

VOL. 17, 2023

UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE



WORLD SUMMIT 2022

Think Tank 2022 Forum Series



*Summit 2022 and
Leadership Conference*



"Conference of Hope" Series



In this issue of *UPF Today* we present an overview of the major programs and conferences convened in 2022. The World Summit series held programs in February and August, addressing topics such as peace on the Korean peninsula, global conflict, and the rise in religious intolerance worldwide. The *World Summit 2022* produced the “Seoul Resolution 2022” calling for support for a reconciliation between the two Koreas, expressed as the “Two States Towards One Nation: One Peninsula, One People, One Culture” initiative. In the founder’s remarks, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon proposed a bold new regional vision for the Asia Pacific nations based on the region’s unique common values.

The *Summit 2022 and Leadership Conference* in August, also convened in Korea, focused on the importance of religious freedom and freedom of conscience. Despite the inclusion of religious freedom in the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, many of the world’s faith traditions are experiencing a rise in persecution and violence. The 5th *Sunhak Peace Prize* program took place as a component of *World Summit 2022*. The primary focus was on the global response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

UPF was especially pleased to host the 4th and 5th *Think Tank 2022* forums and the “Conference of Hope” series which was launched on the foundation of our successful Rally of Hope series.

We look forward to this new year, 2023 and trust that our efforts for peace will bear fruit all across the globe. Thank you for your encouragement and support. ❖



Dr. Thomas G. Walsh
Chairman, UPF



TABLE OF CONTENTS

World Summit 2022 for Peace on the Korean Peninsula	3
Summit 2022 and Leadership Conference.....	8
“Conference of Hope” for Universal Human Rights and Religious Freedom.....	12
2nd “Conference of Hope” focuses on Threats to Religious Freedom and Human Rights	16

Declaration in Support of Fundamental Human Rights and Human Dignity.....	20
4th Think Tank 2022 Forum	22
<i>Featuring: Hon. Mark Esper</i>	
5th Think Tank 2022 Forum	26
<i>Featuring: H.E. Dr. Mohamed El Baradei, Hon. Mike Pompeo, and Gen. Lim Ho-yeong</i>	
Regional Highlights	28

For more information go to www.upf.org and to receive our E-News, please write to info@upf.org.

We appreciate any donation to our international peace effort: upf.org/donate
UPF is a 501(c)(3) tax exempt organization and all donations are tax deductible in the United States. Please send your check or money order to the Universal Peace Federation, 220 White Plains Road, Suite 530, Tarrytown, NY 10591, USA.



UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

Chairman
Dr. Thomas G. Walsh

President
Dr. Michael Jenkins

Vice President
Dr. Tageldin Hamad

Editor
Dr. William Selig

Copy Editors
Hannah Alexander
Renee Corley
Louise Perlowitz

Layout and Design
Sun-Ae Patterson

UPF Today is a publication of the Universal Peace Federation, founded by Rev. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. Envisioning peace as a state of harmonious interdependence among individuals, families, nations and peoples, UPF advocates constructive and innovative practices that contribute to achieving a unified world of peace. This magazine offers a forum for Ambassadors for Peace—fostering human development, good governance, public service, and collaborative peace efforts involving all sectors of society.

Copyright © 2023, Universal Peace Federation
All rights reserved. Reproduction in whole or in part prohibited except by written permission. Periodicals postage is paid at Tarrytown, New York, and additional mailing offices.

UPF is an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Universal Peace Federation
220 White Plains Road, Suite 530
Tarrytown, NY 10591, USA
1 914 631-1331
info@upf.org • www.upf.org

COVER:

World Summit 2022,
“One Million Rally of Hope”
Opening Ceremony;
(bottom photos l. to r.)
Hon. Mark Esper speaks at
4th *Think Tank 2022* Forum;
Summit 2022 and Leadership
Conference Participants stand
next to Declaration after
signing; “Conference of Hope”
audience members

WORLD SUMMIT 2022 FOR PEACE ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA

Seoul, Korea | February 10-14, 2022

The World Summit 2022 for Peace on the Korean Peninsula was held in Seoul, Korea, from February 10 to 14. Some 194 nations were represented, including 157 nations with diplomatic ties to one or both of the Koreas. The Summit was sponsored by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF), an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. Hosted by UPF Co-Founder Dr. **Hak Ja Han Moon**, the Summit was Co-Chaired by H.E. Samdech **Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of Cambodia, and H.E. **Ban Ki-moon**, Secretary-General (2007-2016) of the United Nations; Dr. **Yun Young-ho**, Director General of the Universal Peace Federation, and Dr. **Thomas G. Walsh**, Chairman of the Universal Peace Federation, and H.E. **Khuon Sudary**, Vice-President of the National Assembly of the Kingdom of Cambodia served as Co-Chairs of the Executive Organizing Committee.

In response to South Korea's strict sanitary and travel restrictions caused by a sharp increase in COVID-19 infections, the Summit combined in-person attendance and virtual participation. Eighty-five world leaders addressed more than 300 people attending in person, as well as a global virtual audience participating through the world's largest 360-degree interactive broadcast. Eleven key political and civic leaders from around South Korea, including provincial governors and major city mayors, offered their congratulations.

Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech **Hun Sen** opened the Summit at the Lotte Hotel World in Seoul. Then, virtual greetings were given live from the Korean National Assembly by Deputy Speaker **Lim Jong-seong** and former U.S. Speaker **Newt Gingrich**, and from the Japanese Diet by Hon. **Yoshiaki Harada**, former Minister of the Environment.



Samdech Techo Hun Sen



Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon



H.E. Ban Ki-moon



Hon. Newt Gingrich





H.E. Macky Sall



Hon. Mike Pence



Rt. Hon. Stephen Harper



H.E. Ehud Olmert

An official government statement at the Opening Plenary was sent by video from H.E. **Macky Sall**, the African Union Chairperson and Senegalese President. In person, other former heads of state and government also gave their keynote addresses as follows: U.S. Vice President **Mike Pence**, Canadian Prime Minister Rt. Hon. **Stephen Harper**, and Israeli Prime Minister **Ehud Olmert**, along with European Commission President **Romano Prodi** and Brazilian President **Michel Temer** by video.

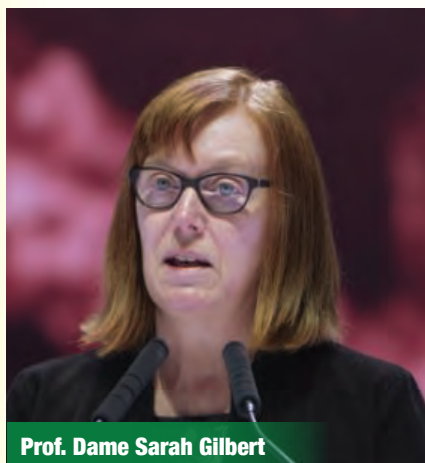
The Summit sessions featured heads of state, government ministers, parliamentarians, scholars, and media representatives from each region of the world. They addressed the many challenges to peace on the Korean Peninsula, such as resistance to denuclearization, strained Korea-Japan relations, tensions between China and the United States, and core differences between North and South. At the same time, they offered a range of solutions, such as encouraging new friendships with the North Korean people through trade, tourism, sports, music, and cultural exchanges.

Sunhak Peace Prize Award Ceremony

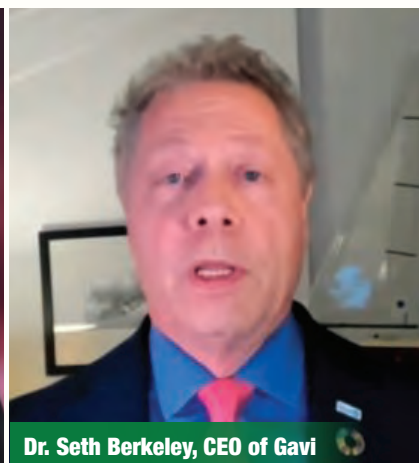
On February 12 in the morning, the **Sunhak Peace Prize Award Ceremony** honored Professor Dame **Sarah Catherine Gilbert** of the University of Oxford for her role in developing the AstraZeneca vaccine and ensuring its availability at affordable price, and **Gavi, the Vaccine Alliance**, for its achievement in dealing with the COVID pandemic throughout the world as well as its ongoing work to provide vaccines to more than 800 million of the world's neediest children. H.E. Dr. **José Manuel Barroso**, former EU Commission President and Chairman of the Sunhak Peace Prize Selection Committee, presented the award to Professor Gilbert, and Dr. **Thomas Walsh**, Chairman of the Sunhak Peace Prize Foundation, presented the award to Gavi.

Founded by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon in 2013, the Sunhak Peace Prize selects laureates for their service to global peace in the areas of sustainable human development, conflict resolution or ecological conservation. Previous awardees include climate change advocate H.E. Anote Tong, president of Kiribati (2003-2016), and Indian aquaculture pioneer Dr. Vijay Gupta; Italian humanitarian surgeon Dr. Gino Strada and Afghan refugee educator Dr. Sakena Yacoobi; African Development Bank Group President Hon. Dr. Akinwumi Adesina and women's rights activist Ms. Waris Dirie; Palestinian Bishop Munib Younan and Senegalese President Macky Sall.

The Founder's Award was given by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon to Samdech **Hun Sen**, Prime Minister of the Royal Government of Cambodia, recognizing his role in lifting his country from civil war and a murderous past into prosperity and peace.



