

OCTOBER 2009

# UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE



The United Nations International Day of Peace  
Global Citizen of Peace  
Healing a Nation: Afghanistan

A PUBLICATION OF THE UNIVERSAL PEACE FEDERATION (UPF)

## FROM THE PUBLISHER

Recently, the world's attention has been focused on the General Assembly of the United Nations with its heated debates about disarmament and the environment. The Universal Peace Federation was founded on the simple but profound premise that lasting solutions to all human problems – including poverty, hunger, and disease as well as ongoing conflict, the economic crisis, and threats to the environment – cannot come by political and economic efforts alone, however well intended. We absolutely need to include the spiritual dimension, and in particular, to acknowledge the reality that we are all “One Family Under God.”

As the preamble to the UNESCO Constitution states, “wars begin in the minds of men,” and that is where the solutions must begin – in the minds and hearts of all people, not just in the chambers of the United Nations and national assemblies. This principle guides all the activities of the Universal Peace Federation.

This issue reports on observances of the UN International Day of Peace in 40 nations. This year's theme, established by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, was nuclear disarmament. UPF held a number of disarmament seminars to mark the day, but we also conducted service programs, interfaith gatherings, poetry contests and sports competitions all aimed at bringing a more personal element into the celebration. During the UN General Assembly week, UPF also held top-level meetings with the heads of a number of delegations to the United Nations, including Kenya, Tanzania, Palau, and Nepal.

Elsewhere, we bring you reports of the Peace Cup soccer competition in Spain, intercultural events in several nations, and details about the Global Peace Convention in the Philippines in December. As we go to press, our thoughts are with the victims of flooding in the Philippines and Taiwan, and plans are underway to join relief efforts.

This issue of *UPF Today* also covers the inspiring story of our founder's autobiography, *As a Global Citizen of Peace*, which has become a best-seller in Rev. Sun Myung Moon's homeland of Korea and has been released in Europe and the United States.

We are happy to announce first Arabic-language edition of *UPF Today*, which is now available in all the major languages of the UN: English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, and Arabic, with sister publications in Italian, Korean, and Japanese.



**Dr. Thomas G. Walsh,  
Secretary General,  
Universal Peace  
Federation**

## UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

**UPF Chairman**  
Chung Hwan Kwak

**UPF Co-Chair**  
Hyun Jin Moon

**Publisher**  
Thomas G. Walsh

**Executive Editor**  
Michael Balcomb

**Editor**  
Joy Pople

**Designer**  
Kensei Ito

*UPF Today* is the membership magazine of the Universal Peace Federation, founded by Rev. and Mrs. Sun Myung Moon. Envisioning peace as a state of harmonious interdependence among individuals, families, nations and peoples, UPF advocates constructive and original practices that contribute to achieving a unified world of peace, the hope of all ages. The magazine offers a forum for Ambassadors for Peace fostering human development, good governance, public service, and collaborative peace efforts involving religions, nations and nongovernmental organizations.

Copyright © 2009, 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 Special Consultative Status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations.

Universal Peace Federation  
155 White Plains Road, Suite 222  
Tarrytown, NY 10591, USA  
[www.upf.org](http://www.upf.org)

Cover photo:  
UPF-Georgia celebrates the  
United Nations International  
Day of Peace

## CONTENTS

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>3 One Day for Peace</b><br><i>by Joy Pople, UPF-International</i>                        | <b>14 Mindanao Tribal Leaders' Summit</b><br><i>by Larry Moffitt, Global Peace Festival</i> |
| <b>3 UPF Peace Declaration</b><br><i>by UPF-International</i>                               | <b>15 The Colors of Peace</b><br><i>by Alan Wilding, UPF-Canada</i>                         |
| <b>4 UPF Seminar on Disarmament</b><br><i>by Carolyn Handshin, UPF-Europe</i>               | <b>16 Russia Hosts International Youth</b><br><i>by Dmitry Oficerov, UPF-Eurasia</i>        |
| <b>10 Global Citizen of Peace</b><br><i>by Michael Balcomb, UPF-International</i>           | <b>18 Practical Plans to Help Afghans</b><br><i>by Marilyn Angelucci, UPF-Afghanistan</i>   |
| <b>11 Bringing Cultures Together in Japan</b><br><i>by Shunsuke Uotani, UPF-Japan</i>       | <b>20 Leadership Seminar in West Africa</b><br><i>by Paterne Zinsou, UPF-Benin</i>          |
| <b>12 Sports, Peace, and Family Celebrated in Spain</b><br><i>by Mark Brann, UPF-Europe</i> | <b>22 Global Peace Convention</b><br><i>by Daniel Bessell, Global Peace Festival</i>        |



# ONE DAY FOR PEACE

By Joy Pople, UPF-International

Every year, September 21<sup>st</sup> is celebrated around the world as the United Nations International Day of Peace. This year, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon has stressed the importance of disarmament, and chapters of the Universal Peace Federation have been holding programs to promote this and other important peace goals.

Of course, peace is not something that happens “out there” as a process led by international institutions and organizations. UPF recognizes the greater importance of a change in the human heart and mind, reflecting the insight of the UN’s second Secretary-General, Dag Hammarskjöld, that “without a spiritual rebirth, civilization is doomed.” This was a day to pause to reflect how we can make a personal and direct contribution to peace.



## UPF PEACE DECLARATION FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE 2009

On the occasion of and in support of the International Day of Peace, September 21, 2009, for which UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon gave the motto “We Must Disarm,” with a focus on nuclear disarmament and non-proliferation, the Universal Peace Federation offers the following affirmations:

First, human conflict and the resort to arms and weapons have their roots in the breakdown of human relationships and the human failure to live up to our highest ideals and aspirations. Violence is a symptom of a moral and spiritual failure. If we are to eliminate violence and weapons of mass destruction, we must commit ourselves to a moral and spiritual awakening.

Second, lasting peace is secured not only through the reduction of nuclear arsenals but, more importantly, by the growth in solidarity among the whole human family and a recognition that we are all brothers and sisters who share a common spiritual and moral heritage. We are one family under God. It is this understanding that gives rise to the collective will to put an end to violent conflict.

Third, being the basic building block of society, the family serves as the primary school of ethics and should be the school where we learn to love, respect, and serve others. By strengthening marriage and family, we can educate our children to respect all people, thereby establishing a culture of peace. Once humanity learns to resolve conflicts without weapons, massive resources can be reallocated for human development.

Fourth, laws alone cannot change the culture of violence. Transformation must be undergirded by substantial educational programs aimed at promoting character education, conflict resolution, and a culture of service and peace. Men and women who are taught to fulfill their moral obligations and responsibilities toward others will respect and live for the greater good and fulfillment of others.

The Universal Peace Federation thereby resolves to join the United Nations to declare September 21st as the International Day of Peace.

*International Day of  
Peace in Nepal*



# UPF SEMINAR ON DISARMAMENT

UN OFFICE, GENEVA

*By Carolyn Handshin, UPF-Europe*

The Universal Peace Federation in joint sponsorship with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the UN in Geneva, and the Geneva Interfaith Intercultural Alliance (GIIA) organized an important seminar on disarmament at the United Nations in Geneva on September 23. It brought together government, UN, and NGO experts in the field of disarmament with the Model UN

Interreligious Youth Council of GIIA, including nearly 70 students from Lausanne and Geneva universities.

Responding to Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon's call "WMD (we must disarm)" on this year's International Day of Peace, this interactive program was launched in order to educate about current issues of disarmament, non-proliferation, and arms control in an attempt to encourage further discussions and actions from

# UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE



civil society—especially through interreligious and intercultural cooperation.

Conference Chair Mr. Heiner Handschin, Secretary General of UPF-Europe Region 2, opened the meeting by explaining about this year's chosen theme, whose abbreviation also refers to weapons of mass destruction. The world is unreasonably over-armed, and it becomes increasingly unacceptable that the world's governments are spending more in recent years than ever for defense and national security purposes (US \$1.5 trillion).

