

VOL. 6, NO. 2, 2012

UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE



UN WOMEN'S DAY & DAY OF FAMILIES

UPF-UNESCO



UN Day of Women



Leadership Awards



FROM THE PUBLISHER



UPF TODAY

INNOVATIVE APPROACHES TO PEACE

AS this issue goes to press, the United Nations and the NGO community are turning their attention to the RIO+20 conference on the environment and sustainable development. Twenty years on after the pioneering convention that familiarized the world to terms like climate change and global warming, thousands of delegates from all over the world are gathering in Rio in response to Ban Ki-moon's invitation to discuss "The Future We Want." UPF Secretary General Taj Hamad will be on site.



Dr. Thomas G. Walsh
President, UPF

UPF chapters have been busy, with conferences on Peace and Human Security being held at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris, in Moscow, Russia and Tirana, Albania. More than 60 nations observed the UN International Day of Families, and a dozen more celebrated International Women's Day. We thank everyone for their ongoing efforts.

Two outstanding peacemakers were honored by the prestigious Leadership and Good Governance Award: Ibrahim Gambari, the joint African Union-UN Special Envoy to Darfur, and Henri Bedie, the former President of Cote d'Ivoire who reached out to an old rival to head off civil war in his country.

In late May, UPF filed its second Quadrennial Report to the United Nations ECOSOC committee. It's quite a challenge to condense the highlights of four years activities into just 750 words, but the exercise is a useful one, helping us to see where our priorities lie and how we are measuring up to the goals that we have set ourselves. Once the report has been accepted by the ECOSOC review committee, we will make it available on our website at www.upf.org

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COVER:
Napalese women distribute meals to elderly widows in Kathmandu; (inset pictures) UPF-UNESCO, Paris; Women's Day, USA; Leadership Awards, Korea.

UN DAY OF FAMILIES

ENSURING WORK-FAMILY BALANCE

By Joy Pople

In our fourth year of promoting the UN International Day of Families, UPF chapters in more than 60 nations hosted forums about local issues affecting families, organized commemorations in national parliaments, gave awards to outstanding families, and showed disadvantaged children a good time.

High-level observances of the International Day of Families took place in the United Kingdom in the House of Lords, in Peru at the National Congress, in Ecuador at the former Senate Hall of the National Assembly, in Benin at the Foreign Affairs Banquet Hall, and in Sri Lanka at the department of Education of the Western Province. Municipal observances in Brazil took place at the Sao Paulo City Hall and in Moldova at the Chisinau central district city hall.

Three-generation families who work together and support each other were recognized in Germany; one winner was an Iraqi-Palestinian family living in Frankfurt. In Ghana, couples who have been together

for more than 20 years were honored, as well as families who have set outstanding examples of living for the sake of others. Couples married more than 25 years were honored in Argentina and Peru. In Moldova, couples married over 30 years received certificates.

School children enjoyed games, lessons, art activities, crafts, and music in places as diverse as Yerevan, Armenia; Panevezys, Lithuania; and Reduit, Mauritius. Scholarships were donated to less-privileged children in four parts of Nepal.

Building on the UN's theme of Ensuring Work Family Balance, some speakers explored ways to develop a harmonious partnership between husband and wife, balance spirituality and practical affairs, and fulfill both public and private responsibilities. Distinguished speakers addressed such topics at UPF Peace Centers in Argentina, Austria, Colombia, Germany, Ghana, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Niger, Marino, St. Lucia, Taiwan, and Uruguay.



Day of Families program in Thailand

This year's International Day of Families highlights the need for work-family balance. The aim is to help workers everywhere provide for their families financially and emotionally, while also contributing to the socio-economic development of their societies.

**–Ban Ki-moon
UN Secretary-
General**

With varying definitions of marriage arousing controversy, it was not surprising that discussions became heated at some events. In London, organizers asserted that the Universal Peace Federation promotes strong, healthy marriages (between a man and a woman) as a lifestyle choice that offer major advantages for the couple and their children. In Quito, Judge Carlos Ramirez Romero, president of the National Court of Justice of Ecuador referred to equal rights of men and women and prioritized attention to people in situations of risk, such as victims of domestic and sexual violence as well as child abuse.

An Austrian demographer, Dr. Walter Baar, spoke at a Vienna gathering about demographic trends, especially the declining fertility rates in Europe and Eurasia, which he attributed in part to women feeling torn between work and family life. However, he asserted that in the everlasting search for orientation, value, sense of life, spirit and leadership, there never has been a more powerful value than the value of family.

Some programs called attention to the

spiritual dimensions of the family; in the Netherlands and New Zealand, cathedrals hosted programs highlighting the importance placed by all religions and cultures on strong marriages and families. Volunteers were recruited to help in the construction of the Temple of All Religions in Ryazan, Russia, a visionary structure begun 20 years ago that incorporates a minaret and pagoda with traditional elements of a church and synagogue.

While most programs took place in national capitals, in several nations, the message of the International Day of Families was taken to the people: 15 cities in Nepal, six in Russia, three in Cameroon, and several in India.

“As a police officer, I regret that I have left home early in the morning while my children are still sleeping and when I arrive late at night they are already asleep,” said Deputy Inspector General Prem Kumar Shahi of Pokhara, Nepal’s second-largest city. “This program has awakened us to balance work and family.”



**(L) Belarus
(R) Kazakhstan
(Bottom) Ukraine**

THE FAMILY AND THE MDGs:

BOOK LAUNCH AT THE UN

By Lynn Walsh

WHEN the United Nations looks at global poverty, health care, and education—three major areas of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)—does it see families as part of the problem, or part of the solution?

As recently as 2010, when the UN reviewed ten years of somewhat disappointing progress in reaching the MDGs, there was still no mention of the role of family and parents as resources for achieving these important goals.