Prof. Dame Sarah Gilbert



Dr. Seth Berkeley, CEO of Gavi

Sunhak Peace Prize Award Ceremony



The Founder's Award





H.E. Romano Prodi



H.E. Michel Temer

“One Million Rally of Hope”



“One Million Rally of Hope”

The Global Summit concluded with a “One Million Rally of Hope” and renewed calls for unity on the Korean Peninsula. The main event was held at the HJ Global Arts Center near Seoul, and broadcast simultaneously in 52 locations in South Korea as well as throughout the world.

In his closing remarks H.E. **Ban Ki-moon**, Secretary-General (2007-2016) of the United Nations and Co-Chair of the World Summit 2022, expressed his hope that “one day in the near future the people of the South can directly engage with their brothers and sisters in the North.” He was followed by speeches from former U.S. President **Donald Trump**, former Japanese Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe**, former European Commission President Dr. **José Manuel Barroso** and Nigerian President **Muhammadu Buhari**.

Each continent was represented by prominent speakers who shared with the global audience their assessment of the prospects for peace on the Korean Peninsula. Former U.S. Vice President **Mike Pence**, former U.S. Secretary of State **Mike Pompeo** and U.S. investor **Jim Rogers** spoke in person.

During World Summit 2022, official government statements from European heads of state were conveyed through video by President Ilir Meta of Albania and Prime Minister Albin Kurti of Kosovo. Other prominent speakers spoke by video. These included former heads of government:

European Commission President Romano Prodi, H.E. Dominique de Villepin of France, H.E. José Maria Aznar of Spain, and H.E. Ahmet Davutoğlu of Turkey.

The prestigious speakers from Africa included: H.E.

Macky Sall, Chairman of the African Union and President of Senegal; H.E. Muhammadu Buhari, President, Nigeria; H.E. Carlos Vila Nova, President, São Tomé and Príncipe; Mdm. Monica Chakwera, First Lady of Malawi; and H.E. Goodluck Jonathan, President (2010-2015), Nigeria.

Others included: H.E. Alassane Ouattara, President, Côte d’Ivoire; H.E. Dr. Luc Adolphe Tiao, Prime Minister (2011-2014), Burkina Faso; H.E. Paul Mba, Prime Minister (2009-2012), Gabon; H.E. Kwassi Klutse, Prime Minister (1996-1999), Togo; Hon. Nevers Mumba, Vice President (2003-2004), Zambia; Dame Patience Jonathan, First Lady (2010-2015), Nigeria; H.E. Mohamed El Baradei, Vice President of Egypt (2013) and Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency (1997-2009); Hon. Delfim Santiago das Neves, President of the National Assembly, São Tomé and Príncipe; Hon. Antonio Niquice, Speaker of the Parliament, Mozambique; Sheikh Mansour Diouf, Representative of the Murid brotherhood, Dakar; Hon. Dr. Andre Dassoundo, Vice President, National Assembly (2007-2011), Benin; Rt. Hon. Alban Bagbin, Speaker of the Parliament, Gabon, Hon. Kassoum Yacouba Miaga, Member of Parliament, Niger; Rev. Dr. Bellow Adetola, World President of Churches of Celestial Christianity, Togo; and Dr. Goni Muhammad Ali Gabchiya, Chief Imam, University of Maiduguri, co-founder Taha Islamic Center, Nigeria.

From Asia Pacific, speakers included: H.E. Ing Kantha Phavi, Minister of Women’s Affairs, Cambodia; H.E. Suos Yara, Chairman of Commission of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation, Cambodia; Mdm. Adi Koila Nailatikau, First Lady (2009-2015), Fiji; H.E. K.P. Sharma Oli, Prime Minister (2015-2016 and 2018-2021), Nepal; Rt. Hon. Ganesh Prasad Timilsina, Chairman of the National Assembly, Nepal; H.E. Gloria Arroyo, President (2001-2010), Philippines; Hon. Jose de Venecia Jr., Speaker of the House (1992-1998, 2001-2008), Philippines; H.E. Maithripala Sirisena, President (2015-2019), Sri Lanka; and Mdm. Shiranthi Rajapaksa, First Lady (2005-2015) of Sri Lanka.

Others included: H.E. Syed Yousaf Raza Gillani, Prime



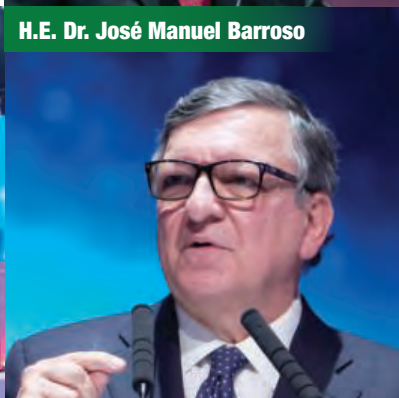
H.E. Ban Ki-moon



H.E. Donald J. Trump



H.E. Shinzo Abe



H.E. Dr. José Manuel Barroso



H.E. Muhammadu Buhari



Minister (2008-2012), Pakistan; Hon. Lord Fatafehi Fakafanua, Speaker, Legislative Assembly, Tonga; Mr. Hexilon G. Alvarez, President and CEO, Intercontinental Broadcasting Corp., Philippines; Prof. Paul Teng, RSIS Singapore (Food Security), Singapore; Mr. Steve Killelea, Founder and Executive Chairman, Institute for Economics and Peace, Australia; Rev. Taishu Nara, Chief Eternal Priest of Ameno Iwakura Shrine, Japan; Bishop Charles A. Hall, Presiding Bishop, Far East District Council, Pentecostal Assemblies of the World, Japan; Prof. Masahisa Hayashi, Professor at Waseda University, Japan; Hon. Yoshinori Ohno, Minister of Defense (2004-2005), Japan; Hon. Kim Hyon Hwan, First Vice Minister of Culture, Sports & Tourism, Korea; Hon. Hyung Suk Kim, Vice Minister of the Ministry of Unification (2016-2017), South Korea; Hon. Yoshiaki Harada, Minister of the Environment (2018-2019), Japan; and Hon. Chuichi Date, President of the House of Councillors (2016-2019), Japan.

Dr. **Hak Ja Han Moon** closed the Summit with a moving speech thanking world leaders for their contributions in support of peace on the Korean Peninsula. She expressed her concern for the multiple challenges to peace in the world, notably in Eastern Europe and Northeast Asia, and for the damage caused to the environment by the lack of human responsibility. “These challenges cannot be met by human effort alone,” she said. “Building one family under



God is the only way to bring about a world filled with freedom, equality and peace.” In an emotional conclusion, she asked the citizens of North and South Korea and all nations present to join with her to achieve unification on the Korean Peninsula and true peace throughout the world.

The “One Million Rally of Hope” closed with the signing of the **Seoul Resolution 2022** by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, chairman of UPF’s *Think Tank 2022*, Kingdom of Cambodia Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen, and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon. That resolution calls for Korea to become a two-state nation that is “one peninsula, one people, and one culture.” The Seoul Resolution lays the foundation for a future global agreement to be “one planet, one humanity, and one global peace culture.” ❖

Contributed by Mr. Jacques Marion, Co-Chair, UPF Europe and the Middle East

*To view this report online,
please visit UPF.org/article/10145*



Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon

Seoul Resolution 2022



Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon signing the Seoul Resolution 2022



Samdech Techo Hun Sen, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, and H.E. Ban Ki-moon



SUMMIT 2022 AND LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Seoul, Korea | August 11-15, 2022

International leaders at the Universal Peace Federation's (UPF) Summit 2022 and Leadership Conference affirmed their support for global peacebuilding, and discussed ways to achieve world peace for all humanity, especially on the Korean Peninsula. Sessions also addressed the universal right to religious freedom and called for more education of youth in Africa, which is emerging as a global power.

Some 1,000 world leaders from the 157 nations with diplomatic relations with either North or South Korea attended the August 11-15, 2022, conference, either in person at the Lotte Hotel World or virtually, to discuss "Toward Peace on the Korean Peninsula: Toward a World Culture of Peace."

In his welcoming remarks, UPF Chairman **Thomas G. Walsh** expressed hope that the focus and vision for peace on the Korean Peninsula would be taken to a broader level, and that soon "the divided world will be reconciled into one humanity and one global culture of peace."

In addition to calling for peace, the leaders expressed deep condolences for the loss of Japanese Prime Minister **Shinzo Abe**. UPF offered a video and floral tribute.

Sheikh **Mansour Diouf** of the Murid Brotherhood in Senegal expressed an important sentiment, which was echoed by many of the religious leaders. "We are supposed to be brothers. ... My grandfather said the one thing people cannot go without is peace."

Korean reconciliation was a major theme, due to the passion of the UPF co-founders, Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr.

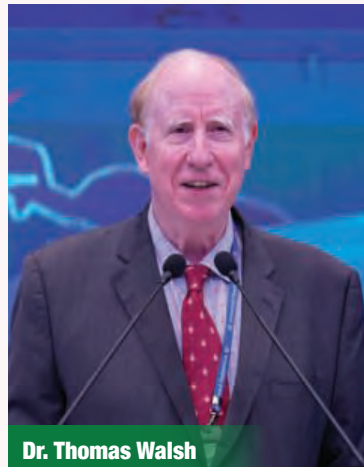
Hak Ja Han Moon, who were born in what is now North Korea. In 1991, anti-communist Rev. Moon went to Pyongyang to meet communist North Korean leader Kim Il Sung. The two men embraced as brothers and agreed to launch various goodwill projects together. That unity underscores the hope to bring peace to the 80 million people on the Korean Peninsula, despite decades of division, said Dr. **Michael Jenkins**, the president of UPF International.

