexible and receptive to new ideas. Therefore, they should be trained in peaceful conduct as an investment in the future, she said.



The question-and-answer session produced the following observations:

At times of conflict, there are stages in which dialogue is not possible.

Peace or negotiations are not possible if one side is forced to lose face.

According to basic Christian teachings, the dignity of a person should always be respected, regardless of what they do, while legal regulations will limit what someone does or intends to do.





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Intervention of Dr. Gwangseuk Song in the EUME ILC July-August 2022: Berlin Session 1

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Written by Dr. Gwangseuk Song, Executive Chairman, Korea Peace Road Foundation, South Korea

26 July 2022



Guten tag.

My name is Gwangseuk Song, executive chairman of the Korea Peace Road Organization.

Congratulations on the 2022 Peace Road in Berlin.

From now on I'll speak in Korean.

I attended the World CARP Rally in Berlin 35 years ago. It was the largest rally ever held in West-Germany for the Unification of Germany with over 3000 participants.

At that time, college students from 70 countries shouted for the fall of the Berlin Wall.

As they marched toward the Berlin Wall, the communist forces were violently opposed, and it was difficult to take control of the venue first. At that time, I was playing drums and pushing them away.

Participants in the Berlin Rally succeeded in pushing back the opposition and held a historic world conference on the Berlin

Wall, a symbol of east-west division.

On the stage vehicle, the eldest son of Rev. Moon Hyo-jin Moon shouted to Secretary Gorbachev to break down the barrier immediately. University students around the world also cried out with Chairman Moon Hyo-jin for the slogan "Let's break down the Berlin Wall."

But surprisingly, on November 9, 1989, two years after the Berlin Rally, the Berlin Wall collapsed, and Germany was reunified.

The divided Korean people envied Germany and were able to hope that a miracle would happen on the Korean Peninsula.

In 2014, the 25th anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall, a survey said that the collapse of the Berlin Wall and the unification of Germany were realized first because of Gorbachev's reform policy.

The second is the strong desire of East Germans to live well like West Germans.

Gorbachev also visited Berlin that year.

In his book, he said, "If Reagan and I hadn't signed the disarmament agreement, the world would have been in a terrible crisis, and if the Soviet Union hadn't pushed for reform, Reagan and I wouldn't have had that result."

President Reagan, who led to the end of the Cold War, made the following remarks on the 10th anniversary of the Washington Times.

'At the most important time of the century we fought together and won the Cold War. It was the Washington Times who told the truth to American citizens.

The founders of the Washington Times, which contributed to the end of the Cold War, were Rev. Moon Sun-Myung

and Mrs. Han Hak-Ja Moon.

The two dedicated sacrifices created UPF in 190 countries around the world. Peace Road is a representative movement of UPF to realize a peaceful world.

On July 27, 2013, the wife of Rev. Moon, Mrs Hak-Ja Han Moon started the Peace Road Project to bring together the power of the world to realize world peace and unification of the Korean Peninsula. It was the 60th anniversary of the armistice agreement that stopped the war on the Korean Peninsula. In this regard, Peace Road contains Rev. Moon's earnest prayer that mankind should stop the war and realize a family under heaven's parents.

Now Ukraine is suffering greatly from the Russian invasion. The whole world wants the war to stop. If Peace Road participants shout the slogan "Stop the war and open the way to peace" at every Peace Road event in 160 countries, it will be a great help to the Ukrainian people suffering from the war and a force to stop the war.

I believe it. Just as the desperate cry for the fall of the Berlin Wall 35 years ago became the starting point for the end of the Cold War, I am sure the message of the Berlin Peace Road will be realized.

Thank to President Mike Balcomb, President Jack Marion, and European UPF for preparing this opportunity.

Once again, thank you very much.

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Written by Mr. Klaus Kelle, Journalist; Editor in Chief, Online-Daily The GermanZ, Germany

26 July 2022



Distinguished guests, ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased, and it is an honour for me to be able to speak to you here today.

In Berlin, where on November 9, 1989, the gate to the reunification of my fatherland Germany was opened wide, I was in the thick of it all night as a reporter for a radio station – headphones on and a microphone in my hand.

And that night I not only understood but emotionally experienced how much people in a forcibly separated country, even after 28 years, long to be able to live together again in a state and in freedom.

How many strangers lay in each other's arms on this unique night, how many tears were shed – finally free – finally on the way to the reunification of Germany.