The keynote opening speech was given by H.E. Amb. Dian Triansyah Djani, former President of the Trade and Development Board of the UN Conference on Trade and Development, current Vice President of the Human Rights Council (2009-2010), and candidate for Chairman of the Conference on Disarmament, the UN's sole disarmament negotiating body that is located in Geneva.

He described the Indonesian situation as the nation with the largest Muslim population. He noted that GIIA and its Model UN Interreligious Council correspond well to the spirit of Indonesia with its great tradition of interreligious tolerance and peaceful coexistence of diverse religions and ethnic communities.

In contrast to government perspectives, Ms. Anisha Pabari, Hindu delegate of the GIIA Model UN Interreligious Council, voiced the hopes of civil society that a consensus to substantially dismantle weapons arsenals will soon be reached. Leaders need to replace these stockpiles with arms of righteousness, she said, and that will uproot insecurity and mistrust. Youth leaders, especially from the interreligious sphere, can speed up this process by being catalysts of interreligious, intercultural peace and cooperation among communities.

The Deputy Secretary General of the Conference on Disarmament, Mr. Jarmo Sareva, who is the new Director of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in Geneva and a renowned expert on disarmament issues, gave a very somber but realistic picture of the deadlocks in the Conference on Disarmament and related bodies during the past decades and the need to re-launch and re-think these important issues. He described signs of "fresh air" coming into the debate, especially through the new US administration and an increasing interest of civil society in disarmament matters.

The Deputy Director of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research, the main co-sponsor of the event, Mrs. Christiane Agboton Johnson explained very thoroughly the issue of "small arms" as the "weapons that are constantly used all around the world" and by their massive numbers have become weapons of mass destruction.

She traced the resolutions and treaties of the UN and UN Institute for Disarmament Research programs to harness proliferation and eliminate massive amounts of small weapons over the decades. However, many difficulties remain, especially due to an absence of standards in the national reports on disarmament issues. She expressed appreciation for GIIA's support for their mandate and discussed further cooperation.

Ms. Susi Snyder, Secretary General of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, discussed ways civil society can influence the issue of disarmament. She gave examples of successful campaigns by Global Zero, the International Campaign to Abolish Nukes, and Mayors for Peace.

Representing UPF International, Rev. Dr. Joong Hyun Pak, Dean of the World Peace Academy in Seoul, Korea, connected the audience to the troubling reality of the present nuclear standoff in his homeland of South Korea and the need for religious and civil society leaders to work together on disarmament issues. He said that the UN needs to be involved in places where disarmament is an issue.

If the Demilitarized Zone at the 38th parallel that divides the Korean peninsula can be converted into a Peace Zone and Peace Park, it could become the seat of proposed new UN agencies such as a peace council, family peace council, disarmament council, and even the women's agency that is under discussion.

The concluding remarks were given by Minister Jesus Domingo, Minister of Disarmament and Humanitarian Affairs of the Philippine Mission to the UN in Geneva and co-founder of GIIA. Minister Domingo emphasized the need for civil society to become more involved in disarmament and other issues that have been hidden in the halls of the UN.

The Model UN Interreligious Council and interreligious cooperation for peacebuilding in general will increase security and mutual trust among communities and other stakeholders. He emphasized the need for creative citizen initiatives and people becoming better informed so they can speak knowledgeably about some aspect of the broad field of disarmament, such as reducing small weapons.

After a lively debate, eight youth delegates of seven different faiths received Interfaith Ambassador for Peace certificates and encouragement to continue cooperating beyond barriers for lasting peace in the world.

*Leaders need to replace these [weapons arsenal] stockpiles with arms of righteousness.*

— ANISHA PABARI



*Top: Dr. Joong Hyun Pak presents an Interfaith Ambassador for Peace certificate.*

*Bottom: Panel of speakers at the disarmament seminar*





*International Day of Peace in  
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania*



*It is in the minds of  
men that the defenses  
of peace must be  
constructed.*

— UNESCO CONSTITUTION

In addition to the conference at the UN headquarters in Geneva, UPF chapters in other nations organized events on the Day of Peace.

## DISARMAMENT

### London, England



Professor Bhupendra Jasani from the Department of War Studies of Kings College spoke about the importance of independent verification in disarmament negotiations, and testified about the work of the European Satellite Centre for arms control and confidence monitoring and crisis management. This organization successfully prodded the UK and the US to publicly acknowledge the importance of developing new techniques and new institutions. "If there is to be real confidence in the disarmament process, it must start based on accurate information and understanding," Jasani said. He demonstrated the

techniques used to distinguish between a nuclear power station used for energy purposes and one used for enriching plutonium for a nuclear bomb.

Vijay Mehta, Chair of World Disarmament Campaign and Action for UN Renewal, spoke on the potential for partnership between the United Nations and civil society to promote a world free of nuclear weapons. Moeen Yaseen, founder of Global Vision 2000, an international Islamic think tank, spoke on "The Military Influence on our Global Economy and the Need for a Paradigm Shift."

### Delhi, India

Ms. Shalini Dewan, Director of the United Nations Information Centre for India and Bhutan, spoke on "Peace and Non-Violence" at a large celebration at the UN Conference Hall. The event also included inter-faith prayers and a symbolic "surrender of weapons" by students of the local Springdales School. Other speakers included Ambassador K.V. Rajan, President of the Association of Indian Diplomats, who spoke on the "Vision of a World Without Weapons," and Dr. Mohini Giri, chair of the Guild of Service, who spoke of the role of women in peace making. The guest of honor was the Hon. Salman Khurshid, Minister of Minority Affairs in the Indian government.



## Yaoundé, Cameroon



Mrs. Anne Nsang Nwain, Director of the UN Information Centre, found herself at the center of a heated debate after some of the audience expressed their disappointment that the UN suffered from inherent weakness and incapacity to solve human problems and bring security to the world. Quoting from the Secretary-General's message, Mrs. Nwain reminded the audience that every nation and all individuals must help the United Nations if there is to be a world of peace, free of nuclear arms.

## Dublin, Ireland



Ian White, Director of the International and Political Programme and former CEO of the Glencree Peace and Reconciliation Centre, an institution that has been deeply involved in facilitating the process of peacemaking in Northern Ireland, pointed out the key issues that led to the 1998 Good Friday agreement and eventual halt to the violence in Northern Ireland. Among the issues he covered was the importance of getting leaders of the extremes to participate in the peace discussions. Without dealing with the extreme elements in any conflict, it is virtually impossible to ensure long-term peace.

## Buenos Aires, Argentina

Building off the preamble of the UNESCO Constitution, "Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed," the program in Argentina focused on the ways in which individuals and institutions could "disarm" themselves. The event featured prayers for peace and the poet who won the Day of Peace Poetry Contest, Concepcion Rodriguez Garaventa, with her poem "Cada Cual," which challenged all to feel the "fire of life, fire of love, and fire of peace."

## Kinshasa, DR Congo

In one of the most troubled nations in Africa, political and religious leaders gathered to call for a national end to violence. Following the readings of the UN and UPF Peace Resolutions, UPF-Congo Secretary General Michel Futila di Mayeko gave a thought-provoking presentation on the topic of the "Cause and Resolution of Conflict." The event was broadcast on Radio TV Lisanga and Canal Congo Television and covered by two press organizations, the Agence Congolaise de Presse and Référence Plus.

## INTERFAITH PRAYERS

### Munich, Germany

Catholics, Lutherans, Evangelicals, Sufis, Christian Scientists, Muslims, and Unificationists gathered for prayer and meditation for peace in the world. A representative of each tradition gave a short statement on their view of peace and offered prayers to heaven.