Still, there are discouraging signs. This year North Korea has launched 31 missiles; it threatens to end the Trump-era moratorium on ICBM launches and nuclear tests, and "is showing no interest in talks with Washington," said former Canadian Prime Minister Rt. Hon. **Stephen Harper**.

In video remarks, former US President **Donald Trump** said his administration worked to first keep "us out of war" and then seek a breakthrough. That led to the strategy of putting "the toughest pressure" on North Korea while offering "unprecedented outreach and engagement" to the nation.

UPF Co-Founder, Dr. **Hak Ja Han Moon** said, "Everywhere in the world today many righteous people are working for the sake of a peaceful world. Unfortunately, neither super powers nor small powers are the owners of the world. The true owner of the world is God. And if we do not attend God as the true owner, lasting peace cannot be realized."

Along with the leaders conference, UPF International, with participation from *The Washington Times*, organized a **Fact-Finding Delegation for Peace on the Korean Peninsula** with US officials and South Korean leaders. One topic of conversation was "audacious plans to move North Korea to rapprochement,"



Dr. Thomas Walsh



Condolences for H.E. Shinzo Abe



Floral Tribute to H.E. Shinzo Abe



UPF Fact-Finding Delegation for Peace on the Korean Peninsula and *The Washington Times* 40th Anniversary

said Ambassador **Joseph DeTrani** from the United States, a special envoy to the Six-Party Talks with DPRK (2003-2006).

“Idealism must be rooted in realism” and “dialogue and military readiness must go hand in hand,” said Ambassador **Harry Harris**, a Navy admiral who served as US ambassador to South Korea from 2018 to 2021. “I’m encouraged,” he added, that South Korean President Suk-yeol Yoon intends “to make the US-ROK alliance the centerpiece of his foreign policy,” as that means outreach to Japan as well as readiness.

It will “take all elements of power”—diplomatic, intelligence, military, economic—to bring Korea closer to peaceful reunification, said (Ret.) Gen. **Walter Sharp**, who led US forces, the UN Command, and the ROK-US Combined Forces Command (2008-2011).

Dr. **Alexandre Mansourov**, an adjunct professor at Edmund Walsh School of Foreign Studies at Georgetown University in the United States, said North Korea’s silence about dialogue was “worrisome,” but praised our alliances with the regional powers as “rock solid.”

Dr. **Subash Kaji Shrestha**, the deputy secretary general of the Asian Regional Institute of Juche Idea in Nepal, said North Korea seeks peaceful reunification, but based on Universal Humanism—and “without the interference of foreign powers.” The 2018 Panmunjom Agreement sought reunification on the principles and spirit of “By Our Nation Itself,” Dr. Shrestha said, but current inter-Korean relations are now “brought back to the time before the publication” of that agreement. “We who are gathering here” at the UPF summit “should try our best” to understand the situation, Dr. Shrestha said, adding that UPF is “very much appreciated for its Track II diplomatic peace initiatives” on the Korean Peninsula.

The August 11-15 summit builds on the Seoul Resolution 2022, which was signed in

February at UPF’s World Summit 2022 by former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, chairman of UPF’s *Think Tank 2022*, and Kingdom of Cambodia Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen. That resolution calls for Korea to become a two-state nation that is “one peninsula, one people, and one culture.”

The Seoul Resolution lays the foundation for a future global agreement to be “one planet, one humanity, and one global peace culture,” said UPF Chairman Thomas G. Walsh.

Dr. **Siphana Sok**, head of the Asian Vision Institute, a think tank in Cambodia working to advance the Seoul Resolution, said they and others have been developing a Universal Peace Charter based on core principles of peaceful coexistence, mutual respect, tolerance, unity in diversity, non-interference, and peaceful settlement of disputes. Dr. Sok read a letter of congratulations from Prime Minister Hun Sen, who called on the UPF members to “unswervingly pursue their peace mission.” H.E. **Muhammadu Buhari**, the president of Nigeria, also sent a letter thanking Dr. Moon and encouraging the participants to work for peace.

Taiwan’s Vice President **Lu Hsiu-lien** (2000-2008) invited the world leaders to “make another miracle”—helping Taiwan stay “distant relatives and close neighbors”—and dissuade the People’s Republic of China from its “One China” policy.





The 60th Anniversary of the Little Angels



Other Highlights:

—**The 40th Anniversary of *The Washington Times*.** Chairman **Thomas P. McDevitt**, President and Executive Editor **Christopher Dolan**, and Opinion Editor **Charles Hurt** spoke of *The Times*' impact and its dedication to accurate news and the ideals of freedom, faith, and family. *The Times*, as a “guest in your home,” will never mock you or your faith, said Mr. Dolan.

—**The 60th Anniversary of the Little Angels.** The world-famous Korean children's folk ballet company, founded by Rev. and Mrs. Moon, gave a beautiful special performance to the delight of the conference participants. Co-founder Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, known as the Mother of Peace, attended and offered words of gratitude and love for the children and the world leaders.

—**Honorary Doctorates.** In recognition of their lifelong dedication to building a world of lasting peace, honoris causa doctorate degrees, were presented to UPF's co-founders by Dr. **Francisco Rojas Aravena**, Rector of the University for Peace which is located in Costa Rica. The University for Peace was established by the United Nations under the leadership of former Costa Rican president H.E. Rodrigo Carazo, who had been a close friend of the Founders and an active UPF Ambassador for Peace. President Carazo was a founding member of the Association for the Unity of Latin America (AULA) and the Summit Council for World Peace.

—**Session on Protecting Religious Freedom Worldwide.** In video remarks, former US Vice President **Mike Pence** said religious freedom is the “first freedom” because it is “the foundation for true national greatness.”

Religious freedom is “the most important single topic on the planet,” said US House Speaker **Newt Gingrich** (1995-1999). It

presupposes the existence of God, declares that human rights are given by God and not people, and forms the basis of freedom, he said.

Religious freedom is key to security concerns, said US Secretary of State **Mike Pompeo** (2018-2021), recalling how he left his Bible open on his desk for inspiration. “Nations that threaten others, like China and Iran,” he said, also “have death holds” on religious freedoms.

From Japan, lawyer **Norishige Kondo** of the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) spoke of the surreal situation of Japan's national media transferring blame for the assassination of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe from the shooter to FFWPU. He said the same opponents of FFWPU who are fueling this media view committed human rights violations against 4,300 FFWPU members through forced abductions, confinements and conversions. In 2014, this history of abuse was brought to the UN Human Rights Committee, which requested the Japanese government to take steps to stop it. But “there is indeed a serious crisis of religious freedom in our country,” Mr. Kondo said.

Mr. Toru Goto is an FFWPU member who was confined by his family for 12 years and was hospitalized for 50 days for malnutrition after they released him. He filed criminal charges against his kidnappers, but no arrests or investigations resulted. He then filed a civil suit and won a large award. The current media attacks on FFWPU raise his fears that “this poisonous drug of kidnapping, confinement and forced conversion could resurface,” despite Japan's constitutional guarantees of “basic human rights” and “freedom of religion.”

While 84 percent of the world's people claim a religious affiliation, 79 percent live in countries “with high or very high obstacles to religious freedom,” said Hon. **Ján Figel**, special envoy for the promotion of freedom of religion, European Union (2016-2019).

Religious prejudice generates three evils—“intolerance, discrimination, and persecution,” said Dr. **Massimo Introvigne** from Italy, managing director of the Center for Studies on New Religions.

Other speakers in the session were Pastor **Paula White-Cain** of the City of Destiny Church and Bishop **Don Meares** of the Evangel Cathedral, both from the United States; and **Hee-Taek Chung**, president of the *Segye Ilbo* newspaper in Seoul.

International speakers participated or sent video messages, including: Senegalese President **Macky Sall**; H.E. **José Manuel Barroso**, president, European Commission (2004-2014); Hon. **Dan Burton**, member of the US Congress (1983-2013); Beeland Interests Chairman **Jim Rogers**; H.E. **Boris Tadić**, president of Serbia (2004-2012); H.E. **Yves Leterme**, prime minister of Belgium (2008, 2009-2011); H.E. **Ehud**



Mr. Toru Goto

Olmert, prime minister of Israel (2006-2009); Hon. **Neziha Labidi**, Tunisian minister of women, family and children (2016-2020); Hon. **Germán Blanco Álvarez**, senator, Colombia; Hon. **Grigore Novac**, member of Parliament, Moldova; Hon. Professor **Sunaina Singh**, vice chancellor, Nalanda University, India; Mme. **Adi Koila Nailatikau**, first lady of Fiji (2009-2015); H.E. **Johnson Toribiong**, president of Palau (2009-2013); Hon. **Patricia Terrazas Baca**, member of Parliament, Mexico; Dr. **Ann Higgins**, president, World Dance Congress, Bahamas; Hon. **Dave Laksono**, member of Parliament, Indonesia; and Hon. **Ross Robertson**, member of Parliament, New Zealand (1987-2014).



—**Sessions on Africa with Commitments to Peace, Youth Education, and Religious Cooperation.** The growing power of Africa—where the average age is 20—brings opportunities for education, jobs, encouraging peace, and protecting the environment, especially against desertification. “It is imperative for us: We must train our youth so that they can resolutely take charge of their destiny,” said H.E. **Brigi Rafini**, executive secretary of the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD) and former prime minister of Niger.