The recent publication of *The Family and the MDGs: Using Family Capital to Achieve the 8 Millennium Development Goals* marks a renewed effort to recognize the family as a critical resource for addressing the most serious global issues. The book was launched to coincide with the International Day of Families, on May 14th in an event sponsored by the Mission of Qatar to the United Nations.

The Doha International Institute for Family Studies and Development commissioned the editor, Susan Roylance of the Howard Center for Family, Religion and Society and eight other authors, including UPF's Lynn Walsh, to address each millennium development goal with a unique family-focused approach. The book offers many best practices that utilize the natural and essential

resources of the family and may save lives.

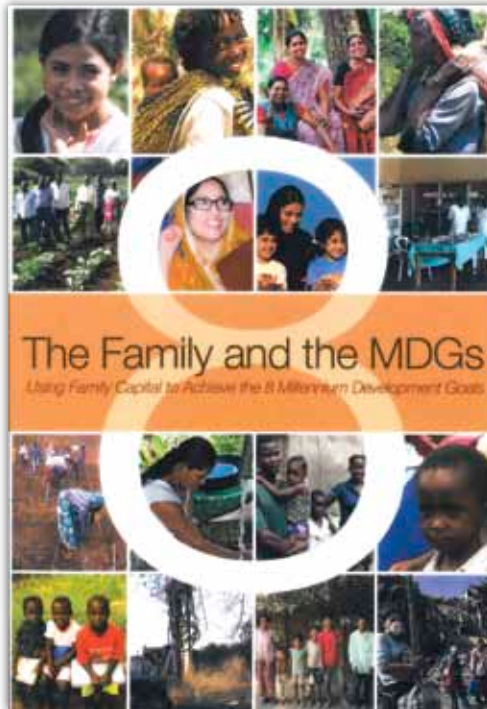
In the chapter on overcoming poverty, Jastus Suchi Obadiah stated, "As we empower families with additional resources and education to break through the poverty barriers, we lift generations to come." Regarding attaining universal education,

Mary M. Harris wrote, "There is no substitute for the participation and support of families in the education of children. No government agency, no children's advocacy group and no body of educators can take the place of a supportive family environment and proactive parental and familial caregiver participation in the educational welfare of a child." In addressing HIV/AIDS, Terrance D Olson, Ph.D., stated, "Those who take family life seriously are our greatest allies in the fight against AIDS....Those voluntary organizations, including religious ones,

who teach abstinence and family commitment, should be encouraged, not criticized....Moral commitments to family life are fundamental."

Throughout the pages there are examples utilizing family capital to provide solutions, perhaps more sustainably than any other resource.

Please contact UPF if interested in receiving a copy of the book or a summary booklet available in all six official languages of the United Nations.



"Worldwide, the family is indeed the starting point, the indispensable and the irreplaceable foundation for all successful development."

– E. Douglas Clark, from the introduction

Vision nouvelle
et le développe

By UPF Europe

UPF's first European Leadership Conference of 2012 took place at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris April 12-13 under the patronage of the Permanent Delegations of the Sultanate of Oman and the Republic of Kenya to UNESCO.

In addition to UPF and the Women's Federation for World Peace (WFWP), conference organizers included the Center for the Study and Promotion of Culture and Communication in Africa, the Forum of Organizations for International Solidarity on Migration Issues, the International Institute for Strategic Studies, and the Geneva Interfaith and Intercultural Alliance.

The President of the 33rd General Conference of UNESCO and Counsellor of the Delegation of Oman to UNESCO, H.E. Dr. Moosa Jaafar Hassan opened the first session by stating that a "New Vision for Peace and Human Development" means seeking new strategies while not excluding other global tests. "To form those new strategies requires involving intellectuals, religious people, academics, and civil society in the support of policymakers," he said, expressing appreciation for UPF's approach to peacebuilding.

Dr. Boutros Boutros-Ghali, Patron of the Conference, had to travel to Egypt at the last moment, and his speech was read by his secretary, Dr. Sonia Ramzi. Noting that small conflicts by unarmed groups can cause huge problems among



(Main Photo):
Dr. Yeon Cheon Song
and Imam Abdujalil
Sajid in discussion.

(Bottom): The UPF
group at UNESCO
headquarters.

civilian populations, he emphasized disarming small groups and preventing arms buildup in small or poor nations, calling “one tank equivalent to 500 classrooms.” He concluded on a positive note saying, “I trust the future because I know that men and women of good will are working to set up frameworks of relations to ensure peace for future generations.”

Prof. Akiko Yamanaka, a former Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, spoke on “A New Vision for Non-Traditional Security with Human Security.” She spoke of the need for a “two-handed policy: military preparation and non-military diplomacy” in a time of history that is in a transition period.

The traditional model of security rests upon military defense of national territory. Yet for many people in the world – perhaps even most – the much greater threats to security come from internal conflicts, disease, hunger, environmental contamination, street crime, or even domestic violence. A greater threat may come from within a country than from an external adversary.

Dr. Ali Rastbeen, from the International Institute of Strategic Studies in Paris, commented on the importance of resolving the Middle East conflicts as a foundation for world peace. “The Middle East remains a nerve center of the contemporary world,” he said.

In the keynote address, Dr. Yong Cheon Song, Chair of UPF-Europe, said that of all the



constituent organizations of the UN, UPF feels perhaps the greatest natural affinity with UNESCO because of a common interest in education, science, and culture. He expressed appreciation to UNESCO for promoting a culture of peace based on the insight that true peace can only begin “in the hearts of men.”

Conference Sessions

Family: Mrs. Nelly Camberville, Founder and President of IN SOLIDUM, emphasized the role of women, adding that for sustainable peace to prevail there must be good governance within the family.. Minister and Consul General Jesus Gary S. Domingo, Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the UN in Geneva, said cultural grooming has to take place in the family, the first school and the basic unit of governance.