### Sao Paulo, Brazil

Representatives of the Commercial Association of Sao Paulo in partnership with the Antakarana Institute, the United Religions Initiative, the Universalist World Forum, the Cultural Foundation of

*Without dealing with the extreme elements in any conflict, it is virtually impossible to ensure long-term peace.*

— IAN WHITE



the Brazilian Army, the Brazilian Association of the International UN Peace Forces, and the Universal Peace Federation gathered at the Peace Monument to celebrate the UN International Peace Day.



Four special guests were awarded the Peace Monument Trophy: Cardinal Dom Odilo Scherer, Archbishop of Sao Paulo; General Antônio Esper, Southeast Region Military Commander; Rabbi Michel Schlegninger of the Israelite Congregation of Sao Paulo; and Sheik Jihad from the World Association of Muslim Youth.

## Lima, Peru

Celebrations took place in the Miguel Grau Hall, a historical meeting room in the Peruvian Congress. Representatives Dr. Jhony Lescano and Dr. Margarita Sucari offered their thoughts about peace, along with former Minister of Defense Dr. Antero Flores Araoz. They were joined by Anglican Bishop William Godfrey, Sheik Kalil Mohammed, and Methodist Bishop Jorge Bravo.

In the city of Puno, celebrations started off with a march for peace. Representatives from the Catholic church, the Mormons, and Hare Krishnas took part in a candle-lighting ceremony. Ambassador for Peace certificates were presented to the Regional Vice President, Lic. Mauro Justo Vilc; the Mayor of Puno, Engineer Luis Butrón Castillo; and the Rector of Altiplano University, Martha Tapia.

## Sydney, Australia

Biannca Pace, Director of the Ministry of Peace, offered words of welcome, followed by an aboriginal purification ceremony. Then Rev. Enrique Ledesma, Director of UPF-New South Wales, read quotes by notable peacemakers about the essence of peace.

Throughout the day, many colorful groups from various cultural and religious traditions danced and sang as hundreds of people took time out from their busy schedules to breathe in the atmosphere of peace and tranquility.

## Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire

After invocations by two spiritual leaders, Imam Drame Moussa and Rev. Mambo Luc, Mr. Gabriel Likane, former Secretary General of UPF-Cote d'Ivoire, gave a presentation on the Five Principles of Peace.

## SERVICE AND CULTURAL PROGRAMS

### Moscow, Russia

A Play Soccer Make Peace program brought together youth from Moscow State University, Ivanovo City, and the municipality of Lefortvo. Such tournaments help expand the culture of peace by promoting good sportsmanship and involving players in socially important projects. Numerous programs took place in cities throughout Russia: Nizhny Novgorod, Chelyabinsk, Serov, Yekaterinburg, Sverdlovsk, Pervouralsk, Pokrovskoye, Revda, Tver, and St. Petersburg.

### Hong Kong, China

In Sun Yat-sen Plaza at Hong Kong University several guests of honor spoke on "Peace-building in Today's World": Professor Chow Shew-Ping, Pro-Vice-Chancellor and Vice-President of University Relations, and Mr. Choosin Ngaothepitak, Head of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees Hong Kong and Macau office. A peace bell was rung, followed by one minute of silence.

### Tbilisi, Georgia

UPF-Georgia and the Ministry of Health of the Abkhazia region held a joint celebration. Among the guests were Manana Kutateladze, Chief of Staff



Australia



Russia



# UN INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE



of the Deputy Head of the Georgia Parliament, and Vakhtang Kolbaya, former vice speaker of the Georgia Parliament. Dalila Khorava, the Minister of Health of Abkhazia, and Konstantin Krylov, Secretary General of UPF-Russia, lit torches of peace symbolizing the exchange of hearts between the peoples of Georgia and Russia. The program ended with a beautiful concert by young singers and dancers and a ceremonial release of doves.

## Asunción, Paraguay

The International Day of Peace was celebrated in the Bicameral Chamber of the National Congress with more than 180 persons in attendance. UPF-Paraguay together with the Foundation for Global

Peace-Paraguay, the Legislative Office of Prof. Dr. Dionisio Ortega, the Law Students Center of the Catholic University, Youth on the Move, the National Commission for Cooperation with UNESCO, and the United Nations Information Centre held a forum in which various institutions, government bodies, and NGOs participated.

Participants signed a manifesto that UNESCO created for Nobel Peace Prize winners: "I promise that in my daily life, in my family, in my work, in my community, in my country and in my region I will respect every form of life, reject every form of violence, share with others, listen in order to understand, conserve the planet, and contribute to the development of the community."



*Photos from left:  
Czech Republic, Venezuela,  
Côte d'Ivoire*



# GLOBAL CITIZEN OF PEACE

By Michael Balcomb, UPF-International

Celebrations of publication of Rev. Sun Myung Moon's best-selling autobiography, *As a Peace-Loving Global Citizen* continue to take place around the world, with the latest held in Washington DC on October 1st. More than 1500 political, media and community leaders gathered for the festive occasion. Thanking the audience, Dr. Moon said that the book represented a small account of his life's work, "still incomplete, to serve and honor God and to bring about His ideal world of peace upon the earth."

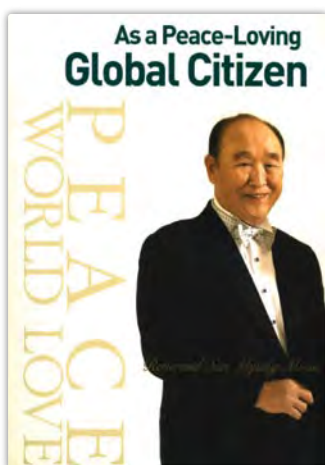
*Global Citizen* has been on the best-seller lists in Korea for several months. His life story is, in a way, the story of modern Korea, tracking the near-miraculous rise from colonial oppression, civil and cold wars, and emergence on the world stage as a leading force in the modern world.

The book contains many insights into Sun Myung Moon's youth in what is now North Korea, and his early encounters with the heroes of the underground movement to resist the Japanese occupation, a movement he was later to join while a student in Tokyo. We see something of his character in an unflinching determination in times of great trouble, including multiple imprisonments, torture

and abandonment. Through it all, however, the tone remains upbeat and hopeful. "I never prayed from weakness, or asked God for special help," he reflects on his time in a North Korean concentration camp, "I only determined all the more that I would comfort him on behalf of all his suffering children, and that I would never rest until he could see his ideal realized."

The Washington DC event reserved particular attention for Rev. Moon's account of coming to the United States in 1971 at a time of moral crisis and confusion for America and how he appealed to Richard Nixon to heal the country at the height of the Watergate crisis, a bold move that set in motion a long trail of political opposition and controversy that has continued until this day.

Nevertheless, Dr. Moon sees a bright future for America and the world. "Humankind is entering a new providential era, a time when the earth will be governed directly by a new heavenly way and new heavenly law," he said in his keynote address. "It is the new providential era where we can enter the new Kingdom of Heaven by inheriting God's standard of heart, based on His original nature."



*I determined I would comfort God on behalf of all His suffering children, and that I would never rest until He could see His ideal realized.*

— SUN MYUNG MOON



# BRINGING CULTURES TOGETHER IN JAPAN

By Shunsuke Uotani, UPF-Japan

In a traditionally homogenous society, UPF-Japan is building links between Japanese people and the growing numbers of immigrants for the sake of global understanding.

A park clean-up and concert in the Mie Prefecture brought together 180 Japanese as well as people from the Philippines, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and Moldova. The May 17 event took place at the Ishigaki-ike Park in Suzuka, a city in the central part of Japan. After the host explained the purpose of the event, cleaning supplies were distributed and participants divided into groups for cleaning. It did not take long before bags were filled up with trash.

“Our children are our future,” a Filipino woman said as she and her children picked up trash. “Service projects are good opportunities for us to work with the Japanese.”