CEN-SAD has 25 member states, with 650 million people covering about half of the continent, and is one of the eight regional economic communities that make up the African Union, now led by Senegal’s President **Macky Sall**.



Later, at an **International Youth Leaders Conference**, leaders from Malawi, Nigeria, Eswatini, Cape Verde, Somalia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Niger discussed the importance for African youth of vocational training and character education. This was followed by the signing of an agreement to raise “youth for peace.”

In a separate assembly, organized by the **Interreligious Association for Peace and Development (IAPD)**, with representatives of the 54 member nations of the African Union, the



issue of African religions and spirituality was discussed. Imboni Dr. **Uzwi-Lezwe Radebe**, founder of the Revelation Spiritual Home in South Africa, joined Most Rev. **Daniel Okoh**, president of the Christian Association of Nigeria; Hon. **Issaka Sourwema**, minister of religious and customary affairs of Burkina Faso; H.E. Rev. **Nevers Mumba**, founder of the National Christian Coalition in Zambia; and Dr. **Nokuzola Mndende**, national chairperson of the Council of African Religion in South Africa to discuss a resolution to protect religious freedom in Africa. This resolution was subsequently signed.



The International Academic Conference, co-hosted by the Hyojeong Academic Foundation and the International Association of Academicians for Peace (IAAP), was held on theme, “The Road to Peace and Unification,” featuring panelists commenting on initiatives toward building a peaceful world that UPF’s co-founders have advanced, particularly in the areas of Korean reunification, science, the women’s movement, the family, education, media, and the economy.

On August 14, a separate program held outside Seoul commemorated the 10th anniversary of the passing of the Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon, “a pioneer of peace and reunification,” in the words of UPF International Director-General Dr. Yun Young-ho. Some 86 floral tributes and numerous messages were sent from world leaders, including North Korean Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un. The message from North Korea read: “Rev. Moon worked for the sake of world peace ... and his achievements and legacy will be remembered for eons. ... We would like to wish prosperity and success to the Family Federation for World Peace and UPF.”

Resolutions

Summit 2022 participants were invited to sign three resolutions: **Resolution for a Universal Peace Charter**; **Resolution to Establish an IAPD-Africa Advisory Council in Partnership with the African Union** (to promote interfaith cooperation within Africa); and a **Declaration on the Universal Value of Religious Freedom** (to protect the absolute right to freedom of religion for all people).

In addition, a **Memorandum of Understanding** was signed between the Community of Sahel-Saharan States (CEN-SAD), UPF, the International Association of Youth and Students for Peace (IAYSP) and the Sunhak Educational Foundation to develop vocational training and character education for African youth. ❖

— Written by UPF International
This report can be found at [UPF.org/article/10294](https://upf.org/article/10294)



“CONFERENCE OF HOPE” FOR UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND RELIGIOUS FREEDOM

Seoul, Korea | November 12, 2022

The greatest difference between open, free societies and authoritarian regimes is respect for human rights and religious freedom, speakers told the “Conference of Hope” for Universal Human Rights and Religious Freedom, sponsored by **The Washington Times Foundation** and *Think Tank 2022*.

The conference, held November 12 in South Korea and live-streamed to millions of viewers globally, concluded with a call to action for people worldwide to sign a **Declaration on the Universal Value of Religious Freedom**. “We call upon all people throughout the world to stand firmly against all forms of intolerance, prejudice, slander, and hate toward believers of our world’s religions,” says the statement.

“When we speak of human rights, the most basic, fundamental right would be religious freedom,” said Dr. **Yun Young Ho**, Chairman of the Steering Committee for *Think Tank 2022*. This right is well-known, he said, noting that freedom of religion was included in Article 18 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, adopted in 1948 by the United Nations General Assembly.

At a time when many religious groups face persecution,

intolerance, discrimination, and violence in many countries, this is “a critical moment in which we must unite, we face the truth, and we move forward courageously based on the principles expressed in the Declaration on the Universal Value of Religious Freedom,” said Conference of Hope co-host **Thomas P. McDevitt**, Chairman of *The Washington Times* and board member of The Washington Times Foundation.

Speakers pointed to persecution of religious groups including Muslim Uyghurs, Tibetan Buddhists, Jews, Christians, Muslims, Ahmadis, Bahais, Jehovah’s Witnesses, Yazidis, Falun Gong, and, more recently, the Family Federation of World Peace and Unification, formerly the Unification Church, in Japan.

The Chinese Communist Party is “at war with all faiths,” said Ambassador **Sam Brownback**, former US senator who served as Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom (2018-2021).

In contrast, “religious freedom is a hallmark of an open society in a democracy” and democracies “must stand for religious freedom for everybody, everywhere, all the time,” he said.

“Why is evil so influential in today’s world? Because it has

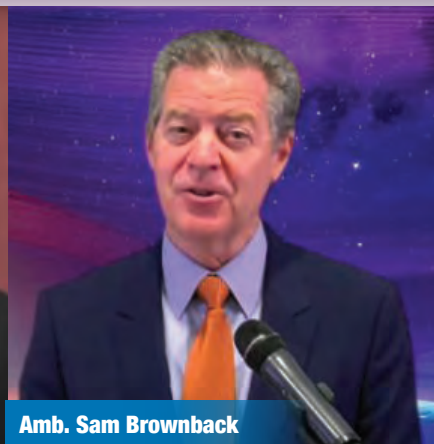




Dr. Yun Young-ho



Mr. Thomas P. McDevitt



Amb. Sam Brownback



Hon. Ján Figel



Mr. Massimo Introvigne



Hon. Newt Gingrich

many allies. Three siblings are the most spread and efficient: Indifference, ignorance and fear (when we don't care, when we do not know, or when we are scared to say or do something)," said Hon. **Ján Figel**, First Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion, European Union (2016-2019). "To overcome these siblings, we must invest more into active engagement, lifelong education, and civil courage. Then a century of hope may come, and a culture of human dignity may prevail over extreme violence, aggressive wars and a century of genocides."

Several speakers addressed the persecution of the Family Federation in Japan that has intensified since the tragic and senseless assassination of former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The Paris-based CAP Freedom of Conscience, a respected UN NGO, filed a formal complaint with the UN Human Rights Committee in Geneva, saying that Japan's "national tragedy" has been turned "into a bizarre narrative that makes the alleged assassin into a victim."

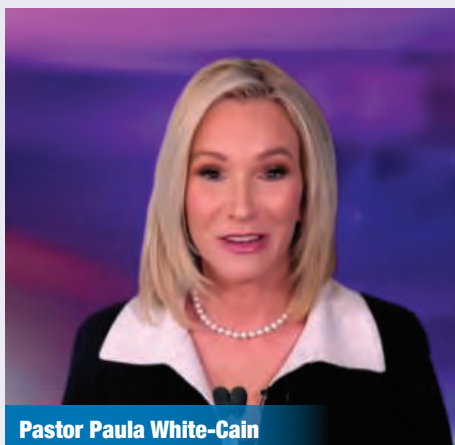
"Religious liberty has been defined by the Holy See as the most violated human right in the 21st century," said Mr. **Massimo Introvigne**, Founder and Managing Director, Center for Studies on New Religions in Italy. "The events in Japan prove that the use of the word 'cult' to discriminate against and persecute peaceful religious movements has now reached intolerable levels and should be stopped. Those who do not

publicly reject and denounce the campaigns against 'cults' are not real friends of religious freedom."

"After World War II, the Soviet Union was aggressively working to bring Japan into the Communist sphere of influence," said Hon. **Newt Gingrich**, U.S. Speaker of the House (1995-1999). Japanese leaders, including Mr. Abe's grandfather Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi, met with Rev. Sun Myung Moon during the Cold War, he said, and "a natural relationship formed between the victory-over-communism movement, Mr. Kishi and many members of the Diet, especially the Liberal Democratic Party."

Today, "we are seeing that many in the [Japanese] media are trying to dissolve the movement in Japan without any legal due process," Mr. Gingrich said.





Pastor Paula White-Cain



Mr. Humphrey Hawksley



Cardinal Kelvin Felix



Prof. W. Cole Durham Jr.

“We are not surprised that so many current and former members of the Liberal Democratic Party and other parties in Japan understood that work with the Universal Peace Federation, co-founded by Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, was so important and collaborated with it,” said Pastor **Paula White-Cain**, former advisor to US President Donald Trump and director of the White House Faith and Opportunity Initiative. She added, “it is good for Japan, good for the Republic of Korea and for America and good for peace in Northeast Asia and the world.”

Former BBC Correspondent **Humphrey Hawksley**, who spoke live from London, recalled how the Family Federation and other NGOs helped him lead a BBC crew into North Korea. “The work the church did in the 1990s helped bring about a peace deal that took the prospect of war off the table on the Korean Peninsula, and it has been doing similar work since,” he said.

Cardinal **Kelvin Felix**, Archbishop emeritus of Castries, Saint Lucia, recalled meeting Japanese volunteers with the Women’s Federation for World Peace in the island nation of Dominica. “For 26 years, they have been conducting art classes at our Teachers’ Training College and in many schools around the country,” while also holding programs to strengthen family unions,” he said.