Africa: Speakers included H.E. Elizabeth Paula Napeyok, Ambassador of Uganda to France and Permanent Delegate to UNESCO; Ms. Maguite Lorcy, Founder of G.A.I.A.; Pastor Armand Mavinga, President of the Centre for the Promotion of Culture and Communication in Africa; and Mrs. Julie Morgan, current Welsh Assembly Member, MP for Cardiff North (1997-2010), and a Trustee of “Life for African Mothers.”

Universal Principles and Character Education: Ven. Dr. Michel Thao Chan, Founder and President of the Cercle de Reflexion des Nations, discussed peacebuilding and culture. Mr. Khalil Raihani, a member of the Council of Europe Pool of Trainers, talked about peace as a negation of war and violence. Mr. Jack Corley, Chair of UPF-United Kingdom. He laid stress on character and moral education for sustainable peacebuilding and agreed with earlier speakers on the importance of the family as the school of love and the best foundation for social ethics.

Youth Forum: Ms. Thea J. Kunzig, a member of UPF’s European Youth Committee, chaired a forum on Exploring Global Citizenship. Mr. Salem Moosa Hassan, an Omani diplomat, spoke on the importance of education transcending local and national perspectives. Ms. Souria Saad Zoy, UNESCO Youth Programme; Mr. Ranjit Singh, Council of French Sikhs; Ms. Lotifa Begum, Islamic Relief in the UK; Mr. Xavier Giuavarc’h, President of the Forum Ploudaniel; and Mr. Ewald Schenkermayr, UPF European Youth Committee, all offered insights.

Human Development: Speakers included Rt. Hon. Rhodri Morgan, First Minister of Wales (2000-2009); Ambassador Dr. Walther Lichem, former Head of the Department for International Organizations of the Austrian Foreign Ministry; Imam Dr. Abduljalil Sajid JP, Chairman of the European Union’s Task-force for the European Year of Inter-cultural Dialogue; Admiral Jean Dufourcq, Director of Studies at the Ecole Militaire and editor of the journal *Defence*; and Laurent Ladouce, Director of the Centre for Culture and Peace in Paris.

A Life in Service to Peace: Mr. Timothy Miller, Vice-Chair of UPF-Europe, introduced the work of UPF Founder Dr. Sun Myung Moon. Msgr. Jacques Gaillot, Roman Catholic bishop of Partenia, touched upon several issues essential for the enhancement of family life, especially the need for regular and open sharing and communication among husband and wife in order to clear up misunderstandings.. Mr. Chansamone Voravong, President of F.O.R.I.M., spoke of his work integrating refugees into French society.

UPF’s Vision, Projects, and Activities: Mr. Robin Marsh, Secretary General of UPF-UK, chaired the session, which featured presentations by Mrs. Brigitte Wada, President of WFWP-France, and Mr. Mark Brann, Secretary General of UPF-Europe.



Unity and the Progress of Africa

by UPF International

UPF chapters around the world were celebrating Africa Day as this issue went to press. Among the early reports:

GHANA: The United Nations Information Center in Ghana, in collaboration with UPF Ghana, marked the Africa Day celebration with pupils of St. Paul's Lutheran School in Accra on the theme "The Role of the Youth in Building a Peaceful Africa."

After reading the Africa Day message from UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-moon, Mrs Cynthia Prah, UNIC National Information Officer urged the pupils to be proud of their culture and themselves as Africans, and not be easily convinced that they had to throw off their cultural identity for others. "Your culture identifies you. Be proud of it and respect it. This would make others respect and accept you for who you are," she said.

Reverend Bismark Bamfo, Executive Director of American Clergy Leadership Conference, agreed that there was the need "for us to recognize that we are all one people. Unity is important to ensure the progress of Africa."

Dr. Helen Osei, Secretary General of (UPF)-Ghana, told the pupils that they had to bear in mind that they stood for the future of the continent. As future leaders, they could guarantee a bright future, if they adopted the right attitude from the beginning, "which is now."

UNITED KINGDOM: UPF held an engaging discussion event on peace, security and development in Africa at the House of Lords in London. Speakers included: Brigadier James Ellery CBE, former UN Head of Mission in DRC and South Sudan; Mr Aliu Bello who worked for 24 years with UNICEF in Nigeria, Sudan, Ghana and Afghanistan; Belinda Atim, formerly with TB Alert and a Global Health Youth Advocate, now an Independent Consultant on Global Health; Ashley Crosthwaite, the Chairman of International Relief Friendship Foundation - UK and Dr Yong Cheon Song, the Regional Director of UPF in Europe.

"It is clear that the continent still faces a number of obstacles and constraints that require urgent, decisive and concerted actions in order create political stability, promote investment, and develop human capital and infrastructure."

-Dr. Jean Ping, Chair of the African Union



Africa Day program at the House of Lords

THE ROLE OF THE ALBANIAN PEOPLE FOR PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE BALKANS

By UPF-Albania



L EADERS from Albania, the Balkans, and Europe gathered in Tirana to consider “The Role and Importance of Albanian People for Peace and Security in the Balkans,” a UPF conference marking Albania’s 100 years of independence, 1912-2012.

The delegates included three former presidents, two vice ministers, the vice spokesman of the Albanian Parliament, MPs from Albania and Kosovo, local government leaders from Macedonia, the Ambassador of Montenegro, a former minister of Defense from the Netherlands, UPF-Europe chairman and secretary general, and other prominent Ambassadors for Peace from academic and political fields. UPF International was represented by Ms. Tomiko Duggan, Office of Embassy Relations in Washington, DC.

Mr. Ali Laçe, former UPF-Albania chairman and a highly respected Ambassador for Peace, pointed out the virtue of Albanians as peace-loving

people, something that they have to pursue still in today’s complicated situation in the Balkans, where they are living in five different states.

H.E. Rexhep Meidani (President of Albania, 1997-2002) said that institutions are changed more easily than people. He noted that in recent years Albania has transformed from a “security-consuming” country to a security producer and expressed hope that Albania would be given the status of candidate country to enter the European Union, a clear goal of Albania’s foreign policy for the past 20 years.