“This project is a great opportunity for cooperation in Suzuka, which aims for multicultural co-existence,” said the General Manager of the city’s Foreign Citizen Communication Office, Mr. Katsumi Tanabe. Co-hosts for the project included the Universal Peace Federation, United Filipinos for Peace and Advancement, and the Suzuka Kameyama Catholic community.

Japan may seem an unlikely setting for reconciliation among people from distant lands, but in the historic port city of Yokohama Africans and descendants of the African Diaspora embraced with a heart of oneness during this International Year of Reconciliation declared by the United Nations.

The “African Soul Party” on June 20 was hosted by the Africa, America, and Asia Reconciliation

Group led by a Beninese Ambassador for Peace in Japan, Mr. Emmanuel Gbevegnon, and was sponsored by UPF-Japan. Nearly 70 people, including Africans and Americans living in Japan as well as Yokohama citizens, participated.

Hon. Jean Claude Bordes, Chargé d’Affaires of the Embassy of the Republic of Haiti and an Ambassador for Peace, explained how his country was established by Africans brought to the Western hemisphere as slaves. He described the challenges of reconciliation between the Africans on the continent and those of African descent scattered throughout the world

Then, Rev. Cheryl Jackson, pastor of the Atsugi Community Christian Fellowship and an Ambassador for Peace, said, “We need the courage to apologize and forgive. If everybody in the world shared such heart, I am sure there will be peace.”

After gospel music by her church’s choir, a reconciliation ceremony took place. Representing the people of Africa, who sold their fellow Africans as slaves, Mr. Gbevegnon conveyed his apologies to Rev. Jackson as a representative of the African Diaspora. She expressed her forgiveness and the two of them embraced. African drummers and dancers performed during the social gathering afterwards.

“It is our pleasure to support a reconciliation event during this year of reconciliation,” commented Secretary General of UPF-Japan’s Peace Diplomats Forum, Mr. Shigenari Kato. “We can promote a better society and create a peaceful world if we can ‘love our enemy,’ as Jesus Christ told us, and express the heart of forgiveness and reconciliation.”

*This project is a great opportunity for cooperation in Suzuka, which aims for multicultural co-existence*

— KATSUMI TANABE



# SPORTS, PEACE, AND FAMILY CELEBRATED IN SPAIN

By Mark Brann, UPF-Europe

In town for the finals of the fourth Peace Cup, the premier international club football competition he launched in Korea six years ago, the UPF founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon took the opportunity to share a vision of peace for Europe and the world at a celebratory program at the Barceló Renacimiento Hotel Convention Center in Seville. In addition to Ambassadors for Peace from throughout Spain, the crowd included delegates from more than 30 European nations, the United States, Korea, and Japan.

Southern Spain gave a special flavor to the speeches introducing Dr. Moon, a tireless advocate of interreligious and intercultural dialogue. From the 8th to the 15th centuries, this region experienced an extraordinary blending of Muslim, Christian, and Jewish influences, and their interplay, or *convivencia*, generated one of the most brilliant civilizations of Europe. Downtown Seville is a UNESCO World Heritage Site with its magnificent palace, gardens, and cathedral combining Muslim and Christian elements.

Imam Abduljalil Sajid, Chairman of the Muslim Council for Religious and Racial Harmony in the United Kingdom, expressed admiration for Dr. Moon's dedication to loving God. He called Dr. Moon "an extraordinary example for all religious leaders" in loving God above all. "But he also stresses that we should love and serve our fellow men as passionately as we serve the Creator," Imam Sajid added.

Professor Abraham Haim, president of the Cultural Commission of the Sephardic Community of Jerusalem and a member of the Royal Academy of Doctors of Spain, spoke in admiration of the ideal of the Peace Cup. The Jewish scholar expressed confidence that one day the Peace Cup will be played in Jerusalem, with Jewish and Palestinian teams. Praising all efforts to bridge cultures and create peace, he commented

that the conductor Daniel Barenboim was giving a concert in Seville that evening with the West-Eastern Divan Orchestra, an ensemble of young Arab and Jewish musicians.

Marco Polo del Nero, one of the most influential figures of football in Brazil, talked about meeting Dr. Moon several times during the process of launching the Peace Cup. Applauding Dr. Moon's vision of connecting football, family values, and peace, he described his own work in Brazil to combat racism through sports.

Of course, sports alone is not enough to bring peace, and Dr. Moon spoke at some length about the importance of creating a new culture of moral purity based on strong, healthy families. He urged the religious leaders present to help each other in the face of the pressures of a materialistic and secular society, and to teach their youth the value of "absolute sexual purity" starting with a commitment to sexual purity before marriage and fidelity within it.

"I am asking you to make a commitment to become true families exhibiting our God-given original human nature, three-generation families through which grandparents, parents, and grandchildren can enter, hand in hand, into the Kingdom of Heaven," he said. "We are entering a new era of hope when the earth can be peacefully governed by a new heavenly way and new heavenly law," he concluded.

The event also celebrated the European preview of Dr. Moon's autobiographical memoir, *As a Global Citizen of Peace*. A review of the book was given by Professor Ilfonso Ojeda, dean of the Spanish Center of Korean Studies at the Complutense University of Madrid. Professor Ojeda referred to the family values in the traditional Confucianist culture of Korea. As a professor of Korean studies, he was impressed by Dr. Moon's confidence that Korea can be reunified through mutual respect and love and that the Pacific rim will become the center of world civilization.

Spain has the greatest number of immigrants of any European country. During the build up to the Peace Cup, an Immigrants' Cup featured teams of people living in Spain who came from Paraguay, Nigeria, Armenia, Morocco, Bolivia, and Algeria. This competition offered them an opportunity to learn to know each other better. After three days of intense competition, the Paraguayans beat the Moroccans in the final, 3-2.





## PEACE CUP 2009

By John Haydon



*John Haydon has written about soccer for 20 years and has covered the Peace Cup going back to the inaugural event in 2003.*

The fourth Peace Cup competition a football tournament involving some of the biggest clubs in the world, was held in Spain for the first time this past summer.

The biennial tournament began in 2003 and was played in South Korea until this year. Famed Spanish club Real Madrid co-hosted the 2009 event, and noted Italian team Juventus, along with English club Aston Villa, Sevilla FC, and Mexican team Atlante, were among the 12 teams involved.

Real Madrid was rarely out of the news early this year after signing Brazilian star Kaka and world player of the year Cristiano Ronaldo, who quickly became the poster-boy of the 2009 Peace Cup Andalucia.

In the finals on August 2, Aston Villa of England faced the hotly favored Juventus of Italy. Despite the defeat of pre-competition Spanish favorites and hosts Real Madrid in the semifinals, interest remained strong until penalties settled the match in Villa's favor.

Peace through football is an innovative approach to conflict resolution and consistent with the numerous ventures Dr. Moon has founded throughout his 90 years. "The competition showcases the very best football connected to the larger purpose of peace and development," said Dr. Chung Hwan Kwak, the tournament organizer.

Football has long played a role in seeking to ease enmity between nations and peoples. Long-time enemies Japan and South Korea co-hosted a World Cup, and old rivals Holland and Belgium co-hosted the 2000 European Championship.

At times, football has even brought a halt to serious conflicts. On Christmas Day 1914, German and British troops on the front lines during World War I put down their guns, came out of their trenches, and played a game in No Man's Land. In 1990, rival factions in the Lebanon War took time out from the war zone to watch the World Cup on TV. In 1969, Brazilian star Pele's trip to Nigeria with his club, Santos, produced a three-day cease-fire in the Biafran War.