The Family Federation has had 4,300 of its members in Japan kidnapped and held in forced confinement by highly paid professional “faith

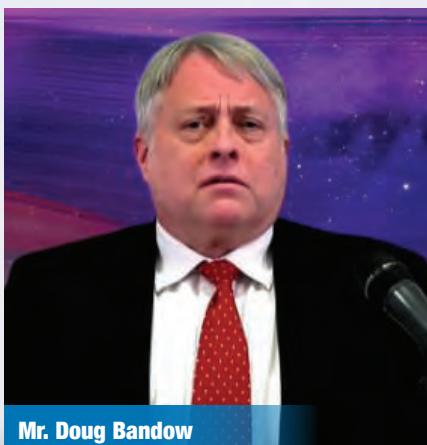
breakers” during the last 45 years, said **Norishige Kondo**, an attorney in Japan who has been serving as legal counsel to the Association of Victims of Kidnappings, Forced Confinement and Conversions. Kidnapped victims have also suffered sexual assault, violence, and threats, he said. In one case, a medical doctor—who had critically ill patients under his care—was held

for more than a year by kidnappers. Another man, Toro Goto, was held for more than 12 years. “Mr. Goto was able to maintain his faith,” Mr. Kondo added, “but 70 to 80 percent of the victims of forced conversions and kidnappings lose their faith due to these inhuman and illegal detentions.”

“Religious freedom has long been called the first freedom, like the famed ‘canary in the mine,’ the violation of which warns us of impending danger elsewhere,” said Mr. **Doug Bandow**, Senior Fellow at Cato Institute, who specializes in foreign policy and civil liberty.

A group called Open Doors lists 50 of the top persecutors of Christians and other faiths, starting with Afghanistan’s Taliban and North Korea’s regime, said Mr. Bandow. “Governments which refuse to protect us as we seek God—or otherwise address the transcendent—are unlikely to protect us as we exercise our conscience in other ways,” he added, noting that eroding of religious freedom leads to denials of free speech, debate, and elections, and breeds terrible conflicts, including terrorism and genocide.

Prof. **W. Cole Durham Jr.**, who directs the International Center for Law and Religion Studies at Brigham Young University’s J. Reuben Clark Law School, recalled how leaders and members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints (LDS) endured decades of persecution, brutal rejection, and bloodshed. Today, the LDS Church is



Mr. Doug Bandow



Mr. Norishige Kondo



a major denomination, and its members are widely accepted. “Standing up under persecution builds a kind of strength, which is its own reward,” he said. Moreover, surviving persecution leads to “an intensified appreciation of the practical importance of the freedom of religion” and “empathy for the suffering of others,” he said.

The Washington Times Foundation, founded in 1984 in Washington, D.C., hosts numerous programs, including its monthly webcast “The Washington Brief,” to gather expert commentary on issues relating to peace and security in the world. *Think Tank 2022*, a project of the Universal Peace Federation, regularly mobilizes its worldwide network to promote dialogue, reconciliation and peace on the Korean Peninsula.

The Washington Times Foundation and *Think Tank 2022* plan to continue sponsoring the “Conference of Hope” programs to promote peace and security globally—and especially on the Korean Peninsula and the Pacific Rim. ❖



Reading of the Declaration on the Universal Value of Religious Freedom

Closing Performance: Samulnori Cheondorak, Art Bul-I Troupe



– Written by
UPF International
This report can be found at
[UPF.org/article/10486](https://upf.org/article/10486)

2ND “CONFERENCE OF HOPE” FOCUSES ON THREATS TO RELIGIOUS FREEDOM AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Seoul, Korea | December 16, 2022

The clashes between authoritarian regimes and free societies are endangering people’s religious freedom and human rights everywhere, speakers told the 2nd “Conference of Hope” for the Realization of a Heavenly Unified World, co-hosted by UPF’s *Think Tank 2022*, the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace (IAPP) and The Washington Times Foundation. The Conference focused on the theme, “Freedom of Religion and Thought as a Universal Right.”

The 2nd “Conference of Hope” was held at the HJ Global Arts Center in Seorak, a city 30 miles east of Seoul, South Korea on December 17. Live streamed to millions of viewers globally, the program concluded with a call for people worldwide to sign a Declaration in Support of Fundamental Human Rights and Human Dignity: Overcoming Threats to Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion. “We call upon all people throughout the world to affirm this declaration and to uphold the universal freedom of thought, conscience and religion, and to stand firmly against all forms of intolerance, prejudice, slander, and hate toward others,” states the declaration.

Think Tank 2022 Forum steering committee co-host Dr. **Yun Young-ho** opened the event by asking the audience to remember that human rights “focus on the family, the God-centered family,” as well as the individual. “It’s time to seriously think about approaching human rights based on a family model rather than focusing solely on the rights of individuals. This concept of ‘family human rights’ will open

up a new chapter in the integration of human rights based on religion or ideology,” he said.

In his welcoming remarks, Hon. **Dan Burton**, IAPP Co-Chair and US Congressman (1983-2013) said, “Freedom of religion can never be taken for granted. It must always be defended and looked after.” On behalf of the event co-host, IAPP, Korean National Assemblyman **Thae Yong-ho**, a former North Korean diplomat who defected to the South, called for peace on the Korean Peninsula. Additional congratulatory messages were sent from about 30 overseas national parliamentarians, members of IAPP, including H.E. **Goodluck Jonathan**, president of Nigeria (2010-2015), who called on everyone to “rise up to this challenge” of bringing about world peace.

Representing IAPD, Bishop **Don Meares**, Senior Pastor of the Evangel Cathedral in the State of Maryland, USA, said that religious freedom is “the human right to think and act upon what one deeply believes, according to the dictates of his or her moral conscience.”

Keynote speeches were given in the first session under the theme of “Universal Human Rights and Freedom of Religion.” The Chinese peoples’ protests against the CCP and its “zero-COVID” policies are the “most widespread and fervent” the CCP has faced since 1989, said Hon. **Mike Pompeo**, US Secretary of State (2018-2021). The world should support these protesters because even if the CCP relaxes its COVID policies, it “will continue to use its tools of oppression to crush

Dr. Yun Young-ho



Hon. Dan Burton



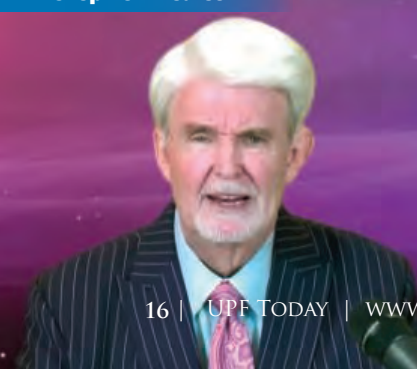
Hon. Thae Yong-ho



H.E. Goodluck Jonathan



Bishop Don Meares



Hon. Mike Pompeo



Amb. Sam Brownback



Hon. Ján Figel'





Amb. Suzan Johnson Cook

Mr. Doug Bandow

Hon. Newt Gingrich

Dr. Michael Pillsbury

religious freedom,” he stated, citing the ongoing suffering of millions of Muslim Uyghurs in Xinjiang and persecution of 100 million Chinese Christians, both Catholics and Protestants.

China is also policing its people with cell phone tracking devices, facial-recognition technology and electronic digital currency that the state can control, said Amb. **Sam Brownback**, US Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom (2018-2021). “If they’re coming after everyone of faith in China, and expanding these technologies to countries around the world, we’re going to soon be confronting this in a much larger sphere,” he said, urging nations to stand up to China, politically and ideologically.

“Victory over communism is possible, and it is inevitable for a more humane 21st century,” said Hon. **Ján Figel’**, First Special Envoy for the Promotion of Freedom of Religion, European Union (2016-2019), who explained that he was named for an uncle who was unjustly killed by Stalin’s Secret Service in occupied Czechoslovakia.

“Freedom of religion is freedom of thought and is an essential foundation of democracy, alongside the freedoms of speech and assembly,” said Amb. **Suzan Johnson Cook**, Ambassador-at-Large for International Religious Freedom at the US State Department (2011-2013).

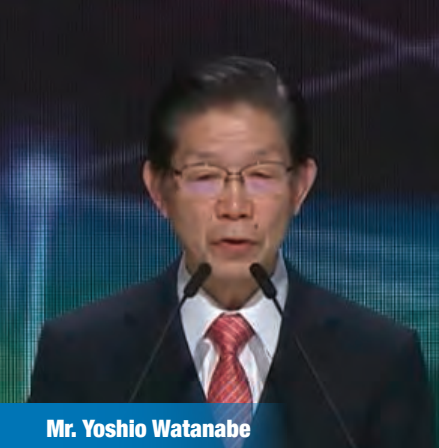
Regimes that veer toward totalitarianism see religion “as a dangerous competitor” and seek to silence or control it, said Mr. **Doug Bandow**, Senior Fellow at the Cato Institute, who specializes in foreign policy and civil liberty. He cited a report from Open Doors (www.opendoorsusa.org), an organization that tracks religious persecution worldwide, highlighting the oppression carried out by the Chinese Communist Party (CCP), Afghanistan’s Taliban, the North Korean regime, the Myanmar military junta, and governments in Eritrea, Cuba, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, and Laos.

In the second session, special lectures and case studies on the theme of “Freedom of Thought and the Threat of Communism” were presented. Hon. **Newt Gingrich**, Speaker of the US House of Representatives (1995-1999) recalled a statement by the chairman of the Japanese communist party, who said, “the decades-long conflict with the Unification Church is rooted in the challenges that come from the Unification related anti-communist international organization, the International Federation for Victory Over Communism.” Speaker Gingrich said “the IFVOC has been a very effective group opposing communism and fighting both for peace and for freedom.”

