

# ASIA-PACIFIC Business & Technology REPORT

## The Universal Peace Federation - Kook Jin Moon

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The Universal Peace Federation (UPF) is an NGO in Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. UPF is a global association of conscientious individuals and committed organizations dedicated to the noble cause of building a peaceful world, where each individual can fully realize her/his potential in a peaceful way while living together with others in freedom, harmony, and cooperation, with prosperity for all.

UPF works to achieve these goals with a special focus on interfaith dialogue, peace education and service to humanity. UPF brings together the efforts of many individuals and organizations to build a world of universal peace. Centered on universal spiritual principles, UPF programs focus on four core areas: 1) building of strong, healthy families; 2) promoting interfaith harmony and cooperation; 3) building a culture of service, reconciliation and partnership; 4) revitalization of the United Nations. UPF's many peace initiatives include efforts to establish an interreligious council at the United Nations; regional and national peace councils; peacebuilding initiatives in Middle East, Northeast Asia/South Asia, Africa, and the Americas; the promotion of the Bering Strait Peace Tunnel; and, the World Peace Blessing.

The idea of an Interreligious Council at the UN was first advanced by the UPF Founders, Rev. Dr. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon, in August 2000. Since then, there has been a steady development of both local and international initiatives to gather support for this idea among governments, religions, faith-based organizations and other NGOs. A number of regional and national interfaith councils have also been created, most recently in Thailand.

The UPF Peace Council of Nepal helped facilitate the meeting of government and Maoist forces to negotiate peace in that country, and the UPF Secretary General serves in the National Congress. In Sri Lanka, UPF has worked to put an end to violence, sponsoring good governance programs at the

parliamentary level, along with other conferences and interfaith youth service programs. Through its Middle East Peace Initiative (MEPI), UPF is promoting understanding and reconciliation among Jews, Muslims, and Christians in that troubled region, sponsoring fact-finding tours; interreligious dialogues; service projects; and programs in the arts and sports. The Africa Peace Initiative program includes work with African nations to educate a new generation of leaders through character education; interfaith; service; and sports. UPF is also working with the African Union on a project to eliminate disease in Sub-Saharan African nations.

The Northeast Asia Peace Initiative aims at the peaceful reconciliation of the Korean peninsula through people-to-people diplomacy; cultural exchange; service programs; humanitarian relief; and the creation of a Peace Embassy in Pyongyang.

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The Tongil Foundation, (Founder: Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, officially Foundation to Support the Holy Spirit Association for the Unification of World Christianity) is a nonprofit foundation in Korea whose purpose is to support the work of the Unification Church and its affiliated nonprofit organizations by providing funding support and management consulting services. The Foundation manages many of the assets of the Unification Movement in Korea, including a group of for-profit companies known collectively as the “Tongil Group”. These include two resort companies, a daily newspaper, a construction company and manufacturing companies producing everything from ginseng beverages and pharmaceuticals to auto parts and machine tools. The Ocean Resort, a condominium and hotel complex in Yeosu, South Korea, will provide lodging facilities during the Yeosu International Exposition 2012 from May 12 to August 12 this year. Yongpyong Resort will serve as an official alpine event venue during the 2018 Winter Olympic Games in Pyeongchang, Korea.

The Foundation also manages some 4,600 hectares of land and more than 300 residential and commercial rental properties in South Korea. In addition to the Unification Church, Tongil Foundation supports a variety of nonprofit projects, including the Universal Ballet and the Peace Cup international football tournament. Tongil Foundation is governed by a board of directors. Mr. Kook Jin Moon serves as chairman of this board.