# MINDANAO TRIBAL LEADERS' SUMMIT

By Larry Moffitt, *Global Peace Festival*

The first tribal summit in the Philippine island of Mindanao brought together more than 40 tribal chieftains along with educators, politicians, representatives from international NGOs, and religious practitioners from Christian, Muslim, and indigenous peoples. Participants did not discuss terrorism, politics, military strategies, or arms control. Instead, they directed their energies on children's education.

Since 1969, when the fighting between Muslim separatists and the armed forces began under the Marcos regime, the Mindanao conflict has left 160,000 dead and displaced some two million people.

The September 26 and 27 gathering was part of the Universal Peace Federation's Mindanao Peace Initiative. It took place at Kaamulan Cultural Center in Malaybalay, a city in the center of the island.

Dr. Estrella A. Babano, Chairwoman of the Mindanao Peace Initiative and Director of Region X Department of Education, declared before an audience of over 250 people, "We must focus on our children. They are the common concern we all share, and this must be the framework and platform for our peace initiative." She described several programs:

- The Peace Village, a residential setting in which students and teachers experience different cultures and ways of life
- The Arabic Language & Islamic Values Education program, teaching Muslim and non-Muslim children about Islam as a religion of peace
- The Indigenous Peoples Education Center, offering literacy training
- School of Peace, helping teachers and administrators implement peace education programs
- Harvest of Hope, teaching aquaculture and fish processing

- Child of Peace, an adopt-a-school scholarship program
- Kids say "No" to Guns, inviting children to exchange toy guns for young trees, which they plant
- Peace Parks, helping children visualize and build themes related to peace

In the Opening Session, Dr. Chung Sik Yong, Chair of UPF-Asia, talked about the need for leaders who exemplify living for the sake of others. Florencio T. Flores, Jr., Mayor of Malaybalay, said he welcomed the Mindanao Peace Initiative because "without peace, there is no development."

The highest ranking educator attending the summit, the Under Secretary of the Department of Education Program on Indigenous Peoples, Dr. Manaros B. Boransing, presented an overview of the national curriculum that was developed to preserve indigenous culture.

Commissioner Jeanette C. Serrano-Reisland from the Ethnographic Region of Central Mindanao at the National Commission on Indigenous People gave data about the various tribal groups in the Philippines, who constitute about 8 percent of the population. Dr. Norma Gonos, Senior Program Officer for Indigenous Peoples Education, described basic education programs.

In the Philippines, the vibrant love for music, singing, and dance is accompanied by the spirit of family, where everyone is a *Tito / Tita* (uncle or aunt) or *Kuya / Ate* (older brother or sister). The heart of Filipinos is to embrace strangers as family. Finally, Dr. Robert Kittel, Director of Education for UPF-Asia, described a simple solution to conflict — marry your enemy. While it may take time for parents to love their in-laws, there is an instantaneous, irrepressible love between grandparents and grandchildren that bridges resentment.



# THE COLORS OF PEACE

By Alan Wilding, UPF-Canada

The Universal Peace Federation of Western Canada put together a celebration of peace that simultaneously promoted the goals of UPF and helped the community celebrate the diverse multicultural nature of Canada and the many traditions represented in the greater Vancouver area.

The theme of the August 21 festival in Richmond was “Celebrating the Colors of Peace.” The program was led by Mr. Alan Wilding, director of UPF-Western Canada, and Mr. Paul Cheung, CEO of Lions Communications, Inc., and organizer of the popular Richmond Summer Night Market.

The evening program celebrated peace through interfaith cooperation, music, dance, community service awards, appointment of new Ambassadors for Peace, peace messages, and exciting video presentations.

Alan Wilding served as master of ceremonies with the help of Annie Wong, who translated into Chinese. After the national anthem, Mr. Wilding outlined the mission, principles, and objectives of UPF.

Hon. Dr. Alice Wong, Member of Parliament, gave a special greeting on behalf of the Government of Canada. This was followed by a greeting from Councilor Bill McNulty and an interfaith peace message from Katsumi Kambashi, President of the Family Federation of Canada.

Representatives of different religions poured water into a common vessel signifying a desire to work together for peace.

The entertainment for the evening was colorful and international. The audience was treated to a video review of the Global Peace Festival worldwide. After this, Gypsy of India, “Baukishan,” performed his unique repertoire of soulful spiritual chants. Then a beautiful Balinese dancer performed a traditional Welcome Dance. Malaysian and classical Chinese dances were then followed by a Filipino youth group who delighted the audience with a Bamboo Dance and an energetic hip-hop number.

Community service awards were presented to Helena Duchowska, MD, who has worked in the Richmond community for over 35 years; the Richmond firefighters; Habitat for Humanity, for their service locally as well as in South and Central



America; and the Tzu Chi Foundation, a Buddhist charity. After an entertainment break, six new Ambassadors for Peace received appointments.

UPF-Canada thanks Mr. Paul Cheung and Mr. Alan Wilding and for their generous and complete sponsorship of the entire event.

UPF's work in Canada has been primarily a spiritual effort with a focus on interfaith or interreligious collaboration for peace. The first task has been to develop networks of like-minded individuals. Then meetings are organized with representatives of various religious and ethnic backgrounds found in Canada:

- First Nations and other communities in Canada
- Catholic, Protestant, and Orthodox Christians
- Jews, Christians, and Muslims
- Muslims, Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Christians from South America
- Various communities from South Asia

UPF-Canada also promotes reconciliation among blacks and whites through collaboration with the Martin Luther King Legacy Committee in Montreal and the Dream Keepers in Ottawa. It has been holding annual Interfaith Breakfasts at the City Hall in Montreal (since 2003) and annual Martin Luther King Awards Ceremonies in Ottawa at the City Hall (since 2004) and on Parliament Hill (since 2006).

The Colors of Peace Festival is a new initiative in the Vancouver area.

# RUSSIA HOSTS INTERNATIONAL YOUTH

By Dmitry Oficerov, UPF-Eurasia



*Conversations with the inhabitants of the village and learning about local handicrafts helped the young volunteers appreciate the rich heritage of the Ural culture.*

Almost 20 years after the dissolution of the Soviet Union, tensions still remain between Russia and its neighbors. To create a common space for youth from Western Europe to the eastern edges of Russia to meet and learn from each other, a Dialogue Camp for Youth was held August 20 to 23 in Kaluga, a city southwest of Moscow. The 250 participants came from youth organizations in Russia, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Baltic states, and Western Europe. Some foreign students attending Russian universities also took part.

The purpose of the camp was to help international youth ages 18 to 30 to communicate with each other and bring together the best practices and innovations in the sphere of intercultural dialogue both in the Russian Federation and abroad. The camp program was based on documents adopted to promote cooperation between the Russian Federation and the

Council of Europe. These include the “Kazan Action Plan” and the Declaration of the Volzhsky Forum that set forth the main tasks and directions for promoting intercultural dialogue in Europe.

The schedule included an intercultural gala presentation by the participants, speeches by official figures, master classes, presentations by funders, round-table discussions, a fair of project ideas, a “dialogue in action,” an intercultural party, an ethnic games festival, a “free rope” competition, and creating intercultural works of art.

The Universal Peace Federation was represented by Dmitry Oficerov and Ludmila Maltseva, who took part in the master class taught by Alexander Sokolov on “Conflicts and Post-Conflict Regulation.” The member of the Russian Federation Public Chamber Committee on the Development of Civil Society presented his theory of managing conflicts and



post-conflict situations using examples of present zones of conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, Moldova and Pridnestrovie, and the Baltic countries (excluding Lithuania) and Russia.

In seeking to solve conflict, we must remember that people always have different viewpoints regarding problems, so first of all we must learn to know the opinion of the other side. He gave as an example the meeting between the Russian and Georgian youth delegates at the Council of Europe in which they came to a mutual understanding only after they had heard each other out.