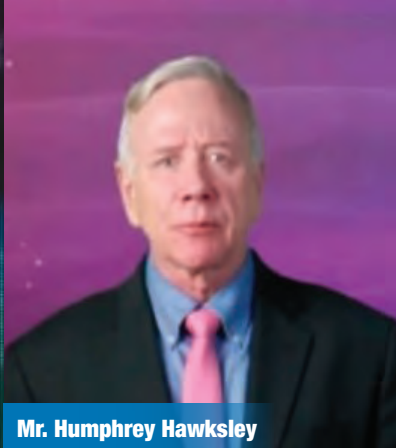
China opposes—and fears—Korean unification because it believes a unified Korea would “align with the United States” and “slow down—or even block—China’s long-term 100-year strategy” to be the world’s global superpower, said Dr. **Michael Pillsbury**, Director of the Center on Chinese Strategy at the Hudson Institute. The CCP strictly controls both party members and churches on religious matters, even as it pursues a five-year plan to rewrite the Bible, change Jesus’ acts, and remake Christianity to match the CCP’s vision, said Dr. Pillsbury, author of “The Hundred-Year Marathon: China’s Secret Strategy to Replace America as the Global Superpower,” the best-selling book about China’s ambitious quest for hegemony.

Several speakers suggested that the CCP and its allies, such as the Japan Communist Party, are trying to exploit the tragic July 8 assassination of LDP leader Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Mr. Abe’s accused assassin is said to have held “a grudge” against the Family Federation over donations his mother made to the church in the early 2000s. The assassin’s alleged “grudge” has been used by the media and political officials to ignite public and legislative attacks on religious donations in general, and the Unification Church in particular.

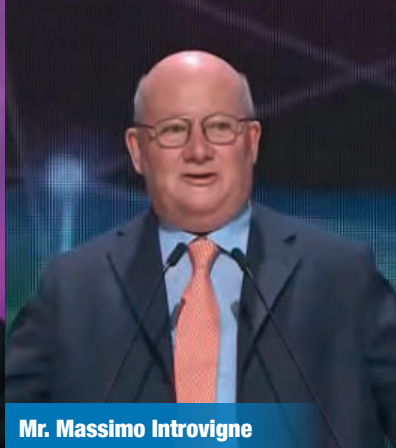




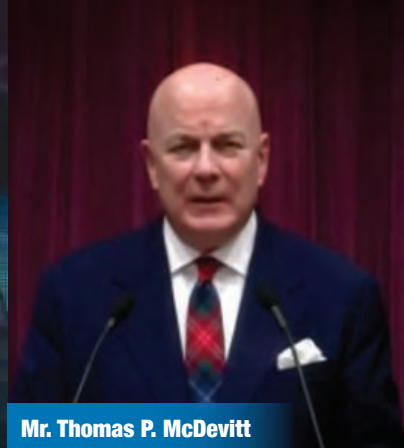
Mr. Yoshio Watanabe



Mr. Humphrey Hawksley



Mr. Massimo Introvigne



Mr. Thomas P. McDevitt

According to Mr. **Yoshio Watanabe**, Vice President of IFVOC, the Japan Communist Party has a long history of clashing with IFVOC, and recently their chairman declared this is the “final war” against the Family Federation and IFVOC. “I pledge that the International Federation for Victory Over Communism will put its life on the line to fight until the end to stop this scheme and to defend Japan’s democracy,” Mr. Watanabe said.

Mr. Abe “was the mastermind of Japan’s new, robust security and foreign policy, pushing for changes to the pacifist constitution, creating a defense force that can also be offensive, and forging alliances, like the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue with India, Australia, and the United States,” said former BBC Correspondent **Humphrey Hawksley**, who has been tracking the Abe assassination and aftermath.

But that obvious geopolitical agenda has not been raised in Japan’s media, and instead there has been “a campaign” against the Unification Church, Mr. Hawksley said. In fact, one analysis of 4,238 major Japanese media articles found that “not one gave a positive angle on the Unification Church,” he said.

Session Three was focused on statements based on the “Peace Charter.” Religious scholar Mr. **Massimo Introvigne**, Founder and Managing Director, Center for Studies on New Religions (CESNUR) based in Italy, said, “Communism does not win all

its wars. Even the mighty Soviet Union was not immortal. The Japanese Militant Atheist League proclaimed to be ‘at war with God.’ Wars against God have one defining feature. They cannot be won.”

“Throughout the world there is now a growing network of concerned citizens, leaders and institutions who are realizing that Japan’s news media is largely driving the social and political lynching of this global religious community. We call upon righteous people throughout the world to raise your voices to Japan’s national leaders in support of fairness, accuracy and human rights,” said Mr. **Thomas P. McDevitt**, Chairman of *The Washington Times* and board member of The Washington Times Foundation.

The conference concluded with a reading and endorsement of the Declaration in Support of Fundamental Human Rights and Human Dignity. IAPP chapters representing 512 IAPP parliamentarians from around the world adopted and proposed a statement. The Declaration, explained Congressman Burton, “raises awareness of the growing threats to human rights, particularly the rights to freedom of religion, conscience, and thought, and asks all people to stand together to overcome threats to these basic freedoms.”

Other international dignitaries who submitted pre-recorded videos or appeared virtually, included: Greyce Elias, Member





of Chamber of Deputies, Brazil; Luis Miranda, Member of Congress, Brazil; Luc-Adolphe Tiao, Prime Minister, Burkina Faso (2011-2014); Filomena Gonçalves, Minister of Health, Cape Verde; Issa Mardo Djabir, Member of Parliament, Chad; Ajay Dutt, Member of Delhi Legislative Assembly, India; Bhubaneswar Kalita, Member of Parliament, India; Hamidou Traore, Vice President, National Assembly, Mali; Geeta Chhetri, Member of Constituent Assembly, Nepal; Ek Nath Dhakal, former Minister of Peace and Reconstruction, Nepal; Emilia Alfaro de Franco, Senator and First Lady, Paraguay (2012-2013); Claude Begle, Member of Parliament, Switzerland (2015-2019); Abdullah Makame, Member of East Africa Legislative Assembly, Tanzania; Silas Aogon, Member of Parliament, Uganda; Erinah Rutangya, Member of Parliament, Uganda; Keith Best, Member of Parliament, UK, (1979-1987); and John

Doolittle, Member of US Congress (2003-2007).

The Universal Peace Federation (UPF), founded in 2005 by Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon, is an NGO in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. The IAPP is one of UPF's pillar organizations, with thousands of members around the world. The Washington Times Foundation, founded in 1984 in Washington, D.C., hosts many programs, including a monthly webcast "The Washington Brief," to gather expert commentary on issues relating to global peace and security. ❖

– Written by UPF International

This report can be found at [UPF.org/article/10521](https://upf.org/article/10521)





2ND “CONFERENCE OF HOPE” DECLARATION IN SUPPORT OF FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN DIGNITY

Overcoming Threats to Freedom of Thought, Conscience and Religion

This Declaration raises awareness of the growing threats to human rights, particularly the rights to freedom of religion, conscience, and thought, and asks all people to stand together to overcome threats to these basic freedoms.

The Declaration builds on the foundation of the “Peace Charter” which was affirmed during the Universal Peace Federation’s World Summit 2022, convened in February, and, subsequently, during the Summit 2022 and Leadership Conference convened in August, and which advocated for a world culture of peace, a world of interdependence, mutual prosperity, and universal values. In addition, during the first Conference of Hope, held in November 12, 2022, a Declaration and a Call for Freedom, Justice and Fairness was affirmed and serves also as a foundation for the following declaration:

Understanding that the freedoms of thought, conscience, and religion are fundamental rights that derive necessarily from the recognition of the dignity and value of each human being; and,

Recognizing that violations of these freedoms are growing throughout the world, impacting the lives of billions of religious believers, ordinary citizens and persons who dissent from majority opinions, who are often victims of prejudice, reputation damage, discrimination, persecution, selective prosecution, hate crimes and even violence; and,

Knowing that Article 1 of the *Charter of the United Nations* affirms “human rights and fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion”; and,

Acknowledging that Article 18 of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights* (UDHR), adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948, states that: “Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion”; and,

Noting that the United Nations *International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights*, in its Article 18 (1), states that: “Everyone shall have the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion”; and,

Appreciating that the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has a Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Religion or Belief to identify and take action against violations of freedoms of religion or belief; and,

Knowing that many national constitutions affirm freedoms of thought, conscience and religion as essential to human dignity and human flourishing; and,

Recalling, that despite these protections written into law, human history is tainted by a tragic history of violations of these ideals, evidenced in a shameful record of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, anti-Catholicism, hate crimes, media bias, textbook bias, and persecution of minorities; and,

Recognizing that violations of these basic rights and freedoms are often closely linked to xenophobia, ethnocentrism, racism, cultural imperialism and ideological extremism; and,

Observing that violations of basic human rights and freedoms are increasing around the world due to a rise in the number of authoritarian governments, theocratic states and extremist ideologies; and

Understanding that Marxist and communist ideologies have been particularly hostile to freedoms of thought, conscience and religion, and have frequently used the instruments of the state to control its populations without respect for basic freedoms; and,

Noting that these violations may derive not only from governments but also from civil society, the media, educational institutions, the corporate world, and among the cultural elite, who, out of ignorance or malice, seek to suppress or punish those who hold opinions or beliefs with which they disagree; and,

Witnessing most recently the rise of religious intolerance in Japan, where members of the Family Federation are currently being targeted unfairly by the media, by communists and left-wing ideologues, and by powerful political interests; and,