The next speaker was Prof. Mejdani’s counterpart from Kosovo, H.E. Fatmir Sejdiu (President 2006-2010), who spoke about the decades of conflict that followed the breakup of the Soviet Union and the end of the Eastern bloc in 1990.

“The peoples of Southeast Europe have said that they do not want conflict and war, but words are not enough to build peace when you

are at a crossroads,” he said. “Why are there so many fatalities happening in our region? Do we have some curse which we unconsciously feed by sacrifice? Can we not defeat evil?” Sejdiu concluded by saying that “I do not doubt that a better Balkans, a plural and tolerant Balkans, is the best alternative for all. The world is big enough as long as we work together for peace, understanding, and tolerance.”

These speeches were complemented by comments from Dr. Yong Cheon Song, Chairman of UPF-Europe, Mr. Hydajet Hyseni (MP and Chairman of UPF-Kosovo), Mr. Nail Draga (Chairman of the UPF founding committee in Montenegro), Prof. Dr. Sadi Bexheti (Mayor of Tetovo, Macedonia), and Mr. Ragmi Mustafa (Mayor of Presheva, South Serbia).

A second session was moderated by Mr. Bajram Ibraj, UPF-Albania chairman and former director of state police (2002-2007). H.E. Alfred Moisiu, president of Albania (2002-2007), said that even though the wars in the Balkans have ended, the wounds are not healed yet. “More needs to be done to reduce nationalist forces in the Balkans,” he said. “Nothing is impossible in this world when we have the right will and conviction. We have to teach people to forgive and to ask forgiveness for what they have done.”

In response, Mr. Willem Van Eekelen, an expert of European security issues, said that “the future is not what it used to be.” Military means have been less effective for finding lasting solutions. There is a link between security and development, because without a minimum security the development effort is wasted and without development there cannot be lasting security.”

A high-level panel of experts on security issues included Dr. Arjan Starova, Vice Minister of Defense; Professor Shezai Rrokaj, Dean of the State Faculty of History and Philology in Tirana; Mr. Bilbil Mema, former General Director of Police;

and Professor Lisien Bashkurti, an international relations expert.

The following day 150 guests met at the Congress Hall for a Good Governance and Peace Education seminar moderated by Mrs. Saemira Pino (Gjipali), vice chair of UPF-Albania. H.E. Fatmir Sejdiu of Kosovo; UPF-Europe Secretary General Mark Brann; Dr. Ardian Turku, vice speaker of the Albanian parliament; and Mrs. Nora Malaj, Vice Minister of Education and Science, were featured speakers.

Dr. Arben Malaj, former Minister of Finance, senior politician, and Ambassador for Peace, analyzed the connections between economic freedom and economic development, the education level of the population, health care, and poverty level. He urged the Albanian people to take responsibility and participate in governance and decision making in light of the example of community participation in USA and Western Europe.

Next, Mrs. Tomiko Duggan shared about the UPF founder’s vision for world peace. The keynote address was given by Dr. Song, who thanked the audience for the support UPF has had in Albania and Kosovo since its establishment and looked forward to inviting the UPF Founder back to Albania in the near future.

“The peoples of Southeast Europe have said that they do not want conflict and war, but words are not enough to build peace when you are at a crossroads.”

– H.E. Fatmir Sejdiu (President of Kosovo 2006-2010)



Rexhep Meidani



Fatmir Sejdiu



PEACE AND SECURITY IN MULTICULTURAL SOCIETIES

By UPF-Eurasia



HOW do you deal fairly with people from different multicultural backgrounds, especially when cultural, linguistic and ethnic differences start causing frictions that could escalate? In a recent UPF conference in Moscow, representatives of several European and Eurasian nations met to discuss this challenge in a joint conference on the theme “Peace and Security in Multicultural Societies at a time of Global Crisis.”

A broad array of speakers outlined the challenges of peace and security in the multinational societies in Europe, Russia, and Eurasia. Theirs was not just abstract reasoning; in the opinion of participants, ignoring international and intercultural dimensions leads to pervasive political and economic instability in modern societies; it causes and fuels conflicts and crises. Thus, peacemaking activity in the sphere of international and intercultural relations sometimes resembles emergency care: helping to heal the war wounds of history, guiding toward reconciliation and harmony, and making a foundation for harmonious interaction between religions and cultures.

The conference participants, representing nations extending from the North Sea to the Pamir Mountains, shared their own experiences and results in this sensitive sphere. The wide range of experience encompassing Austria, the Netherlands, Ukraine, Moldova, Belarus, the Baltic nations, Central Asia, and the Russian North helped to better formulate a general view of European values, the specific character of Russia, and the common heritage of European and Eurasian peoples.

During the conference a number of discussions explored the significance of the historical experience of co-existence and co-development of the peoples of Russia and the Soviet Union as an integral part of the European civilization experience.

A focal point of the conference was the role of education as a factor promoting peace in a multinational society. Speakers shared experiences of multicultural education in Russian and European schools, including multi-religious approaches to character education and character-based sports activities. The contributions of spirituality to the development of Russia and Europe, and the role of religions in defining a moral imperative for human behavior were often emphasized.

The success of the conference was enhanced by the quality of participants. Among them were Dr. Willem van Eekelen, former Minister of Defense of the Netherlands and Secretary General of the Western European Union; Dr. Michael Platzer, director of the Academic Council of the United Nations (ACUNS) in Vienna; Dr. Marcel de Haas, a well-known war analyst from the Netherlands, currently senior research associate at the Clingendael Institute of International Relations; H.E. Robert Vandemeulebroucke, honorary ambassador at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium; and Dr. Walter Baar, founder and director of the Institute for Trends Research in Austria.