In conclusion, Sokolov suggested that each participant imagine himself as a peaceful inhabitant of Tshinvali (the capital of South Ossetia, scene of the fiercest fighting during the 2008 South Ossetia War) in order to gain a better understanding of how the Russian people felt about the Germans after the Second World War. He noted that a recent poll among

Russians reveals that they now consider Germany to be among the top three countries who are most friendly to Russia. Thus, former enemies can become friends, he said, referring also to improved relations between England and France and between France and Germany. It needs only two components, he explained: time and effort.

At the camp, contacts were made with the Association of Armenians in Russia, the Moscow branch of a youth movement in the Chuvash Autonomous Region in Russia, a Korean youth club, and other youth organizations.

The outcomes of the Dialogue Camp for Youth included joint projects and a Manifesto on Dialogue. The dialogue continues online at [www.youthdialog.ru](http://www.youthdialog.ru). The site offers information about organizations that seek partners and volunteers to help carry out projects.



## SUMMER HERITAGE PROJECTS

### **Pokrovskoye Village in the Urals**

As part of the "City Helps Village" program, a summer volunteer camp was organized in the Pokrovskoye village in the Sverdlovsk region of the Ural Mountains from August 1 to 16. There were a variety of activities.

Young volunteers from nearby Yekaterinburg and Kurgan reconstructed two playgrounds for children. The 30 young people were coordinated by Tatyana Turchaninova and Natalia Yerofeyeva. At the same time, several women from Yekaterinburg met with senior residents of the village as part of an ethnographic expedition. Teachers from Pokrovskoye and Yekaterinburg worked together to carry out children's activities.

Running north to south in Western Russia, the Ural Mountains form a natural boundary between Europe and Asia, a meeting place of numerous peoples and cultures. Pokrovskoye is one of the oldest

villages in the region, with an interesting and eventful history. Conversations with the inhabitants of the village and learning about local handicrafts helped the young volunteers appreciate the rich heritage of the Ural culture. A concert and antique exhibit enhanced the experience.

The project was interesting and successful thanks to the joint efforts of organizers, the Ural branch of the Universal Peace Federation and the Youth Federation for World Peace, with the support of the village administration, the Veterans' Council, and enthusiastic local citizens.

### **Trails Near Lake Baikal**

A joint ecological and tourism project, "Baikal 2009," involved building or rebuilding four pedestrian bridges along the scenic tourist path between the town of Sludyanka and Chersky Peak in the Irkutsk district of southern Russia.

At more than 25 million years old, Lake Baikal is the oldest lake in the world. A

UNESCO World Heritage site, it has the largest volume of fresh water of any lake in the world and is home to more than 1,700 species of plants and animals, two thirds of which can be found nowhere else in the world.

The July 2 to August 6 project was initiated by the Ural-Siberian office of the Youth Federation for World Peace and supported by the Baikal research and rescue team of the Emergency Management Ministry of Russia. The 41 participants came together from as far away as Moscow in the west and Khabarovsk in the east to experience the beauty of this area and make it more accessible to others. Evgeny Skvortsov coordinated this project.

In addition to bridge work, discussions took place about developing local volunteer activities. In fact, the natural environment, the spirit of cooperation, and the challenges posed by the different situations made this an outstanding educational program.

# PRACTICAL PLANS TO HELP AFGHANIS

By Marilyn Angelucci, UPF-Afghanistan

*The real question now is how to transform the minds of these young people, who have lived their whole life in this culture of war, to a culture of peace.*

Afghanistan has had a long history of war, and the war is continuing on many levels. The focus of the international community is security. Even the new Obama administration with its milder stance realizes that security is a priority.

But the issue not being addressed is whether the Afghan people will be ready for peace when and if the peace comes. After more than 30 years of war, can the new generation adjust to a country of peace? The real question now is how to transform the minds of these young people, who have lived their whole life in this culture of war, to a culture of peace.

We also must help them to have not only the mind but the skills and tools to work for peace. Although there are battles on the southern fields of Helmand and Kandahar, the supreme war is in the hearts and minds of the young people.

The Universal Peace Federation is making an effort to meet this challenge and help to prepare the young and old alike for the new culture of peace in Afghanistan.

## Service as a tool for inter-tribal unity

Fifty social and political activists gathered at the Sitara Hotel in the heart of Kabul on May 17 to celebrate the International Day of Families.

Organized by UPF-Afghanistan, Ambassadors for Peace and Youth Ambassadors for Peace joined

together to report about their activities of service to the community and work to strengthen families.

One special aspect of the program was the inter-tribal activities that the ambassadors organized to promote unity among the warring tribes of

Afghanistan. Over the last decade, the major tribes of the country — Pashtuns, Tajiks, and Hazara — have been waging a civil war that has destroyed the lives of thousands of families.

In order to heal the pain of the past, our Youth Ambassadors for Peace have determined to create service projects that promote inter-tribal unity. This has given a great sense of pride and accomplishment to the groups; also it demonstrates the power of unity to the rest of their communities.

Among the distinguished guests was the Deputy Minister of Culture for Media, Mr. M. Mubarez; former Director of Tourism, Mrs. Fauzia Assifi; and well-known social worker, Mrs. Fatana Gailani. The purpose of the meeting was to inspire each other by sharing the numerous projects of service that the Ambassadors for Peace and Youth Ambassadors for Peace have been conducting.

With the support of their networks, the peacemakers served their communities through tree planting, street cleaning, creating libraries, conducting peace seminars, and offering family training programs, just to name a few.



### Building peace, one young mind at a time

More recently, just four days after six Italian soldiers and more than ten Afghan civilians were killed in a suicide bombing in another part of Kabul, over 70 Afghan Youth Ambassadors for Peace gathered together to make a statement. “We can make a change,” was their message on September 21, the International Day of Peace. UPF held a celebration on the assigned day although it fell on the second day of Eid, one of the most important days of the Muslim calendar after the holy month of fasting. The ambassadors felt it was important to sacrifice time with their families in order to make this statement and exemplify living for the sake of others.

The event was held at the Pishgaman High School, a new private school — one of many now sprouting up around Kabul. Umberto Angelucci, Director of UPF-Afghanistan, read UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon’s message of peace as well as a message of peace from President Hamid Karzai, which was extremely appropriate for the event. We also read the four points of the UPF Peace Declaration.

This day was not to be only a day of talk. The Youth Ambassadors for Peace were inspired to show their determination to take responsibility and make a change. They contacted the local religious leader, Mullah Rahimi, who cooperated with them in doing a cleaning campaign at his mosque.

This activity expanded, and when the cleaners were finished they had cleaned not only the mosque and schoolyard but also the surrounding neighborhood. The locals were amazed to see the crowd working together, youths from different tribes harmoniously united to make a change. Armed with gloves and plastic bags, they attacked the garbage and junk and transformed their living area with a heart of service, which is the root of peace.

### Providing tools for the poor and middle-class people

The Afghan people hope that the new strategy of Obama and the international community can bring a new, effective policy for the benefit of the local people. Opportunities are needed to learn skills in their areas of interest, especially for people living in the countryside. Most Afghans don’t have the privilege of spending 12 years going to school to get a degree; they need to learn some skill that will help them now. Also, most Afghans cannot move to the big cities in order to learn a skill. So, technical and professional training schools are needed. Expert teachers are needed who can help Afghans learn



actual skills, not just theories on papers.

Things can change, but the change that is needed is a change in strategy — not combat strategy but ways to support the local people so they can get jobs, get skills, and get the money they need to survive. If they find solutions for their families, they will not take part in the fighting just because of the need for money.

UPF is giving opportunities to the low-income women to improve their situation by giving small loans and supporting their micro-business plans. In cooperation with the Afghanistan Women’s Council, UPF is offering loans and business training to poor women who otherwise have no opportunity to survive. The financial situation for women is extremely difficult, and with this support more than 150 families have an adequate income. Next year, 100 families will be added to this successful program.