On October 3, 1990, the time had come. And also there, in front of the Reichstag, I was there when our flag was raised, and more than a million people sang our common national anthem in the middle of a sea of flags: unity and justice and freedom... for the German Fatherland...

You will now think, "All's well that ends well"

But no, unfortunately it's not like that. And all those who wish that their separate country – Korea – could at some point follow this path – which I and every other freedom-loving person in the world want – must know that such a path is not easy even after the restoration of state unity.

And – from my subjective point of view – our German way was probably even easier than will be the way of Korea

Why does a people want to be reunited at all after years of separation?

It is the common history

It is the families who can take each other back into their arms

It's the never-ending stories you can finally tell yourself

And when all this is done and people start building the future together, then it shows how difficult it all is.

What happened in the years of separation.

How foreign you have become to yourself.

How some even long for the past from the unfree part.

We are currently experiencing this in Germany

A two-hour flight from Berlin, Putin's Russia is waging a terrible war against the people of neighbouring Ukraine.

Tens of thousands of soldiers and civilians on both sides have died since February 24. Nobody counts the injured, the



cripples.

And there are the raped women from Buhtscha.

And there are the completely destroyed cities like Mariupol – a single field of rubble with houses, hospitals and schools – destroyed by Russian missiles and bombs.

The photos from Mariupol are reminiscent of German cities in 1945 – Dresden, Cologne, Hamburg, and Berlin.

And it breaks my heart when I see so many East German compatriots on social networks today trying to justify this brutal barbarism.

Has the West made mistakes in dealing with Putin's Russia in the past – of course!

Is Ukraine a model democratic state? – Certainly not.

And only Ukraine has the right to decide whether it wants to join the European Union or NATO.

And we – the West – must not look away!

We must help the people of Ukraine who are desperately fighting for their lives – and yes, with the weapons they need to defend themselves!

None of us thought it possible that there could be another major war in Europe

Nobody!

Threats, blackmail – this has always been part of international politics.

But war? When that destroy – kill – rape. In Europe? In 2022?

If there is anything good at all that can be derived from a brutal war, it is that since February 24, 2022, the West has woken up.

Do you remember US President Donald Trump?

Ok, EVERYONE still remembers this president, who is unusual in every respect...

But Trump wanted to dissolve NATO three years ago!

And French President Emmanuel Macron spoke disparagingly about the most powerful military alliance on the planet.

AND TODAY?

NATO is stronger, self-confident and capable of acting than it has been for decades.

Despite heads of state playing their own game, such as Erdogan and Orban – for different reasons – the alliance stands firmly together.

Sweden and Finland are joining NATO – and these are armies that are already strong and operational.

Putin wanted to push NATO back from Russia's borders – now 1200 kilometres of direct border with the Western alliance is added...

The West – the EU and NATO – demonstrate strength and cohesion.

Not only militarily – but also with the sanctions that have already caused Russia to slump in its economic output by more than 10 percent.

And Germany has negligently made itself dependent on Russian gas in the past.

Yes, everything is getting more expensive, but our government is working hard to create alternatives so that we no longer need Russia in terms of energy supply.

Otherwise not anyway.

Our trade volume with Belgium is greater than that with Russia.

We – the West – must take the Ukraine crisis as an opportunity to build on our newfound strength

Germany and Europe in alliance with the United States and Canada.

And with our friends and partners in Southeast Asia:

With South Korea – with Japan – with Thailand – with Taiwan and also with Australia.

After 9/11 – and then after the great wave of refugees in 2015 of millions of Muslims – young men predominantly – many of us saw aggressive Islam as the biggest problem for our future.

In Europe, people thought: Russia is our friend. But that was a dramatic miscalculation.

Now we see that we are massively threatened by a ruler in the Kremlin who openly threatens and threatens with the use of nuclear missiles – also in Europe.

And while we think about Islam and Russia like this, we are all ignoring the big dragon in the room – and that is China.

A China that is stronger and more innovative than Russia can ever be.

A China determined to overtake the US as the World's No. 1 power.

A China that has only one interest: to expand its own power and strength.

I think China is our biggest problem for the future – the biggest challenge for the world's democracies.

And we should not wait until China has prevailed with its strategy. We should accept the challenge from Beijing and respond consistently. Together with all the states in the world that still know that freedom is something that must be defended every day anew against its enemy.

Thank you for your attention.

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