Russian and Eurasian participants included Dr. Oleg Mironov, former Human Rights Ombudsman of the Russian Federation; Dr. Sergey Kuchinsky, Chairman of the Executive Council of the Assembly of the Peoples of Russia; Dr. Stanislav Nikolayenko, former Minister of Education of Ukraine; Dr. Nicolae Tau, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Moldova; and Dr. Saifullo Safarov, director of the Center for Strategic Research under the President of Tajikistan.

The international conference in Moscow confirmed the importance of ongoing dialogue between Russia and Europe to overcome the mutual distrust exacerbated during Cold War times and consolidate mutual understanding between nations and peoples based on common European values.

(L. to R.) Mrs. Olga Meshova, Mrs. Zoya Krot, Dr. Sayfullo Safarov, Dr. Oleg Mironov, Dr. Michael Platzer. (Opposite page) The European and Eurasia delegations



CONFERENCE STATEMENT

We, participants of the Russia – Europe Dialogue on Peace and Security in Multicultural Societies at a time of Global Crisis, declare the importance of peacemaking efforts in Europe and Eurasia aimed at supporting peace and international harmony, and constructive dialogue between cultures and civilizations.

Therefore, we state that the recent declaration about the “failure of the multicultural project” in Europe is not only premature but also wrong in essence. The multinational and multicultural characters are fundamental to the creation of the European civilization, modern European values, and European identity. It is especially timely in this period of crisis in the political and economical development of Europe.

Insufficient attention to the international and intercultural dimension of relations leads to political and economic instability and consequently generates conflicts and crises.

Recognizing the significance of religious views in shaping social solidarity, based on fundamental universal values and moral principles, we need to address the root cause of conflict that originates in the human mind. This leads to dialogue and reconciliation, and lays a base for peacebuilding and for the consolidation of cooperation and harmony between religions and cultures.

We highly value the role of families and schools in consolidating moral values and people’s education in the modern multicultural society. We call upon the community to study the concrete experiences of multicultural education in both European and Russian schools.

We are concerned about critical conflict situations in Europe and Eurasia, including the zone of conflicts in the South Caucasus that remains unstable. We call for constructive dialogue between all opposing parties within the zones of the Georgia - Abkhazia and the

Nagorno-Karabakh conflicts.

We call upon the international community to remember the significance of the historical experience of co-existence and co-development of the peoples in Russia and the Soviet Union, as an integral part of the European civilization experience. Russia, as a rightful part of Europe, looks forward to a deeper integration with Europe in the spheres of economics, politics, and culture.

We affirm the importance of dialogue between Europe and Russia, which will finally help to overcome the mutual distrust originating in “cold war” times and consolidate mutual understanding between nations and peoples based on common European values. In the name of this idea we call upon all who desire peace, mutual understanding, and cooperation in Europe to join us, and we anticipate the joint efforts of governments, parliaments, NGOs, and the business world.

AFRICAN PEACEBUILDERS HONORED FOR LEADERSHIP

By UPF-International

Ibrahim Agboola Gambari

The prestigious UPF Leadership and Good Governance Award was presented to Professor Ibrahim Agboola Gambari, the Nigerian-born scholar and diplomat who currently serves as the Joint African Union-United Nations Special Representative for Darfur. Previously he served as Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations for the Department of Political Affairs and Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Nigeria to the UN. Prof. Gambari was

honored at a banquet as part of UPF's Special Consultation on "Building a World of Lasting Peace" that took place in Seoul March 22-25.

The Leadership and Good Governance Award is presented by the Universal Peace Federation to people manifesting standards of excellence in leadership, integrating professional expertise and practical wisdom with moral and spiritual principles. Candidates from all fields and realms of governance are considered, including leaders from religion, government, non-governmental organizations, corporations,

BACKGROUND ON DARFUR

A civil war broke out in the part of western Sudan known as Darfur in 2003; it led to the deaths of tens if not hundreds of thousands of Darfuris and the displacement of nearly two million. In the fighting between the Government of Sudan and militias and other armed rebel groups, widespread atrocities such as the murder and rape of civilians have been committed. The UN raised the alarm on the crisis in Darfur in 2003, and finding a lasting resolution has been a top priority for the Security Council and two consecutive Secretaries-General. A renewed peace process under a joint African Union-United Nations mediator took place in Doha, Qatar, in 2010 and 2011, producing a framework document. Intensive diplomatic and political efforts continue.



UPF International Chair Hyung Jin Moon presents the Good Governance medal.



A celebration banquet for Seoul based diplomats.



Henri Konan Bédié

Former Côte d'Ivoire President Henri Konan Bédié received UPF's Leadership and Good Governance Award at a ceremony at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on April 4 for his example of uniting with a former enemy for the sake of peace. More than 600 leading members of Ivoirian society were in attendance, and the program was featured on national television and three major newspapers.

After receiving the medal from UFP International Secretary General Taj Hamad, President Bédié said, "I have received numerous honorary distinctions in my life. Nevertheless permit me to say that this award gives me great joy and I accept it willingly."

It's rare indeed to find a former African president—especially one who was deposed by military coup, spent years in exile, and then saw a reelection bid thwarted by suspected electoral fraud—decide that it would be in the best interests of his country to support a rival candidate for the sake of national peace and security.