Transforming the minds of the people from a mentality of war and conflict to a mentality of harmony and unity through peace is our focus. Giving people the first small step to enter the marketplace and provide their own livelihood is another aspect. These practical projects are foundational but essential building blocks for the sustainable peace that the people of Afghanistan are longing for.

*The locals were amazed to see the crowd working together, youths from different tribes harmoniously united to make a change.*

# LEADERSHIP SEMINAR IN WEST AFRICA

By Paterne Zinsou, UPF-Benin

*Live for the benefit  
of others, serve the  
greater good, and  
care for others with a  
parental heart.*

— GEORGE OGURIE

Dignitaries from all walks of life and Ambassadors for Peace from West Africa converged in the capital of Benin for an international seminar on peace and leadership May 29-31, 2009.

The event at the Centre International des Conférences in Cotonou was organized by the Universal Peace Federation of West Africa under the high patronage of the Constitutional Court of the Republic of Benin, the Ministry of Family and National Solidarity, and the Ministry in Charge of Relations with Institutions.

Under the theme, “Towards a New Paradigm of Leadership and Good Governance for Peace in the 21st Century,” the seminar aimed at strengthening the operational, ethical, and intellectual capacities of leaders of the various sectors of society in West Africa and promoted a new paradigm of leadership, good governance, and a culture of peace.

Rev. Paterne Zinsou, chairman of UPF-West Africa Sub Region 1, began by describing global challenges of economic meltdown, family breakdown and divorce, conflict within and among nations, poverty, and global climate change. “The world needs a new perspective and a new approach to solving these many problems facing humanity,” he declared. “I hope that through this seminar we can arm ourselves with tools to confront these common challenges.”

In addition to 32 participants from Benin, people came from Burkina Faso, Congo Brazzaville, Cote d’Ivoire, Ghana, Nigeria, and Togo for the event.

The event was opened by H.E. Chief Ambassador Segun Olusola, Chairman of the Board of Trustees

of UPF-Nigeria, representing the former President of Nigeria Republic, H.E. Chief Ernest Shonekan. A message from the President of the Constitutional Court of Benin was read by Former Minister H.E. Pascal Chabi Kao, the Special Adviser of UPF-Benin. The Minister of Family and National Solidarity, H.E. Mamadou Meba Bio Djossou, spoke about the core role of the family in the establishment of peace.

The first session, titled “The Necessity of a New Paradigm of Leadership,” was presented by Rev. Adama Doumbia, Chairman of UPF-West Africa Sub Region 2. The moderator of this session was His Majesty William Hope Azombakin, King of Come City in Benin, who allowed time for discussion.

The second session, presented also by Rev. Doumbia and entitled “The Vision of Peace: One Family under God,” caught the interest of the participants. The presenter took the audience through the scriptures of the world’s major religions pointing out the importance of the family to world peace, stating that if world peace is to be achieved it will begin from the family.

The day ended with a presentation by Rev. George Ogurie, the International Relief Friendship Foundation Coordinator for West Africa, on “The Culture of Service and Benevolence.” He described his organization’s work reuniting families and communities that were ravaged and divided by communal and religious conflict in Jos, Northern Nigeria, as well as providing character and moral education for youth from the Niger Delta Region.

He concluded by describing the governing principles of building a society of peace as “to (1) live for



the benefit of others, (2) serve the greater good, and (3) care for others with a parental heart. True love is the motive for service and giving to others.”

### Good Governance

The second day began with a presentation by Rev. Zinsou entitled “Leaders and Good Governance for Peace in a World in Crisis.” He stressed the need for inner maturity as a criterion for leadership rather than intellectual ability alone. He challenged Ambassadors for Peace to strive to be true leaders, true teachers, and true parents in their respective positions in society. He urged the audience to think of God when making personal and family decisions and when setting policies for their organizations and nations.

Professor Noel Dossou-Yovo spoke about “The Cause and the Origin of Conflicts.” He focused on human relationships, ethics, morality, and the origins of the difficulties people face.

The last presentation was given by the Secretary General of UPF-Togo, Rev. Sedofia Dieudonne Kagni. He described the path to raising a good family that can contribute to the realization of world peace, since good families are the building blocks

of a peaceful nation. A lively question and answer session followed.

The day ended with a video about the life the UPF Founder.

### Family is the School of Love

Rev. Doumbia began the day by speaking about “The Family as the School of Love for World Peace.” He defined marriage as a union between a man and a woman and that a family is comprised of a father, a mother, and children. He further reminded the audience of the four kinds of love (love of children, brothers and sisters, husband and wife, and parents) that we all must strive to embrace as a tool for realizing a peaceful family and society.

Rev. Zinsou closed the conference with a description of the UPF Agenda for 2009 to 2013.

The three days came to a close in a colorful ceremony that included cutting a cake. Participants expressed hope that more leaders can attend future events. From this seminar, they gained a clearer understanding of the mission of Ambassadors for Peace and insights into their responsibilities to society.



*Good families are the building blocks of a peaceful nation.*

— SEDOFIA DIEUDONNE KAGNI

## INTERNATIONAL DAY OF UN PEACE KEEPING FORCES

UPF organized a Commemoration of the 7th International Day of the Peace Keeping Forces of the United Nations and the Artisans of Peace at the Army Headquarters in Benin on May 29. It brought together top army officials, who were all appointed Ambassadors for Peace. About 300 military personnel participated in the event that opened with an interreligious prayer. Rev. Paterné Zinsou presided over this conference, which took place on the opening day of the leadership seminar.

The dinner at the Vivo Room of the Benin Marina Hotel in Cotonou featured entertainment by the Army Musical Group. The atmosphere was friendly with everyone joining in dancing.

UPF gave awards to the African Refugee Foundation, the National Lottery of Benin, Orifan (an NGO), and the embassy of the Democratic Republic of Congo in Benin. Among the newly appointed Ambassadors for Peace was the Ambassador to Benin from the Democratic Republic of Congo, who expressed the commitment of his country’s leaders to work to restore peace to their country.





# GLOBAL PEACE CONVENTION

By Daniel Bessell, *Global Peace Festival*

## “PEACEBUILDING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY INTERFAITH, SERVICE AND FAMILY” DECEMBER 10-14, 2009 – MANILA, PHILIPPINES

Come to Manila to deepen your understanding of principles that open the way to peace and learn best practices for peacemaking.

### CONCURRENT SESSIONS

#### **Religions and Peace: “From Dialogue to Shared Commitment and Cooperation”**

Religions teach peace, but sacred scripture and religious obligation have been used to legitimate war and oppression. In response, people of faith are learning to move from respect to genuine shared commitment and cooperative action for peace.

#### **The Family and Social Transformation: “Marriage, Family, and Peacebuilding”**

Strengthening the family as the school of love and character is an essential part of peacebuilding. Responsible sexual ethics will be described, along with the role of parents, the importance of marital commitment, and the needs of children.

#### **Serving Together in a Global Peace Corps: “Empowering Partnerships and Youth in a Global Peace Corps”**

The United Nations and world leaders such as US President Barack Obama have called for multilateral service alliances across nations. Representatives of the private and public sectors will talk about international cooperation to build a global culture of service.

### BEST PRACTICE FORUMS

#### **Interfaith Councils: “Developing Interfaith Councils, Addressing Social Issues”**

Interfaith councils channel the wisdom of religious leaders to address contemporary issues. Organizers will describe the challenges they face, and how they are addressing issues of concern.

#### **Family and Peace: “Building Peace, One Family at a Time”**

Innovative approaches to strengthening marriage, parenting, and families are making an impact. This session will describe community centers, family service days, parent-child enrichment events, and programs to teach youth about making healthy choices.

#### **Culture of Service: “Corporate Philanthropy and Civil Society”**

Multi-national networks are addressing challenges in the environment, education, and poverty eradication. Corporate philanthropists will talk about working with NGOs and faith-based initiatives in a global service alliance.