Recognizing that there exist forces within Japan, such as the Communist Party, that seek not only to promote intolerance toward religion, but also to weaken Japan's relationship with democratic nations, on the one hand, and strengthen its relationship with communist nations; and

Seeking a world where prejudice, bigotry, hate and violence, toward others have no place, we hereby resolve to:

***Encourage** all peoples, all multilateral organizations, and all governments to uplift and protect the right to freedoms of conscience, thought and religion for each and every individual;*

***Educate** citizens to practice tolerance and mutual respect toward those who may be of different religious, cultural, ethnic, or national backgrounds; and*

***Call** upon governments to affirm and protect the right of each individual to follow their conscience in matters of faith and belief;*

***Reject** the persecution of religious believers, including members of minority traditions or new religious movements;*

***Avoid** the use of language or terminology, by governments, the media and the general public, that demeans, mocks, ridicules, disrespects or slanders the worldviews, values, ideals or beliefs of other citizens;*

***Educate** youth in our homes, our classrooms, and our places of worship to be respectful of all people; and,*

***Appeal** to governments to live up to their constitutions and laws in protecting citizens from slander, discrimination, and violence.*

In closing, and with utmost sincerity, we call upon all people throughout the world to affirm this declaration and to uphold the universal right to freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, and to stand firmly against all forms of intolerance, prejudice, slander, and hate toward others. Furthermore, we call upon all people to affirm this declaration and to honor longstanding traditions of fairness and mutual respect, and to put an end immediately to the unjustified persecution of the members of the Family Federation in Japan, a persecution that has included 4,300 cases of forced confinement and kidnapping, noting that such violations of human rights, rooted in prejudice, religious intolerance, and one-sided, extremist allegations, must have no place in the great nation of Japan.

We call for an end to persecution and oppression through means such as unfairly initiating the right of inquiry for the dissolution of the religious entity and ignoring the freedom of religion mentioned in the constitution of Japan. The current steps by the Japanese government amount to religious persecution and are in direct violation of the universal declaration of human rights and the principle of non-interference by government into religious matters. We also call for an end to religious persecution by the media that has resulted in more than 20,000 negative articles following the death of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Affirmed this day of December 17, 2022, by 512 Parliamentarians from 193 nations representing 5,000
Parliamentarians from the International Association of Parliamentarians for Peace



4TH THINK TANK 2022 FORUM FEATURES FORMER U.S. SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Seoul, Korea | February 26, 2022

The 4th Think Tank 2022 Forum on the peaceful reunification of the Korean peninsula featured the **Hon. Mark Esper**, U.S. Secretary of Defense (2019-2020). Livestreamed from Korea on February 26, 2022 (KST), Secretary Esper delivered a thoughtful analysis of the region's situation and emphasized the need for full cooperation between the U.S., South Korea, and Japan in the face of challenges posed by North Korea and China.

In his welcoming remarks as chair of the organizing committee, **Dr. Yun Young-ho** said the key purpose of the World Summit is to encourage international cooperation between U.S., Japan, Korea, and the 157 nations with diplomatic ties to one or both of the Koreas. The 4th Forum was jointly organized by *The Washington Times* (USA), *Segye Ilbo* (South Korea), and *Sekai Nippo* (Japan) newspapers.



Dr. Yun Young-ho

Citing the example of U.S. President Ronald Reagan's peace through strength as the best foreign policy for America and its allies, Secretary Esper emphasized that the problems on the peninsula do not just concern North and South Korea; the region

Hon. Mark Esper, U.S. Secretary of Defense (2019-2020)



and even the entire globe are impacted. "This issue must be multi-lateralized. [Peaceful reunification] is a global issue," he declared.

In his prepared remarks before an audience of several hundred at the HJ Global Arts Center about an hour east of Seoul, and livestreamed around the world, Secretary Esper praised the

strategy of *Think Tank 2022* as “clear and straightforward: bring together the world’s leading experts from a wide range of professional fields to work together, collaboratively, to pursue improved relations between the Republic of Korea and North Korea.” He expressly thanked UPF and the founder, Dr. Hak Ja Han Moon and *The Washington Times* for “spearheading *Think Tank 2022*’s activities in multiple sectors around the globe.”

To better grasp the prospects for peace and reunification, Secretary Esper touched on the other challenges affecting the region. He was sober in his analysis. “Let me begin by stating clearly, up front, that East Asia will likely be the epicenter for geopolitical instability and great power competition for years to come.” He cited various flash points, including terrorist activities in the Middle East, Russia’s drive to reclaim the former USSR, beginning with Ukraine, Beijing’s strong-arm tactics in Asia, as well as China’s militarization of islands in the South China Sea.

Describing East Asia as the “epicenter of geopolitical instability,” and a “powder keg of enormous global consequence,” he called on the United States to “do its special part by demonstrating resolve and leading from the front.” He recalled how U.S. President Reagan won the Cold War by rebuilding the U.S. military, strengthened our alliances, improved the economy and took a principled stand. A year after he left office, the Berlin Wall fell and two years later, the Soviet Union collapsed.

Secretary Esper said, “America must lead again. It must do so with its values. It must bring along its allies and partners as well. We must once again demonstrate strength, clarity, and resolve. Diplomacy should be our primary emphasis, but it must be buttressed by a strong military, strengthened alliances, and coalitions of democracies. Together—and I emphasize together—we must take principled stands, compromise where it makes sense, and be willing to make short-term sacrifices for the long-term good.”

Secretary Esper outlined a few basic steps.

- The U.S. and its allies and partners must come together and work as a combined force. He specifically called for a closer alliance with India, the Pacific Island countries, and the member states of ASEAN.
- South Korea should join with the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, the Quad, which includes: USA, India, Japan, and Australia. The Quad should be transitioned into the Quint.
- America’s allies and partners should invest at least 2% of their GDP for defense.
- Planning, exercises, and actions must be more frequent, better coordinated, and fully integrated.



“If the world’s democracies are to endure, if freedoms and liberties we now enjoy are to be protected, if the free exercise of speech, of religion, and of assembly are to be preserved, then we must stand together; we must stand up for one another, and we must assist those who are not yet strong enough to resist the autocratic actions of others,” said Secretary Esper.

Regarding the specific situation on the Korean Peninsula, the United States is committed to the goal of the “complete, verifiable, and irreversible denuclearization of the North,” as well as “the elimination of ballistic missiles that can reach South Korea, Japan, and beyond.” To achieve this goal, the United States and its allies are willing to offer “appropriate economic and other incentives—such as sanctions relief—that, over time, will offer a clear and meaningful benefit for doing so as denuclearization is achieved.”

He emphasized the need for strong partnership among the allies, exceptional leadership, and a vision based on our core goals and principles. “With these key ingredients, the United States and our allies in the Indo-Pacific will win this epic 21st-century contest just like we won the Cold War—peacefully—by honoring our principles, defending our beliefs, and acting with resolve to advance freedom and liberty for all.”

After his presentation, Secretary Esper fielded questions from three panels of distinguished experts. **Mr. Thomas P. McDevitt**, Chairman of *The Washington Times*, served as the moderator for the USA panel, which included: **Gen. Bernard Champoux**, Lt. Gen. U.S. Army (ret.); former Commander, 8th Army; former Chief of Staff, UNC/CFC/USFK; **Amb. Joseph DeTrani**, Board of Managers, Sandia National Laboratories; former U.S. Envoy to the Six-Party Talks; and **Ms. Shihoko Goto**, Acting Director of the Asia Program and Deputy Director for Geoeconomics, the Wilson Center.

Mr. Thomas P. McDevitt



Gen. Bernard Champoux



Amb. Joseph DeTrani



Ms. Shihoko Goto





Topics for discussion dealt with the reduction of the U.S. presence on the peninsula, transfer of military operational control from U.S. to South Korea, how to convince China to exert its leverage on North Korea, how to get China and Russia to support the UN sanctions on North Korea, and the new U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy which was recently released by the U.S. administration.

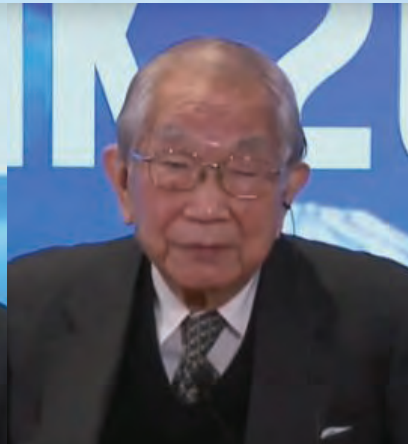
Secretary Esper acknowledged the benefit if South Korea joined the Quad, the alliance composed of India, Japan, Australia and the United States. Mr. McDevitt asked the Secretary his thoughts regarding the Japan-Korea Undersea Tunnel proposed by Rev. Sun Myung Moon. The Secretary praised the project and said that anything that brings the nations together and fosters unity is beneficial and can be considered instruments of goodwill and peace.

The moderator for the Japanese panel was **Mr. Masayoshi Kajikuri**, Chair, Universal Peace Federation, Japan. Mr. Kajikuri introduced **Mr. Masahiro Kuroki**, President of *Sekai Nippo* newspaper, one of the Forum's hosts, and the panelists: **Hon. Yoshinori Ohno**, former Minister of Defense; **Amb. Nobuyasu Abe**, former UN Under-Secretary-General for Disarmament Affairs; and **Mr. Yoji Koda**, Vice-Admiral (ret.), Japan Maritime Self Defense Force.