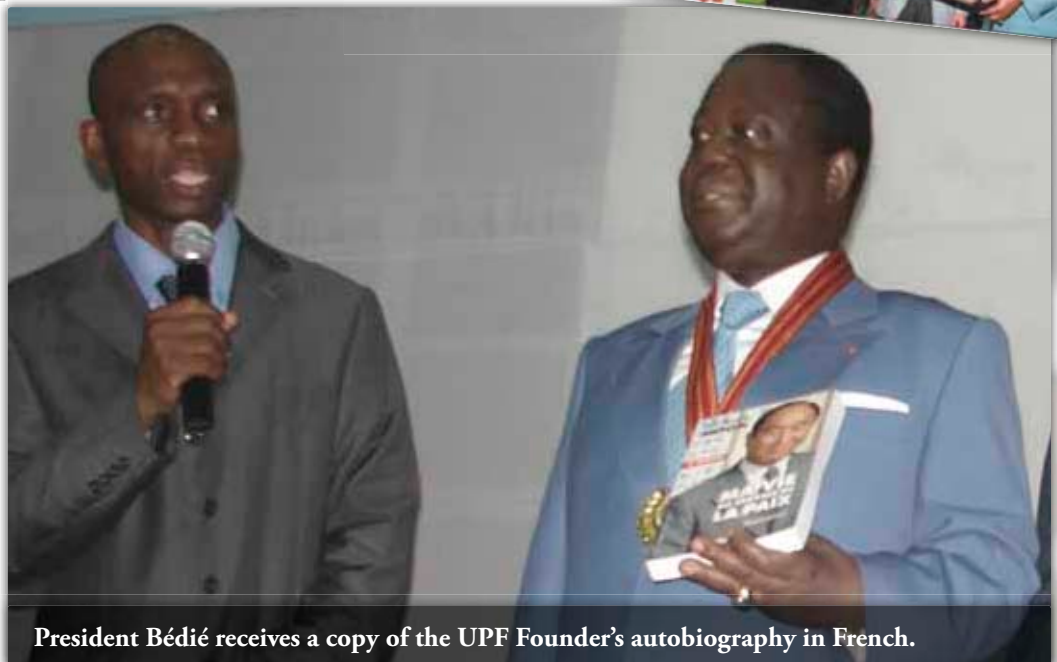
But such is the story of the former President of Côte d'Ivoire (1993-1999) now turned peacemaker. Living in exile, Bédié refrained from inciting his party and followers to demonstrate against a succession of shaky governments. Following the 2002-2003 civil war, he encouraged President Laurent Gbagbo to talk with the rebels; as an elder statesman, he supported peace talks and tempered the discussions between the then government and opposition forces.

In October 2010, he attempted to run for President again, but was frustrated because a portion of his vote was illegally transferred to another candidate, according to trustable sources. After a meeting with UN representatives, he decided not to complain to the constitutional court and told his followers not to demonstrate on streets. That was the cause for many criticisms inside his own party, but he explained, "As the heir of the founding president, Felix Houphouët-Boigny, I cannot support the use of violence for any political claim."

Instead, he threw his weight behind an old rival Alassane Ouattara,

who eventually won the elections in 2010. Back in the 1990s, the two were enemies, with Bédié doing everything he could to exclude Ouattara, who comes from the northern part of Côte d'Ivoire, from political life of the country.

"Their unexpected alliance is as if Cain and Abel had united," said Eugene Ahondjo, UPF-Cote d'Ivoire Secretary General, "opening a way for the country to get out of violence and conflict. By choosing the path of humility, Bédié has become a key person, the most consulted by people from all parties. By standing in such a great position he deserves the UPF award."



President Bédié receives a copy of the UPF Founder's autobiography in French.



More than 500 VIPs gathered to honor President Bédié in a nationally televised event.

UN INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2012

By Joy Pople, UPF International

"Empower Women, End Hunger and Poverty" was the theme of the UN's International Women's Day, March 8, 2012. Thirteen UPF chapters organized programs tailored to local interests and concerns.

BURKINA FASO

In partnership with the literacy program of the national Ministry of Education and the Mayor of Kokologho, UPF-Burkina Faso organized a celebration attended by more than 300 people.



Bangui, Central African Republic

CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

A conference in Bangui sponsored by the Women's Federation for World Peace, UPF, and OFCA (the main women's group in the country) concluded with an Ambassador for Peace appointment.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Czech Republic - Speaking in Prague, Mrs. Rut Kolinska, president of Kindergarten Centers and Women of Europe 2003, quoted the proverb: "The hand which moves the cradle can move the world" and emphasized women's roles in collaboration with men. Mrs. Klaara Adamova from the Buddhist Center spoke about women bringing harmony to the family, and quoted another proverb: "If the woman in the family is satisfied, then the whole family is happy."



Prague, Czech Republic

ESTONIA

Following entertainment by dancers of different ethnic backgrounds living in Tallinn, two women spoke about how to combine family and social activities with the heart of a mother.

GEORGIA

Students at School #136 in Tbilisi participated in a creative interactive training about mutual trust and respect. They also discussed women's roles as mothers and peacemakers and issues of gender equality.

GHANA

Hon. Dr. Gladys Ashitey, former Deputy Minister of Health and a Member of Parliament, was the featured speaker at a conference at the Nogahil Hotel in Accra. She gave examples of women's contributions to the public sector, health care, and education in addition to shaping their children's character.



New Dehli, India



Montevideo, Uruguay



Tallinn, Estonia



Tbilisi, Georgia



Novosibirsk, Russia

INDIA

An intercollegiate debate on the theme “The Empowerment of Rural Women is Essential to Sustainable Peace and Development” took place at the Jesus and Mary College of the University of Delhi.

NEPAL

Free food and clothes were distributed to 32 elderly widows, 5 elderly men, and 48 orphan children being cared for at the Ama Ghar Mothers’ Home in Kathmandu.

PERU

Congressman Dr. Yonhy Lescano and his wife Patricia cosponsored a celebration in the Peruvian Congress during which several women were presented with “Protagonist for Peace” trophies in recognition of their achievements in overcoming many obstacles to establish themselves in society.

RUSSIA

“Solidarity of Women in the Age of Globalization” was the theme of a forum in Novosibirsk that sparked lively discussions about family values, educating children, and the challenges parents face in raising children. Participants planned a series of follow-up discussions.

UNITED KINGDOM

Baroness Sandip Verma hosted a program at the House of Lords in London. A spokesperson for the Cabinet Office on Education, Equalities and Women’s Issues highlighted women’s central role as agents of economic change and development.

