

A Friendship Banquet for Peace Ambassadors and Intellectuals

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Family Federation for World Peace and Unification



Commemorating the UN Global Day of Parents

A Friendship Banquet for Peace Ambassadors and Intellectuals

- Tokyo, Nagoya, Osaka -

On May 30, a commemoration of the UN Global Day of Parents and the Tokyo Friendship Banquet for Peace Ambassadors and Intellectuals were held in Tokyo's Keio Plaza Hotel under the title, Asia, the Pacific Era and the Peace Vision—a Proposal to Japan. The event began in front of 250 leaders of different fields, including six members of the Japanese Diet and three who had formerly held that post. Twenty-one members of local councils, 13 diplomats and foreign ambassadors in Japan, and 109 leaders from different fields (27 scholars, 16 religious leaders, 8 woman leaders, 19 leaders of Koreans residing in Japan, 11 from the media, and 28 others) also participated.

Dr. Werner Fasslabend, Austrian Minister of National Defense (1990–2000), provided added prestige to the event. In his congratulatory address, Dr. Fasslabend talked about the Japanese economy and about peace in Northeast Asia in terms of guaranteeing security. He proposed detailed methods and a vision of how Japan should take an active role in contributing to global peace. Participants responded warmly to Dr. Fasslabend.

Mr. Song Yong Cheon, chairman of UPF-Japan and the keynote speaker, emphasized that Japan needed to firmly establish itself as a central country contributing to Northeast Asian peace, world peace, and the prosperity of mankind in the Pacific Rim era. Chairman Song shed further light on the necessity of Japan taking this role by talking about the outlook of history of past civilizations and the present strained military relations between China and North Korea, the United States and Japan based on the

Korean Peninsula. He also explained the views of UPF founder, the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon, on peace, education and maritime endeavors.

He proposed directions Korea and Japan might take for peace on the Korean Peninsula and strongly appealed to all participants that Japan take a central role in realizing unification on the Korean Peninsula.



Through congratulatory remarks given by two speakers and the keynote lecture, the event was significant in boosting the self-esteem of participants as Japanese and instilling the historic responsibility Japan should take in achieving peace in the world and Northeast Asia and in achieving prosperity for mankind. A Diet member among the participants commented, “As a politician, until now, I have analyzed Japan’s past and present on a national level and have worked toward creating a better future in Japan. After listening to Chairman Song’s lecture today, I have come to deeply understand the views of UPF founders, Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, toward the country, world and peace. Furthermore, I believe that transcending the country, thinking of the world and creating a Japan that lives for the sake of others can only be done through the vision of the late Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. I am convinced that this is the only way for Japan to live, Northeast Asia to live, and for world peace to prosper and exist.” He then expressed his gratitude and joy saying, “This was a significant time for me because it helped me deeply realize once more Rev. Sun Myung Moon’s vision and ideal, his view of peace and education. I wish I could say thank you again to Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. I would also like to extend my gratitude to the host for organizing this special occasion and providing us with good education.”

Among the participants, a university professor revealed his impression of the event saying, “I could deeply reflect on the historic responsibility of Japan through Chairman Song’s logical and objective view of the history of civilizations. I particularly sympathized with the content implying how Japan and Korea must transcend their shortsighted and closed-minded nationalism and their narrow national-centrism and work on building up a partnership for peace in Northeast Asia and the world.”

After the conclusion of the Tokyo event, the warm atmosphere of the first gathering moved on to Nagoya. On Saturday, June 1, the UN Global Day of Parents and the Nagoya Friendship Banquet for Peace Ambassadors and Intellectuals were held with the same title as was used in Tokyo, from 6 PM at the Nagoya Kanko Hotel. The event began with around 230 participants, among them 158 non-Unificationist leaders comprising four members of the Diet and five former Diet members, fifteen members of local councils ten former members, seven scholars, forty-five businessmen, six religious leaders, eight woman leaders, twenty-three leaders of Koreans residing in Japan, thirty-five other leaders. Dr. Werner Fasslabend gave a significant congratulatory address. Chairman Song gave a special lecture. The two passionate lectures that followed greatly motivated participants, who then exchanged pragmatic and professional alternatives from different fields including from political, economic, diplomatic, military, educational levels in relation to the role of Japan in resolving the security problems in Northeast Asia and measures to normalize Japan-Korea relations.



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and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. I was particularly moved by the global foundation, and UPF's sense and culture. I realized the importance for Japanese citizens and society of accepting these elements as soon as possible to transform into a country loved by all humanity."

The last commemoration of the UN Global Day of Parents, and the Osaka Friendship Banquet for Peace Ambassadors and Intellectuals was held using the same title as the events in Tokyo and Nagoya on June 2, beginning at 11 AM in the RIHGA Royal Hotel in Osaka. The event was held in the same order as the previous events. In attendance were 225 people with 153 non-Unificationist leaders, including five members of the Diet and a former Diet member, twenty-two local assemblymen and a former assemblyman, fourteen scholars, thirty-nine businessmen, five religious leaders, five woman leaders, thirty-three Korean leaders residing in Japan and 25 other leaders. A woman leader among the participants commented, "I deeply sympathized with the contents saying that Japan, an island country, is a globally prominent country symbolizing women and hence must contribute to world peace and human prosperity. As a woman leader, I was greatly moved and inspired by the assertion that the opportunity had come for Japan to resolve the conflicts and division male leadership could not resolve until now with female leadership through a mother's love."



Many participants expressed their regrets at the event for being only hosted in Tokyo, Nagoya and Osaka, Japan's three largest cities. The atmosphere among participants was such that they all expressed their hope that these events be held regularly. At the end of the event, many requests came from participants to purchase the lecture text or a video of the event. One participant said, "In the beginning, I

was hesitant about participating in this event, knowing that the Unification Church was behind UPF. I decided to take part with this negative prejudice and was determined to give critical remarks whenever the opportunity came during discussions or after the event. However, this heart unconsciously disappeared as the event progressed and I felt ashamed for having possessed those thoughts.”

Consideration was put on the high intellectual level and social status of participants in the planning of this event; it was planned so that the lectures were persuasive in objective and pragmatic respects. The entire program was of a high standard, and the entire event was conducted with dignity. Participants all greatly responded to this event. Even though it was a civilian-level meeting, an atmosphere, where the majority of political participants actively sympathized with the point that it is necessary for the nation or government to pay attention to the assertions and activities of UPF, was naturally created.

Japan UPF