### FORUMS

#### **Reconciliation and Leadership: “People of Faith as Leaders of Reconciliation”**

After civil unrest, grassroots efforts help build trust and promote apologies, forgiveness, and reconciliation. Religious leaders will talk about ways to bridge differences in key trouble spots of the world.

#### **Faith, Family and Peace: “Family as the School of Peace”**

Family relationships will be described as a model for peacebuilding. When individuals learn to be at peace within, they can act in accordance with their conscience, principles and compassion, creating peaceful relationships at home and in the world.

#### **Volunteering and Peace: “Role of Volunteering in Peacebuilding”**

Volunteers can play important roles in conflict prevention and post-conflict rebuilding. Social impact models will be described that maximize volunteer contributions and service learning.



## WORKSHOPS

### **Vasudhaiva Kutumbhakam: “Wisdom from the East: The World as One Family”**

In Hindu philosophy, all humankind and all sentient beings are interconnected and members of one family. Speakers will describe how this promotes holistic development, respect for all forms of life, and commitment to non-violence.

### **Peace Education: “Educating for Peace and Interreligious Understanding”**

The Preamble to the constitution of UNESCO states, “Since wars begin in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that the defenses of peace must be constructed.” Best practices will be presented for educating children in areas where religion has been used to fuel violence.

### **Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges: “Bridging Religious Differences through Service”**

When people from different traditions work together for the benefit of others, mutual understanding develops and barriers begin to dissolve. Organizers will describe service projects and how to teach communication and team-building skills as well as encourage group and individual reflection.

### **Smarter Relationships: “Relationship Education for Young People”**

Young people benefit from learning how to make good decisions, build healthy relationships, and make smart choices about sex. Relationship education programs will be demonstrated.

### **Parenting Education: “A Review of Parent Education Programs and Practical Skills”**

Parents and children have better relationships when parents learn more effective approaches to discipline and communication. Effective parent education programs will be demonstrated.

### **Stay Married, Be Happy: “The Importance of Marriage and Relationship Education”**

Couples who learn realistic expectations, gender differences, problem solving, and communication skills have happier and longer-lasting relationships. Marriage and relationship education programs will be demonstrated.

### **Poverty and Peace: “Innovative Models of Poverty Reduction”**

Innovative models of poverty reduction and disease eradication will be described within the framework of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals.

### **Disaster Response and Peacebuilding: “Innovative Models and Tools for Volunteer Response Programs”**

Recent natural floods and earthquakes have prompted increased global disaster readiness, response capability and public-private networking. This session will present innovative models.

### **Service Partnerships of the Americas: “Connecting Americans across the Hemisphere through Service”**

New service initiatives are building relationships between people of North and South America. Effective approaches and integrated action steps will be presented.

### **The Next Generation Peacebuilders: “Youth Empowerment and New Media in Service and Peacebuilding”**

Young leaders from diverse faith traditions will describe how to use new social media to engage people of the Millennial Generation.

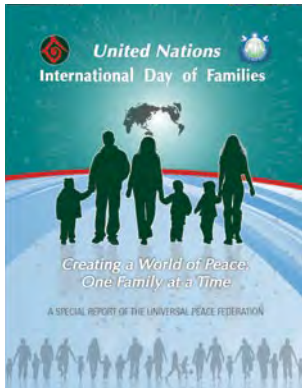
### **DAY TRIP TO MINDANAO**

An optional day trip to northern Mindanao is an opportunity to attend the opening of the 5th Peace Village and visit various schools teaching an innovative peace curriculum.

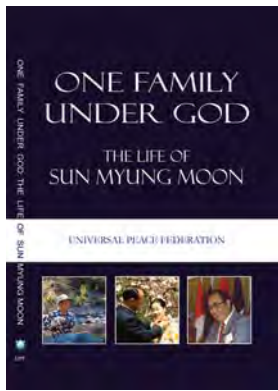
Come to Manila and expand your capacity and networks, share and learn best practices, deepen your understanding of principles that open the way to peace, engage peacebuilders from around the world and take away winning strategies.

For more information and to register go to: <http://www.globalpeaceconvention.org>

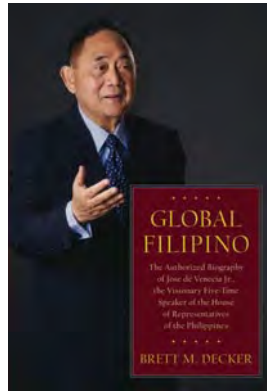
# Recent UPF Publications



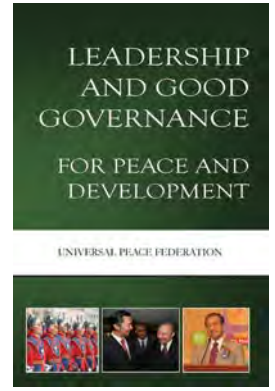
**UNITED NATIONS INTERNATIONAL DAY OF FAMILIES:** A report of celebrations of the May 15, 2009 International Day of Families at the UN offices in New York and Geneva as well as 27 other nations.



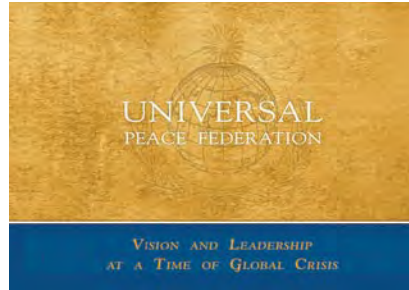
**ONE FAMILY UNDER GOD:** A brief biography of UPF Founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon and a new collection of historical photos. The complementary volume to the popular DVD of the same title.



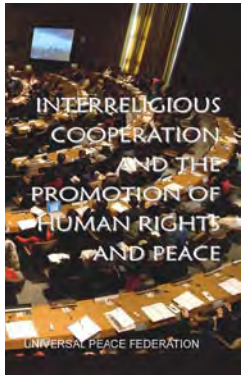
**GLOBAL FILIPINO:** The authorized biography of Jose de Venecia Jr., the visionary five-time Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Philippines. By Brett M. Decker



**LEADERSHIP AND GOOD GOVERNANCE FOR PEACE AND DEVELOPMENT:** Selected presentations given at UPF's International Leadership Conferences in 2008. Thirty-four speeches on themes of good governance, peacebuilding, interfaith peacebuilding, and the Americas peace initiative.



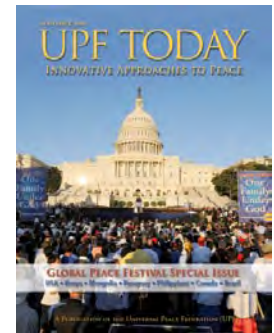
**UPF VIEWBOOK:** A 48-page catalog with full-color photos covering the full range of UPF's activities promoting world peace, the work of its twelve regional chapters, and including the latest GPF initiative, the Global Peace Festival.



**HUMAN RIGHTS AND PEACE:** Texts of presentations at human rights conferences organized by UPF in Geneva, London, and New York. Papers by young leaders of eight religions explore insights from their religious traditions that can help promote human rights and dignity.



Reports from International Day of Peace celebrations in 58 countries on September 21, 2008. Organized by the Universal Peace Federation in collaboration with agencies of the UN, governments, and non-government organizations.



And finally, did you know that **UPF TODAY** is now available in French, Arabic, Spanish, Russian, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean as well as English?

For details on all these and other publications and resources, please visit our website at [www.upf.org](http://www.upf.org)

*The present time marks an important milestone in the development of civilization. We stand at a critical junction of human history where we can complete the providence of building God's fatherland and peace kingdom.*  
— Dr. Sun Myung Moon

## UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

Universal Peace Federation  
155 White Plains Road, Suite 222  
Tarrytown, NY 10591, USA