UNITED STATES

Ambassadors and social activists shared the podium at a program in Washington, DC. The Ambassador of Tanzania to the US, H.E. Mwanaidi Sinare Maajar, described her early work with the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association helping women and children access justice and advocate for women’s rights.

URUGUAY

Empowering rural women and ending hunger and poverty was the focus of a gathering in Montevideo featuring noted authors and professors.

PEACE AND SECURITY FORUMS

By William Selig

UPF'S Office of Peace and Security Affairs, with Dr. Antonio Betancourt as director and Bill Selig as assistant director, has been organizing monthly forums at *The Washington Times* building, bringing together diplomats, analysts, and scholars with expertise in issues of current concern. The following are excerpts of summary reports of four forums.

THE ARAB SPRING: ONE YEAR LATER

A forum on February 29 appraised the "Arab Spring" upon the first anniversary of the events in Egypt that overthrew the Mubarak regime. The theme proved to be highly complex. Differences were noted in how young people, who make up 70 percent of the population in the Arab world, reacted as opposed to older generations. Tunisia seems to have the most beneficial outcome of the Arab Spring, whereas Egypt retained its military leadership and Islamic parties won a majority of votes in elections. Yemen has seen little change in the past year, despite its uprisings and the resignation of its president. Libya, absent Qaddafi, is now divided along rival tribal lines. Syria seems incapable of reform and President Bashar Assad does not have the resources to survive in the present circumstances. Turkey is central for solving Syria's crisis and is a key to the whole region. It was felt that the United States has to balance its interests and values, which explains why it both supports the Arab Spring where it has occurred yet also bolsters the region's monarchies.

The increase of Islamization in the region's politics was not seen as a threat but as a natural process that is seriously misunderstood in the West. There was considerable discussion about Islamic parties such as the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt as well as the more radical Salafis. The rather moderate Muslim Brotherhood of Egypt and the Ennahda Movement in Tunisia have become major players in government, while the more radical Salafis have been losing ground.

Forum participants felt that the West should not fear the natural process of acculturation that will occur as Islamists and secularists alike find common ground in the pursuit of good governance. While one should not expect Arab culture to mimic the social theory of the West, the development of citizenship and growth of democracy will require a functioning judicial system. The question remains whether these Arab societies will be transformed through new values and new ideas or end up deferring to traditional cultural norms.

Although women were important catalysts of the initial revolutionary phase, as events ran their course and gains were consolidated, these women activists were marginalized. Women continue to face enormous obstacles to entering the political arena.

TRANSNATIONAL CRIME IN THE AMERICAS

The March 14 forum focused on the challenging and contentious issue of transnational crime, including not only the trafficking of goods (arms and drugs) but also human trafficking and sex slavery. This level of criminal activity evolved long ago from being just problems of single nations; these are now transnational organized crimes with violent networks and connections with international terrorist organizations as well as radical Islamic groups in Afghanistan and Iran. Vast amounts of economic and political power are under their control in Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, and Nicaragua making some of these nations ineffective and, in the opinion of experts, failed democracies.

Transnational organized crime is a multifaceted phenomenon and has manifested itself in trafficking in persons, firearms, and narcotics; money laundering; and a shocking host of illicit activities. These transnational criminal organizations have found a promising new home in some of the poorest and most vulnerable countries in the Americas such as El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras.

As globalization has expanded international trade, the range of organized crime activities has broadened and diversified. The traditional hierarchical organizations have been replaced by loose networks who work together in order to exploit new market opportunities such as smuggling. Globalization also signals an ease in which these groups are able to locate, communicate with, and satisfy customers in the United States, Europe, and around the world. Mexican cartels recruit trained hit men from unemployed soldiers, and members of Central American youth gangs transport drugs, monitor kidnap victims, and carry out other low-level jobs.

Most Central American governments are ill-equipped to tackle these fronts. Criminal organizations have crippled law enforcement entities, government efforts, and business and investment at all levels. On April 14-15 in Cartagena, Colombia, 34 heads of state and government of the Western Hemisphere will meet to discuss challenges to development, citizen security and welfare, disasters, and other important topics. In regards to organized crime, a well-defined hemispheric agenda at the highest level in addition to regional cooperation will be key to overcoming the hemisphere's challenges in this daunting area. Forum participants urged that transnational organized crime be addressed directly and in an integrated fashion so that solutions can be formed and implemented in a timely manner.



Dr. Antonio Betancourt (R) chairs the April Peace and Security forum

SECURITY COOPERATION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA AND OCEANIA

The April 25 forum discussed the prospects for a system of collective security for Southeast Asia and Oceania to deal with conventional and non-traditional security threats ranging from local aggression to the rise of China, competing military buildups, international terrorism, interstate maritime disputes, piracy, security in the sea lanes of communication, cyber-warfare, natural disasters, and transnational diseases.

From the 1950s through the 1970s, the United States sought, and failed, to help Southeast Asia maintain its independence against international communism. The approach of the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) is to resist action by individual nations and encourage nations to work together as a community.

Washington's political establishment is divided between those who see China as the next geopolitical threat that requires a major naval presence in the South China Sea and those who are opposed to demonizing China. Although the US is transferring 200 Marines to Darwin on the northern coast of Australia, with 2,300 more to arrive by 2014, some advocate bringing China's leadership into a web of mutual interests rather than push towards a confrontation.

The US has also encouraged a greater role for India in East and Southeast Asia. India's focus has evolved from economic and trade linkages to a gradual strengthening of security ties. With energy demand rising rapidly in China, Japan, South Korea, and Southeast Asia, the passageway through the South China Sea is of increasing global strategic importance, as energy shipments from the Middle East must pass through the area. Moreover, the South China Sea has substantial gas and oil reserves.

ASEAN reflects the collective Asian way, which is less belligerent and less ready to act unilaterally as a single nation; it prefers instead to work toward regional consensus building. In addition to seeking to maintain regional peace and encourage economic growth, it also promotes stability and freedom of navigation. Forum participants recommended that the community

of nations encourage frameworks that favor non-intervention and a non-violent resolution of conflict through low-key consensus seeking.