Discussion questions included the Secretary's thoughts on America's role in keeping the peace in Northeast Asia, and on giving economic support and security assurances to North Korea, which according to Secretary Esper "is a brutal regime that oppresses its people like few others." The Secretary emphasized that America "must lead with our values and maintain a presence in the region." Although admitting the difficulties and failures of the past, "there's no chance of success unless we try." He agreed with Admiral Koda, who



Mr. Masahiro Kuroki



Hon. Yoshinori Ohno



Amb. Nobuyasu Abe



Mr. Yoji Koda





said we need to negotiate but to also be prepared for the worst-case scenario if North Korea doesn't go along with denuclearization.

The moderator for the Korea panel was **Mr. Hwi-taek Jeong**, President, *Segye Ilbo* newspaper. Panelists included: **Gen. Nak-jun Yoon**, 30th Commander of the Republic of Korea Marine Corps; **Dr. Heung-kwang Kim**, representative of North Korea Intellectuals Solidarity (NKIS); and **Dr. Yeoul-soo Kim**, chief of Security Strategy, Korea Institute for Military Affairs (KIMA).

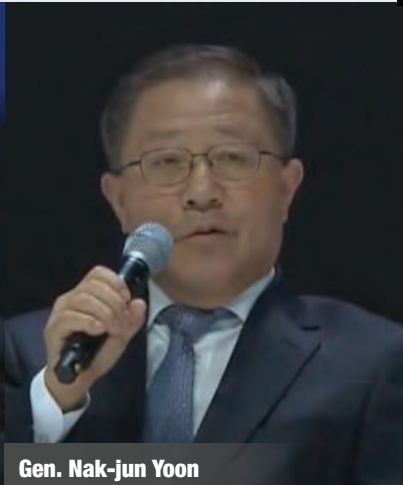
With Korea's presidential election scheduled for March 9, General Yoon asked Secretary Esper to describe the preferred qualities of a candidate. The secretary said the person must clearly understand the need for the U.S.-ROK security alliance and that diplomacy must be the preferred approach for the peaceful reunification of the peninsula. Secretary Esper said the candidate must demonstrate strength and resolve when dealing with North Korea, and recognize that the problems on the peninsula concern not only North and South Korea, but the region and world.

The 4th Think Tank Forum concluded with panelists expressing the unanimous view that world leaders and experts representing USA, Korea, and Japan should continue meeting on a regular basis and seek innovative ways to cooperate closely on regional and international issues. ❖

*This report can be found online at
[UPF.org/article/10012](https://upf.org/article/10012)*



Mr. Hwi-taek Jeong



Gen. Nak-jun Yoon



Dr. Heung-kwang Kim



Dr. Yeoul-soo Kim



5TH THINK TANK FOCUSES ON KOREAN UNIFICATION

Seoul Korea | August 15, 2022

The Fifth *Think Tank 2022* Forum was held at the HJ Global Arts Center on August 15 and featured H.E. Dr. **Mohamed El Baradei**, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (1997-2009) and vice president of Egypt (2013) (photo from his video message); Hon. **Mike Pompeo**, U.S. secretary of state (2018-2021); and Gen. **Lim Ho-yeong**, deputy commander of the ROK/US Combined Forces Command (2016-2017).

As the discussions centered on the issue of peace on the Korean Peninsula, Dr. El Baradei emphasized that denuclearization can be achieved only through dialogue and other forms of cooperation and trust-building.

Dr. El Baradei mentioned that UPF has sought to promote ties between the Korean people to reinforce and encourage official contacts, and that this is the path we ought to continue. In short, we need a diplomatic initiative that primarily focuses on denuclearization and security measures, with various aspects of cooperation as a key component.

The DPRK nuclear weapons program, which has been long in the making, reflects in part its protracted and deep sense of insecurity, most notably towards the U.S. Progress has been made, particularly through the six party talks and more recent meet-

ings held between former U.S. President Donald Trump and Chairman Kim Jong Un. However, the immediate challenge is how to restart the dialogue between the U.S. and DPRK, which is required for any breakthrough to occur.

Dr. El Baradei concluded by affirming that “our ultimate aim remains a comprehensive dialogue between the U.S. and DPRK undergirded and supported by regional powers, particularly China in view of its intimate and active involvement in all aspects of the conflict and its future outcomes. The tragedy is that we know what needs to be done, how to denuclearize the peninsula, and achieve peace. We also know that peace is key to move towards the reunification of a people divided and separated for seven decades.” ❖

Written by Alan Sillitoe, UPF Europe and Middle East





H.E. Dr. Mohamed El Baradei



Gen. Lim Ho-yeong



Hon. Mike Pompeo



2022 REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: AFRICA, JAPAN, KOREA AND SOUTH AMERICA



UPF-Congo Brazzaville Observes UN International Day of Peace.



UPF-Africa delegation meets with Ghana's Speaker of Parliament, Rt. Hon. Alban Bagbin, on March 29, 2022.



UPF-Japan Holds East Tokyo Forum for Peace and Security on January 16, 2022.



IAAP-Korea hosts 26th Peace Forum, "Inter-Korean Constitution of Social Integration and Unification of Korea".



An International Leadership Conference was held on September 2, 2022 in Bolivia. Two days later, Peace Road 2022-Bolivia was held. There were approximately 700 participants including cyclists, pedestrians, firefighters, volunteers, and others.

2022 REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: EUROPE AND THE BALKANS



The Balkan Leadership Conference of November 11, 2022 was held jointly by UPF-Europe and Middle East and the Podgorica Club of former heads of state of the Balkan Peninsula.



UPF-Austria hosts Albanian Peace Council Launch on July 7, 2022 with 15 new Ambassadors for Peace.



Hundreds Bike for Peace at "Berlin Peace Road" on July 27, 2022.

2022 REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS: NORTH AMERICA AND ASIA PACIFIC



UPF-Canada Toronto Region holds Ambassadors for Peace Awards Banquet on October 23, 2022.

Universal Peace Federation – USA
UPF is an NGO in General Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the UN
Tel: 202-636-3238 • Email: office@upf-usa.org

The 139th Interfaith Prayer for the Nation and the World
1:00 PM (EDT) Thursday, December 1, 2022
Register in advance for this meeting: Password is **iapd**
<https://us-upf-org.zoom.us/joining/register?ZUurubdr1v6E3Qh0Mvte0G1wE1CvYf0a>
Facebook: <https://us.upf.org/139>

Presenters:



Rev. Helen Cumming
ReddipZee



Rev. Myrna Hirst
Minister at the Salt Lake
Center for Spiritual Living



Sheikh Ghassan Moneer
Intermittent Dialogue Facilitator



Program Moderator:
Archbishop George A.
Scallone, Jr.
Imam / Temple African American
Catholic / Congregator,
CHRY: IAPD - USA



Dr. Michael Jenkins
President, UPF International
Chair: UPF – North America



Mr. Raymond McCready
IAPD Program Coordinator
Executive Director
UPF: USA – West Region

IAPD-USA convenes weekly Interfaith Prayer Programs. The 139th week of the program was held on December 1, 2022.


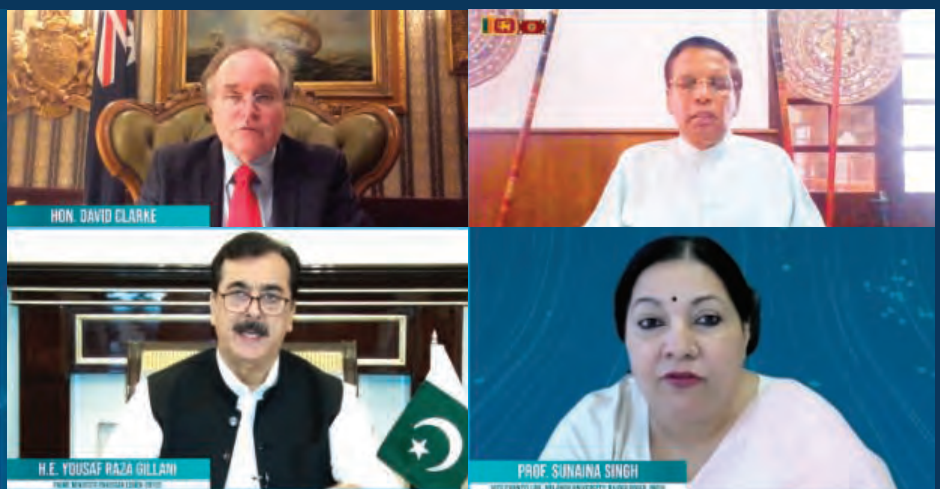


IAPD-USA holds Webinar: “Challenges Amid Success in South Korea” on May 31, 2022

UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION - ASIA PACIFIC

ILC2022
WEBINAR SERIES
INTERNATIONAL LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

“CONTEMPORARY CHALLENGES TO PEACE AND GLOBAL ORDER: THE SEARCH FOR SOLUTIONS”

UPF-Asia Pacific convenes ILC2022 Webinar on April 30, 2022.

Dialogue and Alliance

Dialogue and Alliance is a journal
of the *Universal Peace Federation*.

Its purpose is to increase
interreligious cooperation
and to promote world peace.



For more information visit:
UPF.org/resources/dialogue-and-alliance

UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION

International

220 White Plains Road, Suite 530
Tarrytown, NY 10591 • USA
Phone: 1 914 631-1331
Email: info@upf.org

Office of UN Relations

866 United Nations Plaza, Suite 529
New York, NY 10017 • USA
Phone: 1 212 588-1802
Email: unoffice@upf.org