NORTH KOREA'S THIRD GENERATION

The May 23 program included top experts like Dr. Alexandre Mansourov, John Hopkins University, Dr. Nicholas Eberstadt, American Enterprise Institute, Bonnie Glaser, Senior Fellow, Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS), Dr. Larry Nicksch, Senior Associate, CSIS, and Stephen Costello, former representative of Kim Dae Jung in Washington, Norbert Reiner, Korean War Veterans Foundation, and Stephanie Williams, grad student, American University, and former U.S. Air Force Korean cryptology language analyst.

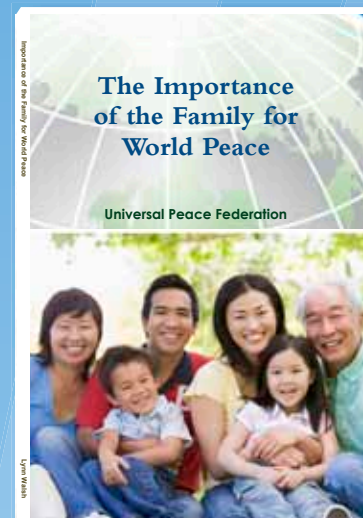
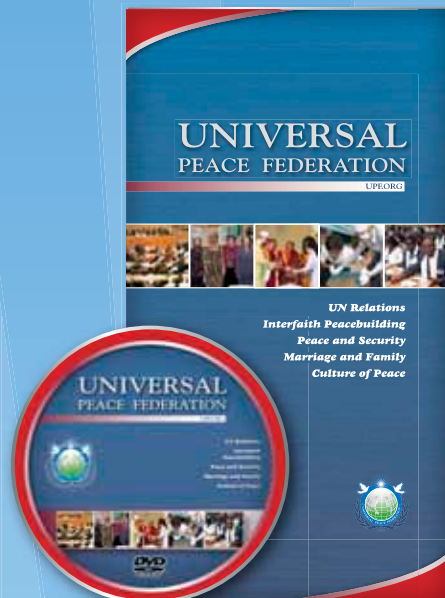
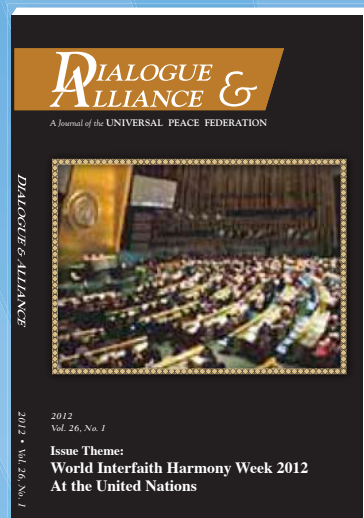
Alexandre Mansourov, whose expertise on North Korean politics is masterful. He said there is much more uncertainty about who's running North Korea than experts are publicly willing to admit. In the past five months since Kim Jong Un has been in power, there have been a lot of changes and policy innovations. In the last six weeks, there has been a dramatic overhaul of Kim Jong Il's team: even 5 of the 7 people accompanying Kim Jong Il's hearse at his funeral have lost power or influence

Dr. Nicksch commented on the failed "Leap Day Deal" where the U.S. would have provided substantial nutritional assistance to children but which was abrogated due to the DPRK's failed missile launch in mid-April. It was agreed that if North Korea does not conduct a third nuclear test in coming weeks, there may be an opportunity to work with the regime.

Ms. Glaser, commented that the Chinese are anxious about North Korea — they don't want their influence with it to be marginalized. Ironically, North Korea may have more leverage with China than vice versa.

Regarding whether the Obama administration should send a senior envoy to the North, Mr. Costello said it is premature. He said that no one in the Administration is willing to undertake the battle (inter agency and with Congress) that would be entailed if the U.S. tried to more constructively engage the North.

NEW UPF PUBLICATIONS



Books



DVDs

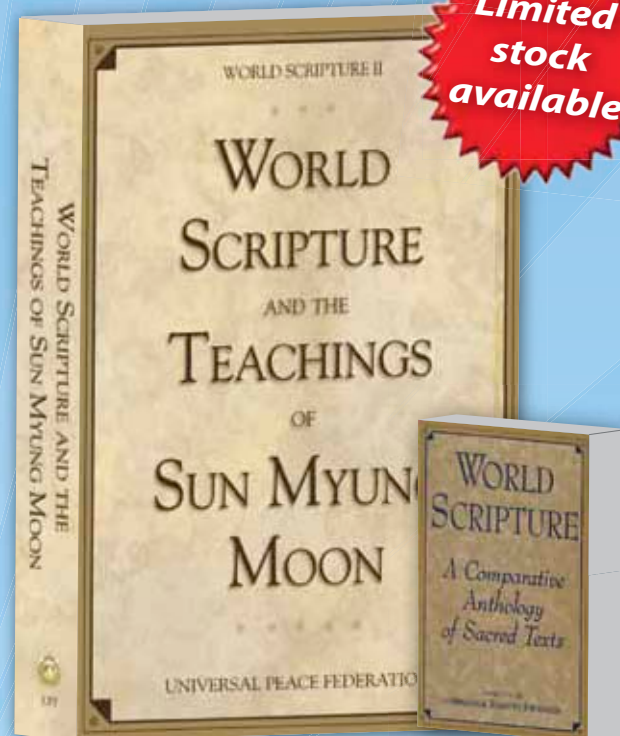


Pamphlets



Journals

UPF Founder Rev. Dr. Sun Myung Moon commissioned the World Scripture series based upon the firm conviction that religions have a key role to play in building a world of lasting peace in the twenty-first century. Indeed, in compiling an authoritative selection of his own teachings, Rev. Moon has insisted on the inclusion of the sacred writings of the world.



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